

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

August 13, 2018

Reporters: JOHN KIDD

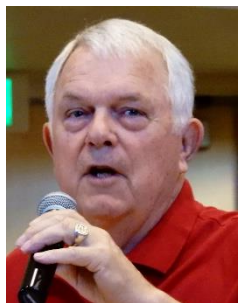
Editor: LYLE CONNELL

DANA TOM was convinced it was April Fool's Day. Nothing on the sheet showing Visiting Rotarians and Guests was as it should have been. But we got through it with Isabelle Prinoth as VR from Italy with Guest Gabriel Schenu, SALLY TOMLINSON and CHARLIE WEIDANAZ almost introducing their guests Nathan Ho and Andrew Blum, HAL MICKELSON introducing Shuveta Bhatnagar from Stanford, and TODD LEWIS introducing his recently graduated son, Owen. Oh, and then the apropos to nothing announcement that JACK WOODSON and ROB LANCEFIELD 10th cousins.



JULIO NINO'S genuine appreciation for his parents and all they went through added a dimension to his being inspired by them to: •always give back, •dream big dreams, and •treat others the way you would like to be treated.

In the President's Club department; KATIE SEEDMAN contributed in honor of BRUCE GEE and his remarkable PopUp Taco Tailgate, STEVE PLAYER in honor of BRUCE GEE and his unflagging efforts on behalf



of the Club and his community, and KAREN ROHDE in honor of a recently deceased 22 year old grandnephew, and the wedding of one of her former Girl Scouts.



KATIE SEEDMAN, with her Social Chair hat on, announced that IRIS KOROL is sponsoring the next PopUp social event at Gamble Gardens on September 13th @ 5:30pm.

In two weeks we will be doing something we do very well -- a hands on project as our program for the day. Patrick Kelly introduced the 'Gratitude Ambassador' for the Grateful Garment Project, Katie McClelland. Katie beautifully described the value of the work done by the Project in the support of sexually exploited victims. And we get to help by filling 150 backpacks with items designed to preserve



dignity and encourage trust when victims are rescued by police.

JUDY KLEINBERG, with obvious admiration and respect, introduced Silicon Valley Leadership Group's CEO, Carl Guardino.

Carl spoke to the competitive challenges facing businesses in Silicon Valley from businesses in Austin, Boston, NYC, Seattle and SoCal. Last year, SV had a negative migration, whereas all of the other competing areas except for SoCal had significant positive migrations. It was no surprise to hear that THE top three issues in the competition are Transportation, Housing, and Education. Our average commute time, 72 minutes/day, is second only to SoCal. Our average housing price of \$1M soars above the second highest of \$0.6M in SoCal. Whereas Boston, NYC, and Seattle are at \$0.4M, and Austin is at \$0.3M. At least half of the people in Silicon Valley cannot afford rent or pay rent far in excess of the recommended proportion of 30% of their income. In the arena of education, less than one-half of our 3rd graders are reading to the standards set by the State.



The solutions to these problems require money, i.e.; gas taxes, bond issues, propositions, appropriations, etc. from local, regional, state and federal levels. Carl quoted programs that indicate progress on

all of THE issues. Particularly promising is the outlook for improvements in CalTrain service, a service that is currently slower than it was at its onset in 1863. The current ridership of 69K passenger trips/day is expected to go up to 110K with electrification and to 269K with further proposed improvements. Quoting the diverse experts Helen Keller and Jack Kemp, we were commended for: getting better, not bitter; and, while we

may have temporarily lost our sight, for not having lost our vision. In the Q&A period, John O'Keefe did not ask a question. Henrietta Burroughs asked about the apparent unfairness of a gas tax in a world of increasing numbers of electric vehicles. Carl first pointed out that California's gas tax today was less, considering inflation, than it was when first initiated in the 1920's. He then assured us that we are moving toward an equivalent tax of approximately \$120/vehicle. All in all, a very satisfying presentation.



## Next Week's Program: August 20

**MICHAEL MCF Faul, Former U.S. Ambassador to Russia, "Confronting Putin's Russia"** Amb. McFaul is a Professor of Political Science, Director and Senior Fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, and the Peter and Helen Bing Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution.