

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

July 16, 2018

Reporter: HAL MICKELSON

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

Our July 16 meeting was convened by President-Elect DANA TOM, with KARISHMA JUMANI leading the Pledge. Guests of CHARLIE WEIDANZ were PATRICK KELLEY, SHANTA MOHAN and Charlie's daughter CHRISTIANA. MIKE BAIRD introduced MICHAEL BLUM.



MIKE went on to talk about an Inspirational Person, instead of the usual Inspirational Thought. That person is MARC BUONICONTI, son of

Miami Dolphins legend NICK BUONICONTI. Marc was paralyzed making a tackle while playing football for The Citadel. For Mike, knowing Marc has been a soul-stirring experience. Marc had to decide whether he wanted to breathe again, rather than relying on a machine, which meant having the machine turned off, risking death, and hoping his breathing muscles would kick into action. He had to decide whether to be seen in public in a motorized chair. Marc's answer to both questions was Yes, and he has found ways to make his life meaningful. He has done so heroically while inspiring those around him.



LEANNAH HUNT joined the President's Club to honor BRUCE and JANE GEE for the Surf-and-Turf dinner they provided to Rotary auction winners.



TRISH BUBENIK joined to recognize BETSY BECHTEL and GINNY LEAR for a smooth transition in leadership.

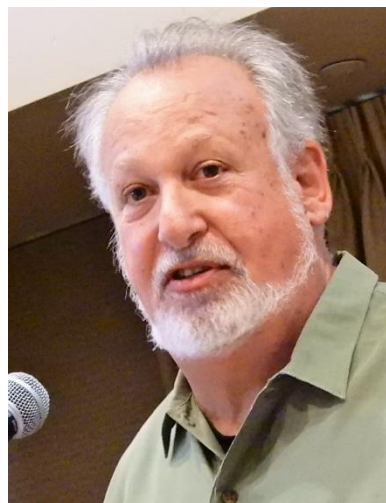


News from our Board, relayed by DANA: DICK FREEMAN was elected an Honorary Member as changes in his health now limit his participation. KATIE SEEDMAN is cooking up some dandy social events; the words "pop-up parties" have been mentioned. BRUCE GEE is ready to collect your dues.

Our speaker was DANIEL C. SNEIDER, introduced by NANCY CHAN. Sneider is a visiting scholar at the Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center at Stanford. He has a BA in East Asian history from Columbia and an MPA from the Kennedy School. Prior to his work at Stanford, he was a foreign correspondent and analyst for the Christian Science Monitor and the San Jose Mercury-News.



Are we headed for war or peace with North Korea? In short: Claims of victory are premature. Sneider has reported on Korea for 40 years; his father was US ambassador to South Korea. As Sneider explained, the demilitarized zone between North and South is not a peaceful place; it roughly follows the line at the 38th parallel set by US and Soviet leaders after World War II, and today retains the heaviest concentration of armed troops at any border in the world.



North Korea would be the world's 9th nuclear weapons state. (The US, UK, France, Russia and China hold nuclear weapons under the 1970 Nonproliferation Treaty; India and Pakistan also hold them, and Israel is known to have them.) Nuclear capability for the North would be a menace to Japan and a threat to 28,000 US troops in the South plus 50,000 troops on Japanese territory. It would also destabilize the Middle East because of ties between North Korea and Iran.

According to Sneider, many Koreans desire reunification based on unwillingness in the North to be dependent on China and unease in the South about dependence on the US. The progress made recently results from a reversal of policy; the current South Korean government favors engagement ("sunshine") but must deal with conservatism and skepticism on the part of its citizens. The US would benefit from reunification; China is ambivalent; Japan is opposed. Those familiar with President Trump's meeting in Singapore say that it was not properly prepared for; the North is saying, "We like your president's position, but please quit sending us other people to talk about it."

## *PROGRAMS and EVENTS* *July 23, New Member Talks*

*July 23 New Member Talks: Nancy Chan, Amy Andonian, and Karen Rohde*

*July 30 Ginny Lear and the Board of Directors: "New President Program"*