

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

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PRESIDENT BRIAN led the Pledge as the meeting opened with a full house. Visiting Rotarians Steve Ross of the Palo Alto University Club, and Charles Cheng of the Hong Kong Island West Club, introduced themselves. Members introduced a record number of their guests: DICK BUSH, Mike Petruzzo and Ken Lillis; BRUCE GEE, Ken Kirshner; DON MORGAN, John Ballard; BETSY BECHTEL, Dan Kazak and Alison Cormac; CYRILLE BETANT, Matt Dulam; BILL BUSSE, his wife Barbara; DAVE SMULLIN, his wife Sharon; SALLY TOMLINSON, her husband Tim; LE LEVY, Diane Hart from "the junior college across the road"; GINNY LEAR, Candace Lublin, & other Members (whose names do not appear on the crowded sign-in sheet), Larry Diamond, Booker Morey, Pamela Pillsbury, Ian Kroes, and Frank Wiley.



JACKIE SCHOELERMAN's Opening Remarks featured inspirational and aspirational sayings of Nelson Mandela (worth repeating after the somber tone of the mainspeaker).

BILL BUSSE joined the President's Club to remind LE LEVY that Barbara Busse and he are proud graduates of Stanford "across the road".



MARCIA COX joined to say that having recently considered a number of child-oriented services in the area, she reflected, "that's us, Rotarians".

ANNETTE GLANCKOPF joined with a public service announcement and challenge, this Thursday evening an FBI official will talk on cyber terrorism, 6:45 reception at City Hall, program start at 7:15, for each of us who attend she will increase her contribution -- paying to educate us!



GLORIA HOM thanked TOM GRACON for hosting this month's social at his home this Friday, 5:00 to 7:00. TOM, who prefers white over red, gave directions to his home in South Palo Alto.

GLORIA also invited participation in a Chinese New Year dinner celebration at Chef Chu's on February 7 at 6:00 PM. The event is popular so sign up soon, \$65 per person, \$120 for two, by delivering checks to GLORIA, payable to Chef Chu's.



BRIAN formally inducted IAN KROES, MD, into club membership. Ian's sponsor is Mike Baird. Welcome to Rotary!

BRIAN thanked REBECCA GERALDI for arranging and setting up last meeting's Hands On project, assembling health care kits for newly released prison inmates and persons benefitting from family and childrens services organizations in Silicon Valley.

THE PROGRAM

Larry Diamond, Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution and the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies: "Foreign Policy Challenges for the New Presidential Administration"

DIANA DIAMOND did the introductory honors, noting among many other things the speaker Diamond's Bachelor, Master and PhD Stanford degrees and 40 published books on the Middle East.



Mr. Diamond started with "a discordant note" about President Trump's narrowly focused "America First" doctrine, ill advised and potentially dangerous. We need allies to defend ourselves. *America First* plays into the hands of Russia and China, each of which actively pursues reducing America's influence worldwide, with China aiming to dominate the world. Both countries are closing the internet and creating intranets which would be cut off from

information available to the rest of the world. Recent Presidents - notably Reagan and both Bushes- perceived that worldwide freedom and democracy have to be defended as a unified whole. Trade is essential to grow an economy; a trade war would make the U.S. a backward-looking economy, focused on jobs and industries that would no longer be competitive.



The demise of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement is lamentable. Diamond rejects the view, held by many in the new Administration, that corruption and chaos in foreign countries "are none of our business". Kleptocratic and corrupt governments in Africa and the Mideast are politically unstable and thus not reliable as allies. Egypt for example has no engine for growth and is corrupt and directionless. The Saudis can't or won't support it forever. It is ripe for revolution.

Global warming is a staggering existential challenge to the U.S., indeed to the globe; to deny its reality is fundamentally immoral. There is a big risk of pandemic flu or other explosive, rapidly mutating diseases. Nuclear proliferation and terrorism are very worrisome. One bright spot in Washington is the new Secretary of Defense, former four-star Marine General James Mattis, extraordinarily brave and intellectually qualified, well known to Diamond through the Hoover Institution. Mattis regards Russia as our biggest threat, while Diamond sees China as a close second. Russia's government is dishonest and inept at meeting the needs of its own people, and therefore will seek external victories to distract its citizens from its internal failures. It is likely to meddle aggressively in forthcoming elections in France and Germany. Our Trans-Atlantic Alliance with NATO and the E.U. has served as a pillar of stability and liberal values, but is now threatened by Russia and formidable immigration crises caused by conflict and instability in sub-Saharan Africa and the Middle East. The populations of several unstable African nations will double in 30 years as matters now stand. The growth of Israeli settlements in the West Bank will soon render impossible the creation of a contiguous Palestinian state, and a two-state solution unreachable.

In Q&A, Diamond saw Turkey as consolidating power in an executive with democracy declining. While the Ukraine is still a democracy, it is very corrupt, dominated by business oligarchs. Respecting the Trump world-wide businesses and "opaque influences" (as described in a question), he awaits

the conclusion of an ongoing FBI investigation of possible ties between powerful Russian allies of Putin and Trump's 2016 Presidential campaign, conceivably leading to impeachment. He deplores the growth of *alternative facts* in political discourse. He is encouraged by Tom Friedman's latest book, on the economic potential of alternative energy developments, now being exploited by China. The U.N. has limits but in important respects the Security Council has produced agreement among the U.S., Russia and China. Author's disclosure: HAL MICKELSON's notes of the meeting are reflected or quoted verbatim in the foregoing, while shortcomings are mine alone.

Closing the meeting, BRIAN encouraged attendance next week for "part two" (see below) of today's discussion.

FUTURE PRGRAMS and EVENTS

Jan 27 5-7 pm., TGIF, home of Helen and Tom Gracon

Jan 30 Larry Gerston, Political Analyst: "The Trump Victory: How It Happened and Where We Go From Here".

Feb 6 Fred Luskin, Director of the Stanford University Forgiveness Projects : "The Science of Happiness"

Feb 7 6 p.m. Chinese New Year's Dinner, Chef Chu's Restaurant Los Altos \$65 per person, \$120 per couple Reservations required by February 3, with Gloria Hom, and checks payable to Chef Chu's