

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

October 29, 2018

Reporters: DON MORGAN

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

Garbed in Halloween attire, ANNETTE GLANCKOPF (“Lady Luck”) and BRIAN STEEN warmly greeted entrants. PRESIDENT GINNY LEAR had ANNETTE lead us in The Pledge. PRESIDENT-elect DANA



TOM welcomed Visiting Rotarian Mary Coward, MARGARET BOLES introduced her husband, son and daughter, OANA MARCU, our speaker Steve Smith, and her guest Silke Grimm.

TRISH BUBENIK joined with her own astronaut story. As head of a new school in Sunnyvale in 1985 she asked astronaut Paul Weitz to help dedicate the school. She attended a launch effort in Florida that was aborted but later witnessed his reentry landing at Edwards Air Force base here in California.



DAVE SMULLIN (verbatim): “President Ginny, fellow Rotarians:

I join the President’s Club in honor of our

FOR OPENING REMARKS MIKE McMAHON related how he had been inspired to join our club and take an active role in it, after two club lunches as CHESLEY DOUGLAS’ guest proved unproductive. A year or so later MIKE was studying Spanish in Antigua in Guatemala. At Mass in an old church next to an orphanage, he saw a group of young people coming down the aisle in wheelchairs legended “Donated by the Palo Alto Rotary Club.” Back home he asked CHESLEY how to join. His involvement in the club may have



resulted from too much data in his CV. Then President-elect ART STAUFFER asked whether he was interested in being Treasurer. He demurred, lacking QuickBook on his computer. “Don’t worry about that we’ll get it for you,” said ART as he sealed the deal.

PRESIDENTS CLUB

DANA said he had gone AWOL prior to the duties of President descending upon him. He travelled and watched several Ultimate Frisbee competitions in which his son played. His son’s team achieved 12th place ranked nationally – worthy of Presidents Club notice.



SHERRI SAGER, having

missed last week’s meeting but having read about it in the Pinion, joined the Presidents Club in appreciation for the shout-out we had given the news that she had won a prestigious service award.



deceased member Rabbi Sidney Axelrad: Sid was such an obviously kind, thoughtful, loving person that to remember him after the terrible shooting at the Pittsburg Synagogue is a reminder that hate does not regularly triumph over evil. But Sid – who risked his life in Alabama marching in support of civil rights – would say that this not an ordinary time.

Day after day the current president assails the free press. Over and over, he leads rallies to turn and boo the press corps.

Trump admitted in an off camera exchange with 60 minutes correspondent Leslie Stahl that he condemns the media so that when they write bad things about him, people will not believe them. And this tactic is working. Polls show that his popularity is growing and the percentage of Americans who trust the news media is in marked decline.

Our motto Service Above Self inspires us to take time away from our vocations to work for the community as a whole.

I suggest that over the next 8 days, we look for activities to make it more likely that the House of Representatives will be led by leaders who will investigate and report on behavior which does not conform to our laws.

We start with the 4 Way test.

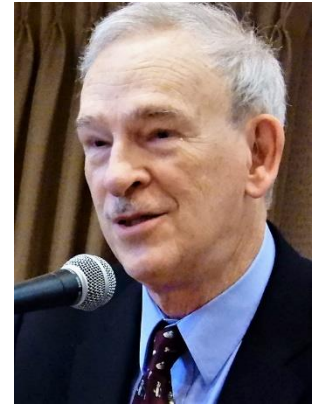
1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Just re-reading the elements of our 4-way test in today’s environment is a breath of fresh air.

You know the difference political engagement in a campaign can make, whether it is canvassing for a candidate, phoning, fundraising, speaking out and writing, or contributing.

Let’s make a difference!

This is our country; let’s do our part to honor those like Sam Webster and Sid Axelrad who fought for it over and over, especially when it really mattered.”



ANNOUNCEMENTS

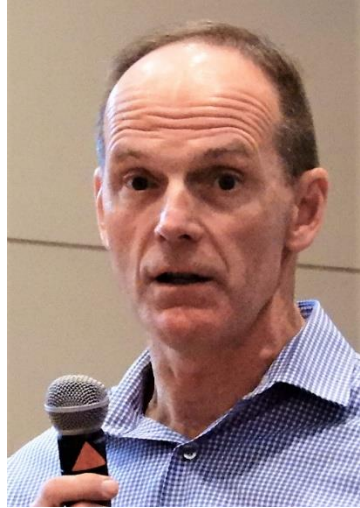
GINNY thanked Hands-On Volunteers REBECCA GERALDI, KAREN ROHDE, JIM SUTHERLAND, DAVE THORNTON and SALLY TOMLINSON who filled lunch bags last Saturday for teen volunteers working on Make a Difference Day. She also thanked Greeter MEL MATSUMOTO, Cashier KATIE SEEDMAN, Microphone Managers TOM GRACON and LAURIE LISTON, Room Set Up STEVE MADSEN and RICHARD KELLER, and Pinion drafter DON MORGAN.

THE PROGRAM

Steve Smith, Astronaut and Director of Space-related Enterprises: "Lessons Learned in Space"

OANA MARCU introduced our featured speaker with a brief but enthusiastic summary of his career in space and back on terra firma.

Mr. Smith remarked upon the recent resurgence in space-related movies and books, and on his childhood interest in



famous and fictional explorers while dreaming of becoming an astronaut. He displayed his childhood drawings showing space-walking at definitely the wrong time - lift-off!

He recounted his several unsuccessful applications to NASA's astronaut program, sharing copies of form rejection letters that gave no clue respecting why he did not make the grade. He persevered, and joined NASA in 1989 as a payload officer for spacecraft. Pursuing a job that had seen several holders become

astronauts, he became one in 1992.

Four space flights and seven space walks followed, as did repairing the Hubble telescope. His training included weightless work simulations in a large swimming pool. He also learned how to perform bodily functions in a gravity-free environment, and how to maintain personal hygiene while going showerless (water does not fall) for extended periods.

In a space station he could sleep on the walls or the ceiling. His space suit was very heavy on earth and had to accommodate his increase in height while weightless, an increase above NASA's entering limit of six feet four inches.

He said the real heroes of the space program were the astronauts' family members, nervously watching lift-off and praying "Do not explode".

He brought his NASA jacket and offered to pose for photos with us, emphasizing that he would wear the jacket. For the photo LYLE CONNELL was on the other side of the camera with Steve.



Q&A included how he felt sleeping in his own bed just after a mission, and whether he believed there were extraterrestrial beings. He volunteered to answer additional questions and pose for photos after the meeting. Hearty and sustained applause followed.

SPEAKERS AT OUR COMING MEETINGS:

November 5, Ken Graham, Mayview Health Clinic, "Delivering Care to the Poor."

November 12, Jim Keene, Palo Alto City Manager: "Palo Alto City Issues"

November 19, Richard Walker, Professor Emeritus of Geography, UC Berkeley, and author "Pictures of a Gone City": "Pictures of a Gone City: Bay Area Prosperity and Inequality"