

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

May 20, 2019

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Former Club President BETSY BECHTEL, pinch-hitting for President GINNY LEAR, called our meeting to order. Keeping with our practice ELIZABETH SANTANA lead the group in recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance



VISITORS AND GUESTS: Rotary member BEN THRELKELD introduced and suggested his guest ELLIOTT WRIGHT may have attended more meetings than himself. SHERRI SAGER introduced her guest Mary Ann Gee who has attended three meetings and is making the jump from guest to member. Welcome Mary Ann.

PRESIDENTS CLUB: DUANE KALAR to commemorate 696 months of wedded bliss offered \$1 for each month and rounded up to \$700. Congratulations to DUANE and Ann on your anniversary.



PETER SHAMBORA acknowledged a wonderful evening of food, friends and fellowship with fellow Rotarians at the home of DICK BUSH and Patty McGuigan. This shindig for eight was a Crab Feed Auction item and LIZ KNISS an attendee was equally as appreciative of an evening well spent in the company of friends.

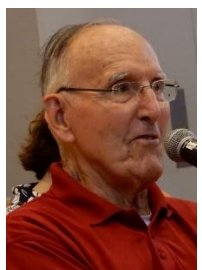


ELLIOT WRIGHT, guest of BEN THRELKELD, to show is appreciation for Rotary

support of Environmental Volunteers contributed to the Presidents Club. Very nice!



Just because he had a few dollars in his pocket BILL BUSSE decided to participate as well.



MIKE McMAHON completed the Presidents Club round up with his contribution and along with the others displayed the generosity of Rotarians.

BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

DANA TOM has distributed a survey to gain a better understanding of members interests and preferences. To date 40 surveys have been returned with the goal of all members submitting a response. This can be completed in just a few minutes. If you have any questions or did not receive a survey, please connect with DANA.

The longest ago, currently participating, Past Presidents tour brought us GEORGE WHEATON today to reminisce of his year. A memorable



experience for him was the cooperative/rotating September meetings with the Berkeley Rotary group. At the time a hurricane had a devastating impact in Guatemala which personally affected our membership. With a desire to help the group "passed the hat," and after SAM WEBSTER gave \$500 the donations poured in resulting in \$3500 sent to the local Rotary in Guatemala. GEORGE speculated this spontaneous fundraising activity may have been the demise of the cooperative meetings with the Berkeley club.

Welcome to the world Andrew! JANE KHALAF welcomed a bouncing baby boy on April 12th. Weighing in at 9.5 lbs. this little fella is the delight of his parents. Congratulations Jane.

MEMORIAL DAY FLAGS: To honor America's fallen soldiers the Rotary places flags along University Avenue on Memorial Day. Betsy Bechtel is requesting volunteers to meet Monday, May 27th at 8:00 AM at the corner of University and Cowper. Many of the volunteers meet for coffee afterwards. Removing the flags volunteers meet again at 5:00PM the same day.



The world-famous Bechtel & Kniss Chili and Cornbread dinner is planned for May 31st, 5:30PM to 7:30PM at the home of Liz Kniss. Ticket prices are \$40 each or two for \$75 with beer and wine included. Ten tickets remain available with all money raised going to Rotary. Come for the chili, stay for the company and promote the good works of Rotary.

ENDOWMENT: Only HAL MICKELSON has the ability to deliver an entertaining

presentation for an important but conventional topic. Calling to mind the 2002 Jack Nicholson film "About Schmidt" and the characters realization upon retirement that his life's work was destined for the dumpster he addressed the issue of what are we leaving behind. Hal offered that after providing for family, the Rotary Endowment was a rock-solid instrument to provide continued philanthropy long beyond our days. Ensuring a legacy of giving for the future is not destined for the recycling bin.



GUEST SPEAKER:

Ronny Rojas, Knight Fellow, Stanford, Collaborative Investigative Journalism and Immigration.



Ronny graduated from Universidad Latina, Costa Rica along with a previous fellowship at the International Academy of Journalism, Hamburg Germany along with training in journalistic statistical analysis and data collection by National Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting and the Missouri School of Journalism. Previously a Data and Investigations editor for Univision Noticias in Miami with a focus on fact checking and combating misinformation. His work has been recognized with an Emmy, Robert

F Kennedy Journalism Award and the 2017 Ortega y Gasset Journalism Award from the Spanish daily El Pais and the 2015 Global Shining Light Award.

With the Knight Foundation Fellowship Ronny is focused on developing a network of journalists and resources to combat the hostile rhetoric towards immigrants and provide accurate research and information for vulnerable populations affected by the reduction in news desks across the country. The current political climate promotes the myth dangerous immigrants which is harmful and not based in truth or fact. He shared the personal story of his father immigrating to New Jersey to assist with providing a better life for his family. It was fortunate for Ronny that Betsy Bechtel found his lost wallet and made the connection for him to address our group.

A shout out to our meeting volunteers for their efforts to support our weekly gathering. KATIE SEEDMAN at the registration desk, STEVE MADSEN set-up and Matt Dolan Pinion writer.