

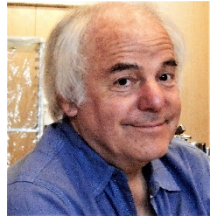
Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

September 11, 2017

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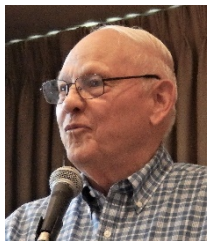
President Betsy opened the meeting by having BILL FOGARTY lead the pledge of allegiance. After ascertaining that there were no visiting Rotarians today, Betsy introduced the only visitor, her guest Ron Plasters. Ron works at TheaterWorks but in his younger days he was a Rotary Exchange Student in Sweden. Traditionally, Exchange Students each have their own personalized pin which they swap. Ron showed the club his jacket with a large souvenir collection of swapped pins and Rotary pennants from his exchange experience.



For his 'Thoughts for the Day' presentation, TONY ADESSA quoted Nick Bottom, the weaver's self-described exposition of sleep from A Midsummer-Night's Dream. It ends "I will get Peter Quince to write a ballad of this dream: It shall be called Bottom's Dream, because it hath no bottom."



CYRILL BETANT joined the President's Club to acknowledge returning to the more temperate local climate from an extended European trip.



ART STAUFFER confounded us with his 'Three Truths and a Lie' presentation. Did he and his wife encounter an angry rhino in Nepal? While in the navy in the South China Sea, did he witness the 1956 Redwing atomic bomb test? Was his amateur athletic career cut short by being declared a professional? Was he detained at the border in the Kyber pass when travelling from Kabul to Peshawar? It seems he did not actually witness an atomic bomb test and the other statements were all true!



JACKIE SCHOELERMAN is away on a Mediterranean cruise won at the Rotary Auction so it fell to President Betsy to thank the members who valiantly assisted in putting up and taking down flags on University Avenue on Labor Day. She hoped more people would participate in future because the task was not onerous and an opportunity to socialize over coffee and beer was an attractive feature of the exercise.

GLORIA HOM thanked our president for giving the excellent reception at her home last Friday evening and reminded members that the next TGIF would be at PETER SHAMBORA's home on Friday, September 29th. She also gave a commendation to BRUCE GEE for compiling and mailing out our social program schedule details through June next year. ELIZABETH SANTANA made a persuasive pitch for members to attend the Palo Alto Players' 2 PM performance of "The Million Dollar Quartet" on Sunday, October 1.

Our distinguished speaker Professor James Sheehan from Stanford University was introduced by DIANA DIAMOND. He is an expert on the history of modern Europe who has written four books and many articles on the history of Germany. He is a graduate of both Stanford and UC Berkeley with many prizes and academic fellowships to his credit as well as serving as president of the American Historical Association.



He gave his talk the provocative title of "Does Europe have a Future" and approached the subject from a long term overview perspective. He felt that there were three key trends.



The first factor was demography – the changing shape of the population. Reproduction rates were low resulting in a shrinking population despite the fact that people are living to greater ages. This puts strain on social services and causes a diminution of Europe's global significance. This latter point is well illustrated by the reduced influence of Europeans within the Catholic Church. On

top of this, Europeans are becoming increasingly multicultural and diverse in national origin.

The next point relates to the ending of the cold war which affects stability and introduces new geopolitical challenges. Russia remains a great power and presents challenges but the situation reopens questions of the relationship of the United States to Europe.

The final point is the growing alienation of Europeans from their traditional political party alignments. Dissatisfaction with the political establishments is growing as evidenced by the Brexit decision. All this makes governing more difficult and the EU is viewed as an elite organization with no real connection to their constituents.

The speaker summed up by saying that, although the weaknesses were apparent, strengths take time to be recognized and let us hope this is true.

ROB LANCEFIELD asked about Russian demography and the problems of male population numbers were mentioned. TONY ADESSA asked whether the Euro currency can and should continue to survive. The speaker indicated he thought it a problem from the start and now there was no cheap or easy way out..

PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

September 18, Orrin Mahoney, Rotary District Governor: "Rotary"

September 25, Tim Watson: "Our Club's World Community Service Projects"