



Palo Alto Rotary Pinion



Weekly Newsletter DATE April 7, 2008

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

April 14 - Martha Kanter - Foothill and De Anza Colleges: Our Mission, Accomplishments, and Challenges Ahead

April 21 – Women in Rotary – Betsy Bechtel, Diana Diamond, Gloria Hom, Liz Kniss, and Bob Smithwick

April 28 – The Honorable Larry Klein – Change Palo Alto Style

OFFICIAL GREETER:

The Official Greeter for today's meeting was our venerable Ex-Prez, ART STAUFFER, Greeter Extraordinaire.

OPENERS:

PREZ ROB called on MARC DICKOW to lead us all in the Pledge which was enthusiastically rendered, as usual.

OPENING REMARKS:

GEOFF ZIMAN delivered the Opening Remarks. He reminded us of the value of our past custom of MAKE-UPS. An informal poll indicated that almost all members made up at one time or another, but most not recently. GEOFF's experience gave him the opportunity to observe the unity of Rotary's international purpose and achievements, along with its ethnic diversity. Most of all, it gave him and others who voiced their agreement, a view of our own outstanding club. (Ed.: Let's call it Ambassadorial Visits or something, anyway let's keep the custom going).

VISITORS & GUESTS:

Rotary visitors and guests were introduced by KAREN SINGER. We had one Visiting Rotarian, HARRY SPRINGER (Sunnyvale Club). There were no guests.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

HERSH DAVIS invited club members to participate in a worthy hands-on project this coming Saturday and also on Saturday, April 26, at the Bread of Life in East Palo Alto. Call HERSH for more details and to sign up for either/both events.

KELLY MORARIU joined the President's Club. Thanks KELLY.

PREZ ROB, assisted by Past-Prez ART STAUFFER, recognized the many members who have contributed to the Rotary Foundation, too many to list here. However he did distribute special pins (3 Sapphire) to MIKE COUCH, BOB SMITHWICK, CHESLEY DOUGLAS, BILL LOVE (and his granddaughter), and BETSY BECHTEL.

E. J. HONG, our program committee co-chairperson, recognized the fine assistance of STEVE MADSEN, our A/V specialist. STEVE asked for a backup in anticipation of his forthcoming travel; WALT HAYS obliged.

THE PROGRAM:

Guest speaker Dr. David Magnus was introduced by GEORGE FITZGERALD, who summarized our guest's most impressive resume. Dr. Magnus is Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine at Stanford University, and is the Director for Biomedical Ethics and co-Chair of the Ethics Committee for Stanford Hospital. He received his Ph.D. in Philosophy from Stanford University, and has published a range of articles on bioethics, as well as genetic technology, cloning, and stem cell research.

Dr. Magnus spoke on a variety of issues faced by patients and their doctors in today's advanced technical environment. He stressed the need for assigning responsibility for making medical decisions to an alternate when the individual is not able to do so. He also described situations where medical options must be pursued and when they should be curtailed. He also discussed such practices as self-directed organ donor recipients and "transplant tourism".

This was a very comprehensive discussion by Dr. Magnus that should be followed up by discussions with loved ones and physicians to cover chronic or life-threatening situations we all will face.

OTHER ROTARY MEETING PLACES.

<http://www.rotarypaloalto.org/MeetingInfo.cfm>