



Palo Alto Rotary Club Pinion



March 19, 2007

Reporter: Bill Busse

Editor: Lyle Connell

DIAMONDS AND SUCH



First, our own uncut diamond, DIANA, was gem-like in her presentation of OPENING REMARKS. Having prepared her own tax return, and then having been immediately audited, Diana D. was able to recite the designations of the myriad government forms required to respond to such an audit. (She vowed to use an accountant hereafter.) However, she made a jewel of a recommendation to the IRS. "Get rid of the highly unfair Alternative Minimum Tax and replace it with a tax based on weight. Just think...the American people get much healthier as dieting becomes the rage, particularly in early spring." "And imagine what a wind fall this system would be for GLORIA HOM!"

A \$5000 DIAMOND WITHIN REACH



After describing this Annual Fund Raiser auction item, (For \$100 you have an opportunity to win a diamond worth 5K.) Forty-nine champagne glasses will have fake rocks and one a real diamond...the real vs. fake question will be answered by ISRAEL ZEHAVI, who, it so happens, contributed all of the stones. Chairperson/Gemologist IRIS put out a karat to those attending our meeting. Buy now and make sure you are one of the "50 only" bidders. Lo and behold, eleven well-heeled Rotarians came forth with \$100 each. The glittering few included SAM WEBSTER, who needs another diamond to brighten up his image! So he says!

WARMING UP FOR THE MAIN EVENT



was our sterling auctioneer, STEVE PLAYER. Stevo adroitly coaxed \$200 from wine connoisseur JACK WOODSON for a bottle of 1982 Château Léoville Poyferré Bordeaux. Merci, Jackson!

INSIDE INFO

Our Charity Event will be well attended. A few of the Stanford Women's Basketball fans will not be traveling to Fresno. You know who you are!

GUESTS AND SUCH

GUESTS: HERSH DAVIS...Associate Joan Plastiras, NATASHA FRENCH...Lois Cole, RACHEL MEYER...Larry Bailey

ROTARIANS: Judy Deggeller...University Club, Emily Cohen...Menlo Park club

Bob Selinger...Livingston Rotary Club, Zambia.

(Bob is spending time visiting United States Rotary Clubs in search of used LAPTOP computers. If you have at long last upgraded, consider donating your old laptop for use in Zambia. Call Bob at 1/949-887-3266.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HERSH DAVIS, our Hands-On impresario, announced the April 24th Rotary/Kiwanis project to up-grade of the East Palo Alto Montessori School. We should not be outdone by Kiwanians numbers or talentwise. Sign up with Hersh today and be included in the free lunch!

TENNIS ANYONE?

Call BILL BUSSE for an application to participate in the District 5170 tournament on Wednesday April 18th from 9 am to noon. Great tennis, great camaraderie, great prizes and a worthy cause...your good health. Your thirty dollars includes an equally healthy lunch! All levels of play, from "social" to 4.0, will be accommodated.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

President Elect ROB LANCEFIELD took the mike and enthusiastically invited others to join him in attending the District 5170 Conference scheduled for April 28 to 30 at the Santa Clara Marriott. You can attend one or all of the many quality events. For details click on http://www.rotary5170.org/events/conf06_main.asp

PARTY TIME!

Save Sunday April 22nd for our Club's 85th Anniversary Party! This gala will be held in the gardens of DUANE & ANN KALAR. Cancel every thing else! This is a must attend event!

PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS

Prez ART & Past Prez IRIS continued the weekly parade by handing out more well-earned Paul Harris Fellowship pins for contributions to the Rotary International Foundation. This week's recipients were LEANNAH HUNT, NANCY PETERS, BOB BULMORE & JIM POOLEY. The Foundation funds the many far-reaching humanitarian and educational projects of Rotary. Thanks to all of our outstanding Paul Harris Fellows!

..AND SPEAKING OF PARTIES



Our engaging Board Member, CYRILLE BETANT, rose to announce his engagement to engage in wedlock by joining the President's Club...for the third time, yet! Joining the Club, that is. Congratulations to the lucky bride and to our overflowing President's Club coffers. Don't despair, there are still a few openings for membership. And marriage is not required!

PROGRAM NOTES



On "The Resolution of Ethnic Conflicts."

NATASHA FRENCH ably introduced today's speaker and Stanford Knight Fellow, Margarita Akhvlediani. (Yes, that is the correct spelling of her last name.) Margarita is at Stanford on a yearlong fellowship. From 25 years of journalistic experience she described the nature of conflicts within the Caucasus Region of the former Soviet Union. These include the war between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the province of Ngorno Karabakh, the Chechnya struggle with Russia and the disputes between Georgia and Russia over Abkhazia. Lots of good questions covering, tourism, Shevardnadze, religious problems, who furnishes the arms, employment rates, and a bit about the Georgian wine industry.

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM

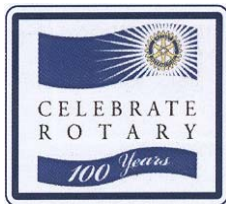
March 26: DR. JOHN BUNZEL - The Presidential Race in 2008: A survey of the Political Landscape

Another outstanding program. The Knight Fellows have all been excellent! Our thanks to the Program Committee for helping to expand our knowledge of the world around us. Gmadlob, muchas gracias, spasiba, danke schon, arigatou, tack, nandri, grazie, & merci, from one and all!

PALO ALTO ROTARY

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