

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

August 12, 2019

Reporter: GEOFF ZIMAN

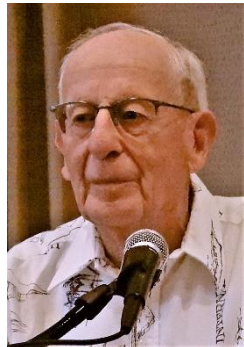
Editor: LYLE CONNELL

The meeting opened with a logo flash reminding us that "Rotary Connects the World". President DANA then emphasized that we should strive to make our club experience the best it can be. To drive this home, he had a slide of concise goal suggestions found by Past President GINNY: *Have fun; Get Results; Make New Friends.*

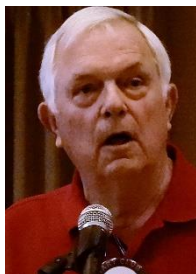
JAYNE BOOKER was then called upon to lead us in a pledge to the flag before President Elect BEN introduced our visitors. Former member Dave Fraser from the Mad River Rotary Club was the first to be acknowledged. ROB LANCEFIELD's guest was Ryan Elliott, a local patent lawyer. BETSY BECHTEL's guest was Renata Velcheva visiting from Bulgaria. STEVE EMSLIE's guest was Patty McGuigan wife of our late esteemed member DICK BUSH who sadly passed away less than two week's ago. In memory of Dick, Patty presented a generous check to our Endowment Fund. This spurred the members to rise and stand in gratitude and provide further recognition of Dick as a fine person and his many other contributions to the club.



GEOFF ZIMAN delivered the thought for the day by reminding members of the value and pleasures of making-up/visiting other Rotary clubs around the world. He reminisced about some of his especially interesting Rotary club visits.



STEVE PLAYER quickly auctioned off to GINNY LEAR, two tickets to the Theaterworks show "The 39 Steps".



These were donated by SALLY TOMLINSON.

GINNY then reminded members of the monthly informal Rotary Satellite Meeting on Wednesday, August 21, 5:30-6:30 PM at Homewood Suites where there will be happy hour food/drink and fun conversation, \$5pp. The Rotary 5170 District Red Cross blood donation challenge is another opportunity for local service as detailed in a recent email to all members.



ROMAN KAGARLITSKY joined the President's Club to express his particular concerns about making immigration to our country safe, legal and fair. He invited club members to join his quest and asked those interested to get in touch with him by email.



The president then returned to the critical Rotary topic of eradication of polio. He showed a short trailer for a video called "Two Drops of Patience" available on YouTube. He emphasized that although only two countries – Afghanistan and Pakistan – remain at risk, there are very significant challenges in achieving the final steps in the remote areas in those countries.

SALLY TOMLINSON introduced our speaker Dr David Eagleman, a prominent neuroscientist, a NY Times bestselling author and adjunct Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science at Stanford University. His topic was "Expanding our Sensory Perception." He started by explaining that our human brain, with practice, has extraordinary powers with regard to interpreting sensory inputs and it can extract meaningful perceptions from complex patterns. However, human beings only have very limited sensory detection capabilities.



The term "umwelt" is used to describe the resulting limited reality perceived by us and any other creature. By connecting expanded sensory detection devices to areas of our skin and even to our tongues, it is possible to overcome the human handicaps of blindness and deafness as well as to provide an extraordinarily enhanced sense of perception of other elements such as magnetic fields, smells and the vast range of electromagnetic radiations outside visible light. In this manner our reality perception umwelt can be expanded.

His presentation included short videos of how vests and wrist bands can provide essential sensing to skin areas and how useful this can be in practice. He eluded to the many other intriguing but, as yet untouched, possibilities for devices of this nature.

This stimulating talk evoked a number of varied questions from Dave Fraser, BEN THRELKELD, HENRIETTA BURROUGHS and BETSY BECHTEL before the president brought the meeting to a close.

VOLUNTEERS ON DUTY: Pinion writer, GEOFF ZIMAN; Pinion editor, LYLE CONNELL; Greeters—MIKE McMAHON, GLORIA HOM; Welcome Desk/Cashiering -- KATIE SEEDMAN, JANE KHALAF; Setup and AV—HERSH DAVIS, RICHARD KELLER; Microphone Managers--LAURIE LISTON, MIKE McMAHON.

Speaker August 19, Stanford Professor of Psychology Jamil Zaki: *The War for Kindness: Building Empathy in a Fractured World*