

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

April 26, 2021

Reporter ;TRISH BUBENIK

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

President BEN THRELKELD belled the meeting to order at 12:29

Rotarians with Guests: CASH ALAEE called on DANA TOM to introduce his guest Ed Lauing. Inviting a guest or visiting another club fulfills a Blue Badge requirement.



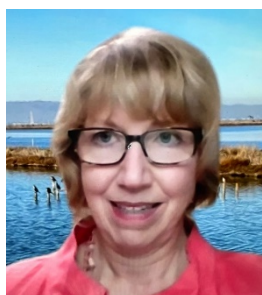
Thought of the Day: Members are asked to speak about something inspirational, Rotary related, or books that make them a better Rotarian.

Today's volunteer is OANA MARCU, Club Secretary.

She shared three meaningful books. The Persistence of Memory and decision-making; The Death of Common Sense about how law is suffocating America. Another is The Golden Ratio and the story of phi-1618, a number that describes beauty of proportions and patterns found in nature and art, and at the same time it governs laws of the universe that makes things very efficient. Phi is at the basis of logarithmic spirals found in galaxies and our DNA, pointing out that our Universe and our inner one are mirror reflections of each other. With phi as an infinite number, an irrational number and makes me think that though there is an infinite number of irrational decisions we can make, hopefully we can also make infinite rational decisions, or find elegant, beautiful and efficient decisions that help us spiral up in society rather than spiraling down. This year my camellia tree, blooming to follow the golden ratio, made a flower with a slightly different pattern, beautiful and the spiral is evident. So I am hoping we can find better spirals for ourselves, some that look irrational at first glance, but have added benefit of the long term, rational thinking for a global society that is blooming, thriving and beautiful and efficient

BEN thanked her for being the first to reference meaningful books and then noted that giving a Thought for the Day also fulfills a Blue Badge requirement.

He then introduced KAREN ROHDE, Membership Chair, to invite members--and their guests--to the May 17 membership meeting featuring General H. R. McMaster. "Battlegrounds: The Fight to Defend the Free World." KAREN thanked members for bringing in 9 new members this year and all who help to make them feel welcome



BEN then discussed the Blue Badge process. All members begin as Red Badge Members, and once they meet Blue Badge requirements, they transition to Blue Badge Members. That process was designed as a way to get members acquainted with the Club by meeting members and learning about committees. Next he introduced two new Blue Badge recipients. RYAN ELLIOT, sponsored by ROB LANCEFIELD, and STANS KLEINEN, sponsored by RYAN ELLIOTT !! RYAN has served the homeless at Project WeHope, attended a KARA event, helped with multiple hands-on projects at the Elks and joined the Grants Committee. STANS joined the World Service and Programs Committee, participated in the RAFT project and reached out for speakers, and participated in multiple virtual Coffee-with-a-Rotarian meetings.



Endowment Fund: Chair BRUCE SWENSON, updated us on the Endowment Fund drive. Following the charities fundraiser in March, bringing funds for next year, the Endowment Fund supports the longterm support for our club. It is the "gift that keeps on giving." This year almost \$50,000 supported our charities, 5-10 % to the club per year. The Fund currently stands at \$1.1

million, thanks to the stock market. Members should soon receive a letter with explanations, an addressed return envelope for checks or donate on our website under Donate button for Endowment Fund.

"Create a Native Garden Buzzing with Pollinators," Friday, April 30 TGIF, 5:30-7 pm: This social brings Juanita Salisbury, Ph.D., California Landscape Architect. Juanita's claim to fame is working with the city of Palo Alto to turn small areas of open space, such as between a road and sidewalk, into a productive native garden humming with bees. BEN has a signature drink for the event--a perfect spring drink. It has lemon juice, honey syrup, and gin over ice. He tried it out at his work party and it's terrific! It tastes a lot like a margarita. Attending this event fulfills a Blue Badge requirement. And ask friends to attend as well.

BEN announced the District Training Assembly has started. Any member can attend any of the 15 free lectures, April 24-May 6. Use this address to get the Zoom links: <http://bit.ly/DTASessions>. Attendance is a Blue Badge requirement.

2021 Virtual Convention, June 12-16. Registration is open--through May 7, for \$49 and \$65 after. Hear inspiring speakers and about Rotary's good work all over the world. Originally

scheduled for Taipei, Taiwan, due to COVID, you don't need plane tickets. Link to register: <https://convention.rotary.org/en>.

President's Club: Four members joined. TRISH BUBENIK honored BILL BUSSE for his welcoming eyes, smile and heart. GEOFF ZIMAN joined THREE times--for grandson Robert's acceptance to the US Naval Academy class of 2025; grandson Nathan's becoming Chief Medical Resident next year at the Baylor School of Medicine in Houston; and for daughter Shoshana Shur's Zooming our meetings from New York. LIZ KNISS celebrated her husband's suction item chili, bid on by Rotarians. And JUDITH STEINER honored President BEN for his personable leadership, making Zooming almost seem in person.



Program Chair SALLY TOMLINSON presented May meeting topics: 5/3, Marshall Burke, Stanford Earth Science Professor, Deputy Director of the Center on Food Security and the Environment: Climate Change Fallout: Economics, Security and Food; 5/10 New Member Talks; 5/17, Gen. H. R. McMaster, Hoover Institute Fellow and Fomer National Security Advisor, TBA;

5/24, Heath Packard, Major Gifts Officer, Island Conservation, Island Conservation; 5/31, Dark, Memorial Day.

Thanks to volunteers today: Guest introductions, CASH ALAEE; Pinion writer, TRISH BUBENIK; Pinion editor, LYLE CONNELL; Zoom co-host, DANA TOM.

SALLY TOMLINSON introduced Morris P. Fiorina, a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution and the Wendt Family



Professor of Political Science at Stanford University. His current research focuses on elections and public opinion. During his forty-year career, he has published numerous articles ad books. The third edition of his 2004 book Culture War: The Myth of Polarized America. He co-edited Can

We Talk? The Rise of Rude, Nasty, Stubborn Politics. His 2017

book is Unstable Majorities. As you can imagine, Professor Fiorina is much in demand as a speaker and go-to expert, especially in election years. We have waited patiently, and we are extremely fortunate that he is able to share a bit of his time and wisdom with us. His topic today is Three Myths about American Politics. Welcome, Professor Morris Fiorina.

Myth 1--America has become deeply polarized

Myth 2--Media have become supreme

Myth 3--The U.S. is becoming a majority-minority country that guarantees Democratic majorities in the future

With 79% of Americans across all ideologies saying it is possible to find common ground in politics. Both parties would do better to pursue more inclusive strategies.

DIANA DIAMOND, CASH ALAEE, HENRIETTA BOURROUGHS and SALLY asked questions.

When BEN thanked the professor, he added that his presentation "gives us hope." Adjournment at 1:39.