

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

June 19, 2017

Reporter: SALLY TOMLINSON

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

This was the esteemed BRIAN STEEN's final meeting as President, and he seemed to be a bit giddy!

VISITING ROTARIANS and GUESTS OF ROTARIANS

Frank Yee is a Rotarian from China where there are 25 clubs, all recognized by Rotary but none recognized by the Chinese government! He attended our meeting with his wife Nancy. They lived in Los Altos for many years, and are friends of GLORIA HOM.



KLAUS HEINEMANN introduced Oana Marcu, who is working at NASA (where Klaus used to work) as a biologist. Oana is a good friend of Klaus and his wife Gundi.

CHARLIE WEIDANZ introduced Rotraut Clum, who was visiting for a second time.

GLORIA HOM introduced ELIZABETH SANTANA'S guest, Eugenia Watson, who is chair of the board of Palo Alto Players.

OPENING REMARKS



TERRY FATEHI brought us our thought for the day on the Power of Negative Thinking! We always hear that we should be optimistic, and Terry has found secret to eternal optimism, inspired by Andy Rooney. "Whenever I think about something I did wrong or poorly, I always think of the people who did worse." If we measure ourselves against those people who are not doing well at all, then we can feel better about ourselves and our own performance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, REPORTS AND REMINDERS

Soon-to-be former President BRIAN tried to announce the indictment of new member TONY ADESSA, but fortunately CHARLIE WEIDANZ chose to "induct" Tony instead. Tony is a violinist who has played at Carnegie Hall, and to get more details you will have to chat with him at lunch one day soon.



GINNY LEAR is filling in as photographer for LYLE CONNELL, who is still ill. We circulated a card for him.

SUSAN LUTTER returned from a trip in the US and Canada. She presented a flag from a club in Ontario that will begin to support the early education program in Cameroon that Susan works with and that our club has supported.



Out he goes: KATIE SEEDMAN reminded us that Brian's debunking party is next Monday evening starting at 5:30 at Michael's Restaurant at Shoreline.



Big Money: JULIE JEROME and DAVID HOLLAND presented a check in the amount of \$35,845, which is the annual contribution from the Rotary Endowment Fund to the Palo Alto Rotary Charities Fund.



PRESIDENT'S CLUB

Hot off the presses: Even in heat of over 100, BRUCE GEE was proud to watch his son Kirby graduate from Stanford this past weekend.



Y'all come next time, eh?: BETSY BECHTEL returned from the Rotary International conference in Atlanta. MIKE BAIRD also attended, as did GLORIA HOM, who has been to 20 of the conferences. Former member Martha Kanter was there. Betsy encourages everyone to go to one of these international meetings: the next one will be mid-June of 2018 in Toronto.

ART STAUFFER joined the President's Club in honor of outgoing president BRIAN STEEN, winning an enthusiastic round of applause.

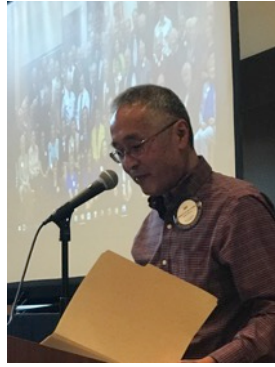


DUANE KALAR was at Tahoe for Father's Day skiing. There was lots of snow, but it was warm enough to jump in the lake after skiing.

PROGRAM – Our Fathers and Their Influence on Us

MEL MATSUMOTO introduced each of our long-time member speakers with brief biographical info.

LE LEVY's father was born in Alameda in 1901, a third generation Californian of German forbearers. Their original business was a clothing store. His grandfather was the first Jewish kid bar mitzvah'd in San Jose. Le's father and all 4 of his aunts graduated from UC Berkeley – his father in 1923. Le has the yearbook, and read the description of that year's Big Game, which Cal won 42-7. Le's father worked in finance with a focus on municipal bonds, but died young, in 1958, of a heart attack. He was a man who had opinions, but listened to others. Le always respected him as a good person and a good example to follow. When Le is asked how to be a parent, he replies that the way to be a good father is to be the best person you can be, as his father was.



LEE LIPPERT

Both of Lee's parents grew up in NY, and Lee and his sister were raised in the suburbs. Their grandfather immigrated from Austria and invented terrycloth bunny rabbit slippers, and his father worked in the family business. But in the early 1990's it became apparent that he was an alcoholic. Lee tried to talk with his father about it, to no avail. Finally, Lee hired a counselor, conducted an official intervention, and asked his father to enter a 28-day treatment program. This was among the 3 most difficult things Lee has had to do in his life (the first two being architecture school and the related exam).



The day after the intervention, Lee's father checked in to the treatment program. He stayed sober for 12 years, but returned to drinking, and Lee had to set boundaries. Lee's father lived another 12 years, and the night before he died of congestive heart failure, Lee visited him and finally said I love you.

Brian thanked all the speakers, and especially Lee for what was a difficult story.

GLORIA HOM's father came to the US as one of the last students of the Boxer Indemnity program for educating Chinese students in the us. As a Stanford grad student, he was in Chinatown and noticed a woman driving a large Packard in a funeral procession. He was told she was from a very prominent family, spoke a different dialect (Cantonese), was out of his league and would not be interested in him. Nevertheless, he pursued her for four years, learned Cantonese, and they married. Her father worked as a diplomat for China. The family went to Malaysia but had to flee to China, leaving behind an infant sibling who was not reunited with the family until she was 9. Later, in the Philippines, her mom was selected as most beautiful woman in Asia, but everyone used to say to Gloria "Oh you look just like your dad". When Gloria came to SF for college, her dad gave her a list of seven villages – any husband must come from one of these seven. Instead, she chose a man from Menlo Park. Gloria closed with the club President's statement in the Pinion at her induction as the first woman in Rotary 35 years ago.



PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

June 26. Dark - No Meeting.

PRESIDENT BRIAN'S Debunking

July 3 . Dark, Happy 4th

July 10 , President Betsy Bechtel and Board: "Plans for New Rotary Year"