

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

May 18, 2020

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Editor: LYLE CONNELL

Beginning around noon, an opportunity for socializing on Zoom lasted until 12:32 when President DANA TOM called the meeting to order, saying he had muted everyone and asking those who wished to speak to raise their hands and, when recognized, to unmute, and when finished, mute. DANA noted this year's Rotary theme, "Rotary Connects the World," without explicitly crediting Zoom.

For his Zoom Tip of the Week, he announced that, courtesy of BRUCE GEE and GINNY LEAR, we now have a Zoom link to our meetings on the Palo Alto Rotary homepage. He showed the link on the right side of the page, below the list of speakers in a box titled "Zoom in with us" with the opportunity to click on "Join us." DANA pointed out that this link would come in handy if the email with the meeting link were unavailable.

DANA asked Visiting Rotarians and Rotarians with guests to raise your hand in Zoom, unmute when recognized, introduce yourself and mute when finished. He informed participants by phone to use "*6" to unmute and mute. Hung Wei of the Cupertino Club and the District Membership Committee Chair introduced herself

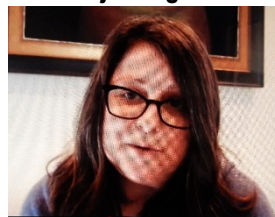
SOHEILA MOZAYAN's Thought for the Day Take good care and don't neglect yourself. That's a mistake. Especially now



Club Announcements.

DANA showed a picture of and encouraged us to get to know SPENCER HSU, our newest member, who had volunteered to help feed the homeless at Project Hope even before joining us.

REBECCA GERALDI noted our contribution to The Grateful Garment Project and presented its thank-you video.



BRUCE SWENSON, Endowment Fund Chair, explained the difference between the Endowment Fund which keeps on giving, and the Palo Alto Charities which funds current year gifts from the Club. At Bruce's request, in support of Endowment legacy giving,



TIM WATSON advised respecting tax and other aspects of different ways to contribute for Planned Giving. He urged us to consult with a tax attorney, and volunteered that either E. J. HONG or he would be in a position to help.

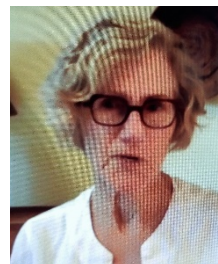


Gifts should be addressed to "Palo Alto Rotary Endowment Fund, Inc., P. O. Box 592, Palo Alto, CA 94302-0592, EIN: 94-2815253."

DANA noted that although next Monday is Memorial Day, we would not be putting up flags on University Avenue, due to the virus constraints. We will, however, hold an informal club meeting to honor the holiday. ROGER SMITH will talk briefly about the Endowment Fund and there will be time for fellowship and discussion.

DANA noted that last week Ambassador Eikenberry's fascinating talk about Sino-American relations drew 138 participants. We can watch a video of that talk on Friday May 29 at 4:00; at 5:15 the Ambassador will present a short update on recent developments, with Q&A to follow.

GLORIA HOM is convinced that we should have a club historian. Volunteers should contact her or DANA.



SALLY TOMLINSON announced upcoming programs:

May 25, 2020
Small group discussions
Zoom

JUNE PROGRAMS

- 6/1 – New Member Talks, Patty McGuigan, Renata "Rennie" Velcheva, and Stans Kleijnen
- 6/8 – Stuart Coulson, Tamara Mekler and David Cutler, "Fortuna Cools and the Stanford Design for Extreme Affordability Program"
- 6/15 – Laura Carstensen, "Longevity -- New Map of Life"
- 6/22 – James Campbell, "African American History and Reparations"
- 6/29 – Dana's Virtual Debunking





PRESIDENT's CLUB

TODD LEWIS made a proud double contribution to recognize two outstanding members he recruited for our club, DANA TOM and BRUCE GEE.

LAURIE LISTON contributed in recognition of a grandson's graduation from Cal Berkeley and start of flight training at the U. S. Naval Air Station in Pensacola, FL.



DANA told us The Global Polio Eradication Initiative is deploying some of its tools, workforce and assets towards combating COVID-19. In Afghanistan, teams that watch for polio cases are working to detect any cases of COVID-19. In Nigeria, medical staff who work on polio eradication are tracing the contacts of people who have had COVID-19 and conducting research on this new disease. They talk of their mission broadly as improving world health and can apply



what they have built to this current crisis. DANA reminded us that donations to Rotary's Polio Plus Fund are tripled by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

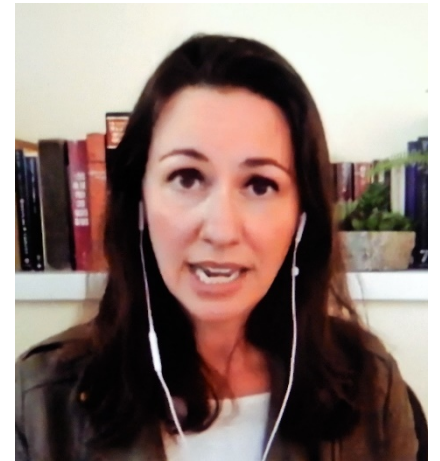
DANA displayed a short video prepared a few years ago by Time Magazine personnel about polio eradication efforts in Nigeria, which recently met the mark of being polio free for three years.

DANA thanked Writer DON MORGAN and Editor LYLE CONNELL for today's Pinion.



BETSY BECHTEL introduced our main speaker, Natalie Fields, whose topic was Leveraging Finance for Climate and Human Rights: Getting Ahead of COVID-19 Financial Flows, the founder 10 years ago of the nonprofit Accountability Counsel. Our speaker has experience as a lawyer with the Wilson Sonsini firm and as a teacher at both the American and Stanford University law schools.

To illustrate the work and mission of the Accountability Counsel, she used Haiti's experience following a massive destructive earthquake. Wealthy foreign entities developed a recovery plan that bought hundreds of acres of good farmlands that were cleared and fenced, as an initial step that left the plot undeveloped a major financial top-down



investment. She then spoke of a Covid-19 investment response in India by the International Finance Corporation, a huge investment to boost

Food production in a developing country, all decided in top-down fashion by financiers lacking relevant knowledge and customs. Truly atrocious working conditions developed and resulted in Accountability complaints that led to a December 2018 agreement with adequate representation of local interests, a huge achievement.

Ms. Fields explained that her group did not rely on or engage in litigation in foreign courts. Experience demonstrated that it could take seven years to decide the appropriate venue, and many more years to develop a remedial program. Much more effective tactics were to identify and appeal to aspects of the financing institutions to consider a wide range of interests and act accountably. Her worldwide staff is small, having grown over ten years from one to 16, with a goal of 50. Her presentation was concise and substantively brilliant. An informative Q&A session cast additional light on her work.

DANA adjourned the meeting at 1:45

REPEATING Details on UPCOMING May Zoom meetings:

May 25, Monday, 12:30: on Zoom - Informal Club meeting with Small Group Discussions

May 29, Friday: 4 – 5:15 PM

Special Replay on Zoom:

Amb. Karl Eikenberry, Replay of May 11 presentation:

Thoughts on Sino-American Relations in a Post Pandemic World

At 5:15, Amb. Eikenberry joins us live with brief updates plus Q&A following, all on Zoom.

Invite your friends to join us.