

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

March 2, 2020

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NEW MEMBER TALKS NEXT WEEK: CHRISTIAN MARTINE, DIEGO OSORIO, RYAN ELLIOTT

At 12:15 +/-, President DANA opened our meeting with the induction of two new members, STANS KLEIJNEN and JOOP VERBAKEN. They were



sponsored by RYAN ELLIOTT, who spoke briefly about how they all became friends. Although STANS and JOOP were both born in the Netherlands, they have lived in the U.S. for many years, now living

in Palo Alto. STANS, a retired Dutch diplomat, and JOOP recently lived 4 years in Mumbai, India, during STANS' last official post. STANS and JOOP decided to join our club based on their friendship with RYAN, and the Rotary charitable projects they saw in Mumbai.

About 12:25, President DANA showed his adroit leadership flexibility as he re-arranged our customary order of business by asking LIZ KNISS to introduce Palo Alto Mayor Adrian Fine, our speaker for the day. (Mayor Fine had to leave early to attend a business meeting.)



Mayor Fine began by telling us there have been



NO case of coronavirus in Palo Alto, and that the City is actively working with County Health officials to monitor the situation. The city's Emergency Operations Center is partially activated.

Mayor Fine then spoke of the three top issues facing the residents and the City Council: (1) housing, (2) mobility and traffic, and (3) sustainability and climate change.

The high cost of housing is causing declining enrollments in our schools. Although "granny flats" (Accessory Dwelling Units, or ADU's) are now

authorized, only 3 or 4 have been built. The City is hoping for 30-40 units to be built. Fifty micro-units are now under construction on El Camino in the vicinity of Ventura Ave. Fifty-six units are being built for developmentally disabled persons. Five or six YEARS are typically needed to get a project designed, approved and built

Solving our mobility and traffic problems will be hard with no easy solutions. Greatly increased Caltrain operations ARE coming "soon" by any measure. Greatly increased operations means greatly increased closing of grade crossings at Palo Alto Ave., Churchill Ave., Meadow and Charleston Aves. City Council has to make decisions In June-August. Another "traffic" issue is more overall traffic- "us." Increasing "free" shuttle is possible, but every ride costs the City \$12. City is responding to sustainability and climate change. The City has financial incentives for residential owners to switch from natural gas to all electric. Our recycling program is adapting to new restrictions from "end market" buyers of recycled products. Sea level rise will require cooperation with neighboring cities to build dikes and

levees. Fire danger in Foothills Park and other foothill areas is growing every year, as a result of drier weather. Promptly at 1:00 PM, Mayor Fine ended his talk and left the meeting.

President Elect BEN then introduced visiting Rotarians Rob Holyoake (Menlo Park), and Pearl You and Cindy Bogard O'Gorman (both from Los Altos). Our own Rotarians with Guests were: Jeff Eddy (BILL FOGARTY), Carina Rossner (DIANA DIAMOND, Ron Chang and Steve Smith (GEOFF ZIMAN). Carrie Drake (CHARLIE WEIDANZ) and Spencer Hsu (BEN THRELKELD).

ANNOUNCEMENTS; President DANA thanked GLORIA HOM for hosting our TGIF last week with Iranian food prepared by CASH ALAEE's cousins.



JUDY KLEINBERG will be honored by the local Boy Scouts Council at their Annual Distinguished Citizen Dinner in



May. Contact Ron Chang at Scout Council ron.chang@scouting.org.

Nine volunteers needed to help Project WeHope feed the homeless next Tuesday, March 10th, 6:30-8:30 PM.



PETER SHAMBORA asked for volunteers to help staff our March Crabness fundraiser on March 28th.

Visiting Rotarians Cindy O'Gorman and Pearl You invited us to join the Rotary-Toastmasters Interest Group.



Rob Holyoake invited us to attend "Envisioning 2020 Bay Area Business and Leadership Innovations Conference March 14th hosted by D5150 at SF Airport. For more info: [Rotary 5150.org/calendar](http://Rotary5150.org/calendar)

TRISH BUBENIK and MIKE COUCH joined President's Club "twice" in honor of the rescue of the Palo Alto couple missing in the Marin County brush for a week.



President DANA thanked the volunteers who helped with this week's meeting: ROB LANCEFIELD, Pinion writer; LYLE CONNELL, Pinion editor; GINNY LEAR, Greeter; REBECCA GERALDI, Cashier; HERSH DAVIS and RICHARD KELLER Set-up and AV; LAURIE LISTON, Microphone Manager.

Precisely at 1:30, President DANA adjourned the meeting.