

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

February 10, 2020

Reporter: TRISH BUBENIK

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

President DANA TOM welcomed all to our Palo Alto Rotary Club. He explained his changing the time for speaker introduction as well as adjusting agenda timing for meeting sections.

President-Elect BEN THRELKELD welcomed a visiting Rotarian James Shelley from the Palo Alto University Club. Guests of Rotarians included Joyce Reynolds, Oleaka Villareal, and Jill Asher with LE LEVY; Joop Verbake and Stans Kleidnen with RYAN ELLIOTT (who have applied for membership); Magical Bridge Foundation playground representatives Jim Sheridan, Bonnie Ramsey, and Nancy Kawakita, DANA's wife.



Thought for the Day: DIANA DIAMOND stated her love for Rotary and shared her journey to gaining membership in the the "male only" club. One male leader told her he wouldn't know what to talk about with a woman in the club. When leaving a club she had just joined, she was stopped by a male member who told her "You have ruined our club." DIANA gave thanks for the "world of progress." Let's salute her perseverance!

CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS:

*DANA urged our getting to know new members SOHEILA MOZAYAN and MIKE REYNOLDS

*Project WeHope, serving dinner in East Palo Alto, second Tuesday each month, 6:30-8:15 p.m.

*Need host home for TGIF, February 28, 5:30-7. Budget provided for food, club provides wine. Call GLORIA HOM.

*March Crabness, Saturday, March 28. BRUCE GEE reports \$25,000 in sponsorships raised in one week! The crab feed generates funds for club's local charities. Volunteers needed to help with set up and services at the event. Contact PETER SHAMBORA to volunteer or GINNY LEAR to provide silent and live auction items.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE: We cheer our 9 new members just half way through the year. KAREN ROHDE asked them and their sponsors to stand. She also pointed changes in membership recruiting and new member support as a result of the club's survey. Info now on the website and selection of Rotary "buddies" for new members.

ACTION UPDATE. President-Elect BEN THRELKELD asked members to consider joining this year's Survey Committee.



ROTARY HAPPY HOUR (rebranded Satellite Meeting), Wednesday, February 19, 5:30 at Homestead Suites, BEN THRELKELD hosting. \$5 for food, drink, conversation and friendship

PRESIDENT'S CLUB--\$100 Tax-deductible contributions to our Charities Fund to share good news or make an announcement. TRISH BUBENIK cheered the new members—as well as today's celebration of her first date with hubby in 1968. She contributed to Polio Plus for last week's inspirational program.



THANKS TO MEETING VOLUNTEERS: Pinion Writer, TRISH BUBENIK; Pinion Editor, LYLE CONNELL; Greeter, JESSICA SUN; Welcome Desk and Cashier, KATIE SEEDMAN, REBECCA GERALDI; Set up and A/V, DICK MANSFIELD, STEVE MADSEN; Microphone managers, TOM GRACON, DICK MANSFIELD.

TODAY'S SPEAKER: DANA TOM introduced our speaker Jamil Zaki whom he heard at a Stanford Reunion and marked him as a speaker for our Club. His talk about kindness and empathy was inspiring and very aligned with the values of Rotary. Dr. Zaki is an associate professor of psychology at Stanford. His research includes social influence, prosocial behavior, and especially empathy. He has pioneered a new perspective on



empathy as a learnable skill, and much of his current work focuses on training individuals, groups, and organizations to use empathy more effectively. His recent book is The War on Kindness: Building Empathy in a Fractured World. When asked to speak, responded: "Rotary is close to my heart; in 2004, I received a Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholarship to study one year in Spain, which changed my life." To reclaim our humanity he told us to "make empathy loud" since "caring is contagious."



NO MEETING NEXT MONDAY—February 17, President's Day.

Program: February 24, Scott Diamond "Global Travels on a Bike"—Son of DIANA DIAMOND

MARCH CRABNESS: Annual Rotary Crab Feed Fundraiser Saturday, March 28th, 5:30 p.m., Mitchell Park.