

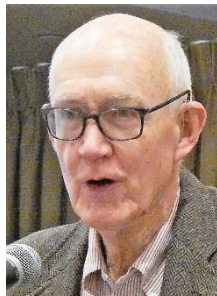
Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

March 12, 2018

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Visitors: No Rotarians but introductions were provided for Antonia Zavala, Policy Aide to the speaker by JULIE JEROME; Andy Michie, a United Airlines pilot friend by OLIVER COOLIDGE; Christine Shinlbe, his wife by PETER SHAMBORA; Sohela Rathbon, VP of Operations at Abilities United by CHARLIE WEIDANZ; Karen Rhode, for a third time by TOM GRACON.



Quick Quote of the Day: "It's not what we don't know that hurts. It's what we know that ain't so."
Given by WALT HAYS courtesy of Will Rogers.

President's Club Contributions: CASH ALAEE for his safe return from a two week visit to Iran and MEL MATSUMOTO for completing the first stage of renovations to the Channing House.



Upcoming Crab Feed/Fundraiser: BRUCE GEE reminded us that it will be taking place

this coming Saturday evening and exhorted us to attend with our friends. He commended ART STAUFFER for his sponsorship and reminded us that this event was the major source of our charitable funds. Just added to the exciting auction items is a fancy river trip from Prague to Berlin. Check it out!



Other Upcoming Events: On Saturday, March 24 there will be another tree planting and care project from 9 - 12. Meet at the Cubberley Community Center - bring gloves and enthusiasm. The next TGIF event (renamed TGIT) will take place from 5:30 - 7 PM on Thursday, March 29 at Le Levy's abode at 690 Greer Road, PA - bring wine and friendship.



Three Truths and a Lie: BRIAN STEEN wanted us to believe that he had spent \$25 million of other people's money; chauffeured Georgia O'Keefe; given Sidney Poitier a forest fire tour and sung Brahms Requiem with the Philadelphia Orchestra in their home town. It turns out that he had, indeed, done all of them except the last item happened in Ames, Iowa!

Today's Speaker: JULIE JEROME introduced Supervisor Joseph Simitian who had been first elected to the Santa Clara County Board in 2012 and then again in 2016. Joe's career in public service includes stints as a member of the California State Senate and Assembly, Mayor of Palo Alto, President of the PA School Board. He has also served as an election observer/supervisor in El Salvador and Bosnia and has participated in refugee relief and resettlement efforts in Albania and Kosovo.



The theme of the presentation was titled "Listening to Trump's America" and Joe was prompted to take this step by the realization that, politically,



those who live in this area, are in a bubble, within a bubble, within a bubble within another bubble. He explains this conclusion in this manner: In 2016 46% of the country voted for Donald Trump for President. However, only 32% of the Californians did so, but only 26% in Santa Clara County and locally here in Palo Alto only 12%. This made him wonder if it was accurate to dismiss Trump voters as racist, sexist, homophobic, misogynistic or xenophobic. Also he wanted to know what prompted a large portion of the electorate,

some of whom had previously voted for President Obama, to vote for Trump.

To seek answers Joe travelled to three separate counties in each of the North Carolina, Western Pennsylvania and Michigan states spending a week in each place. He spoke to a wide range of individuals in many different walks of life. Everywhere he went he tried to listen, learn and understand. His principal findings seemed to be: Many people were in desperate economic situations and without hope. There was very strong animosity towards Hilary Clinton. An enthusiasm gap and lack of interest existed on the part of the Democrats. The Democratic Party was viewed as out of touch, disrespectful and offering just the "same old, same old". The Democrats were being looked at as overly concerned with social issues (guns, abortion, gay rights etc.) rather than their economic plight. False hope being considered preferable to none. The system is viewed as failing and nobody cares. Opportunity has left town and is not coming back soon. The speaker suggested that providing decent jobs with livable wages giving opportunity, dignity and hope was needed and that these things would help to bridge the divide.

At question time LE LEVY asked who the speaker thought might defeat Donald Trump at the next election. As a good politician the question was not answered directly but suggested that the party should move more towards the center rather than to the left and the right. SHERI SAGER asked what we needed do in California to which the response was to find common ground to fix problems.

LEN ELY wanted a copy of the material but if you missed this outstanding presentation or want to review in more detail what was said, you can go to: <https://www.commonwealthclub.org/events/archive/video/joe-simitian-listening-trumps-america>

Alternatively, as GINNY LEAR suggested, this Saturday, at the Crab Feed auction, you can bid on a lunch for two with Joe Simitian.

Today's Duty Crew: BRIAN STEEN (greeting); RICHARD KELLER (setup); PAM KRUDOP (front desk); MATT DOLAN (front desk and set-up); GEOFF ZIMAN (Pinion) as well as BRUCE GEE (Crab Feed tickets).

PROGRAM & EVENTS

"March 17, Annual Crab Feed Fundraiser."

March 19, Dave Edlund--McCovey Cove Dave - SF Giants AT&T Park

March 26, Molly O'Neal, Santa Clara County Public Defender: "Public Defense 101"

