

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

April 17, 2017

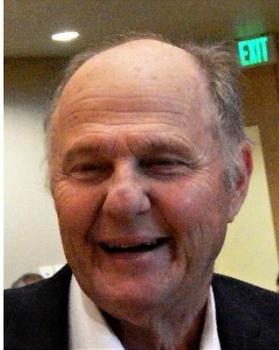
Reporter: SALLY TOMLINSON

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

President BRIAN STEEN opened the meeting with introductions of visiting Rotarians and guests.

VISITING ROTARIANS and GUESTS OF ROTARIANS

Dick Carlson, a former member of our club, is visiting from his home in Tucson. Paul Uenaka, a member of the Almaden Valley club, came as a friend of our speaker. Paul was also interned at Topaz, as was our speaker, during WWII. Our speaker's son-in-law, Ray Arbuckle, attended to help facilitate the slides. DANA TOM's wife Nancy Kawakita came because of the program - Nancy has family members who were interned. Also visiting were Sandy Vorhees, a substitute teacher in Palo Alto and guest of BETSY BECHTEL, and Dr. Karrishma Jumani, guest of DENNIS MCGINN.



OPENING REMARKS

JAMES YOUNG brought us thoughts on immigration and refugees, drawing on the story of Emma, from Bosnia. Emma and her family came to the US to see the Kentucky Derby in 1992, but were unable to return to their home because of the war. Sarajevo was under siege from 1992-1996, and what was intended to be a two-week trip turned into 12 years before any of her family could visit Bosnia again. They were given refugee status, but had to start over completely. Her father gained his license to practice medicine, her mother practiced law, and Emma is graduating from college. She feels very lucky to have her family here and to have survived the war. It is important to realize that refugees have nothing to go back to. The US helped this family, but we also have benefited from their contributions.



ANNOUNCEMENTS, REPORTS AND REMINDERS

LE LEVY had a collision with another bike, fell and fractured his hip. He spent some time in the hospital but is back home and would love to receive phone calls on his cell phone. It turns out that the Palo Alto Rotary club is a great resource for Gamble Gardens, which is having its annual garden tour in a little less than two weeks.



DUANE KALAR's house is being featured for the third and (he claims) final time, and PETER



SHAMBORA's home is on the tour for the first and (he claims) final time. You can visit their gardens on April 28 and 29 during the Gamble Garden Tour.



BRIAN STEEN noted that the grants committee, Chaired by BILL JOHNSON, has done an excellent job in selecting the recipients for annual grants, one of which was the recipient of Fund-A-Need money raised at the Crab Feed. The committee stood to be recognized.



And we can look forward to another year of generous community grants, because the Crab Feed raised \$80,000. We saw an excellent video of the 2017 Crab Feed, created by BRUCE GEE's sister, Robin Gee. But the planning committee never sits still

- BRUCE announced that he already booked the venue for St. Patrick's Day (March 17) next year.

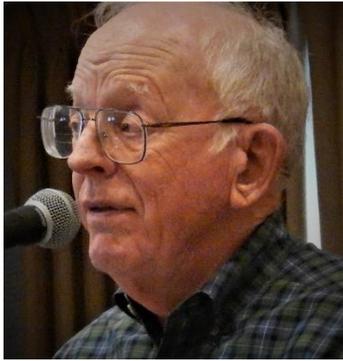
SUSAN LUTTER invited us all to hear Rachel Hogan, the director of Ape Action Africa, speak at the Media Center on May 6, 5-7 PM. Our club has supported projects of this organization, including gorilla protection and toilets in the town near the project headquarters. The Media Center is at 900 San Antonio Road. They would like to receive an RSVP so they can plan the space properly:



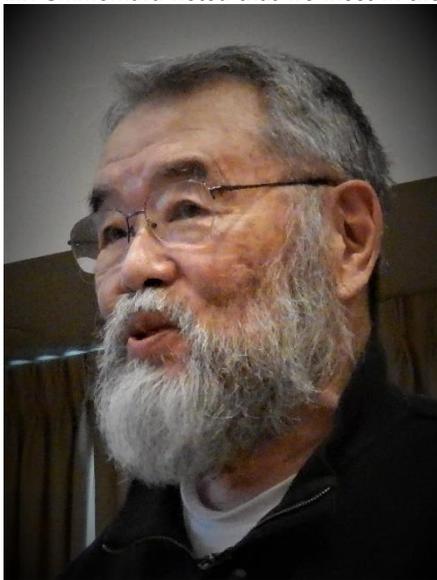
<http://friendsofapeactionafrica.org/meetrachel.html>

PROGRAM – My Two and Half Years Behind Barbed Wire in the US During WWII

ROB LANCEFIELD introduced our guest, Yukio Shimomura, whom ROB has known for 45 years. Yukio was born in San Francisco in 1935. After the war, he went on to graduate from various schools, majored in engineering, and had a long career at Hewlett Packard. On Dec 7, 1941, Yukio was a 6-year-old boy living with his Japanese family in San Francisco. He came to tell the story of what happened to his family and others during the war.



Mr. Shimomura noted that we meet in the Elks Lodge. Back in the 1960's, when he worked at HP, his manger used to invite him for lunch at the Elks lodge. Yukio enjoyed these lunches and thought it would be nice to join the club, until he discovered that their bylaws barred Japanese. He asked at the desk today – not only is that no longer true, but they even admit women!



Mr. Shimomura decided that he needs to tell his story before everyone with his experiences is gone. Of his family of 12 who were taken to the camp, he is the only still living. They were living at 1872 Bush Street when Executive order 9066 changed their lives. He showed the instructions for Japanese, including that you could take only what you could carry, though you did not know how long you would be gone or where you were going. There was no compensation for businesses or inventory, cars had to be left in a giant field, and their new life became one of following orders and not complaining.

His family's first stop was Tanforan, where a horse race track had been converted to a temporary camp, with horse stalls painted and designated as rooms. Bags of hay served as mattresses, and they formed lines for everything. From Tanforan, they were transferred in curtained train cars to Utah, where they settled in to newly-built barracks. As the green wood dried and shrank, cracks developed that brought dust in the summer and freezing cold in the winter.

Mr. Shimomura frequently asked us how we would feel: to be told what we would do without question; to sleep on a source of hay fever; to get up in the middle of the night and slog through snow to get to the toilet; to use a toilet that was open to the world; to be asked to swear allegiance to a government that had taken away your rights over night. Some of the young men in the camps enlisted in the military, and some of those died. He showed a photo of a camp funeral for a soldier killed fighting for the US government.

At the end of the war, they were told they were free, but did not know what they would return to. Unfortunately, our speaker time slot did not allow Mr. Shimomura time to describe his family's return to San Francisco. He left us with the question of whether this could happen again in our country.

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

April 24, John Koza, Chair, National Popular Vote: "The National Popular Vote Initiative"

May 1, Axel Merk, Investment Manager, Merk Investments: "Global Threats and Opportunities in the Financial Markets: #Trump #China #Brexit #Bitcoin"

May 8, Meghan Sumner, Associate Professor of Linguistics, Stanford University: "The Social Weight of Spoken Words: What you Hear Depends on Who is Talking"

May 15, Philippa Kelly, Resident Dramaturg, Cal Shakes: "Dramaturgy: Shaping the Theatrical Experience"