

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

August 6, 2018

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The meeting opened by HENRIETTA BURROUGHS leading the flag salute. Pres-Elect DANA TOM was then invited to welcome visitors. Rotarian Isabelle Prinoth from the Rotary Club of Brixeu-Bressanove in Northern Italy was here with her companion Gabriel Shenk. Barbara Klausner was DANA TOM's guest and also Michael Blum was the guest of CHARLIE WEINDANZ/TIM WATSON.



PAM BRANDIN announced a get-well card being circulated for ED DANGLER who had been in hospital but was now at home recovering. DAVE THORNTON spoke of how deeply he had been inspired by the Reverend William Sloane Coffin, one-time Chaplain at Yale, who was a leader of the Civil Rights and peace movements in the 60's and 70's.

Paul Harris Fellowships were presented to REBECCA GERALD, her first, and LAURIE LISTON PH+3.

Later REBECCA joined the President's Club to tell how her 17-year-old son, being delayed in Washington DC by a storm, was treated to kindness by strangers and friends.



Pres GINNY LEAR paled when JOHN KIDD said he would join the

President's Club in order to comment on last week's club assembly. There was relief when he made the following three comments. #1 The assembly was the best he had experienced in 44 years. #2 BRUCE GEE had been overly modest describing his involvement #3 Much gratitude should be given to all the Board members for the great contributions of their time and talents they were devoting to make the club successful. This lead to the announcement that the next Board of



Directors' meeting will take place on Wednesday (8/8) morning.

Everyone was reminded of the upcoming Pop-up Street Taco Tailgate Party hosted by the indefatigable BRUCE GEE that will take place next Friday, August 10 near the Sunken Diamond at Stanford starting at 5:30 PM. August is Rotary Membership Month and all of us need to be thinking of acquaintances who might appreciate the benefits of being a Rotarian. The first step is to invite them to a meeting to get a feel for the extent of our activities and the many ways that we provide service to communities locally and worldwide.

TIM WATSON introduced our special speakers Victor Tsaran and Karo Cavan. He got to know them when our World Community Service Committee that he chairs worked on a grant to provide computers to a school for the blind in the Ukraine. Victor had been a pupil at that school but as he grew older he had rebelled against the segregation and limited career choices imposed on blind persons. Through perseverance and brilliance, he had worked his way to an important position at Google. Karo, his wife who is visually impaired and his guide, comes from Poland and has followed a similar difficult but adventurous route. She



also works at Google. A key point that they made is that 15% of the world's population is impaired one way or another and how important it is to help such people break free of stereotypical limitations.



They shared with us their inspiring work in SE Asia. They had traveled to the Philippines and Cambodia as well as to Kerala and Bangalore in India. Everywhere they went they provided a living examples of what a disabled person could achieve if unnecessary barriers were removed.

MIKE McMAHON wanted to know the link to the inspiring Ted Talk by Victor that had been mentioned. It is: <https://youtu.be/BsJB73c38ywJ> JUDITH STEINER was curious to know how they had managed to reach their current position and was told that a mentor called Larry Campbell in Philadelphia and the Nippon Foundation had been key elements in helping them to reach where they are now. HENRIETTA BURROUGHS question brought an answer that emphasized how strongly this couple felt that disabled persons should not be subjected to imposed limited choices and that they should be empowered to help others to achieve adventurous goals. DANA TOM's questioned how technology and their work was perceived around the world. TRISH BUBENIK asked about their actual work at Google and was told that an important aspect was in bringing the needs of disabled to the attention of their colleagues. SALLY TOMLINSON asked for more information on the type of technology being used to aid the blind and the speakers described the mobile braille display device and the built-in Android feature that converts touched icons to sound. In response to a question from ROB LANCEFIELD we were told that Google does bring specific programs to villages in Georgia and countries in Africa and that the emphasis is on empowering people with disabilities there to train others.

The duty crew today were JULIO NINO and REBECCA GERALDI (Visitor Desk); Past-Pres BETSY BECHTEL (Greeting); GEOFF ZIMAN (Pinioning); DANA TOM and OANA MARCU (Set-up); BRUCE GEE (Emergency IT Operator).

PROGRAMS and EVENTS

August 13, Carl Guardino, CEO, Silicon Valley Leadership Group: "Two Sides of the Same Coin: Housing and Traffic Solutions for Silicon Valley"

August 20, Michael McFaul, Professor of Political Science, Director and Senior Fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, and the Peter and Helen Bing Senior Fellow at the Hoover Institution: "Confronting Putin's Russia"

