



Palo Alto Rotary Club Pinion



March 27, 2006 Reporter: Lyle Connell Editor: Lyle Connell

Pres Iris bid us a joyous welcome to the March 27th Palo Alto Rotary Meeting. Dana Tom led us in a turnabout Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag on the rear wall. Something different this time. Again we were reminded that it is important to sign in when we attend the meeting—also cell phones should be turned off.

VISITORS AND GUESTS

Visitors and guests were introduced by Bill Bethke. Our one visiting Rotarian was Kevin Curry, Endina, Minn (he's been here before). Guests (Hosts) were JACK WOODSON (STEVE PLAYER), RACHEL WONG (DARYL SAVAGE), RAYMOND WONG (BETSY BECHTEL).

OPENING REMARKS



Opening remarks were delivered by the venerable GEORGE WHEATON who got our attention by observing that time passes at a fixed rate of one day at a time. However, the components of time are a matter of perspective according to our own lives including significant memorable events. If the time line since the earth began with the big bang, about 5 billion

years ago, was compressed into a 24 hour period, human life has not been here long, about the last two minutes of the 24 hour period. Modern man in about the last minute. Within this cosmic view, our own lives are really very short. However, even in their short span of time on earth, humans have had a tremendous influence on the planet. We can also have a positive impact as members of Rotary. Service Above Self can make a difference.

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

Something new! The Board has agreed to sponsor a lifetime membership in the Presidents Club. For a one time contribution to the Endowment fund of \$1000 one can have unlimited bragging rights, well within reasonable limits. The one condition, the person must have been a member of the Palo Alto Rotary Club for at least 10 years. DAVID NEGRIN who proposed this

initiative has volunteered to be the first lifetime member. SAM WEBSTER quickly volunteered to be the second member.



FUTURE PROGRAMS

April 3, 2006: Special Agent Mary Marsh, whose talk is entitled, "Economic Espionage."

Agent Marsh will focus her talk on trade secret and intellectual property theft.

April 10, 2006: Professor Sean Hanretta, whose talk is entitled, "The Origins and History of Islam."

May 17, 2006 Don Nielson, PhD, whose talk is entitled "SRI: Its History and Contributions."

MORE PRESIDENTS CLUB



ROMAN KAGARLITSKY enthusiastically joined the Presidents Club in honor of Al KENRICK whose memorial service is a week from Saturday.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HERSH DAVIS ragged on the group about the "Hands On" Project at the Children Education Center on April 29th We still need volunteers for the afternoon shift or for even all day. Bring your family or bring your friends or bring your family. There will be work for everyone. Here is a chance to make a contribution to a worthy cause.



BILL BUSSE said it was a fabulous day for JOHN BRACKEN'S birthday celebration last Sunday, except that Stanford lost the baseball game. A number of people contributed to a joyous event. When you turn 90 let BILL BUSSE know and he will have another party.

Blue book membership binders are coming back after a couple of years of absence. It may take some time since it is on next year's budget

TODAY'S PROGRAM



WAYNE THOMAS introduced the speaker of the day, Kurt Opsahl, who is a staff attorney with the Electronic Frontier Foundation ("EFF"). His talk was entitled "The National Security Agency's (NSA) Warrantless Wiretap Controversy?" Mr. Opsahl spoke about the legal issues surrounding the NSA's warrantless wiretapping program and the EFF's lawsuit against AT&T for the telecommunications collaboration with the program. As it is well known, the controversy is primarily over the presidential authorization of wiretapping of communications to the US from foreign parties believed to be associated with terrorist organizations. The litigants believe that the actions of the telecommunications companies have larger implications and furthermore they should not be assisting the NSA in conducting this surveillance to obtain intelligence. Mr. Opsahl reviewed some of the legislation relating to the authorization of surveillance through courts and other means determining when a warrant for wiretapping is reasonable. One theory in the continuing debate over existing legislation concerns whether or not the president has unlimited power to act in matters of national security especially in wartime. However, there are those in the legislative branch who strongly believe in separate powers through legislative action. Thus the central idea behind the litigation falls into two categories, (1) the legality in the surveillance program itself and (2) the comparative powers of the presidency and its limitations.

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PALO ALTO ROTARY

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NEARBY ROTARY CLUB MEETINGS

TUESDAY

Los Altos: China Shuttle, 22382 Homestead Road, 19:15
Mountain View: Adobe House, Moffett & Central Mountain View, 12:15
Sunnyvale, Ramada Inn, 1217 Wildwood Avenue, Sunnyvale, 12:15

WEDNESDAY

Menlo Park: Menlo Park Recreation Center, Menlo Park, 12:15
East Palo Alto Senior Center, 560 Bell Street, East Palo Alto, 12:15
Woodside/Portola: Woodside Village Church, Woodside, 07:30

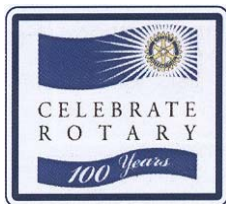
THURSDAY

Los Altos: The Garden House, Shoup Park 12:15

FRIDAY

Palo Alto University: Sheraton Hotel, El Camino, Palo Alto, 07:15
San Carlos: Piaceri's Restaurant, 727 Laurel St. (downtown San Carlos, in the second block South of San Carlos Ave., one block west of El Camino Real. 12:15

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