

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Date: March 14, 2016

Reporter, BILL BUSSE

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

“ I SURE WANT TO SEE HOW YOU WRITE THIS ONE UP”!!!

Today's program was fascinating! It was also so fast paced that your scribe was at least three sentences...and two slides...behind the speaker's presentation. That, plus being unable to decipher my scribbled notes may make this Pinion a classic, so to speak. (If you find that it does not match your recollection, I recommend you stick with your own version.) Classics Stanford Professor Richard Martin labeled his talk, "Odysseus in Silicon Valley: Archaic Hero for a Contemporary World". Please "scroll" (Note that this is both an ancient and contemporary word) to the lower reaches of this Pinion for my version.

Following the usual Call to Order and Pledge our esteemed President, KATIE SEEDMAN, invited visitors to introduce themselves and Rotarians to introduce their guests. First up were ALLEN and KATHY KONTINSKY, our semi-permanent visitors from Madison, Wisconsin. They are returning home after attending many of our meetings and promised to come back soon. Next was VIJAY a tech company founder from Toronto, followed by SEBASTIAN FREY, member of the Rotaract Club of Oulu, Finland. Frey is living in Palo Alto right now, and is originally from Germany. He received a Rotary Scholarship for study in Chile. BOB McDONALD from Springfield, Mass. is looking for an action oriented club to join. Look no farther Bob. We are noted worldwide for our service activities led by REBECCA GERALDI and WALT HAYS!

TIM WATSON'S guest was Chris Andrews. Chris was a student of our speaker, Prof. Martin, while at Stanford. We also welcomed back past member and frequent visitor, KLAUS HEINEMANN, currently a member of the Gualala, CA Rotary Club. No, that is not a misspelling. The town does exist. It is either part of, or near, Sea Ranch which is either part of, or near, Gualala. Check it out with Klaus the next time he visits from Gualala...which is near...

DAN QUINN introduced a guest who apparently failed to sign in. It is important to know, however, that he is from Woodside by way of France...if my notes didn't fail me.



“THE TIMES THEY ARE A CHANGING” was the theme of DON LANGENDORF's Opening Remarks. DON took us on a somewhat nostalgic trip back to “old Palo Alto” with it's myriad of service

stations, car dealerships, clothing stores, 17 cents per gallon gasoline, etc. Someone in the audience voiced one of our favorites, Langendorf Bread. For the old timers it was a reminder of the good old days...days which some people wish had never changed. Don also reminded us of the bygone times when Rotary was a “men's only” club and the attire was coats and ties. Thanks Don! Now we can wonder what Palo Alto and Rotary will be like with another 60 or so years of change. Yikes!



PRESIDENT'S CLUB

Welcome back, Cyrille! CYRILLE BETANT graced us with his presence along with his membership in the President's Club



TRISH BUBENIK joined in honor of DIANA DIAMOND.



BILL BUSSE quizzed the assemblage about the length of time everyone had been married. The longest were DICK FREEMAN and, you guessed it, BILL himself. No, not to each other...to Corkie and Barbara respectively. The Busses made 67 years on March 13th. Congratulations kids!

THANKS FOR THE SHOE BOXES Projects guru, REBECCA GERALDI, introduced Marilvisa Diaz, Fish



Williams and Mira Hulkko members of Family and Childrens Services. They thanked us for the special cosmetic gifts we provided to their organization. The gifts add a helping of self esteem to women who are recovering from substance abuse or domestic violence. And a special thanks to Rebecca and all the Rotarians who participated in filling the boxes and wrapping them. A few of the men in the Club appeared to be engaged in the art of package wrapping for the first time.

Hopefully those were passed out at night!
AUCTION TIME



Our inimitable HAL MICKLESON...the self appointed "Spreader of Joy" regaled us with all manner of enthusiastic enthusiasm about our Annual Fund Raiser. "Special thanks to BRUCE GEE, DICK BUSH, PETER SHAMBORA and GINNY LEAR! Also, thanks to the sponsors, volunteers, Jane Gee for the center pieces, etc., etc."

BRUCE suggested we take home the booklets listing many of the outstanding items to be auctioned off. Plan ahead to bid on the cruises, dinners, vacation homes, etc. This is billed as a fund raiser, but it can also be an entertainment high light you'll never forget. If for some reason you can't attend, make a contribution. Charity does belong at home, but for Rotary...it's what we do.



BRUCE suggested we take home the booklets listing many of the outstanding items to be auctioned off. Plan ahead to bid on the cruises, dinners, vacation homes, etc. This is billed as a fund raiser, but it can also be an entertainment high light you'll never forget. If for some reason you can't attend, make a contribution. Charity does belong at home, but for Rotary...it's what we do.

RMB will be on March 24th! This time, it will be sponsored by the Menlo Park Rotary Club, according to ELIZABETH SANTANA. Look for information on location and speakers at the next Club meeting. I almost forgot...RMB means Rotary Means Business.



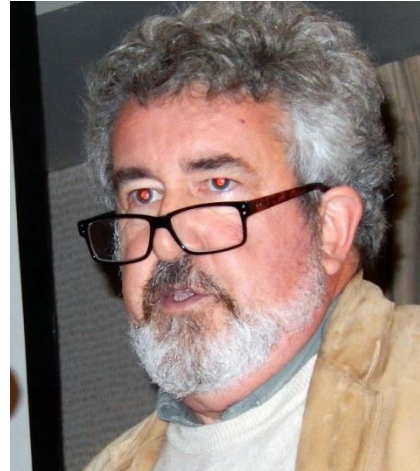
HERE WE GO!

SALLY TOMLINSON kicked things off by introducing Professor Richard Martin. She noted that Professor Martin had taught Classics at Princeton for 18 years before coming to Stanford in 2000. His primary interests are in the Homeric Epic, Greek Comedy, mythology and ancient religion. According to Sally, "He clearly enjoys reaching a nonacademic audience, as evidenced by his willingness to speak to us today."



Professor Martin's presentation of "Odysseus in Silicon Valley: Archaic Hero for a Contemporary World" was a fast paced comparison of two ages. It was filled with fascinating detail...both oral and visual. The "contemporary world" in Silicon Valley was basically a reference to the d-School at Stanford. (As an aside, our Club member, JOHN BARTON, is in charge of the architectural section of the "Design School".) Prof. Martin listed the precepts of the dSchool in contrast with how Odysseus might respond...which was

always diametrically opposed.
For example:



dSchool...Show, don't tell

Odysseus...Rhetoric is what counts

dSchool...Have a bias toward action

Odysseus...Lean toward inaction

And so it goes through the 7 precepts. In addition, Prof. Martin went on to

tell us a great deal about Homer's hero of the Iliad. He finished by reading a beautiful poem about the home coming of Odysseus which I was not able to record, but this one may do.

Always keep Ithaca in your mind;
to reach her is your destiny.
But do not rush your journey in the least.
Better that it last for many years;
that you drop anchor at the island an old man,
rich with all you've gotten on the way,
not expecting Ithaca to make you rich..

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

- March 19 Annual Crab Feed, Mitchell Park Community Center
- March 21, Nelson Pedreiro, Director, Science and Technology, Lockheed Martin Advanced Technology Center: "Driving the Future Through Innovation."
- March 24, Rotary Means Business group, details to follow
- March 28, Jerry Kaplan, Entrepreneur and Fellow at the Stanford Center for Legal Informatics: "The Social and Ethical Implications of Artificial Intelligence"