

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

April 8, 2019

Reporter: GEOFF ZIMAN

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

To open the meeting, the President requested RICHARD KELLER lead the salute to the flag. This was followed by DANA TOM introducing visitors.

We were honored to have Rotarian Cindy Goodman from La Jolla visiting us again. The guest of BETSY BECHTEL was Ronny Rojao from Costa Rica, a Knight Scholar at Stanford and future club speaker. CASH ALAEE had two guests – Anamarie Johnson and Al Mollica – who were from the Animal Shelter newly contracted by the city. MEL MATSUMOTO had as his guest Rhonda Bekkedahl who is currently the COO at Channing House but who will be taking over as CEO from Mel on his imminent retirement.



Later in the meeting both DAVE THORNTON and GLORIA HOM paid tribute to Mel for his outstanding work at Channing House by each joining the President's Club in his honor.



The president expressed her thanks to KAREN KIENZLE for hosting last week's pop up social at the PA Art Center. During the party DANA TOM located a plaque denoting that flag pole at the center was a gift from our club in 1953, when the building was Palo Alto city hall.

It was announced that on May 17 thru 19 The 5170 Rotary District Conference will be taking place aboard the USS Hornet in Alameda. Former astronaut Captain Scott Kelley will be the Saturday night keynote speaker.

Our president is counting down toward the end of her term in 10 weeks' time. To mark this passage, she is inviting the ten longest ago past presidents still actively attending to address us each week.

First up was JACK WOODSON who joined our club in 1972 and served as president in 1979 when he was 38 years old. Jack reminisced about his great experience in that role, the friendship he has enjoyed with the then president of the Berkeley Rotary Club Steve Oliver and the joy of his Rotary membership over the years. He also brought back an example of the traditional fining practice of that period by deftly extracting a dollar from every Rotarian present who was not wearing a Rotary pin.



New member JOCELYN LEE provided inspirational thoughts by describing her experience on college entrance and the successful work she now does to help students achieve their college acceptance goals.



BETSY BECHTEL showed an inspiring short video featuring Bono of U2 to promote the final push for polio elimination. Everyone is being asked to contribute \$50 to the campaign which will be matched 2:1 by the Gates Foundation. Members will be receiving an email with specific details of how to contribute.



BRUCE GEE commended MIKE PATRICK on the fact that La Comida had just been selected for a Tall Tree Award.

This spurred MIKE to acknowledge it by joining the President's Club.



LEANNAH HUNT also stepped up to join to honor ROGER SMITH as an outstanding community volunteer.



President GINNY introduced our speaker, club member DENNY BOYLE. Described as the World's Nicest Man, his interesting large family background and many professional accomplishments, including over 50 patents, can be found in our club's on-line directory.

Forty years ago, Denny was a key founding member of the innovative design company IDEO which today has over 750 employees and 9 offices worldwide. The main thrust of his extensively illustrated presentation was to provide insight into how to build truly innovative design teams, how to encourage collaboration and the value of having multidisciplinary members. An extraordinary (and almost unbelievable) list of projects were reviewed and it included training TSA agents, instructions for defibrillator use, comfort on long haul airlines, autoinjector design, designing K thru 12 school systems in Peru, improving purity of food delivery in China, voting systems for Los Angeles County, breast pumps for mothers, diabetes care, pill packs for pharmaceutical control, seed planting in Ethiopia and low cost toilets for Ghana. Denny concluded on a lighter note by showing real life examples of conflicting and and dubious labelling.



Volunteers on duty today were KATIE SEEDMAN and PETER SHAMBORA (Visitor Desk), RICHARD KELLER (Setup and AV), TOM GRACON (Microphone) and GEOFF ZIMAN (Pinion)

Next week: 2019 Grant Recipients