

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Date: May 16, 2016

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Today's opening pledge of allegiance was less than resounding due to a kerfuffle caused by an unstable chair and resulting unstable people. But order was restored, and President KATIE seemed to remain happily unaware.

## VISITING ROTARIANS and GUESTS OF ROTARIANS

Charlie Wasser visited from the San Jose East/Evergreen club. His club serves a neighborhood of lower income residents, and their upcoming Whiskey Tasting event is a great way for members of Palo Alto Rotary to support their work. At the Turf Club on the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds on June 17, starting at 7 PM. Details and \$50 tickets at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/whiskey-tasting-tickets-25326189314>

JACKIE SCHOELERMAN introduced Sophie Tsang, with Intero Real Estate in Los Altos, though a Palo Alto resident, interested in Rotary. Fabien Palau visited us from France as the guest and pseudo-grandson of ED DANGLER.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

DAVID BLITZ was surprised to be called forward to receive a 4-sapphire pin for his generous support of The Rotary Foundation.



## OPENING REMARKS



JON STOUMEN referenced Homer's Odysseus in his opening remarks, adding a literary flair to his adulation of Stephen Curry. A hero in our midst, Curry is the first ever to be unanimously voted as MVP in the NBA, and unlike Odysseus, he is a hero in real time. Tune in tonight to follow the continuation of his epic journey!

## PRESIDENT'S CLUB CONTRIBUTIONS

DICK MANSFIELD noted that the Warriors may have Steph Curry, but we have BILL BUSSE, who played basketball in high school and is also a local hero. On Sunday, Avenidas granted Bill a Lifetime Achievement Award. Mike joined the President's Club in honor of Bill, who has been a great



contributor to this club and the community.



LEANNAH HUNT joined in honor of the 4300 realtors in the Bay Area whom she represents. She just returned from

Washington. D.C., where she met with our elected officials to discuss issues affecting home ownership.

PROGRAM: What It's Like to be Stranded on an Island with Fidel Castro, by Jim Colton.

STEVE MADSEN introduced our speaker. Jim Colton took up photography at age 13, and set up a darkroom in the only bathroom shared by his family of seven. (How did he survive childhood?) He worked at SRI International, researching the effects of explosions on structures, but since his retirement, photography has been his work. His photography seeks to capture the people and cultures of other countries.



Jim traveled to Cuba with a group of photographers but without a typical tour guide, so he saw the country from a unique perspective.

In the 1930's-50's, under US-backed Bautista, there was prosperity in Havana but not in the rest of the country. Today, you can still



see evidence of the prosperity in some of the buildings. While all buildings are owned by the government, only those that house government activities are maintained. Under Castro, there were three strengths: universal education, universal health care, and very strong support of the arts. Housing, however, is very poor and the buildings are not maintained, though everyone is guaranteed a place to live. There is "full employment", but it is incomplete: everyone is guaranteed a job, but many jobs are part time. Food and other supplies are limited: a photo of a grocery store showed completely empty shelves. On delivery day there will be a long line.

Much takes place outdoors because of the favorable weather and the lack of indoor space. Markets are outdoors with no refrigeration, and a typical street scene includes men (but not women) milling about or perhaps playing cards on a board on their laps. If there is not enough room inside for a party, the group will have their party in the street.

The people in Cuba seemed to be very happy and expressed a great liking of the US. They would not talk politics, and were either unaware of the embargo or not willing to discuss it.

## PROGRAMS & EVENTS

May 23 -Forum: Candidates, State Assembly, District 24

May 30 -DARK – no meeting

June 6, -Linda Adler, MPH, MA: "Beyond Advocacy: What You Really Need to Know to Successfully Manage Your Healthcare"