

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

May 14, 2018

ReporterS: DON MORGAN, BRIAN STEEN

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

STEVE PLAYER started us off with the Pledge. We welcomed Visiting Rotarians Jane Reed of the Los Altos Club, ex-mayor Ganan of the Los Gatos Club, and David Newmeister from Vermont. Jackie Wheeler attended as BETSY BECHTEL's guest, Charles Arnold as MIKE McMAHON's.

LEE LIPPERT, speaking as President of Palo Alto Stanford Heritage, preceded his Thought for the Day by calling attention to the 100 year anniversaries of Julia Morgan's Camp Fremont Hostess House and Palo Alto High School, and to free tours of Professorville at 10:00 am on Saturday May 19 and Downtown on June 2: "Historic Preservation is the way the Present generation communicates to Future generations, by means of the Past."



BRUCE GEE joined the President's Club to honor GINNY LEAR for her work as Chair of a fundraising event for Foothill College, celebrating Dick Henning, founder of the Celebrity Forum, 50 years ago. Of 400 people attending, more than 100 were Rotarians from five area clubs.



AKRAM PIRACHA joined the President's Club to mark his daughter's election to the Presidency of the Palo Alto League of Women Voters.



PAM KRUDOP reported on our club's recent award of 10 vocational scholarships aggregating \$22,500.

PRESIDENT BETSY BECHTEL asked for volunteers to post flags on University Avenue on Memorial Day, starting at 8:00 am at the corner of University and Cowper, and again at 5:00 pm to take them down. Easy, fun and good service.

KEVIN CURRY told Three Truths and a Lie, in reverse chronological order: he came down Mt Kilimanjaro on a unicycle; he built the same house on the same island three times; he ran for the Minnesota legislature, losing with Fritz Mondale in Reagan's landslide; he led a 3M team that concluded that the Post It note would never succeed. The lie: running with Mondale! Having suffered a serious injury on Kilimanjaro, he came down on a stretcher supported by a single large bicycle wheel and four Tanzanian athletes.



BETSY thanked the members who staffed the meeting. Jane

Reed invited us to upcoming photographic exhibits prepared by the Los Altos History Museum, "WW I, Over here", and "My Share".

The Program: Martha Kanter, Executive Director of College Promise Campaign, Senior Fellow of New York University, and former U. S. Under Secretary of Education: "The College Promise" BETSY welcomed back our former member and leader, reminding us



Dr. Kanter served as President of De Anza College for 10 years and Chancellor of Foothill-De Anza Community College District for 6 years before joining the Obama Administration, where she oversaw all federal post-secondary statutory, regulatory, and administrative policies and programs, including the \$175B annual federal student aid programs. She began her career as an alternative high school teacher in Lexington, MA, and holds degrees from Brandeis, Harvard, and UCSF.

In government and since, Dr. Kanter's goal and vision has been for the U.S. to achieve by 2020 the most competitive workforce in the world. We are improving. High school is no longer enough; an average of two more years is the goal. We have 6 million unfilled jobs in the U.S. today. By 2020 in California alone we will have 5 million unfilled jobs that require college training. High school has been freely available in all U.S. States for a hundred years. We enjoy a 90% graduation rate. But there are gaps. 75 million adults function either at a basic literary level or lower. College is out of reach financially for many people. We face \$1.4 trillion in student debt, much of it in the for-profit education sector. The "College Promise" is to make one to four years of college as readily accessible as high school was in the 20th Century. It is already working in places like Kalamazoo, Long Beach, and Tennessee. It requires not only a blend of state and local funding but also creation of a college-going culture and commitments to support and mentorship, Veterans who may be eligible for benefits should be encouraged to use them. Organizations like Rotary can get involved. The additional resources can pay large benefits. College graduates pay more taxes and need less of every kind of government resource. Crime is reduced. In Tennessee student debt has declined 17%. More information is available at <http://collegepromise.org>

PROGRAMS and EVENTS

May 21, Michael McConnell, Richard and Frances Mallery Professor and Director of the Constitutional Law Center at Stanford Law School: "The Supreme Court in a Time of Division"

May 25 TGIF TIM WATSON Residence

May 28 DARK – No Meeting