

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

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After leading a salute to the flag, President BRIAN looked for any visiting Rotarians. There being none, he had members introduce their visitors. PETER SHAMBORA his wife Christine; STEVE PLAYER his friend Roger Stuhmuller; DIANA DIAMOND her husband Booker Morey; DICK BUSH his business colleague Ken Lillis. DICK FREEMAN welcomed TRISH BUBENIK back in our midst again.

At the request of pres-elect BETSY BECHTEL, BILL BUSSE showed the audience some brief excerpts from the video made in 1997 celebrating 75 years of our club's existence. The purpose of this nostalgic presentation was to start building excitement for our 2022 centenary celebrations.



MIKE COUCH joined the President's Club to announce an older adults benefit program for Avenidas featuring Heisman Trophy Winner Jim Plunkett being interviewed by Gary Cavalli. The event

will be held on Thursday February 9 at the Woman's Club of Palo Alto.

GINNY LEAR also contributed to honor Dushan "Dude" Angius, former school principal, superintendent, and 1989-90 President of the Los Altos Rotary Club, who had inspired the production of the influential AIDS video that, to this day, has materially changed public perceptions surrounding this disease. Dude passed away in early January.



TOM GRACON and his wife Helen were thanked for the TGIF hospitality they gave last Friday evening. GLORIA

HOM gave a final pitch to join Rotarians and friends at the Chinese New Year celebration dinner at Chef Chu's on Tuesday, February 7.

TOM GRACON introduced our main speaker Professor Larry Gerston who teaches political science at San Jose State. He is a well-known and lively political analyst/commentator as well as being the author of several books on political subjects. His talk covered three main topics - #1 Why was Trump elected, #2 What do we see now and #3 Where do we go from here. He started by covering the Clinton missteps - ignoring the server issue, giving an impression of secrecy and manipulation,



being thrown by the Bernie Sanders challenge, running a poor campaign and failing to engage with the traditional working class Democrats. He then spoke about Donald Trump's advantages -



being a fresh-faced outsider with no public record, able to rewrite the book, disregard the rules and prey on disasters, avoid tax return disclosure, practice deception, promote falsehoods, gather tremendous media attention and make masterful use of Twitter. He also pointed out that Trump's base was more solidly committed.

With regard to Trump's first days in office, the speaker felt that he was still campaigning and needs to do more to bring the people together. Also he expected there would be many more challenges to come, especially with regard to the Republican Party having to show effective government. In addition there was the disconnect



between cutting taxes and, at the same time, spending more on infrastructure projects. As to the future, all presidents have to go through a learning curve; a third of congress will be up for election in two years which puts burdens on both parties; we need to watch the press and see how effectively the Democrats can regroup. In any case, whether we like it or not, we have to accept that Trump is now in power.

Questions came from TOM GRACON (tax return disclosure), JOHN O'KEEFE (future Democratic leaders), Booker Morey (women's votes), Roger Smith (husband Bill Clinton), BILL OBERMAN and CYRILLE BETANT (multi party systems).

The duty crew today that we need to thank were REBECCA GERALDI (visitor desk); JANE KHALAF (attendance/money); STEVE MADSEN AND RICHARD KELLER (set-up) and GEOFF ZIMAN (Pinion) of today's discussion.

FUTURE PRGRAMS

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

Feb13 Jane Shaw, Dean of Religious Studies, Stanford University: "Jane Stanford's Vision of Religious Life at Stanford"

Feb20 DARK- No Meeting

Feb 27 Palo Alto Mayor Greg Scharff