

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

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Prez-elect GINNY LEAR, standing in for vacationing Prez BETSY BECHTEL, opened the meeting by inviting STEVE EMSLIE to lead the usual flag salute.

HERSCH DAVIS then gave us a triple of thoughts for the day:



“Every morning you have two choices; continue sleeping with your dreams or wake up and chase them” – “Success is looking back on your life and smiling” – “In life you will meet two kinds of people. The ones who build you up and the ones who tear you down. But in the end you will thank them both.”



Initially, the sole visiting Rotarian, Canan Sonuk from the Los Gatos Club was recognized before moving on to the following visitors: Mark and Anne Millet guests of vacationing CHARIE WEIDANZ, introduced by IRIS KOROL; Bernadine Fong, Former President of Foothill Community College and Chris Jensen from the San Jose Sharks Organization, guests of GLORIA HOM; Melissa Baten Caswell from the Palo Alto School Board guest of BRUCE GEE; daughter Chantel Dangler and friend Nancy Chan, guests of ED DANGLER; Decker Underwood, a compensation lawyer, guest of DICK BUSH. Coming in later was another visiting Rotarian, Steven Lease from the Passport Rotary Club in Auburn which has an innovative membership arrangement. Steven did, however, set a good precedent by bringing us a conventional gift of chocolate chip cookies. GINNY LEAR used the presence of this visitor to draw attention to the membership ideas promoted in the latest issue of the Rotarian Magazine.

GLORIA HOM announced that on next Friday (28th) there will be an end of week thanking of goodness at her home from 5:30 – 7 PM. Spouses, friends and potential members will be welcome. All that is needed is to bring a choice of beverage because nibbles will be provided. Gloria is looking for more hosts for these informal monthly events and she would be delighted if you contact her if you are willing to do so.



BRUCE GEE reminded everyone that annual Club dues are due. He then

joined the President's Club to tell of a recent visit to Japan with his son and their climbing (but not quite to the very top) of Mount Fuji.

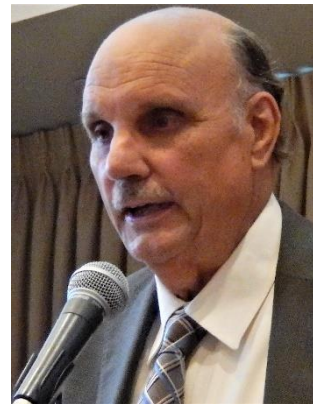
It was announced that PAM BRANDIN and DAVE SMULLIN had stepped forward to take over the role of joint leadership of the We Care Committee from their greatly appreciated and long serving predecessors DICK FREEMAN and BILL BUSSE.



Our highly qualified speaker was introduced by DIANA DIAMOND. Michael Kirst is the President of the California State Board of Education and Professor Emeritus of Education and Business Administration at Stanford University. The title of his talk was “What's Working Well and Not so well in California's Schools.”



As the longest serving member of the State Board with 53 years of experience in the education field, the speaker was able to give



us a clear perspective on the status of the schools in our state, the challenges they face and how the board is taking an innovative approach to measuring and encouraging improved performance.

Compared with many states, California has greater numbers (6.3 million), more diversity in student population (53% Hispanic) and greater range of educational results but is leading the country with more enlightened measures of school performance. The advantages of the California multifaceted “Dashboard” school achievement measurement approach versus a single numeric evaluation were explained. The speaker emphasized the importance to the State Board of exercising patience, persistence and humility in tackling educational problems.

Question time elicited the following responses from the speaker: US Education Secretary Betsy DeVos would have a hard time forcing a voucher system on California (Anne Millet); Although classrooms haven't changed much there have been additions but the major concern is teacher shortage – especially in special education (GINNY LEAR); Funding (especially retirement costs) is a major concern that could be further impacted if there is a rise in health care costs (DANA TOM); It is hard to determine why female graduation rates are 58% versus 42% for males (LE LEVY); Charter schools have a significant role in California (LEANNAH HUNT); A definite move is being made to provide more regionally based, manufacturer supported alternative career pathways for students not taking the conventional 4-year college route (RALPH ADAMS).

On duty today were JACKIE SCHOELERMAN and PETER SHAMBORA (Greeting); REBECCA GERALDI (Welcome Desk); MATT DOLAN (Cashiering) RICHARD KELLER (Set-up) and GEOFF ZIMAN (Recording)

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

July 31, Amy Hutzel, Deputy Executive Officer, California Coastal Conservancy: “Restoring San Francisco Bay in an Era of Sea Level Rise”

August 7, Andrew Fraknoi, Chair, Department of Astronomy, Foothill College: “The Sky Event of the Decade: August's “All-American” Eclipse of the Sun”