

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

April 29, 2019

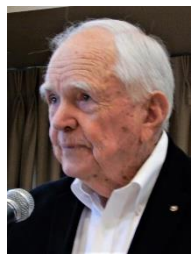
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Editor: LYLE CONNELL

After the Pledge by President-Elect-Elect BEN THRELKELD, PRESIDENT GINNY suggested we recognize that this is Palo Alto Rotary's 97th Anniversary. Our club started not long after Rotary International's founding in 1905. And speaking of history, when an ex-President of the Club referred to this rag as the 'Opinion', it was apparent that a clarification of the name was long overdue. The RI logo, like your member's pin, is a pinion. Changed in 1926 from the original wagon wheel - presumably to recognize industrial progress - the pinion, or gear as in rack & pinion, is symbolic of many implied meanings of interconnectedness, forward progress, working together, etc.

Back to the meeting. President-Elect DANA TOM introduced ex-members Dave Fraser, and Monique Zieshenne and CASH ALAEE's guest Pavan Gill, SALLY TOMLINSON's guest Tim Tomlinson, and MONIQUE ZIESENHENNE's guest Kristen O'Kane.

And then KAREN ROHDE stepped up to do opening remarks which were punctuated by the rich Chinese proverb about why teachers are so inspirational. "If you want 1 year of prosperity, grow grain. If you want 10 years grow trees. If you want 100 years of prosperity, grow people."



It was JOHN O'KEEFE's turn to reminisce about his term as President of the Club back in 19 ought 97 and 19 ought 98. Three things stood out: 1) The kick in the pants from the President-Elects Training, "How relevant is your club to the community?" leading him to initiate the annual fund-raising Crab Feed with a huge assist from KAREN BROSI; 2) The practice of fining (ostensibly to keep the dues down) targets such as yours truly for not knowing Rotary trivia, 3) How important IRIS KOROL is to him as the one remaining new member from his year.



Kristen O'Kane, City of Palo Alto's Director of Community Services, invited us all to be a part of "Re-Imagining Cubberley" by participating in a community meeting at Cubberley on May 9th at 7:00pm

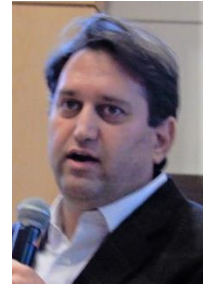
PRESIDENT GINNY announced a successful first 'Happy Hour Member Satellite Meeting' at MATT DOLAN's Homewood Suites, stating that the next would be on May 15th. And, the next PopUp Social will be a Cinco de Mayo Festival hosted by Ginny & King on May 3rd at 181 Hillview Ave. in Los Altos, 5:30-7:00 pm.

Past President PAM BRANDIN, pitching the PARotary Endowment Fund, introduced member MIKE PATRICK, executive director of La Comida. In addition to reminding us that we (PAR) created the very successful seniors



lunch program in 1972, announced that they have recently expanded to two sites and have begun a community fund raising effort. ROGER SMITH, BRIAN STEEN, JUDITH STEINER, BRUCE GEE, and JUDY KLEINBERG have all been very helpful in the kickoff.

CASH ALAEE briefed us on the progress of our international project of providing clean drinking water to a village in Thailand by showing photos of kids happy to drink good water, and the smiling faces of members of the local club with which we are working.



TODD LEWIS joined the President's Club to celebrate his success over STEVE EMSLIE in bidding for the chance to join ROGER SMITH in Row 1, Seat 1 of the Warriors first playoff game.

ROGER also joined. It was fun!



SALLY TOMLINSON introduced our speaker, Stuart Woolf, who described in vivid detail the challenges and opportunities of family farming in California. The family company's motto is 'Feeding more with fewer resources' which they apparently have lived up to successfully. Points that stood out:



•tomatoes, almonds and pistachios are grown

around the world in a very narrow band of latitude that includes the San Joaquin Valley, •Woolf Farms use 100% drip and micro-sprinkler irrigation, •enormous electronically managed tomato harvesting machines operated by one person drastically reduce the need for hand labor, culling too ripe and too green with an electronic bat and filling huge trucks with tomatoes at a rate of up to 2 tons/minute, •grower sell tomatoes for processing at 3 1/2 cents/pound, •California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act will mean a million acres being fallowed, a 12% reduction, •Farmers need two main things from California's legislators; 1) designation of groundwater recharging as a beneficial use of regulated water supplies, and 2) the generation of solar power to be legally considered an agricultural use in order to encourage farmers to turn fallow fields into solar farms without losing valuable water rights.

