

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

May 8, 2017

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**BILL OBERMAN** lead us in a flag salute. The first announcement concerned **LE LEVY's** progress in recovering from his bicycle accident. It was reported that he was still in Webster House but since then it has been learned that Le is now at home, receiving visitors and virtually working. **CHARLIE WEIDANZ** had two guests – **Mark Millet**, a commercial realtor and Leadership PA member with his wife **Anne Millet**, an expert on health care policy. In his opening remarks **IAN KROES** described how, over the weekend, his children had tried his patience and used that incident to point out the power of patience and perseverance rather than looking for the quick fix.



Three members joined the President's Club. **GEORGE WHEATON** did it to recognize his grandson completing a special operations search and rescue course in San Diego. **DON MORGAN** contributed to honor his budding actress granddaughter **Isabella** being given a lead part in the forthcoming production of **Hansel and Gretel** at the PA Children's Theatre in June. **SUSAN LUTTER** had three reasons to contribute. The first was to report enjoyment of a great Persian dinner produced by **CASH ALAEE** that she purchased at the Annual Crab Fest. The second was to inform us of the successful **Cameroon Project** reception on Saturday. The third was the most exciting and that was to announce that, for her work with the **African Apes Sanctuary** in Cameroon, she had been chosen to be one of six recipients of this year's **Local Heroes Awards** to be presented on May 20 by the **Midpen Media Center**.



**BRUCE GEE** came to the podium to proudly announce that he had collected 99.4% of the proceeds of the **Crab Feed Fund Raiser** and that it had totaled over \$80,000. He also advised us of an additional opportunity to take advantage of a great deal on the **Malta & Sicily Island of Intrigue Cruise** aboard the **Variety Voyager**, September 19-28, 2017. At the auction, one cabin was purchased for \$13,000 on this \$19,800 value trip for two. And now, if there is another couple interested, they can also purchase the trip at the same bargain price. An additional plus is that \$6,000 of that price can be considered a charitable donation. If this opportunity interests you, contact Bruce for more details. **GINNY LEAR** gave further commendation on **SUSAN LUTTER's** award and mentioned that **National Geographic** had produced a video on the **Cameroon gorilla** project. Also, she pointed out that our club had provided support.



President **BRIAN** succeeding in confirming from the fading memories of **JOHN O'KEEFE** and **BERT ROSE** that, in 1988, our club members had together contributed \$120,000 to the original **Polio Plus Campaign**. He went on to point out that, although, we are getting ever closer to Rotary's goal of elimination of polio, the battle was not yet over. The **Rotary Foundation** is looking for a \$25 contribution from each member that will be matched 2:1 by the **Gates Foundation**. To emphasize the importance of **Rotary Foundation** contributions, **Paul Harris Fellowship pins** were then awarded to **BRUCE GEE, JOHN KIDD, MEL MATSUMOTO** and **TODD LEWIS**.

**SALLY TOMLINSON** introduced our speaker **Meghan Sumner**, an associate professor since 2007 in the **Stanford University Linguistics Department**. The thrust of the talk was concerned with how our understanding of speech is influenced by phonetic variations, the spoken words, the background and the social standing of the speaker.

Voices of different genders and origins result in different degrees of comprehension. Especially interesting was to learn how we engage in the process of semantic priming where, based on our personal background, we anticipate the words about to be spoken and the differences in male and female word associations. The conclusion was that our linguistic understandings are influenced by our unconscious biases, our social evaluations and the learned associations established early in life. In the questioning that followed, **DANA TOM** asked about the influence of political biases. **ROB LANCEFIELD** talked about the **Undoing Project** and understanding complexity. **HENRIETTA BURROUGHS** talked about who is listening, remembering words that were not actually spoken coupled with cultural and social bias. **RALPH ADAMS** asked about the differences between linguistics, communications and semantics. The visitor **Anne Millet** asked about gender bias in children. The speaker's response included the valuable tip that noisy rumbustious kids could be quieted by whispering the word chocolate. It was suggested that adults could be quieted similarly!

The meeting ended with thanks to those hardworking members like **REBECCA GERALDI, KATIE SEEDMAN, STEVE MADSEN**, together with **MARGARET BOLES** who took care of the essential meeting administrative aspects.

## PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

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

**May 22, Donn Posner, Adjunct Clinical Professor, Stanford Medical School:** "Sleep Like a Baby: The Latest Research on Sleep and Aging"