

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

August 10, 2020

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Editor: LYLE CONNELL

President BEN THRELKELD opened the meeting reminding us of Zoom etiquette, and with the historical announcement of the first woman RI President Nominee (2022-23) in the 155 years history of Rotary, JENNIFER E. JONES of the Rotary Club of Windsor-Roseland, Ontario, Canada. Congratulations to Jennifer for her upcoming leadership!

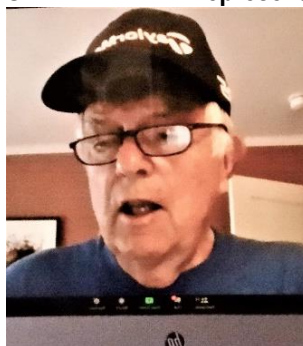
Pres. Elect CASH ALAEE introduced Visiting Rotarians and Rotarians with Guests: JAMES SKELLEY, tech attorney visiting from the Palo Alto University Club (hosted by OANA MARCU), JAN and KRISTA HEINEMANN (son and granddaughter of KLAUS HEINEMANN), KIM BOMAR (guest of DANA TOM), and ROBERT THRELKELD (Ben's father) joining from Sonoma County.

The Thought of the Day was presented by IRIS KOROL who quoted fellow Rotarian Winston Churchill on life and leadership: "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give". And a short poem that giving can be as simple as a sunny smile that brightens one's day – a reminder from IRIS to be happy!



BEN THRELKELD reminded everyone of paying dues, and participating in the "wear-a-mask/take-a-picture/dare-to-be-recognized" game. Send your picture to BEN, along with a check to BRUCE or an online credit card payment for your annual membership.

STEVE PLAYER representing the Ww Care Committee (along with TODD LEWIS and JULIE JEROME) encouraged everyone to reach out on behalf of anyone who needs a caring note.



DICK FREEMAN is celebrating his 94th Birthday on August 21st. Dick has been a member for nearly 30 years, was Club Secretary for 15 years and is now an Honorary member. DICK does not take phone calls or emails, but his daughter mentioned how much he would enjoy a note, a card or a memory, to say hello and Happy Birthday! Feel free to send a card at his address, listed in our online Directory, as a great way have some special mail for his birthday.



REBECCA GERALDI of the Hands-on Committee announced the successful Canned Food Drive, and encouraged everyone interested to join the Committee.



BEN THRELKELD made a few club announcements:

The newly revised Club Bylaws will be available for everyone's review. Board members will be available on Aug 17 at 6pm to answer questions; it is important that we meet a quorum at the Aug 24 meeting, the day of voting the updated Bylaws.

Aug 28 TGIF "Uncle Nearest – Virtual Whiskey Tasting" will take place 5:30-7pm, and will include an educational part about how Jack Daniels learned to distill whiskey, and a tasting of two kinds of whiskey (\$15 for 2 samples of 4 oz each, that can be picked up at Ben's practice). Reach out to Jon Cowan for details and payments.

Informal Happy hours take place every second Wednesday of each month.

Sept 1st, Tues, 6-7 pm a virtual meeting will be held to collect new ideas for fundraising through the CrabFeed.

MIKE REYNOLDS joined the Presidents Club to make up for



not yet paying his dues but mostly to express gratitude and appreciation for people who give the thought of the day, and how impressed he has been acquainting himself with the club by reading members bios in our online directory.

LYLE CONNELL volunteered for the meeting as pinion editor.

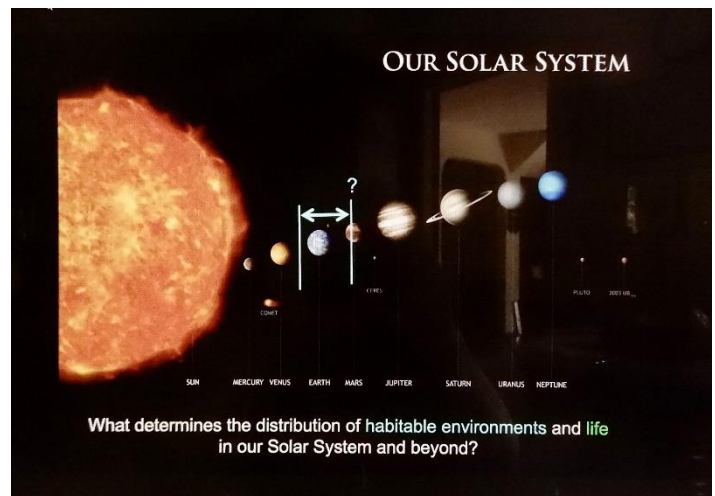
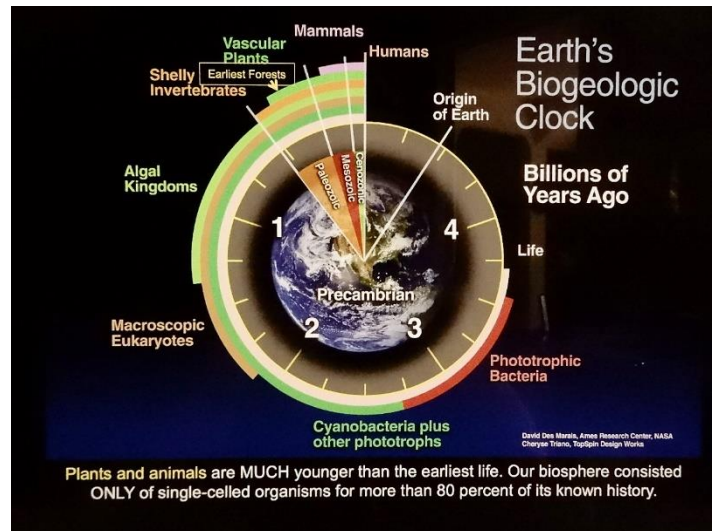
OANA MARCU introduced the speaker, Dr. DAVID J. DES MARAIS, a senior space scientist with NASA's Astrobiology Program at NASA Ames Research Center. David is currently a member of the science operations team for NASA's Curiosity Rover Mars mission and has published more than 200 peer-reviewed technical articles and chapters on his research and Mars missions. He has been a co-leader of the Lassen Astrobiology Student Intern Program since 2008. David has been elected Fellow of six professional societies. The Geochemical Society awarded him the Alfred Treibs Medal for his career achievements in Organic Geochemistry. He is also a lead co-author of the 2008 Astrobiology Roadmap and the 2015 Astrobiology Strategy, world-leading documents for the field of astrobiology.



In a lay, informative talk, DAVID J. DES MARAIS took us on fun trip, first into the history of our own planet and then around the solar system to underline the biogeochemical requirements for life and the evolution of life. Noting that our biosphere hosted only single-celled organisms for more than 80% of its known history, Dr. DES MARAIS explained plans of Mars mission to look for microbial life in sediments from old dried-up martian lakes, and plans for sample return from Mars to be able to use state-of-the-art laboratory technology to detect possible life.



With great questions from DIANA DIAMOND, who asked about other alien life forms than our own carbon-based life on Earth, and from HENRIETTA BURROUGHS, who prompted the speaker to explain the dryness of Mars if water once existed on the planet, the speaker put us at ease that the "aliens" NASA is prospecting for so far are microbes similar to the ones that started life on Earth, and that our own planet has a long way to go before the Sun will explode into a giant red star – rest assured, that is about 5 billion years away.



You can make a request for the recorded version of the talk by sending a note to BEN THRELKELD.

Next Monday Aug 17, Christa Gannon, Founder of Fresh Lifelines for Youth will speak on "Juvenile Justice in California and Around the World"