

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

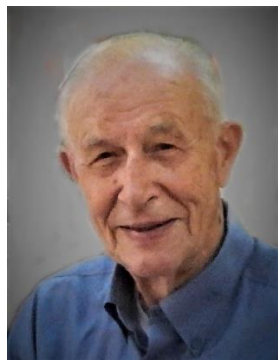
January 14, 2019

Reporter: DON MORGAN

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

President GINNY LEAR promptly reminded us that “Be The Inspiration” is our slogan this year, CHARLIE WEIDANZ led the Pledge, and DANA TOM introduced Visiting Rotarian Paula Snyder from Franklin, Tennessee. She said today was an anniversary of the United States: on this date in 1784 the Congress of the Confederation ratified the Treaty of Paris, ending the Revolutionary War. DICK BUSH introduced his guest and long-time close friend of his daughter, Michelle Abshzadeh of Foster City.

LYLE CONNELL recalled from his early Boy Scout days a hike



in the mountains of Utah to visit a bat's cave. It was a tough hike. To return to camp he took the ridge route with a leader who knew the way. He and a friend sauntered along the ridge taking in the scenery when they suddenly found themselves alone and “LOST” facing steep terrain and rocky cliffs, not knowing what to do. “So, we panicked.” and started crashing

brush. They soon realized this was too dangerous. It occurred to them to ask themselves “What would Dilworth Young do”? After thinking, they finally carefully plotted their way down the mountain to a stream, then upstream to the camp. Dilworth Young was the Camp Director who was a very inspiration leader for Lyle. He had the ability to inspire you to do your very best when you were with him. Dilworth asked what they would do next time. Result; don't get distracted, focus on the goal, keep track of your surroundings, don't panic, think, develop a plan, and then act to carry it out.

GINNY called attention to complimentary tickets, available at the front desk, to the Celebrity Forum on January 18, featuring Ian Bremmer. She suggested optional donations to End Polio Now.



CASH ALAEE had good news about the annual high schooler speech contest. We have eleven contestants! Many thanks to ANNETTE GLANKOPF for advising how to proceed, and to GINNY and BRUCE GEE for their support. The first round of the contest takes place at City Hall on January 31, at 7 pm. Please attend in support of our team!

ELIZABETH SANTANA put in a spirited plug for the Palo Alto Players' “Shakespeare in Love”, featuring among other actors an unpredictable dog. This Sunday January 20 at 2pm, followed by a social around 4:15 courtesy of HAL MICKELSON.



BRUCE GEE is now taking reservations for our fabulous Chinese New Year dinner



celebration on January 30 at Chef Chu's Restaurant. Detailed invitations are in your mail.

BRUCE added “Let's get crackin“ for the annual crab feed fundraiser on March 23.

BRUCE then volunteered BILL JOHNSON to describe the process to determine recipients of charitable grants from the Club. Unflustered,

BILL did just that, starting with invitations to just about every non-profit in the area to submit preliminary applications. ROGER SMITH, also unflustered, thanked BILL and the Palo Alto Weekly for their support in the process.

For Rotary Foundation donor recognition, GINNY presented a



Paul Harris Fellow pin to PETER SHAMBORA, a pin with three sapphires to SHERRI SAGER, and one with four sapphires to ROGER SMITH. Thank you all for your support.



The President's Club saw TRISH BUBENIK join to thank a hospital for great care and good food, really, and to celebrate her recent birthday.

DANA TOM joined to mark a

graduation trip to Australia with his eldest son and to celebrate his youngest son's selection to the USA Ultimate Frisbee team, about which we should hear much in the future.



DICK MANSFIELD joined to recollect that when he joined the Club 20 years ago an authority asked him to co-chair an important function with PAM BRANDIN, with a warning that she was "really tough". He noted that PAM is retiring and will leave the area in a few months to return to Nebraska.



GINNY thanked BETSY BECHTEL for greeting attendees, KATIE SEEDMAN for Cashier duty, LAURIE LISTON for Microphone Management, STEVE MADSEN and RICHARD KELLER for Room Set Up, and DON MORGAN for the Pinion.

GINNY noted that REBECCA GERALDI was absent due to hand surgery today but would return next week on MLK Day to supervise the all-hands-on-deck service project, preparation of small packages for LGBTQ youths, some of whom have been rejected by their families and are homeless. GINNY hopes for a large turnout.

THE PROGRAM:

Vocational Talks: TOM GRACON, SHERRI SAGER, BILL BUSSE:

MEL MATSUMOTO introduced each speaker with an unusual biographical excerpt – TOM GRACON played the accordion as a youth in a four-person Polka Combo in McKeesport, Pennsylvania, SHERRI SAGER said upon joining the Club in 2004 that she was a long-standing, long-suffering Golden State Warriors fan, and BILL BUSSE flew a wide range of aircraft in the Navy, from jet fighters to lumbering slow patrol planes.



We enjoyed three fascinating and entertaining talks.

TOM worked in a succession of Silicon Valley tech firms, changing with hardware developments and later software as well, a veritable who's who of the industry, in increasingly important roles.



SHERRI turned 18 the day 18 year-olds got the federal vote, having been allowed to register a day earlier. A committed Democrat, she worked for many years on a variety of campaigns and for a variety of office holders, until 25 years ago a friend called to say that the Lucile Packard Childrens Hospital, then four years old, had obtained approval for a Government Relations specialist, for which everyone agreed SHERRI was eminently well qualified.



BILL related that the Navy sent him to college in southern California where he met the lovely lady who would become his wife. On advice from a friend he enrolled at Stanford years later, and produced over a career a large number of impressive architectural creations, including some for our Club. He added to our appreciation of his talents with photos of several projects.



UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS
 January 21, MLK Day: All Hands on Deck Service Project
 January 28, Tom Ehrlich: "A Civic Sputnik Moment"
 February 4, Regular Meeting
 February 11, Cynthia Butler, Master Gardener Santa Clara County: "Bees in a Nutshell"