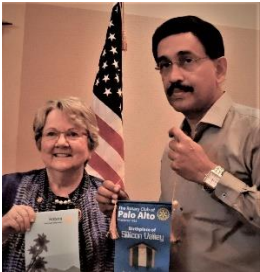


Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

April 22, 2019

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Editor: LYLE CONNELL



President GINNY LEAR opened with a warm welcome and CHARLIE WEIDANZ led the Pledge of Allegiance.

President elect DANA TOM introduced an International Rotarian ABDUL GAFOOR and his wife, visiting from India, and Pres. GINNY led the club flag exchange.

Guests were DARCY HUSTON, leader of the Girl Scouts troop, hosted by KAREN RHODE, JENNIFER WAGSTAFF, Chair of the Abilities United Board, hosted by CHARLIE WEIDANZ, MARY ANN GEE, hosted by SHERRI SAGER, MICHELLE ABBASZADEH, working in the ethical drug industry, hosted by DICK BUSH, and GARY PALADIN AND NANCY KAWAKITA hosted by DANA TOM.

AMY ANDONIAN introduced her daughter ALEXA and shared the opening remarks inspired by EARTH DAY and JOHN MUIR. Called “the father of our national parks” and “greatest Californian”, AMY noted that JOHN MUIR considered himself an ordinary citizen of the Universe, and wrote his address as “Earth-Planet, Universe”. A voice for both the scientific and spiritual preservation of nature, JOHN MUIR was an adamant advocate of recreation and enjoying the beauty of nature. AMY joyfully reminded us to celebrate both EARTH DAY, April 22 and JOHN MUIR DAY, April 21.



President GINNY LEAR invited to the podium Past President GLORIA HOM for her address, and congratulated her for being both the 1st woman elected to the club as well as the 1st woman President. GLORIA joined the club in 1987, and presided from 1992-93, and fondly reminisced of the fun time, with jovial meetings. During her time, everybody in the club had to be part of a committee. Members of the club included all the “movers and shakers” in the city, and she noted “there was no civic problem you couldn’t solve!”. Her takeaway was attending the annual International Conferences of which she attended more than 20.



President GINNY said a warm goodbye to PAM BRANDIN, Rotarian over 20 years and Past President, who will be leaving the club going to Omaha on May 30th, but will remain Honorary Member of the Club.



KAREN RHODE introduced DARCY HUSTON, leader of the Girl Scouts club, sponsored by the Palo Alto Rotary. She noted the first unit of the club was established in



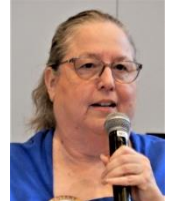
1922. Today it serves more than 100 troops of girls in ages ranging from kindergarten to high school and designed to address the girls’ development, and teach them leadership skills. Their activities encompass STEM, cybersecurity, and community projects. The club also subsidizes girls coming from single parent, low income homes. President

GINNY noted that Palo Alto Rotary Club was chartered the same year, 1922, and presented DARCY with a check for \$2000 for the Girl Scouts Club.

Three members joined the Presidents Club: STEVE PLAYER in honor of the 125 years anniversary of the founding of the City of Palo Alto, and LIZ KNISS’ contributions during her times as Mayor of the City;



SHERRI SAGER to celebrate her 25th anniversary at Lucile Packard Hospital, and in honor of GINNY LEAR and GLORIA HOM for their recognition for the Avenidas Award; and



TRISH BUBENIK joined in honor of MEL MATSUMOTO prior to his retirement, and to remember Rabbi AXELROD who was an inspiration in her life.



DIANA DIAMOND introduced the speaker DAVID KENNEDY, Donald McLachlan Professor of History meritis at Stanford U. and author of 4 books, who spoke on the subject of immigration “Can We Still Afford a Nation of Immigrants?”. Professor KENNEDY addressed the perceived immigration problem in the historical context of similar immigration in 19th century Europe and to North America, underlining that the drivers of scale migrations in historical circumstances have been the result of the industrial revolution and changes in social circumstances that are reversible. He demonstrated that the fear of the migrants being unabsorbable is not supported by documented historical data, in fact easy assimilation without social disruption and friction has been supported especially in the context of 1. A long period of new economical growth 2. Small scale of immigrants stream with no disruption to the established culture and 3. Varied composition of migrants from different countries of origin, which enables assimilation within the local population. Professor KENNEDY made the parallel that today the US receives only half of the percentage of the stream received before between 1850 – 1940 (who became the Greatest Generation), with the only change towards the country of origin with current predominance of Asian and Hispanic population. Professor KENNEDY presented data from the National Academy of Science report on “The Economic and Fiscal Consequences of Immigration” (2016) showing that immigrants become economically and fiscally integrated in the social fabric. Given historical context, Professor KENNEDY demonstrated that the current immigration problem is no different from what the US has experience and handled well before and that “the wall is a solution in search of a problem, not a solution in itself”. He concluded underlining the importance of migrants for a healthy socio-economic fabric of the country, and with a final inspirational quote about the future, noting that “unless it changes its way, the US can recruit its next generation from 7 billion people”.



Thank to meeting volunteers: greeter BRUCE SWENSON, cashiers, KATIE SEEDMAN and REBECCA GIRALDI, microphone managers TOM GRACON and LAURIE LISTON and room set up and AV STEVE MADSEN and RICHARD KELLER. OANA MARCU, Pinion.

The speaker for next Monday April 29 is Stuart Woolf, President and CEO of Woolf Farming and Processing, who will be talking about “California Farming Challenges and Opportunities”.