

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

September 18, 2017

Reporter : JOHN KIDD

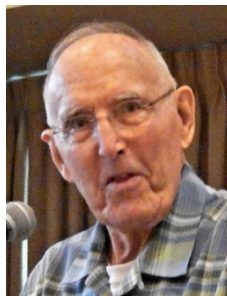
Editor: LYLE CONNELL

After the Pledge, President Betsy entertained introductions of Visiting Rotarians and Guests. Mike Couch introduced Amy Andonian from Avenidas who just may be considering a move from the PAUniversity Rotary Club. And then Klaus Heinemann introduced NASA scientist Oana Marcu who was visiting for the third time. Also visiting was Anita Shah, President of the Rotary Club of RajMahal Vilas in Bangalore, India.



For Opening Thoughts, Dick Mansfield graced us with a rendition of a few lines of A. L. Tennyson's famous poem 'Ulysses', to wit; "I am a part of all that I have met; yet all experience is an arch wherethrough gleams that untraveled world, whose margin fades forever and forever when I move." To Dick, this means simply, "I've seen a lot; there is more left to see than I can hope to finish, but I'm going to give it a try." Erudite indeed.

Bill Busse stepped to the President's Club plate, explaining that the famous Prescott, AZ Badgers had called him home for a 72nd high school reunion and he thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it. Also worth mentioning was the wonderful news that wife Barbara is doing well. However he was quick to comment that mention of SU Football's Saturday performance was worth only a buck and half of his \$100 contribution. Perennial President's Club contributor Trish Bubenick brought the joyful news that previous President-Elect Martha Kanter – 'previous' that is before she was called back to Washington as an Under Secretary of Education – has recently married.



It was Bill Fogarty's chance to befuddle us with "Three Truths and a Lie." Bill explained that, according to his wife, he is a hoarder; but he prefers to see himself as a collector. Describing four collections, he defied us to figure out which one of the following wasn't one of his passions; 1) miniature liquor bottles, 2) San Francisco Seals memorabilia, 3) vinyl records, or 4) hotel soaps. It turns out that all but Seals memorabilia are true.

Peter Shambora, member-recruited-in-absentia of the Palo Alto Rotary Centennial (in 2022) Committee, did an outstanding job of informing us of the work of the committee thus far. A perfect solution for 'what' was presented by a major civic project which dovetails with our celebration, i.e.; the \$30M renovation of the Palo Alto Jr. Museum & Zoo. This project will upgrade and expand the beloved 80 year old community treasure. And our Club was able to secure the assurance that with a \$100,000 donation we

would be able to identify the beautiful new courtyard of the project, centered around the sole dawn redwood tree, as that which the Palo Alto Rotary Club made possible. We are currently the only civic organization participating in the funding. We are well on the way to obtaining the bulk of the \$100K from cash reserves, along with anticipated additional contributions from the next two years of the annual fund raiser, and already identified lead pledges from several members, leaving about \$15,000 needing to be raised within the Club.

Stay tuned. By the way, the next Club Social is to be an ice cream affair held at the PA Jr. Museum and Zoo after the PAlayers' Oct 1 performance of 'The Million Dollar Quartet.' An excellent opportunity to combine good music and drama with great camaraderie in a relevant venue.



President Betsy took the honor of introducing our guest speaker and long-time friend, District Governor Orrin Mahoney. Mr. Mahoney's distinguished background includes graduating from Carnegie-Mellon and Stanford, 35 years as an HP manager, and being a twice-elected Mayor of Cupertino.



But most impressive has been his involvement in Rotary. With no notes he told us of his engagement with the organization that has provided his life with real friendships and deeply satisfying opportunities to serve. This was not your typical DG's lecture, rallying cry, or sermon. It was genuine personal story, and as such, very well received. In the process, DG Mahoney covered some salient points worthy of reemphasizing: 1) "Have you ever thought about Rotary" are six powerful words; 2) Our clubs are not in the business of providing business networking, but rather are for the purpose of providing meaningful relationships and opportunities to serve; 3) Only RI has the scope and scale to provide international impact in its service; and 4) District 5170 Youth Services – very strong Interact Clubs, Camp RYLA, youth exchanges, and speech contests - are unsurpassed in the Rotary world.

District Governor Mahoney also enjoyed giving Paul Harris Award pins (\$1,000 accumulative contributions) to Dick Freeman, Chalmers Smith, Tony Carrasco; and a special Paul Harris Society pin (\$1,000/year contribution) to Ginny Lear. As a last-minute teaser, he implied that since his year as Mayor of Cupertino was the year Apple sought approval for its new building, the District Conference may be held next June in the Steve Jobs Auditorium.

"Please let the WE CARE Committee know if a member is having challenges or has been missing several meetings. Contact Pam Brandin at pbrandin@vistacenter.org or Dave Smullin at dave@smullinmediation.com."

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

September 25, Tim Watson: "Our Club's World Community Service Projects"

September 29, TGIF Home of Peter & Christine Shambora