

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

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First of all, ELIZABETH SANTANA put her Apple laptop into emergency use to substitute for inoperative room equipment. PRESIDENT BRIAN led the Pledge to start the formal part of the meeting.

At his prompting, Visiting Rotarians introduced themselves: Mike Bullerdieck of the Perryville, MO, Club, having driven 1,300 miles to avoid icy roadways and later delayed by mudslides on US 80, all worth it to visit a new granddaughter; Werner Sattlegger of the Klogenfurt Club in Austria, exchanging club banners with BRIAN; Klaus Weissman, also of the Klogenfurt Club; and Klaus



Heinemann of the Gualala, CA, Club.

Untold billions of California's unfunded liabilities for pensions and Medical served as the "bad news" told in MIKE BAIRD's Opening Remarks.



The "good news" (other than that our club is not expected to make a contribution) constituted his reflections on having been asked at a doctor's office, "Are you safe at home?" Construing "safe" broadly, we should all feel good with an affirmative answer for ourselves.

GINNY LEAR and BRUCE GEE joined the President's Club to honor GLORIA HOM for her hosting a hundred guests including forty Rotarians at a splendid celebratory Chinese New Years dinner Tuesday February 7. They hope for a repeat next year, with longer notice. They also called

for auction donations for the fundraiser

aspect of the Crab Feed Dinner on April 8.

BRIAN announced that Acterra, a distinguished environmental non-profit and previous recipient of a grant from our club, is hosting a Party for the Planet on April 20 to honor WALT HAYS and his wife Kay. The venue is the Oshman Family Jewish Community Center, Palo Alto. The party includes dinner featuring an organically grown sustainable cuisine, a raffle, a live auction, live music and dancing. We need commitments this month: Make checks for \$150 payable to Acterra and deliver them to JUDITH STEINER at our February 27 meeting, or mail them to her at 1515 Cowper St, Palo Alto, CA 94301. Tickets go for \$150.

THE PROGRAM: Jane Shaw, Dean of Religious Studies, Stanford University: "Jane Stanford's Vision of Religious Life at Stanford". HAL MICKELSON reviewed Dean Shaw's education at Oxford and Harvard and her 15 year tenure at Oxford, 4 at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco and now at Stanford.

After thanking ELIZABETH SANTANA for making her slides viewable, Dean Shaw asked how many in the audience had visited Stanford's Memorial Church; quite a few. For Jane Stanford, that church was the heart and soul of the university. She favored a simple



religion, embodied in the Sermon on the Mount, and wrote critical letters to preachers she regarded as dull. She opposed sectarianism, but ended up paradoxically with a generic Protestantism, Roman Catholics and others excluded. Another paradox: Memorial Church's interior looks very much like elegant non-Protestant churches the Stanfords had seen in Italy, except that plaques adorn the walls with homilies of uncertain origin.

Over time the church recognized religious diversity. By the mid 20th Century, Roman Catholic clergy and

rabbis were welcome. A recently opened multi-faith building serves Muslims among others. About two to three thousand of Stanford's 16,000 are religiously active, in about forty groups. Meditation and mystical prayers draw attention. Speaking of traditionally all-boy choirs, the Dean mentioned that her congregation at Grace Cathedral doubled in two years, due to the openness of precipitation to all and the variety of non-religious programs that provided a welcoming and interesting environment.

She appeared eager that we report two upcoming events, an appearance by the University's new President, Marc Tessier-Lavigne, in Memorial Church at noon on Wednesday, Feb 22 (open to all, free, not ticketed) and a concert by the Salisbury Cathedral Church Choir on Friday, March 17 (a ticketed event).

In Q&A, she declined to comment on renaming Jordan and other public schools as she serves on a committee that is formulating a university position on that issue. She did make a number of points. Although the talks she leads with visiting dignitaries are open only to students and faculty, everyone can stream them. She is developing a course on what it means to be human in a technological age. Many students lose their religion and question other beliefs as well, but some return to church when married, especially with children. Stanford is open to unrestricted free speech on campus. Meeting adjourned.

FUTURE PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Feb20 DARK- No Meeting

February 27, Palo Alto Mayor

March 6, Mary Ellen Hannibal, Writer and Environmentalist:
"Grassroots Meets Big Data as Citizen Scientists Help Tackle Environmental Problems"

