

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

February 4, 2019

Reporter: GEOFF ZIMAN

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

The meeting opened with JIM SHERIDAN leading the pledge.

Incoming president DANA TOM introduced the following: LE LEVY's two guests Laura Bajuk, Executive Director of the Palo Alto Museum and David Hunt, Manager of the Wells Fargo Advisors Office; DARYL SAVAGE's guest, interim PA Fire Chief Geo Blackshire; STEVE EMSLIE's guest former member Avo Izmerlian; OANA MARCU's guest Roy Labban; HAL MICKELSON's guest Helen Lau (DANA's neighbor) and CHARLIE WELDANZ's guest Jenn Wagstaff-Hinton. An additional visitor, Rotarian Paula Snyder from Franklin TN, who has been with us for several weeks, announced that this would be her penultimate visit before returning to her home.

It was announced that, last week, Elizabeth Dolan, who has been suffering from cystic fibrosis, has successfully received a full lung transplant at the Stanford hospital. She is the youngest adult daughter of MATT DOLAN and his wife Anne. Her recovery from this remarkable operation is progressing well. A card of good wishes was circulated for signature.

DENNIS MCGINN spoke of how, when he was working at Hewlett Packard, he had been inspired by then Company President Lew Platt to be mindful of taking care of his workers' families.



There was a winner at our high school speech contest last Thursday evening organized by CASH ALAEE. She will be competing at the next level on March 5.

AMY ANDONIAN, check in hand, stepped up to the podium to announce that on May 19,



own GINNY LEAR



and GLORIA HOM will



BRUCE GEE emphasized the importance of the upcoming Crab Feed (March 23) to our charitable fund-raising efforts. He spoke of the need to support it by providing items for the auction. In addition, he was looking for additional sponsors who would be acknowledged by being listed in the publicity.

BETSY BECHTEL joined the president's club to emphasize the pleasure derived from an item purchased at the auction last year. She and seven others had

enjoyed a lavish dinner last Friday in the home of GLORIA HOM expertly cooked by Gloria, DANA TOM and his wife Nancy.



GLORIA HOM then joined the President's Club for three reasons: To honor her fellow cooks, to thank GINNY LEAR for her devoted Rotary work this year and for the fact that that Gloria was pleased to have blazed a path for women in Palo Alto Rotary. Gloria was invited to the podium to amplify some remarks she had made at the club's successful Chinese New Year dinner at Chef Chu's last week. She explained some aspects of the Chinese Lunar calendar as well as the red (good luck), yellow (wealth) and green (long life) color traditions.

OANA MARCU offered a ticket to a concert at the Flint Center. The president has been able to secure 10 tickets to two upcoming distinguished speakers in the series at the Flint Center. On Friday, February 22 the speaker is Actress Diane Keaton and on Friday, March 22 the speaker is Former FBI Director James Comey. Consider this an early silent auction item: \$25 per ticket at the next meeting or until sold out. ALL funds go to our PA Charities.



LIZ KNISS, the recently retired mayor of Palo Alto introduced our speaker, the new mayor Eric Filseth. Eric has served on the Council since 2014 after working 27 years in the semiconductor business.



He gave a comprehensive overview of the state of the city and the principal issues to be faced. Housing, traffic and parking were the primary growth issues where balance is needed. Then investment in infrastructure, particularly rail grade separation, was another area of concern. Hanging over it was the question of long-term fiscal sustainability and the need to focus on the burdensome pension funding liability. This factor originated in the early over-ambitious projections of CalPERS and grows at an alarming 17.4% per year. With expenses increasing faster than revenues, the situation is unsustainable and the Sacramento government needs to address the core problems. Palo Alto City must do something now and the matter cannot afford to wait. This means correction of accounts and budgeting, reducing service costs and enhancing revenue streams such as business taxes. Affordable housing takes money and we should not be inhibited from raising development fees by looking at the rates in surrounding cities.

The duty crew today were BETSY BECHTEL (greeting), REBECCA GERALDI (nobly doing all front desk duties alone), RICHARD KELLER and STEVE MADSEN (set-up) and GEOFF ZIMAN (reporting).