



Palo Alto Rotary Pinion



Weekly Newsletter

Date April 21, 2008

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Editor: LYLE CONNELL

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

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

IT ALL BEGAN with a conversation BOB SMITHWICK had with a member of the Duarte, California, Rotary Club at the 1986 District Conference in Monterey. "WHY ARE THERE NO WOMEN IN ROTARY?" As a result of their mutual query the Duarte Club inducted three women...and then the fun began.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL REVOKED THE CHARTER of the Duarte Club saying, "Rotary is an all male organization and shall remain so." On to the various courts and the related appeals...and then on May 4th, 1987, the US Supreme Court decided that women could not be excluded from Rotary! Way to go Supremites and Supremess!

AND WHO WAS THE FIRST WOMAN in all of the United States to become a member of Rotary International? NONE OTHER THAN OUR OWN GLORIA HOM! (More later in this Pinion.)

LINDSEY NORTH WELCOMED OUR GUESTS
Visiting Rotarians: Prof. Michael Dellnitz...Padenborn, Germany
Carol Garsten...PA University Club
Roy Lave...Los Altos
Dick "I forgot to sign in again!" Henning...Los Altos
Guests of Rotarians: MARTHA KANTER...Dorene Dovatney, Bernata Slostter & Judy Miner, TODD LEWIS...David Lictenger

LIZ KNISS...Jay Boyarsky (Jay is running for judge. Liz at one time thought his legal experience was with prostitution, but came to find out it was prosecution. Oh, well.)

A SAVAGE OPENING!



DARYL did a reversal on IRIS KOROL's earlier "The Ten Foods You Should Eat Everyday" by sharing "The Ten Worst Foods to Eat." The moans and groans were highly audible as she listed the following:
Soda pop...any variety
French fries

- Bacon
- Granola Bars
- Donuts
- Potato chips
- Fast food burgers
- Samores
- Cheese

So there you have it, food lovers. Seems all the good stuff is

bad for the bod!

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

APRIL 23, Wednesday...FEEDING THE HOMELESS. Be there from 3:30 to 6:00 to participate in this feel good activity. TOM GRACON will be in charge.

APRIL 26, Saturday...HANDS-ON. The "Bread of Life Project" 1852 Bay Road, East Palo Alto, starting at 8 am. HERSH DAVIS is once again heading up this important contribution of time and talent. (Not much talent required, however.)

MAY 7, Wednesday...As announced by BOB McCOWAN, our Annual Garden Party will be hosted by SHARON & TOM WAGNER. 914 Matadero Court in Palo Alto.

THANX FROM PREZ ROB TO:

Money Collector DENNIS SHEEHAN
Pinion Writer BILL BUSSE
Greeters ART STAUFFER and LARRY BAILEY

PRESIDENT'S CLUB

When the University of Kansas made it to the Final Four KELLY MORARIU contributed one half of a Membership. Then when they won it all she ponied up the balance. Way to go Kelly and way to go Kansas! But wait until next year...assuming Stanford has a new coach by then.

P.S. JOHN KIDD was a President's Club no show.

A QUOTE FROM PRESIDENT ROB. "This Club would seize up in three days without women!"

OUR PROGRAM CELEBRATED GLORIA'S MEMBERSHIP 20 YEARS AGO. Featured were six of our women members who shared their thoughts and insights on "this amazing (and fortuitous) change."

Program Coordinator BETSY BECHTEL began the program by introducing GLORIA. Going back in time Gloria recalled, "Over the years I had given a number of talks at the Palo Alto Rotary Club...primarily 'impartial' reports on State propositions. TOM FRYER, Chancellor of the Foothill/De Anza Community College, and DOUG HARPER suggested I join this all male bastion."

A BIT OF HISTORY FROM BOB SMITHWICK: Gloria had all of her paperwork ready, and was voted into the Palo Alto Rotary Club within minutes after approval by the Court was announced. Tom Fryer was President of the Club and was happy to introduce Gloria as "THE FIRST WOMAN MEMBER OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL AND THE

PALO ALTO CLUB."



Gloria's stated that the outcome of her becoming a member included:
"Less raunchy entertainment." (Ed: A few of the more erudite members used to regale our "Men Only Club" with an occasional off colored story. It took a while to wean them, however.)
"It enhanced my Life!"
"Thank you all for the last 20 years."

NEXT UP WAS PAST PRESIDENT DIANA DIAMOND WHO JOINED IN 1989.



"At occasional Rotary Meetings in 1975 I grew tired of being introduced by my Rotary husband as 'my lovely wife.' Then as a 'Rotaryann'...as we wives were known then...we gave all the parties, including preparing and serving the food and, of course, washing the dishes. Later we were 'graciously' called out of the kitchen for a polite round of applause. (Ed: "Bummer!")"

