

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

July 27, 2020

Reporter: DON MORGAN

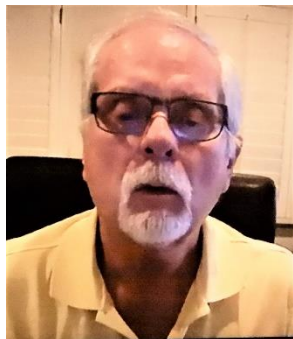
Editor: LYLE CONNELL

Following an informal pre-meeting gathering for socializing, President BEN THRELKELD rang his favorite bell to call to order the July 27 2020, virtual meeting of the Palo Alto Rotary Club. He acknowledged receipt from GINNY LEAR of a published article comparing Rotarian responses to the current Covid-19 pandemic and the 1918 outbreak of the Spanish flu. Featured was a photo



of an outdoors meeting in 1918 of Rotarians in Berkeley. As requested by BEN, President-Elect CASH ALAEE called upon visiting Rotarians and members with guests: CHESLEY DOUGLAS introduced his wife Shirley and GEOFF ZIMAN, greeted his daughter Shoshana Shur, Zooming in from NYC.

BRIAN STEEN'S Thought for the Day took him back decades to an aftermath of Southern Pacific's decision in 1971 to terminate rail service to Monterrey city, leaving a large seaside area undeveloped and vulnerable to neglect and abuse. After years of allowing accumulating debris to despoil the beach, the city asked BRIAN



STEEN to lead a cleanup -- and to raise the necessary millions -- which he accomplished, often



telling himself and other helpers that they could look forward to playing on

the beach with their grandchildren. He explained that the city had come upon a unique machine that scooped up the top several inches of sandy waste at a time, filtered out the sand and discarded the remains. He regaled us with a recent photo of him and two young grandsons frolicking on the beautiful beach he had created.

BEN credited GINNY with suggesting that we take selfies of ourselves, wearing masks, and send them to him for wider distribution, challenging all of us to identify the guilty. Just for fun. To illustrate, he showed two masked individuals, stumping us with none other than Paul Harris, and puzzling all but one with PATTY MCGUIGAN.

Sponsored by GLORIA HOM, LINNET KWOK received



her second Blue Badge, new to our club, but former president of the Shanghai Rotary Club, among many other accomplishments. For the record, BEN explained the requirements for Blue Badge awards.

BEN reported that we are very close to our goal of 1,000 cans of donated food as part of the Ecumenical Hunger Project. He is confident that next week he will, with your help, be able to announce we have reached that goal.



IRIS KOROL received a Paul Harris Fellow Award pin, with five blue



sapphires, one for each

additional thousand dollars of contributions. Congratulations are in order! Thank you Iris!

TGIF ZOOM this Friday, July 31, 5:30 to 7:30, featuring a live, virtual tour by BRUCE GEE, welcoming us to his famous backyard hydroponic gardens.

Following contributions to the President's Club by TRISH BUBENIK, SALLY TOMLINSON. gave us the August speakers' schedule, set forth on our club's website home page. Ben thanked your Pinion crew, writer DON MORGAN and Editor LYLE CONNELL

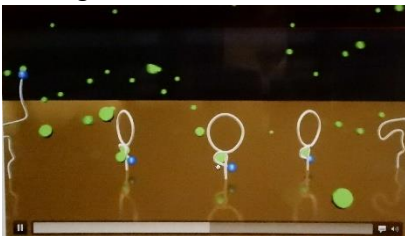
Today's Program: "Real Time Biosensor Technology"

President BEN introduced our featured speaker, Professor Tom Soh, Professor of Electrical Engineering and Radiology at Stanford University. His laboratory develops synthetic biomaterials and biosensor devices. He earned his B.S. (1992) with a double major in Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science with Distinction from Cornell University and his M. S. (1995) and Ph. D. (1999) in Electrical Engineering from Stanford. In industry thereafter, he moved his lab to Stanford in 2015, receiving many prestigious awards.

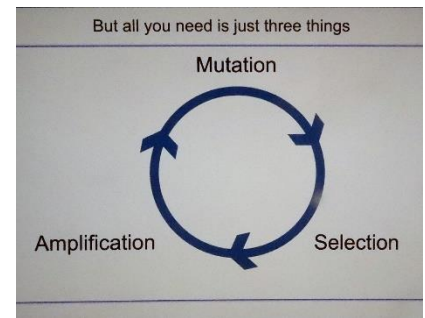


Professor Soh contrasted the extensive use of continuous sensors on mechanical items such as a jet engine, with the paucity of continuous medical sensors, two in total to date. The latter are simply much more difficult, dealing in flesh and blood. More needs to be done.

Biological switches are necessary, but can be found only in a narrow therapeutic to toxic window. Second generation sensors/monitors are under development.



Evolution is part of the solution; mutations, selection, and amplification are keys. We are at a very exciting stage, with precision drug dosing possible, and the ability in sight to detect diseases prior to symptoms.



In Q&A, Professor Soh hoped for usable products within five years, for very specific applications. One bottleneck is the need for good switches. There are many other implementation difficulties. Consequently it is hard to find sponsors and funds. Developing necessary power sources seems feasible, at some future time.

BEN thanked Professor Soh and rang the adjournment bell at 1:40PM.

AUGUST PROGRAMS:

August 3: Dr. Laura Carstensen, Professor of Psychology & Public Policy at Stanford University where she serves as founding director of the [Stanford Center on Longevity](#).

Topic: Longevity -- New Map of Life

August 10: David DesMarais, Research Scientist, NASA Ames Research Center

Topic: Astrobiology and the Mars Exploration

August 17: Christa Gannon, Founder of Fresh Lifelines for You

Topic: Juvenile Justice in California and Around the World

August 24: Vicent Partal, Journalist in Catalonia

Topic: A strange world: 'The coronavirus pandemic as a symptom of a global systemic crisis'

August 31: Mitchell Stevens, Associate Professor, Graduate School of Education, Stanford

Topic: Higher Education in the Time of Coronavirus