With a reminder that “Rotary Connects the World,” President DANA TOM called us to order and shared news of a small change in our routine: Although there’s a Muppets song that claims “It’s Not Easy Being Green,” we can take a painless step towards greenness by helping the Elks Club avoid having to wash unused place settings every week. You will now receive your eating utensils wrapped in a napkin at the end of the buffet.

Guests were recognized by BEN THRELKELD: PATTI REGEHR, spouse of today’s speaker LARRY MAGID; FRANK BERRY, guest of CHARLIE WEIDANZ; JOOP VERBAKEN and STANS KLEIJEN, introduced by RYAN ELLIOTT; JEFF SAN DIEGO, brought along by ROGER SMITH; DIANE HART, hosted by LE LEVY; and RYAN KAWAMOTO, guest of AMY ANDONIAN.… KAMAL DELLA, our District’s International Chair, heralded International Expo 2020, a project fair that will offer a great chance to meet other Rotarians. It’s Saturday, February 1, from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the University of Silicon Andhra in Milpitas. And – it’s free.

RYAN ELLIOTT shared the story of his stepfather GREGORY DOMINIQUE: Handling risk management for a construction company, he had to tell clients what to do differently to comply with safety standards. He did so with such tact and consideration that they became his friends. He was defined by kindness, patience and curiosity, good things for all of us to cultivate.

Dana mentioned that SOHEILA MOZAYAN is a new member whom we should get to know…

REBECCA GERALDI reported that our MLK, Jr., Day hands-on project assembled 100 drawstring comfort bags for Caminar…

CASH ALAE indicated that our Speech Contest had been won by NIKKI SUZANI from Gunn. Cash thanked, among others, ANNETTE GLANCKOFF, master of ceremonies and his mentor in leading the event. The Coupa Café and The Counter provided gift cards…. Cash is of course our President Nominee, or as we say locally, President-Elect-Elect….

MARY ANN GEE was pleased to be part of the ushers we had provided for “A Doll’s House, Part Two” at Palo Alto Players; thanks also to TIM GEE, JIM SUTHERLAND, RENATA VELCHEVA, DANA TOM and NANCY KAWAKITA….

We also owe thanks to GINNY LEAR for the Chinese New Year dinner on January 28 at Chef Chu’s….

BRUCE GEE noted that our Crab Feed, to be held this year on Saturday, March 28, provides two-thirds of the funds we need for charitable giving…

We help feed the homeless through Project WeHOPE on the second Tuesday of each month at 1858 Bay Road, EPA. Next time: February 11, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

President’s Club donations came from AMY ANDONIAN and ROB LANCEFIELD. Rob saluted his daughter Betsy, named a Vision Keeper by the Interfaith Action Network in Evanston, Illinois. Amy is pleased that a fundraiser is being held for Avenidas on Thursday night…

STEVE PLAYER will be recognized for a Lifetime of Achievement at the Avenidas Garden Party on Sunday, May 17.

Our speaker, LARRY MAGID, was introduced by DARYL SAVAGE. Larry is a technology analyst for CBS News, heard every weekday on KCBS Radio. He’s a frequent contributor to other news outlets and publications; and co-founder and CEO of ConnectSafely.org…. Observed Larry: Just as no one anticipated the impact of the automobile, no one knew as we started using the internet how profoundly it would affect our lives in the 21st Century…. Current issues: Artificial intelligence; the “internet of things”; the sheer ubiquity of cameras that find us as we walk through public places…. It shouldn’t surprise us that the Department of Justice and the FTC are asking whether Google, Facebook and Amazon simply have too much power…. Larry concluded with an enthusiastic plug for Safer Internet Day at the Computer History Museum on Tuesday, February 11, including a 10:00 a.m. program for students and a 6:30 p.m. family event. More information - https://saferinternetday.us/.

Upcoming speakers as reviewed by PAM KRUDOP:

February 3, CRAIG NEEDHAM, “Being Raised by a Mom in an Iron Lung”
February 10, JAMIL ZAKI, “Building Empathy”
February 17, DARK (no meeting)
February 24, SCOTT DIAMOND (DIANA DIAMOND’S son), “Global Travels on a Bike.”