

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

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Reporter; TRISH BUBENIK

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

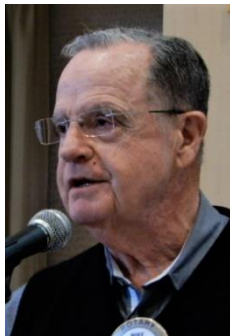
CALL TO ORDER: PRESIDENT GINNY LEAR called the meeting to order noting that Dana is out of the country. She asked Steve Player to lead the Pledge. DANA TOM is in Hamburg, Germany for the Rotary International conference.

GUESTS: HAL MICKELSON introduced neighbors Mary Beth and Jim Bischoff; LAURIE LISTON, Mary Ann Gee, returning visitor; past and incoming presidents of the Gunn YCS Interact Club, Pauline and Isha.

DANA needs a new MEL to contact members for opening remarks, inspirations, and guests. MEL considered the job a wonderful opportunity to get to know members better. He guaranteed that by following "the script," it would take only 20 minutes a week - a no brainer. With that JUDITH STEINER raised her hand to volunteer, followed by hearty applause.



OPENING REMARKS: MIKE COUCH said that MEL was here to guarantee that club members are inspired each week. MIKE puzzled over when he had not been inspired since JFK's inaugural address, to which his wife replied, "That's so 60's." He then went on to reflect on David Brooks' memoir's description of his response to a traumatic time in his life, from which he realized that the first "mountain" of life focuses on career, wealth, acquisition; with the second "mountain," on internal wealth of spirit and relationships, and caring. He then shared thoughtful wisdom from Plato, the Buddha, and Maya Angelou.



PAST PRESIDENTS' FEATURE: DIANA DIAMOND reflected on her wonderful year as president, 1999-2000 when she introduced new ideas. She focused on attracting exceptional speakers, and charging ANNETTE GLANCKOPF to lead that. Then she called for more parties to strengthen relationships. She also eliminated mandatory attendance--becoming a chastised maverick by



Rotarian leadership. This trendsetter was the second female president. Her worst fear was that the speaker would be a no-show. And when that happened, JOHN O'KEEFE stepped in with a wonderful, spontaneous speech. Her only regret was that she couldn't serve a second year!!

APPRECIATION FROM GUNN'S YCS INTERACT CLUB:



Outgoing president Pauline Her thanked Rotary for funding incredible challenges, including their yearly service trip to Costa Rica (the first in three years), resulting in their increased understanding of sustainability and community service planning skills. She noted that "knowledge isn't power until it's applied."

POP-UP FINALE! MONDAY, JUNE 24th
DEBUNKING OF PRESIDENT GINNY: BETSY BECHTEL urged members to buy their dinner tickets online or at a meeting by June 17, Michael's Restaurant at Shoreline, 5:30 PM. **NO lunch meeting.**



PRESIDENT'S CLUB: JUDITH STEINER toasted GINNY as "Ms. Rotary," serving as a role model for others with her husband who loves Rotary. MATT DOLAN celebrated his daughter's 120 days since her lung transplant, cheering that she runs with the dogs daily.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION: TRISH BUBENIK joined the Pinion writers' team as did SALLY TOMLINSON.

JULIE JEROME urged year-end contribution to the Endowment Fund, noting that only half of the club has contributed. We need the other half to help us reach the \$1 million mark. Thanks to: BETSY BECHTEL, greeter; KATIE SEEDMAN, cashier; microphone managers, TOM GRACON and LAURIE LISTON; room setup and AV magic, STEVE MADSEN and RICHARD KELLER.



SPEAKERS: Returning from retirement, Hawaiian shirt-clad "DEPARTING MEL" introduced all three.

DAN QUINN briefly reviewed his career spanning physics, business and finance. He then revealed his transformational visit with member JERRY ELKIND to Evolution Valley in the Sierras which focused him on what he is CALLED to do: family, photography, and travel. Next he highlighted milestones in his life, starting with a picture of him as a small baby in Washington, D.C. where his father was an FBI agent. He moved to Francisco as a child, then to Palo Alto and San Mateo.



He married his Australian wife Ellen, in 1966, celebrating their exceptional partnership during two-thirds of his life. As a post doc, they traveled to Hamburg and Nepal. He then shared a photo of his family, including his daughter and the woman she married three times--due to changing social norms--and have two adopted children. Also showed his son and granddaughter in Antigua. He served on the board of Hidden Villa, offering kudos to former executive director JUDITH STEINER.

Photography is his focus, sharing breathtaking photos of a rainbow and wildlife, including those featuring a pair of white tail kites transferring their chick while in flight. Can we tag along with you, Dan, on your photo expeditions???

JUDITH STEINER: From the podium she announced and demonstrated that she is a "flag-waving American." As a child she said the Pledge of Allegiance and Lord's Prayer in school. However, she now never says the Pledge of Allegiance and wondered if we had ever noticed that at our meetings. She considers that Rotary is international. She then compared the US with Europe in the practice of pledging allegiance, having lived in Austria and noting the anti-American sentiment there in the 1960's.



Then JUDITH shared the history of the Pledge. In 1885 a Civil War veteran named Col. Balch devised the first pledge to help unify the divided nation--"We give our heads and our hearts to God and our country; one country, one language, one flag." In 1892, as part of the 400th anniversary of Columbus, a former Baptist minister named Bellamy was asked to write a new pledge: "I pledge allegiance

to my flag and the republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." Both were used in

1923, but changing the wording in 1924 to "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America" at a time when hundreds of flags were distributed to schools to greet the



many new immigrants. That pledge included a salute with the right arm outstretched toward the flag, palm down, and ended with palm up. In 1942 that salute's similarity to the Nazi salute was replaced by a new salute--placing the right hand over heart. The pledge and that salute were then adopted by Congress. A final revision was made in 1954 when "under God" was added. In 2008 and 2009 Congress

authorized all military personnel and veterans to render that salute when viewing the flag raising/lowering, at the flag's presentation, or during the National Anthem.

STEVE PLAYER: At the podium, STEVE assured everyone that there would be no auction and that wallets were safe. STEVE shared that the direction of his life flowed with SERENDIPITY. Given the chance to join AFS, he went to Norway in high school and then went to Boys State. He studied at Stanford and Hastings Law School. Then due to a college football shoulder injury, he was bypassed by the Marines. Hence, he and wife spent a year in England. In 1967 finding no jobs available, he happened upon a job opening which he had not sought out; but with no interview, he accepted the job of a man just fired. Serendipity.

As an attorney he represented Bill Hewlett and worked with BILL ALHOUSE, WALT HAYS AND SAM WEBSTER who became his mentor, selling him a house on Tasso when he needed one--as well as bringing him into Rotary. His work with Bill Miller serendipitously led him to Bill's daughter Nancy, now his wife--36 happy years and going strong.

After 14 years at Stanford, was named its Planned Giving Officer and lawyer. And the office where interviewed for that was the same where he had been interviewed for his football position.

STEVE'S WISDOM: Life is not a planned path...just accept and embrace serendipity.

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: Kirk Hanson, Markkula Center for Applied Ethics, Santa Clara University.