

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

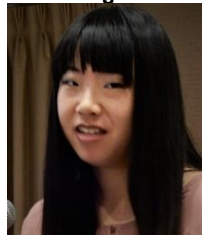
March 18, 2019

Reporter: HAL MICKELSON

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

President GINNY LEAR “called her own number” in leading the Pledge of Allegiance for our club’s March 18 meeting. President-elect DANA TOM had no visiting Rotarians or guests to present (although ART STAUFFER noted that the day’s speaker would be introduced later).... DANA endorsed the District Training Assembly, April 6 in Santa Clara, as a great chance to learn how to be more effective within Rotary. Our club will gladly pay for your registration.

According to JESSICA SUN, one of the most inspirational people she has known was a young man named Greg who swam with her at Gunn. Born with only one lung, he took part alongside students who had literally twice his strength and capacity. For Jessica, Greg was a significant example of determination and connectedness.



President Ginny shared that MIKE COUCH was named Volunteer of the Year by the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce in connection with recognition of the Community School of Music and Art. He thereupon volunteered a generous President’s Club gift....



DICK BUSH reported that MIKE had recruited him for Rotary around the edges of a chance encounter at Ming’s....



JUDITH STEINER received a Paul Harris pin with three sapphires in appreciation for her contributions to the Rotary Foundation.



Speaking of contributions: GINNY, JULIE JEROME and BETSY BECHTEL provided a well-organized overview of the three vehicles we use in making donations for the club’s charitable work. GINNY noted that the entity called Palo Alto Rotary Annual Charities, PARCAC, is a conduit



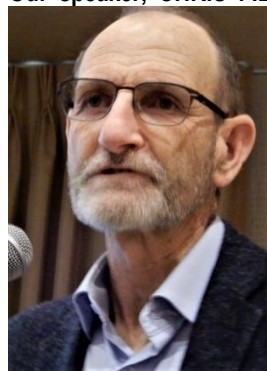
in funding both local and international projects, plus expenses for hands-on service, vocational scholarships, and sponsorship for the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and other youth programs. Recipients for local grants are selected by a hard-working committee chaired by

BILL JOHNSON; world community service projects are chosen by an equally hard-working team led by TIM WATSON. Last year, about \$150,000 was channeled through PARCAC.... JULIE explained how our locally managed Endowment Fund ensures long-term support for the same wide range of charities. Gifts to the Endowment are invested, and the income, \$30,000 to \$40,000 each year, is transferred to PARCAC.... BETSY reminded us that the Rotary Foundation powers the global humanitarian work of Rotary International. The funds returned to our club from the Foundation are applied to the international projects chosen locally by TIM’S group.

BRUCE GEE made the most of his final opportunity to promote our Crab Feed at the Mitchell Park Community Center, Saturday, March 23, beginning with a reception and silent auction at 5:30.... He observed that we rely on this yearly event for about two-thirds of our fundraising, supplemented by President’s Club donations.... If you can’t attend, please have the committee enter “ghost” bids on some auction items in your absence, or simply make a contribution as another means of participating.... BRUCE expects a crowd of at least 180.



Our speaker, CHRIS FIELD, is Lane Professor of Environmental Studies at Stanford and Director of the Woods Institute. He sounded a modestly optimistic note regarding solutions for the challenges of climate change. “It won’t be easy; it’s not impossible; it’s not too late....” There’s a 90% probability that humans are causing global warming on the order of a 2 degree rise in temperatures over the most recent 100 years.... We’re approaching tipping points where bad situations will become unmanageable.



For example, melting ice sheets in the coming 100 years could cause 5 to 25 meters of sea level rise. The worst-hit, hottest countries could suffer 50% decreases in economic activity.... There’s no one “silver bullet” answer. We need to keep managing demand for energy. We need carbon-free methods to produce electricity; we need to electrify as much activity as possible; we need new methods of energy storage. We can start tackling the impacts of agriculture and meat production by dealing with the 40% of food that’s simply wasted.... Professor Field contends that the US should be “scrambling” to be the producer of the equipment and technologies needed to attack these problems, with a national goal of doubling its investments. “Dealing with these challenges can contribute to strong economies and robust communities....” By the way: Professor Field walks the talk, or more precisely bikes the talk: He made his way to the Elks Club on his bicycle.

Upcoming programs: BILL LIBERATORE and the Gunn High School Choir, March 25.... UWE BERGMANN, SLAC, April 1, “Uncovering Hidden Texts with X-Ray Vision.” 10X the power density.