



Palo Alto Rotary Club Pinion



December 10, 2007 Reporter: Lyle Connell Editor: Lyle Connell

The meeting was opened with a rousing Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

VISITORS AND GUESTS

VISITING ROTARIAN: David D. Oakes, M.D. from Palo Alto University Rotary Club.

GUESTS: Dennis Sheehan Guest of MIKE McMAHON. Elyse Belanger Speaker and Guest of BARB MITCHELL, Therese Hornig Mother and Guest of Speaker and BARB MITCHELL, Gabriel Sanchez Guest of LE LEVY

OPENING REMARKS



were provided by **DANA TOM**. DANA was looking forward enthusiastically to a fresh start for the School Board's coming New Year and, in spite of budget constraints, a "Year of Education". Dana feels there is a lot of work to be done to make the year successful. With some new members coming on board everyone needs to learn how to be an effective board

member and establish positive relationships working together. Some of the elements of Rotary [Four Way Test](#) appeared to be relevant in his deliberations. Is it fair and beneficial to all of the constituency, such as teachers, students etc? And does it build goodwill by building effective relationships and working together?

COMMITTEE REPORT

Unknown to almost everyone, an ad hoc committee came together to review the nefarious activities of one of our members. **DICK FREEMAN**, along with **SHARON WAGNER** reported that **BOB SMITHWICK** had written a letter to Dear Abby about an emergency visit to his office by a boy being raised by his grandmother. The boy was really eager to return for another visit, because for the first time in his life, he had been told that he was "a good boy" by the dentist. The Abby

reply endorsed the fact that all children (and adults) need positive reinforcement.

WHAT'S COMING UP

December 17— Members of West Bay Opera, who will sing (and possibly ask us to help out) on some popular opera arias and favorite holiday songs.

December 24 - Dark (actually, bright, gleaming, and happy with holiday good cheer, but no meeting nevertheless).

December 31 - Dark in Celebration of a Sparkling Happy New Year! (No meeting is scheduled nevertheless.)

BLUE BADGER



DENNIS MCGINN, received his Blue Badge after having tried to break the record for foot-dragging.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MIKE COUCH reminded us of the most important fund raising event of the year being held on March 1, 2008, The Rotary Gala Fundraiser. Please mark your calendar.



DAN QUINN reported on the great success of this month's "feed the homeless" led by **LARRY BAILEY**, who was not here today because of a medical emergency with his mother.

WES GARDINER reminded that the December 12 holiday party at Liz and Rick Kniss' home is only a couple of days away. The time is 6:00 to 9:00 PM. Please kindly bring A-M Appetizers, and N-Z White Wine. [Palo Alto Rotary - Calendar of Events](#)

PRESIDENT ROB announced that the election results for next year taking office on July 1st 2008 were in, although some of the ballots had not yet been counted. This was quickly accomplished by **RUTH SCHNEIDER**. The new **PRESIDENT-ELECT-ELECT** is **RALPH ADAMS**. **DIRECTORS** are as follows: **KEVIN CURRY, JOYCE CUSICK, MONICA DEVINCENZI, STEVE EMSLIE, TOM GRACON, MIKE McMAHON, KELLY MORARIU, BRIAN STEEN, and SHARON WAGNER**.

TODAY'S PROGRAM



BARB MITCHELL introduced our speaker for the day, **Elyse Belanger**, who is the Principal of the Green Oaks Academy, the same school to which Rotary donates dictionaries. Elyse started with the title of her program, "If you don't feed the teachers, they'll eat the kids!" Elyse focused on "What one thing she would want to tell people in business (not other educators), if she had the chance."

She feels that education is all about relationships. Education is about borrowing ideas from some, and teaching them to others. The real problem with schools is not the teachers, rather the culture of poverty in her school district, and the ethnic background and diversity of the students. A large percentage of students are non English speaking. Another problem is a large turnover among teachers for various reasons. Teachers are often dedicated and overworked, and their "other life" is often overlooked. Her suggestion was that we give teachers perks to enhance their feeling as a person. Reach out to them as a valued person. In answer to questions, Elyse cited enlightening statistics about her district, in which only 11% of student's parents had graduated from high school, and not a single one from college. Her school has the lowest test scores around, yet she is amazed at the academic growth each year.

PALO ALTO ROTARY

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

OTHER ROTARY MEETING PLACES

TUESDAY

Los Altos: China Shuttle, 22382 Homestead Road, 19:15:15

Mountain View: Adobe House, Moffett & Central Mountain View, 12:15

WEDNESDAY

Menlo Park: Menlo Park Recreation Center, Menlo Park, 12:00

East Palo Alto Bay shore: East Palo Alto Senior Center, 560 Bell Street, East Palo Alto, 12:15

Woodside/Portola: Woodside Village Church, Woodside, 07:30

THURSDAY

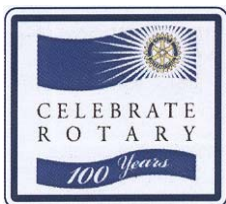
Los Altos: Garden House, Soup Park, Los Altos 12:15

FRIDAY

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

San Carlos: Salvatore's Restaurant, San Carlos, 12:15

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