

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

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President BRIAN STEEN convened our September 12 meeting, asking PAM BRANDIN to lead the Pledge to our flag.

DICK BUSH introduced Nick Granoski, a real estate specialist with Pacific Union; CYRILLE BETANT presented Marco von Gunten, an inventor from Switzerland; ANNETTE GLANCKOPF welcomed Karen Holman, a former mayor of Palo Alto, and Greer Stone, chair of the city's Human Relations Commission. Annette advised that Karen and Geer are candidates for City Council.

Opening Remarks by HENRIETTA BURROUGHS began with words from Heraclitus, 6th Century BCE: "Only change is constant. No one steps into the same river twice; at the second step, the river has moved on." Henrietta recalled riding along Louis Road with a friend who took the wrong turn at Charleston when headed for Los Altos. Her friend had been making the same wrong turn for 30 years without realizing that it added distance to the route. We all should consider whether changes in our routines can be of benefit. As Tennyson declared in Ulysses, "'Tis not too late to seek a newer world...." Change will give new purpose to our lives.

President BRIAN announced that our own KAREN KIENZLE is to receive the Athena Award from the Chamber of Commerce...

Thanks to STEVE EMSLIE, GINNY LEAR and BRUCE GEE for an outstanding paella party....



ED DANGLER delivered a Rotary flag from San Diego, where the Coronado club meets at the Del....

LIZ KNISS shared that JUDY KLEINBERG'S husband Jim is

having a rough time, and asked that we keep Judy and Jim in our thoughts....



AXEL MERK apologized for sub-optimal attendance, and promised vigorous Opening Remarks on October 3rd, the national holiday that celebrates German unity....

BILL BUSSE's high school class in Prescott, AZ, is marking the 71st anniversary of its graduation, prompting Bill to give \$100 to Rotary Annual Charities.



KATIE SEEDMAN, Past President, encouraged us to support the Rotary Foundation, one of three channels we use to raise moneys for international and local needs. Katie noted that what we give to the Foundation drives what we get back in District funds for projects chosen by our club. In 2014-2015, the Foundation raised \$123 million in general purpose funds, which provided, among other things, \$68 million in global grants, \$24 million in District grants, and \$4 million for Rotary Peace Fellowships.

Our speaker, introduced by PAM KRUDOP, was LAURENCE BAKER,



Professor of Health Research and Policy at Stanford Medical School.

His point

of departure: In the US, we spend 17% of GDP on health care, compared with Germany, the Netherlands and Canada, which spend 11-12% of GDP for health. The difference between what we pay and what those countries pay is widening. The extra money isn't buying better results, in terms of life expectancy, infant mortality or other measurements.... In Prof. Baker's view, we have this problem because (1) our system doesn't focus individual buyers of health care on its costs, and (2) health care providers can benefit economically from administering more services, as well as services that are more expensive. None of us want to do without the new technologies introduced in response to these conditions.... We must do more to make health care consumers aware of what care is costing, information that is often is hidden when employers pay the bills.... Integration (example: Kaiser) can sometimes save money, but consolidated providers sometimes acquire the power to raise prices without market-based limitations.... "Profits, as such, are not the biggest story. The biggest single component of cost is the expense of buying and maintaining ever-more-sophisticated technology."

Next week: LIZ KNISS and GLORIA HOM will review California ballot propositions.



PROGRAMS & EVENTS

September 19, Liz Kniss and Gloria Hom: "State Initiatives - An Overview"

September 26, Tim Watson, Chair, World Community Service Committee, Palo Alto Rotary: "Our Club's Global Grants Projects 2016-2017"