

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

September 16, 2019

Reporter: TRISH BUBENIK

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

ROTARY CONNECTS THE WORLD: President DANA TOM called the meeting to order by stating that this is “a great day for Rotary” and then inducted LINNET KWOK into our club.



He noted that this past president of the Shanghai Rotary will make our club even more dynamic. He thanked sponsor GLORIA HOM and presented her with the new sponsor Ignite pin. LINNET says she loves this club and celebrates the friendliness of everyone she has met here, deciding she did not have to “shop around for clubs.” DANA then asked her to respond to three questions and then asked members to stand to respond in unison to three questions about supporting LINNET in our club. DANA then presented her with her Rotary pin, club red badge, and a club t-shirt (to come). Club members enthusiastically applauded LINNET.

BEN THRELKELD noted no visiting Rotarians but acknowledged one guest, Steve Smith, a local Boy Scout leader, introduced by GEOFF ZIMAN.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: LEE LIPPERT reflected on his key memories of 1969, 50 years ago: Neil Armstrong’s walk on the moon; three peaceful days at Woodstock; and his respect for the iconic majesty of New York’s World Trade Center’s Twin Towers, built in 1966, (which helped him decide on architecture as a career).



In fact, the Twin Towers represented a general optimism and pride for him which was shattered by the dramatic, deliberate attacks on both towers on September 11, 2001.

Shortly after 9/11, a client invited him to join Rotary and then he happened to travel on one of the first flights allowed out of

SFO en route to Japan. While there, he stopped at his then local club’s sister city where he found an amazing outpouring of sympathy and support. Following the United Nations’ opening of the General Assembly, he learned that Rotary International is the only non-governmental organization with a delegation at the UN.

Next, he learned that the Rotary Polio Plus was close to eradicating polio worldwide.

Those are the events which brought him to Rotary.

His thought for the day is OUR thoughts: What brought each of us to Rotary? Why did each of us join?

CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ROB LYMAN has been elected by the Board to fill the vacancy left by the passing of DICK BUSH

- T-shirts are coming and our first place to wear them is at the service-project ushering at the Palo Alto Players, Saturday, September 28, for “Bright Star” starring our own Elizabeth Santana; (arrive by 7 p.m., finish around 10:30 pm; one opening left to see the show for free; link to the sign-up form on our website

- Satellite meeting Wednesday, September 18, 5:30-6:30 pm. Homewood Suites, 4329 El Camino Real, Palo Alto. FREE onsite street level parking available; \$5 includes happy hour food/drink and conversation with members and guests;

CLUB ASSEMBLY FOLLOW UP:

- Caesar salad dressing will be on the side (Judy Kleinberg!)
- Variety: The 8-week menu rotation is shifting to a 10- week rotation
- The Elks facility is available for other organizations at a non-profit rate

DANA’S CURRENT ROTARIAN MAGAZINE ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS :



- Tremendous progress made to eradicate polio and the heavy lift needed to complete the job
- Stories about the “Plus” in Polio Plus, where synergistic efforts provide benefits beyond eradication;
- Rotarians’ providing access to safe drinking water to vulnerable communities in Nigeria, Afghanistan and Pakistan, thus improving overall health, reducing spread of polio via contaminated water and boosting trust of the polio efforts.

PRESIDENT-ELECT TRAINING VIDEO:

Three-minute video made by a Rotary Club about welcoming prospective members and welcoming new members. Fortunately, we’re much better at that! DANA had the good fortune to meet the star and was able to make him feel unwelcome.

TODAY’S PROGRAM: DANA introduced Jonathan Rodden who was on the political science faculty panel on “Polarization and American Elections”



when DANA attended last year’s Stanford reunion. He appreciated the speaker’s use of data analysis and his explanation of natural concentration vs. deliberate gerrymandering. Dr. Rodden is a Political Science professor and Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution. His research and teaching interests are at the intersection of political science, public economics, and geography. His most recent book is “Why Cities Lose: The Deep Roots of the Urban-Rural Political Divide.” In his free time he guides a long backpacking trip in the Sierras

every summer. He also plays the piano and clarinet, and enjoys playing in ensembles with his family and friends. These days he spends most of his time raising three children, ages 15, 13 and 10.

THANKS TO TODAY’S VOLUNTEERS: Pinion writer, TRISH BUBENIK; Pinion editor, LYLE CONNELL; Greeters, MARY ANN GEE and GINNY LEAR; Welcome desk and cashier, KATIE SEEDMAN, and REBECCA GERALDI; Set up and A/V, JIM SHERIDAN, RICHARD KELLER; Microphone managers, BEN THRELKELD, LAURIE LISTON.

NEXT WEEK’S PROGRAM:

ROBERT KELLEY, Theatreworks’ Founding Artistic Director, “The Business Of Show Business: How Our Hometown Theatre Won A Tony Award”