

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

November 30, 2020

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Editor: LYLE CONNELL

Our club's November 30 meeting began with a review by PRESIDENT BEN THRELKELD of two even bigger events that are coming up quickly. On December 7, our speaker will be former Ambassador Michael McFaul, so it will be a special day for inviting guests. On December 14, we'll enjoy a virtual holiday concert by the Gunn High School Choir, and we'll conduct our official Annual Meeting.

Professor McFaul is a former American Ambassador to the Russian Federation. He'll be talking about "Great Power Competition." His appearance gives us a sterling opportunity to invite friends, neighbors, and associates both to hear him and to learn a little more about Rotary. KAREN ROHDE has sent us an e-mail, subject "Invite a Guest to Rotary," about it will work. KAREN asks that you send her the names of your guests by e-mail or via chat during the meeting.... Our December 14th meeting will include time for election of board members as required by our bylaws. As BEN explained, he'll conduct the balloting using the Zoom polling feature, and you'll be able to name write-in candidates using chat.

Our Holiday Party will take place on Wednesday, December 9, a Virtual Winetasting with Neely Wines from Portola Valley, organized by PATTY MCGUIGAN. You can find samples of wine and cheese at



President Ben's office, 250 Cambridge, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. December 7th through 9th.... On Saturday, December 5, at 9:30 a.m., District 5170 will offer a seminar on the Science and Art of Leadership, great training for volunteer work both at Rotary and elsewhere. On December 9, at 9:00 a.m., Cupertino Rotary will host a speech by RI President HOLGER KNAAK. Registration for

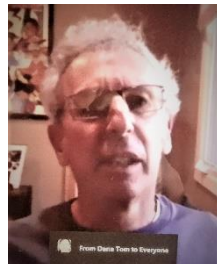
the December 5th and 9th District events is available at the District web site, <https://www.rotarydistrict5170.org/> Volunteers are needed to help run a Red Cross blood drive at Homewood by Hilton on December 31. Talk to BEN.... You can still bring unexpired canned and boxed food to BEN's office for our Holiday Food Drive with Project WeHope.

A "Thought for the Day" from your Pinion writer HAL MICKELSON endorsed an important element of the Four-Way Test: "Will it build goodwill and better friendships?...."



HERSH DAVIS joined the President's Club as a Double Sustainer to celebrate the birth of a grandson and granddaughter, his second and third grandchildren....

ROMAN KAGARLITSKY joined the PC to remember AL KENRICK, who introduced him to Rotary 30 years ago....



Program Chair SALLY TOMLINSON extolled the upcoming programs with Professor McFaul and the Gunn Choir and noted that we will be dark on December 21 and 28.... And this just in:



CHRISTIANE MARTINE and ANDREA FLOREZ MERCHAN appeared on our Zoom screens to say that they are engaged.

Our program for the day was Longtime Member Talks, introduced by JIM SUTHERLAND.



ROB LANCEFIELD joined our club in 1993.



Married to Rita for 61 years, he'll be 85 in February. He said his talk was about "becoming myself." He's a graduate of Pomona College and Stanford Law School; he served in the Army at Fort Sill and Fort Ord. He practiced law for 20 years with several small firms before becoming in-house counsel for Consolidated Freightways.... In 1978, he became a volunteer with Beyond War; as a community organizer for that group, he moved with Rita to Claremont, California for four years before returning to Palo Alto.... Through 2005, he was an "active trustee" for several family trusts. When challenged, he remembered the Cadet Prayer that he learned from RALPH ADAMS: "Lord, help me do the harder right thing...." His ancestors include the Volga Germans whom Catherine the Great invited to populate the steppes. He made many visits to Russia in the 1990's, some with sponsorship from US AID.... His Russian ties were vividly illustrated during his talk by a richly decorated samovar visible over his shoulder.

ROMAN KAGARLITSKY said we gave him a chance "to think his life through" in preparing his talk. Born in Kiev in the Ukraine, then part of the USSR, he studied in Moscow and Odessa, earning degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Electrical Science.... ROMAN said that he decided to leave the Soviet Union when he figured out the difference between the government's and Communist Party's messaging and what he could see happening



on the ground. He remembers watching truckloads of books being hauled away when those in power started promoting a new version of history... He left the USSR based on a deal that provided American grain in return for the release of 30,000 people who could claim Jewish ancestry.... In the US, he joined HP Labs in 1981.... ROMAN's wife Velma and daughter Elena were unable to join him in California until 1988.... He has worked as a real estate owner and manager and a startup entrepreneur. ROMAN describes his current business as "a software company that supports other software companies," and he assured us that he is most certainly not retired.