

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

April 23, 2017

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President BRIAN STEEN open the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance promptly at 12:30 P.M.

VISTING ROTARIANS

Crysta Krames visited from the Los Altos Club. She's involved with non-profit development and management. Also visiting was Amy Andonian of Avenidas, who is with the Palo Alto University Club.

GUESTS

BETSY BECHTEL brought former member and former mayor Pat Burt. DERRICK BRITT brought Sylvia Schwarz and Harriet Pecot. Sylvia spends half her time in D.C. Harriet is with Family and Children's Services in Santa Clara County. Karrishma Jumani is the guest of DENNIS MCGINN.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

LE LEVY is recovering from his bicycle accident. He is doing well at Webster House. He expects to be there another week. He is using a walker, but expects to be riding his bicycle again in September.

PRESIDENT'S CLUB

TRISH BUBENIK joined the President's Club in honor of the fact that her gift certificates for the Crab Feed were overbid. Guest Crysta Krames joined to publicize



the upcoming luncheon for Family and Children's Services

at Sharon Heights where there will be a table of ten provided for the Palo Alto Rotary Club in appreciation of our ongoing support.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

JULIA JEROME announced on behalf of the Rotary Endowment that there is handout regarding planned giving and a plaque listing our cumulative gifts.



INDUCTION OF NEW MEMEBER

GINNY LEAR introduced new member SARA TIERNO. Sara has a degree in computer science and is a realtor with Coldwell Banker, Palo Alto. Sara was formerly with the Mountain View Club and has joined our club to keep an eye on her son at Stanford.

GINNY also showed off a new poster highlighting the local charities that PA Rotary donated to with combined funds from the crab feed & PAREF.

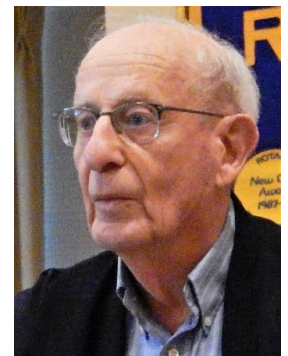
Auction event tickets. HAL MICKELSON auctioned tickets donated by DAVE SMULLIN to the Celebrity Forum appearance of astronaut Scott Kelly. ROGER SMITH purchased them and promptly donated them to SARA TIERNO, our new member.



OPENING REMARKS

GEOFF ZIMAN gave opening remarks.

He noted that today was Holocaust Remembrance Day. He told us of a particular survivor that his relative Karen from Northridge told him about. Leon Leyson was the youngest member of the Oscar Schindler group as depicted in the film Schindler's List where you see him standing on a box. After the war, he came to the U.S. and made an effort to put it all behind him. He served in the U.S. Army and then became a successful teacher of Industrial Arts. After retirement when the movie Schindler's List came out, he started to talk about his experiences. However, in the end he did not define himself by what happened to him but looked inward to decide what he wanted to be and what he wanted to



achieve, which is a reason to us all.

PROGRAM

PAM KRUDOP introduced John Koza, our speaker. John is the chair of the National Popular Vote Initiative. He has a background in national lottery movement and mathematical work. Dr. Koza described the initiative as seeking to guarantee that the presidency goes to the person with the most popular votes. The constitution only provides that each state gets a certain number of electoral votes. The legislature of each state decides how the Electoral College electors are selected. Forty-eight of fifty



states now have a winner-takes-all system. In California, the winner receives fifty-five electoral votes. Five of our forty-five presidents were elected without getting a majority or plurality of the vote under the current system. It dates back to 1800s when it was realized that states that did not have a winner-take-all would be short-

changing the winners of their state if other states had a winner-take-all system. Beginning in 1800, Massachusetts and Virginia both went to winner-takes-all to advance the campaigns of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, respectively.

In 2012, 100% of campaign events occurred in the handful of battleground states. Seven percent more federal funds go to those states, they receive twice as many disaster declarations as other states and more waivers of federal requirements. Some examples of battleground state oriented initiatives were the 2004 Bush Medicare Part D, steel quotas for Pennsylvania and the No Child Left Behind Act. The largest grant in Small Business Administration history went to an Ohio ricotta cheese factory under Obama.

So what can we do about this? It is just not practical to move a battleground state. The National Popular Vote Initiative provides that the electoral vote of participating states will go to the National popular vote winner. 11 states have signed on so far, with 165 electoral votes.

In response to questions, Mr. Koza said there was no reason to federalise election law. As far as the interest of small states, they are already disadvantaged, 12 of 13 small states are completely ignored because they are not battleground states. These states combined have the same population as Ohio, which receives all the attention. In response to questions about the bigger cities having an unfair advantage in the popular vote, he pointed out that the 50 biggest cities have only between them 16% of the population, about the same percentage that lives in all the rural counties put together. In actual campaigns, where each vote counts equally, such as Ohio, the candidates have campaigned in lock step to population of the area.

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

May 1, Axel Merk, Investment Manager, Merk Investments: "Global Threats and Opportunities in the Financial Markets: #Trump #China #Brexit #Bitcoin"

May 8, Meghan Sumner, Associate Professor of Linguistics, Stanford University: "The Social Weight of Spoken Words: What you Hear Depends on Who is Talking"

May 15, Philippa Kelly, Resident Dramaturg, Cal Shakes: "Dramaturgy: Shaping the Theatrical Experience"