



Palo Alto Rotary Club Pinion



July 17, 2006

Reporter: Brian Steen

Editor: Lyle Connell

CALL TO ORDER: ART STAUFFER started the meeting and asked DAVID NEGRIN to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

VISITORS AND GUESTS

DICK FREEMAN welcomed our guests. Visiting Rotarians were John Shelton – Kansas City Plaza, a former member of our club, David Shelton – his son; Candace Rooney – from San Jose. Rotarians with Guests; Rich Gerald – guest of WAYNE THOMAS; Carole Brown – WAYNE’S wife; Tony Ley – guest of WAYNE THOMAS; Kay Hays- guest and wife of WALT HAYS; Richard Delaney-Guest of BOB McCOWAN

OPENING REMARKS



GEOFF ZIMAN suggested he’d take a few liberties while the microphone was in his hand. Most notably, he joined the President’s Club in honor of his grandson’s wedding in New York.

GEOFF has belonged to a men’s book review club. A recent book reviewed was What If? It covered a number of crucial historic situations with each section speculating what might have happened if certain events had taken a different course.

Some think this exercise is meaningless; others say that this thinking is valuable and illuminating because it shows how easily events could have turned out differently. For example, What if Charles Darwin had not sailed on the Beagle? Albert Einstein had not had the extra time to think while working in the Swiss Patent Office? And closer to home, what if; Your parents had not engaged in certain conjugal activities? Leland Stanford, Jr. had not caught typhoid and died? Paul Harris got tired of his friends and Rotary never took hold, we might not be sharing our lunch at Ming’s today and more importantly, polio wouldn’t be so close to being eradicated. Maybe a little “what if “ thinking is not out of order.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ART recognized BILL BUSSE as our enthusiastic greeter, BARBARA MITCHELL as our charming cashier and BRIAN STEEN as our EPinion reporter.

CARL KING distributed a survey to evaluate previous speakers in the prior year. Quite an array of topics.... nearly all excellent presentations in this reporter’s opinion

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

July 24 - BRUCE L. BERON, Ph.D., on “The Art and Science of Decision Making”.

July 31 - MAYOR JUDY KLEINBERG on “The State of the City”



PAUL LOSCH proudly presented a flag from the Beijing Rotary club, one of two clubs existing in China. PAUL contrasted our excellent Chinese menu at Ming’s to being served lamb chops and mashed potatoes in

Beijing!

PRESIDENT’S CLUB



HAL MICKELSON suggested there was an empty roster with a new president. But this was not quite true as CY and GEOFF reminded HAL of their recent contributions with Art at the helm.



DIANA DIAMOND joined and shared the news of her *two* new jobs with the Palo Alto Weekly and the San Jose Business Journal.

AUDREY JACOB joined to recognize her 13-year-old son’s Lacrosse team and her experience as chaperoning them to Colorado and back!

CYRILLE BETANT joined to celebrate his new job with Omnicell as Manager of Planning and Analysis.



SHARON WAGNER joined to recognize her husband’s new job with San Francisco (THE city of) as the Director of large-scale renewable energy projects

TODAY'S PROGRAM



BRUCE SWENSON introduced Andy Fraknoi, Chair of the Astronomy Department at Foothill College. Fraknoi is author or coauthor of 14 books on astronomy and astronomy education, including *The Planets* and *The Universe*. Radio listeners know him as a regular guest on local and national radio programs, explaining astro-

nomical developments in everyday language. He has appeared regularly on KGO, KSFO and KQED. Nationally, he has been heard regularly on *Science Friday* and *Weekend All Things Considered* on National Public Radio.

Andy presented the background and success of the Hubble Space Telescope calling it "Greatest time machine ever built." From 390 miles up in space, the Hubble has given earthlings incredible views into the heavens and actually through time....as far back as 69 million light years ago!

Andy's great photos captured everyone's imagination (BTW, projected with an "old school" slide project, which worked perfectly.)

Questions came from:

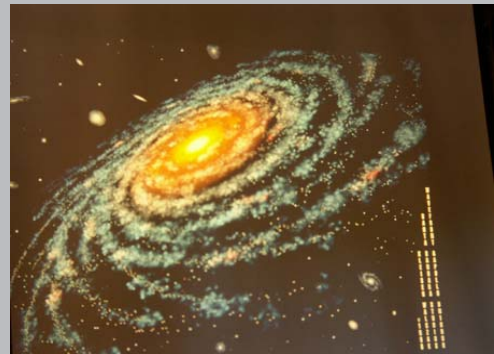
CY GREENSTONE: Who was Hubble? The first person to discover another separate galaxy.

DAVE SMULLIN: What's the status of the telescope? Almost phased out due to lack of bureaucratic vision, but fortunately reinstated for another decade.

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PALO ALTO ROTARY

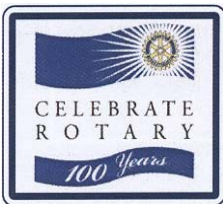
PRESIDENT: Art Stauffer. **PRESIDENT-ELECT:** Rob Lancefield. **PAST-PRESIDENT:** Iris Korol. **DIRECTORS:** Cyrille Betant, Trish Bubenik, Mike Couch, Hersh Davis, Wayne Thomas, and Sherri Sager. **CLUB TREASURER:** Mike McMahon. **ANNUAL CHARITIES TREASURER:** Rob Lancefield. **SECRETARIES:** Ruth Schneider. Bob McCowan. Janet Wells. **CLUB RECORDS:** Joy Cusick, parotaryrecords@aol.com. **WEB SITE:** www.rotarypaloalto.org.



Galaxy Rendition



Saturn



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