



Palo Alto Rotary Club Pinion



February 26 2007

Reporter: Brian Steen

Editor: Lyle Connell

CALL TO ORDER

ART STAUFFER started the meeting and asked GEORGE FITZGERALD to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

WHO'S VISITING

CYRILLE BETANT warmly welcomed those visiting our club. Visiting Rotarians were: Bob Denebeim, a lawyer visiting from East Palo Alto Rotary and Marie Bernard, a non-profit CEO from San Jose Rotary.

Rotarians with Guests were: HERSH DAVIS introduced his new business partner, Joan Plastiras; NATASHA FRENCH introduced Cheryl Austin; DICK FREEMAN introduced his daughter, Connie and STEVE EMSLIE introduced Kayla Cundiff

CHINESE NEW YEAR



JOYCE CUSICK summed up February as being busy with holidays including the Chinese New Year, this year being the Year of the Pig, 4,704. This reporter learned that if you were born in 1923, 1935, 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983 or 1995 - you were born under the sign of the pig. Joyce presented popular Chinese customs to bring in the new year such as sweeping of the grounds, observing

the day of the Kitchen God and presenting of lucky "laisee" red envelopes for prosperity. *Gung Hay Fat Choy!*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Art recognized IRIS KOROL as our enthusiastic greeter, STEVE HEITEL as our banker cashier and BRIAN STEEN as our E-Pinion reporter.

BILL JOHNSON announced the recipients of \$42,500 from our charitable grants program to be presented at our March 24 fundraiser including Adolescent Counseling, the Cleo Elau Center, EPA Kids Foundation, Friends of PA Children's Theater, Friends of Palo Alto Parks, and PA Housing Corp.

TRISH BUBENIK encouraged everyone to buy their tickets for the *Galaxy of the Stars*, our March 24 gala event at Sharon Heights Country Club. JOHN KIDD added this is a great opportunity to celebrate the generosity of our club with your friends and associates.

UPCOMING

March 5: New Member Talks: Rob Lyman, Steve Madsen, and Kelly Morariu

March 12: Ed Demeo - Electricity from Wind Power: Contributions to the Economy, the Environment, and Energy Security

March 19: Margarita Akhvedian - The Conflict in the former Soviet Republic of Georgia - resolution of ethnic conflicts and differences

DAN QUINN thanked the Feed the Homeless Volunteers from last week and encouraged sign ups for this Wednesday. Dan is looking for a dependable person to coordinate this important work.

HERSH DAVIS reminded us of our next Hands On Project coming up on Saturday, April 28

NEW MEMBER



SCOTT GLISSMEYER was welcomed by Art to our Club and congratulated by his sponsor, MIKE COUCH.

PRESIDENTS CLUB



Donors included ROB LANCEFIELD in honor of his daughter who has been picked by Oprah to meet Sidney Poitier,



CHARLES CHENG who announced he is moving to Shanghai,

TED LARSEN who has rejoined our club,

and DUANE KALAR who provided \$700 in celebration of the last Super Bowl. What a generous group!



A MEXICAN JOURNALIST



Diana Diamond introduced Patricia Mercado Sánchez.

Since 1998, Patricia has been editor-in-chief for El Economista one of very few women editors running a major newspaper in Mexico. She is currently a Knight Fellow at Stanford.

Patricia recounted the controversial 2006 Mexico presidential election, a close one with only a

200,000 vote difference! Sound familiar? She indicated that, with successful government reform, Mexico can begin to face the challenges of poverty, high unemployment and political change. "We want reform and don't care if it's good or bad!" "As a Mexican journalist, I can help accelerate change, but we need to provide good information so citizens have the tools for change."

Q: Since NAFTA is there more rich and poor?

A: The Mexican middle class is disappearing. NAFTA was good, but agreements between 1st world and 3rd world countries are difficult.

Q: What may happen 2012 Mexico election?

A: Everything depends on reform.

Q: What about illegal immigration?

A: A big problem for Mexico and the US with neither country doing the right thing. Reform is necessary or even 10,000 border walls will fail.

Another GREAT program for PA Rotary! Art thanked Patricia, indicating a dictionary would be placed in his honor at Green Oaks Academy.

PALO ALTO ROTARY

PRESIDENT: Art Stauffer. PRESIDENT-ELECT: Rob Lancefield. PAST-PRESIDENT: Iris Korol. DIRECTORS: Ralph Adams, Cyrille Betant, Trish Bubenik, Mike Couch, Hersh Davis, and Sherri Sager. CLUB TREASURER: Mike McMahon. ENDOWMENT FUND: Vic Rosasco. ENDOWMENT FUND TREASURER: Todd Lewis. SECRETARIES: Ruth Schneider. Bob McCowan. Janet Wells. CLUB RECORDS: Joy Cusick, PARotaryRecords@aol.com. WEB SITE: www.rotarypaloalto.org

OTHER ROTARY MEETING PLACES

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

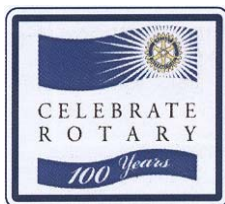
Los Altos: Garden House, 400 University Avenue, Los Altos 12:15

FRIDAY

Palo Alto University: Sheraton Hotel, El Camino, Palo Alto, 07:15

San Carlos: Piaceri's Restaurant, 727 Laurel Street, San Carlos 12:15

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Rotary Club of Palo Alto

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