

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

November 19, 2018

Reporter: DON MORGAN

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At the Call to Order, President GINNY LEAR had us stand for a moment of silence in memory of those who lost their lives and homes in the fires in Paradise and Thousand Oaks areas. She announced that the Board had approved sending a thousand dollars to the Paradise Rotary Foundation and that each table had forms for individual contributions to that foundation, to the Ventura County Community Foundation or the Red Cross. MICHAEL PATRICK led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President-Elect DANA TOM welcomed Visiting Rotarian Leif Ericson of the the University Club who later in the meeting thanked those who had assembled bag lunches at Make a Difference Day on October 27th. He added that a similar event will take place at the Menlo Park VA on Wednesday December 5th.

GLORIA HOMES's Opening Remarks praised her mother for inspiring her to focus on what she could control. Her mother left Malaysia with only two of her three children, all she could carry. A baby sister remained behind with their father, unbeknownst to GLORIA for ten years. When her sister did materialize, GLORIA asked why she had not learned of her existence. Her mother explained that it was to spare her the pain of losing a sister if that were to happen, something she could not control.



GINNY said that the Board had approved a proposal to solicit aid for the Foothill College Food Pantry. She urged us to bring items next Monday. Ginny will deliver the contributions to Foothill the following day. She announced that JAMES YOUNG had moved to the District of Columbia and, to avoid goodbyes, had asked her to delay the announcement until he had left.



TRISH BUBENIK joined the Presidents Club to remark upon being present when an elk, the animal kind that is, walked in to a former fire area, drank some water, started to leave and turned around and stared directly at her.

RALPH ADAMS, commented on GLORIA's depiction of her mother as a glass-half-full person, said an optimist did see a glass half full, a pessimist as half empty, and an engineer as wrongly designed.

GINNY thanked those who staffed the meeting: Greeter BETSY BECHTEL, cashiers KATIE SEEDMAN and REBECCA GERALDI, Microphone Managers LAURIE LISTON and GEORGE WHEATON, Room Setup STEVE MADSEN and RICHARD KELLER, and Pinion writer DON MORGAN.

PROGRAM

Richard Walker, Professor Emeritus of Geography, UC Berkeley, and author "Pictures of a Gone City, Tech and the Dark Side of Prosperity in the San Francisco Bay Area"

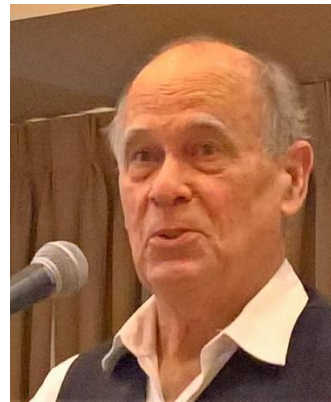
JIM SUTHERLAND's introduction of our speaker reviewed Dr Walker's long

and distinguished career in Berkeley and said he is remaining in his home town for today, having grown up at Stanford, attended Palo Alto High School, received a Bachelor's degree in economics from Stanford and a PhD from Johns Hopkins University.

At the onset Dr. Walker confided that he still rooted for Stanford athletic teams and had quietly brought his children to attend games for many years.

Highlighting his latest book, he emphasized that the Bay Area Metropolitan area is much larger than commonly assumed, extending 100 miles

from here in all directions except to the west. So also was the tech economy in the Silicon Valley older than commonly understood, dating at least from the inventors of the vacuum tube here in Palo Alto. We have the largest tech



economy in the world, no one else is even close, and it has transformed the world. Silicon Valley is far from just a few small startups, it is the home to world scale enterprises. It has benefitted from an influx of immigrant talent that accounts for many of our startups, "Brain Drain versus Brain Gain."

Over Valued, the tech economy has led the way up and will lead the way down. In the 1970's we and LA were equally prosperous, now we have a 50% lead. Prosperity has blessed the top, but failed to bring the

bottom along. Education levels sink in poor areas, as the quality of public education in California has in thirty years or so gone from the best to close to the worst. Income levels are greatly depressed for the poor, who now face long commutes to and from work in the services economy.

Silicon Valley has an enduring housing crisis. Supply has failed to satisfy rapid increases in demand, and prices have fluctuated wildly. We have the third most dense housing in the US (839th in the world). Pressure is building to increase density, and state wide legislation looms to increase the pressure. New single family housing is infeasible.

The valley's physical environment has flourished, with greenbelts, Save the Bay, and other efforts at preservation. Several challenges remain, long range water supply is threatened by drought and decreasing snowpacks (using water for agriculture in our arid lands is "Nuts"). Wild fires get worse, and sea level rises.

In general our politics have been progressive, but people of color need better educational and employment opportunities.

For those who have appetite is whetted, buy and read his book!

SPEAKERS AT OUR COMING MEETINGS:

November 26, Judge Leonard Edwards, Retired, Santa Clara County Superior Court: "Speaking Up for a Child: The Child Advocate Program in Santa Clara County"

December 13 - Holiday party, Home of Brian & Sandra Steen