

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

July 17, 2017

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Editor: LYLE CONNELL

Our new PRESIDENT BETSY BECHTEL has taken ahold of the office of presiding officer with aplomb. She gracefully dispatched the Pledge and introduction of guests and visitors. The Visiting Rotarian was previous member and current iron man trainer Dave Fraser. Guest's included REBECCA GERALDI'S very own, Winter Pickett; ED DANGLER'S friend Nancy Chin, and CHARLIE WEIDANZ' friend and current Managing Director of Abilities United, Ryan Eisenberg.

PRESIDENT BETSY did a good job of promoting sign-ups for Club Committees. If you didn't fill out your preferences on the sheet listing the many and various club activities, do so at your next meeting. A good club is only better when members are involved.



HAL MICKELSON then promoted a new fun way to enhance the social interactivity of club members. On the green sheet listing Palo Alto Rotary Affinity Groups, circle the interests that appeal to you, turn it in, and just wait and see what fun that will lead to!



And then your reporter took the "Thought for the Day" duty, quoting his favorite political philosopher, Oklahoman Will Rogers, who said: "The taxpayers are sending politicians on expensive trips abroad. It might be worth it except they keep coming back."

DICK BUSH and DANA TOM responded to the opportunity to 'join the President's Club.' DICK contributed \$100 to match the contribution



his neighbor at first mistakenly made to the Kiwanians. DANA contributed his \$100 in recognition of his excellent experience at the Rotary Auction 'Dinner for Eight at the Hamilton', hosted by BILL BUSSE - which deserves further comment. Many of you have asked about Bill, saying how much you've missed seeing him at the meetings. BILL has had extraordinary caregiving responsibilities since March when Barbara took a tumble, had immediate back surgery, and has been in rehabilitation at the Vi trying to walk again ever since. Her condition is such that she really doesn't like Bill not being by her side, and so he has been. Which makes his generous hosting of the Rotary Auction Dinner for 8 that Dana experienced even more remarkable. Fortunately, Barbara is coming home to The Hamilton soon, and we just may see Bill at the meetings before long.

Another delightful meeting innovation was introduced by PRESIDENT BETSY. On occasion, selected Rotarians will be asked to introduce

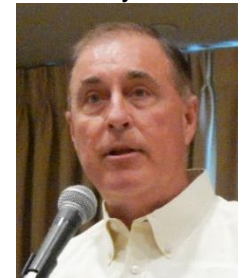


themselves to the Club with 'Three Truths & a Lie.' DAN QUINN had the honor of being the first. He told us four 'facts' about himself, three of which were true. Our task was to ferret out the false one. In the process we learned that DAN had spent 7 days in a Zen monastery in Japan, that he had enjoyed a brief discussion with renown physicist, Werner Heisenberg while at SLAC, and that he had helped NASA determine how to recover a soil sample from Mars (I think. Something about an invading virus in the refrigerator)! But alas, he

had not asked Joan Baez for a date when they were at that summer camp together. Darn!

Dues are due! And Gloria Hom announced that the next TGIF PARotary gathering will be at her house on July 28th. Mark your calendars now.

CHARLES WEIDANZ ably introduced our speaker for the day. Dr. Heidi Feldman has a most impressive CV, including a PhD in Psychology, an MD and Board Certification in Pediatrics, and a life focused on understanding and working with children with disabilities. Her book is "Redesigning Health Care for Children with Disabilities: Strengthening Inclusion, Contribution and Health." To get our attention to this important discussion, she pointed out that when John and Jackie Kennedy had a baby born 6 weeks prematurely and it had lived for only 2 days, that tragedy was not an uncommon event in the 70's. Today, it is not uncommon for babies who are 12 to 16 weeks premature to survive. But here's the rub. This amazing advance in health care has left behind a powerful additional need for health care. Even though most premature babies survive well, 10-20% of today's premature babies have severe disabilities, and 50% have low severity disabilities. All of which results in a huge increase in the need for innovation in the health care delivery to disabled children, and for doctors well-trained in Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics. Today there are 10 million children in the US with disabilities, affecting 25% of US households. In the care of disabled children, there is a new and important paradigm that



doesn't accept the previous approach of limited inclusion, but rather focuses on the greatest amount of inclusion possible into community life, focusing care on improving functional capabilities. This reform requires concerted community action, and money. Dr. Feldman is passionate about preserving Medicaid/Medical financial assistance as well as its protection against the loss of coverage for pre-existing conditions. Congenital heart disease, for instance, is one of the common problems with premature births. She pointed out that 30 million births - over 50% of births in the US - are dependent on Medicaid assistance. The number in the Palo Alto area is surprisingly not much lower at 43%. Dr. Feldman left us with lots to think about.



## PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

July 24, Michael Kirst, President, CA Board of Education: "What's Working Well -- and Not so Well -- in California's Schools".

July 28, 5:30-7:00 p.m. TGIF Social, Gloria Hom's backyard, Bring your favorite beverage. Snacking food provided.