

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

November 4, 2019

Reporter: SALLY TOMLINSON

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

President DANA TOM opened our meeting by honoring



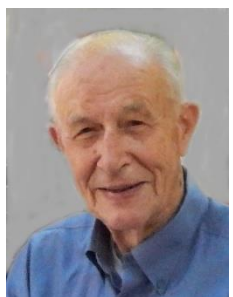
JIM SUTHERLAND, LEANNAH HUNT, and DAVE SMULLIN with Paul Harris pins for their generous contributions to the Rotary Foundation.

President-elect BEN THRELKELD welcomed Visiting Rotarians and Guests of Rotarians. Rotarian Ken Graham comes to us from the Palo Alto University Club. BRIAN STEEN introduced his neighbor Don Nielson, retired engineer with SRI. OANA MARCU hosted Doctor Ossama Hassanein, an entrepreneur, mentor and venture capitalist. JUDITH STEINER introduced her daughter Remy Steiner who has just moved back to CA from New York. BETSY BECHTEL hosted her friends Connie Fasani and Ken Meyer.

TRISH BUBENIK brought us our first thought for the day.



(First of two because Dana forgot this item last week.) Trish remembered her father, who was in the force that liberated the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp at the end of WWII. He never spoke of it, but had a photo of himself in front of the fence of the camp with grateful prisoners behind. As a teacher, Trish shared that photo with her class alongside Rabbi Sid Axelrod, a member of our club, who was there to answer the children's questions. A powerful memory to lead us up to Veteran's Day next week.



LYLE CONNELL will turn 98 next

Tuesday! We sang him a heart-felt round of Happy Birthday.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AND EVENTS:

REBECCA GERALDI announced a recurring opportunity to volunteer with WeHOPE, and organization that helps women who have suffered trauma. Our club has supports this organization, and now we can volunteer the second Tuesday of every month, serving a dinner and eating with the clients. The first opportunity will be Tuesday,

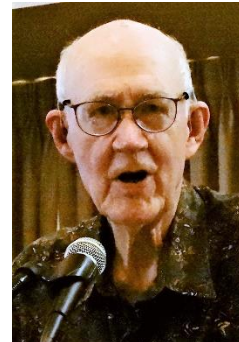


November 12, 6:30-8:15 PM, 1858 Bay Road, East Palo Alto. You will see an e-mail announcement with a link to sign up.

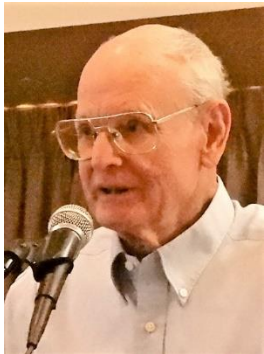
Other Upcoming Events (details are on club homepage <https://www.rotarypaloalto.org>): Socializing after each.

- Nov 11: Sign-ups available to post and take down flags on University Avenue for Veteran's Day!
- Nov 16: Sign-ups available to Spin to End Polio, 11-11:55 at JCC.
- Nov 16: Sign-ups available to usher at PA Players 7-10:30 PM.

WALT HAYS presented Cindy Wilber who described Proyecto Itzaes (which means Project of the People), a project that our club has supported with more than ten grants and three working trips. They promote learning in order to teach, and serve a region of the Yucatán Peninsula that is lush, has low crime, but high poverty. Most adults have a maximum of a second grade



education. The project's first challenge was to convince them that education beyond a few years is important, and the first Rotary trip was in 2004 to refurbish a library. Proyecto Itzaes has gone on to attack type two diabetes, teach biointensive gardening, develop a farmer's market, build an outdoor classroom, purchase and fit out a mobile van with computers and other supplies, and establish robotics classes that attract more girls than boys – the boys gravitate towards origami!



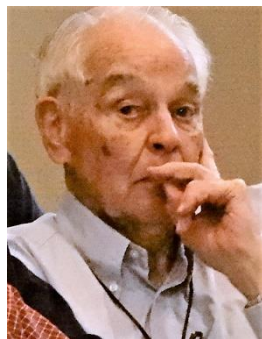
JIM SUTHERLAND brought us our bonus thought for the day, and he followed on Trish's WWII theme. Jim's German uncle-in-law was seriously injured on the Russian front, and his colleagues carried him though the German and American lines because they wanted to get him to an American hospital. He remained ever grateful to the Americans for giving excellent medical care to an enemy soldier.

Two people joined the PRESIDENT'S CLUB today.

ED DANGLER celebrated the stabilization of his lung cancer, happy that it is not getting any worse.



BERT ROSE honored SALLY TOMLINSON who chairs the speaker committee and today is also writing the Pinion.



Thank you to the meeting volunteers: room setup HERSH DAVIS; greeters MATT DOLAN and BETSY BECHTEL; audio-visual RICHARD KELLER; microphones TOM GRACON and LAURIE LISTON; welcome desk and cashier JULIO NINO and REBECCA GERALDI; Pinion writer and editor SALLY TOMLINSON and LYLE CONNELL.

Next week's program: Veteran's Day Talks from veterans in our club. It will be a full program, so the meeting will start promptly at 12:15. Don't be late!

PROGRAM: OANA MARCU introduced Katrine Joensen, Danish Consul, who spoke on The Scandinavian Model. The role of the consulate in Silicon Valley is to attract investment in Denmark, and to export Danish technology to California, especially green technology.



The consulate is learning from our entrepreneurial spirit, but she also gains perspective on her own country. Denmark has a reputation as one of the happiest countries in the world. Its citizens are positive about globalization and feel confident about their future



employment. Their security comes with a lot of government support providing unemployment income, retraining if needed, free education, free health care, free child care and elder care. The cost for these services includes income taxes with a peak marginal rate of 56.5% (most

pay about 40%), a VAT of about 20%, a 100% tax on automobiles. Their happiness also derives from a balanced perspective on life. They are not driven to have great wealth, overtime is not popular because spending time with friends and family is important. Their homogenous population (10% immigrants) is maintained by a strict immigration policy to preserve their elite club.

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