

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

May 11, 2020

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President DANA TOM called the meeting to order with a reminder of the theme “Rotary Connects the World” – through Zoom these days. A peak attendance of 138 participants included Visiting Rotarians and guests.



The Thought of the Day from SALLY TOMLINSON was a poem called “Pandemic” by Lynn Ungar: a call to consider this moment sacred, to center down in stillness and when we can’t reach out our hands, to reach out our hearts and words of compassion. (you can find the full poem at <http://www.lynnungar.com/poems/pandemic/>)

Club announcements: HAL MICKELSON reminded of the Rotary Toastmasters meeting this Wednesday May 13, at 7:00 p.m, through Zoom. DANA TOM announced the Wednesday 8:00am meeting of the Club Board, also via Zoom; and

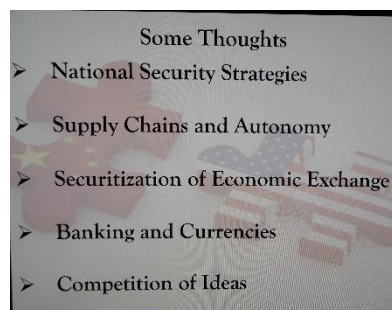
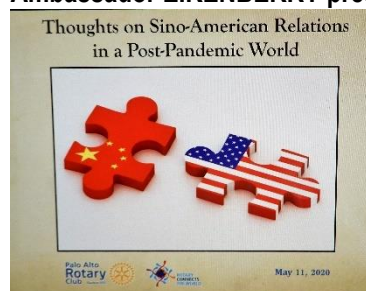


TIM WATSON, Chair of the World Community Service Committee announced the committee decision to move forward with another Global Grant this year. Next WCS meeting is scheduled for July 1.

Past President GINNY LEAR introduced today’s speaker KARL EIKENBERRY, former U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan 2009-2011 and Lieutenant General, U.S. Army (retired) with a 35 year career, including service in Afghanistan as Commander of the American-led Coalition forces, and earlier as Defense Attaché at the US Embassy in Beijing. Amb. EIKENBERRY also held numerous civilian appointments as the Director of the U.S-Asia Security Initiative at the Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center, Stanford U, and an affiliate with the Freeman Spogli Institute, Center for International Security and Cooperation 2011-2019. He is a faculty member of Tsinghua University in Beijing, and is a Non-Resident Fellow at the Liechtenstein Institute on Self Determination at Princeton U.



Ambassador EIKENBERRY presented



“He described the timeline of the US-China relations that have been initially focused towards cooperation, harmonization, and compliance with international obligations as China became the 2nd largest economy and the largest trading partner in the world through developing its technological prowess, human capital and military capability. To the recent volatility of relations due to economic competition as well as nationalism and ideological competition, leading to the Trade War and “The Scold War”, the battle of narrative and blame under the current US administration.

Ambassador EIKENBERRY proposed a needed shift for the National Security Strategies to rethink from military focus to investments in health care, education and resilience systems (including medical) to ensure autonomy and overcome existential threats through diversification of supply chains and securitization of economic exchange.

He ended with a healthy view of “states to find ways to cooperate to resolve existential threats that do not stop at states’ borders” and that the solution for the US is to look inwards and by solving some of its own shortcomings and improving external relations to model again democratic leadership in the world.

Volunteers for this meeting were pinion writer OANA MARCU and pinion editor LYLE CONNELL.

Next week’s program will feature NATALIE FIELDS, “Leveraging Finance for Climate and Human Rights: Getting Ahead of COVID-19 Financial Flows”