

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

October 26, 2020

Reporter: GEOFF ZIMAN

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

This report is intended to cover virtually everything of importance. The President started the meeting by making a pitch for The Rotary



Foundation and how there is an intent to have Every Rotarian contribute Every Year (EREY). All members should have received a mailed pre-addressed return envelope to facilitate making their contribution. DANA TOM provided additional encouragement for members to support this vital aspect of

Rotary's humanitarian projects.

CASH ALAEE called for the introduction of guests but none were identified other than those who would be addressing the meeting shortly.



This led to BRUCE SWENSON providing the thought for the day. He made the point that there can be a positive element arising from adversity with its anxiety and stress. He gave examples from the current pandemic - the long-term benefits of virtual work and the speedup in the production of medical interventions. In summary, there is good in everything. Also, as

someone pointed out, STRESSED spelt backwards becomes DESSERTS!

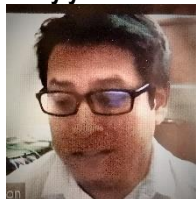
Returning to The Rotary Foundation Drive, the president made a significant Paul Harris Award to DAVE THORNTON. He will receive a pin with four blue stones indicating multiple \$1000 contributions.



At this point TIM WATSON, the World Community Service Chair, was invited to introduce representatives of the Esperanza Juvenil project also known as Boys Hope Girls Hope.



The first speaker was Kristin Ostby, a Palo Alto resident and President/CEO of the organization that provides educational opportunities to disadvantaged children in South America. For many years our club has supported the efforts



of Esperanza Juvenil in Guatemala. Stephanie Klose and Lucas Pinzon, two directors of the school there brought us up to date on their work and successes. They provided pictures and statistics that showed us how worthwhile this project is. They also discussed how they met the challenges of COVID-19 with computer gift assistance from CISCO, HP and Dell.

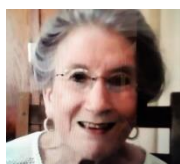


TGIF: Friday, October 30, between 5:30 and 7 PM, members can hear Dan Gordon discuss the founding of Gordon Biersch and the world of beer. If they pick up supplies from 250 Cambridge Avenue before

then, members can avail themselves to related refreshments in their homes during the talk.

A few volunteers are still needed to perform our traditional University Avenue flag project on Veteran's Day, November 11.

TRISH BUBENIK joined the President's Club to honor LYLE CONNELL, the Pinion Editor, for his gracious assistance and exemplary service in this key position.



PETER SHAMBORA joined to celebrate the arrival of his fourth grandchild from his daughter Jessica.



DANA TOM introduced our speaker Ron Davis, former EPA Police Chief. He has served in the Obama Administration as the Director of the United States Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office), and Executive Director of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing (Task Force). His enlightening talk was titled "21st Century Policing - What Should it be and How do we Get There?"



The speaker provided great insight from the perspective of someone who was black and who had also been there and done that. The thrust of his talk was that policing was not broken but the way police operate is flawed. We need to look at the root causes and reexamine our priorities. He felt that one of the reasons that racism still is present is that this country had not gone through a reconciliation process and only truth will put the past at rest. The questions that followed illustrate the impact of the talk.



DANA TOM asked how do we provide positive support - answer; community engagement. LIZ KNISS asked how should officer effectiveness be judged - answer; focus on outcome not output. HENRIETTA BURROUGHS asked if the speaker would encourage someone to join the police force - answer; how he is committed to change in diversity. ROB LANCEFIELD asked about personal recognition of racism - answer; look within ourselves. SALLY TOMLINSON asked about resetting - answer; change what we are asking the police to do. JIM SUTHERLAND asked about changing funding - answer; be smart about applying resources and do not put public safety at risk.

Today's Pinion writing and editing volunteers were GEOFF ZIMAN and LYLE CONNELL.

Next week's speaker is Joseph Desimone, a founder of a state-of-the-art printing company, who will be talking about novel methods of 3D printing.