

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

February 24, 2020

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Editor: LYLE CONNELL



Pres. DANA opened this fast-paced, topic crowded, carefully scheduled meeting early. Then, while loudly protesting that he had no political motive, DANA showed a WSJ Photo that MIKE McMAHON had discovered. It was of Democratic Candidate Senator Amy Klobuchar addressing a NH Rotary Club with a clear Four-Way

Test backdrop.

Pres-Elect BEN announced no visiting Rotarians but the following members' guests: Kazue Wang – Fellow banker (MARY ANN GEE); Lorena Alcayaga and Jay Strauss – from the non-profit Family Connections (PAM KRUDOP); Scott Mellberg – Palo Alto Utilities (ROB LANCEFIELD); Jo Killen – friend and Booker Morey – spouse (DIANA DIAMOND). CASH ALAEE introduced his cousins Sanam and Hamid Baghaei from Iran. Later in the meeting CASH joined the President's Club to announce that these visiting cousins would kindly provide mouthwatering Iranian dishes on request. Contact CASH for details.



Thought for the day was supplied by DIEGO OSORIO who quoted Kobe Bryant saying "Tell someone you love them every day."

Then came a series of announcements. BRUCE GEE gave us the encouraging news that our Crab Fest sponsorship had now reached \$33k and that Criterion Travel are offering three extraordinary trips. Live and silent auction items are being sought.

CASH ALAEE said that the onward path of our recent speech contest winner had ended with a third place at the next level, held in Los Altos.



BEN THRELKELD reported that the Rotary Happy Hour last week at the Homewood Suites (thanks MATT DOLAN) had resulted in a useful club survey brain storming exercise in an atmosphere of pleasant fellowship.



JULIO NIÑO spoke of how our Project WeHOPE fed the homeless and built fellowship.

The next opportunity to participate will be on Tuesday, March 10 and BETSY BECHTEL offered encouragement for members to participate.



LINNET KWOK spoke of the decision by our club to work in collaboration with a large number of others to provide much needed medical supplies to assist the fight against the coronavirus in China and showed a short video.



GLORIA HOM announced that the next TGIF will take place at her home in Palo Alto on Friday, February 28. Bring a beverage to share, while the club will provide the eats.

At this point Pres. DANA stepped in to announce that longtime, distinguished Rotary Club member WALTER HAYS had been made an Honorary Member. Walt responded by talking of his happy memories from over 30 years of membership resulting in being given a standing ovation



REBECCA GERALDI in her role as Hands-On Committee Chair again mentioned our work at WeHOPE. In addition, she listed how we do ushering at the Palo Alto players performances, participate in the Kara Walk 'n' RUN to Remember and have Red Badge Projects organized by JESSICA SUN.



On the ever-important topic of food, we learned that at future lunches we can expect slightly more variety and will have Caesar salad dressing on the side.

For their \$100 President's Club charitable contributions, MATT DOLAN happily announced that his daughter had reached her one year milestone since receiving her lung transplant,



GINNY LEAR spoke of her enjoyment of the auctioned



Valentine's Day meal provided by BRUCE & Jane GEE and announced the YCS fund raiser lunch coming up on March 5, honoring retiring Director Leif Erickson. Contact GINNY for reservation details



SALLY TOMLINSON reviewed upcoming speaker topics.

DIANA DIAMOND introduced her son Scott as today's speaker. With a Stanford doctorate degree in Applied Physics and a successful business career, at the age of 55 Scott embarked on a world-wide journey to travel 17,000 miles around the world on a bicycle. This meant cycling 60 – 70 miles per day braving among



other things, bugs, wild animals and high winds as well as, sometimes, even camping illegally. In a very entertaining way, Scott explained why he had set out on this adventure and what it entailed. In question time at the end he was asked about visas, money, wild bear encounters, employer concessions, finding

his way and celebrations.

Today's Volunteer Roster: Pinion Writer – GEOFF ZIMAN; Pinion Editor – LYLE CONNELL; Greeting – TOM GRACON, DIEGO OSORIO and JULIO NINO; Welcome Desk and Cashier – GINNY LEAR and REBECCA GERALDI; Setup and A/V – JIM SHERIDAN and RICHARD KELLER; Microphone Manipulation – TOM GRACON and LAURIE LISTON.

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: Adrian Fine, Mayor, City of Palo Alto