"At the time we lived in Illinois where I was publisher of a journal. When informed that I could not become a Rotary member, I struck back with a column deriding such male chauvinism.

"Fourteen years later I joined Palo Alto Rotary and I love it!"

BETSY BECHTEL WAS AN OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY LEADER!



She was the MAYOR of PALO ALTO, on many Boards of Directors, and an Officer with Citibank. In 1987 she was not aware of the arduous legal process that ended the male only "good old boys" service clubs. At that time she was "being wooed" by both the then integrated Rotary and

Kiwanis Clubs of Palo Alto. What tipped the scale leading

her to choose Rotary were two things. First, service projects such as Polio Plus, and, second, she observed that Rotary had lots of the town's "movers and shakers." (Ed: Some of them don't move as well now, but the shaking continues.)

"One of the really satisfying aspects of joining Rotary was getting to know so many outstanding people...both women and men!"

SANTA CLARA COUNCILWOMAN LIZ KNISS IS A TRUE POLITICIAN.

Liz ...on being introduced...noted that the meeting was ahead of schedule. She appealed for, and was granted, a few extra minutes for her remarks. Way to go, Liz!

Liz was born in Cape Cod where her father was a Rotarian.

She had no idea what Rotary was, but she inherited his lapel pin. It has very special meaning to her now.



"The roles of women have changed dramatically. On coming to Palo Alto we were members of the Newcomer's Club at which I was always introduced as Mrs. Richard Kniss. The introducer would invariably go on to inform everyone

where my husband worked. After all these years women and men have certainly become more equal partners."

In real life Richard is retired and does all of the cooking, while she still slaves at the office. She noted that all of our members have different strengths and singled out JOYCE CUSICK and IRIS KOROL for their unique contributions to the Palo Alto Rotary Club.

"Rotary means three things to me...Partnership, Participation and Partying together. And the result is that we make a difference in the Community!"

IRIS KOROL DOESN'T THINK OF HERSELF AS A WOMAN, BUT AS A ROTARIAN. (Ed: That's what my

notes say and I'm sticking with it.)



"The changes have been dramatic! When I joined in 1997 there were 10 women in the Club. Now there are 42. Also, I was joining the Old Boys at Rickeys. I was summarily appointed Chairperson of the Club's Vocational Service Committee.

From that beginning I have always felt an integral part of Palo Alto Rotary." (Iris was President in 2003-2004)

"My advice is to take every opportunity to participate in Rotary. There is no better time than the present!"

BEFORE PAM BRANDIN JOINED IN 1998 SHE VIEWED THE CLUB AS BEING BUSINESS ORIENTED.



"However, I realized shortly after joining that there were many of us representing non-profit organizations. (I was sponsored by BARRY TAYLOR, who at the time was CEO of the Mid-Peninsula YMCA.) When I joined there were only a handful of women in the Club. Nonetheless, I benefited a great deal from their leadership.

With my busy schedule as Executive Director of the Peninsula Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired, I find that Rotary meetings are an excellent way to start the week!

"It seems to me that Rotary International should have a woman on its Board of Directors...and GLORIA HOM should be it!!"

What a great idea! You can see the headlines in the Rotarian magazine, "The First Woman in Rotary Becomes the First Member of the Rotary International Board of Directors!" (Pam Brandin was another of our outstanding Club Presidents.)

FOLLOWING THE OUTSTANDING PROGRAM LE LEVY ROSE TO SAY that we all owe a great deal to TOM FRYER for pushing the Club to admit women even before the Supreme Court decision. "The first vote in the Club was 45 "yes" and 55 "no". Following the final decree by our nation's highest and brightest legal minds, the vote was 55 "yes" and 45 "no"." (Ed: As a result of the vote one of our most distinguished members, and a Past President, summarily resigned.)

BILL LOVE ADDED that there were serious discussions within Rotary and many clubs had serious problems with the change.

DICK FREEMAN's rhetorical question was, "Did we have as much problem admitting the first Democrat?"

SY GREENSTONE noted that the Medical Fraternity had a similar problem and, that as president in 1978, he started a similar movement.

OUR INTERNATIONAL GURU, WALT HAYS, noted that Rotarians in Central America were totally resistant to including women until Rotaract Clubs started the integration process. Their members were college age and they did include women. It became a sticky issue when many of them graduated...so to speak...to Rotary. Now clubs in locations such as Guatemala City are including women as members. AND THE BEAT GOES ON!

THIS PRESENTATION BY A GROUP OF OUTSTANDING ROTARIANS reminded us that change is very often accompanied by large amounts of resistance and foreboding. In the case of our Rotary Club, and Rotary around the world, welcoming women as members has been an immense blessing...to which many of those we serve will surely attest

OTHER ROTARY MEETING PLACES.

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