



Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

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Reporter: LYLE CONNELL

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

[Palo Alto Rotary - Speakers Schedule](#)

June 23 – Genie Z. Laborde – Gaining Rapport in Business – Influencing with Integrity.

June 30 – (Regular Lunch Meeting Will Not Be Held) Debunking Celebration of Rob Lancefield'ssa Illustrios Reign as 2007/2008 Palo Alto Rotary President. Held at Illusions restaurant, 260 California Ave, Palo Alto from 6 to 9 pm

VVISITORS AND GUESTS

DENNIS SHEEHAN introduced those visiting our club:

We had one Visiting Rotarian, Dave Thornton, San Jose.

There were eight guests of members: Dennis Burm, IRIS KOROL; Molly McMahan, Daughter of MIKE McMAHON; Martin Hellman, speaker; Riaz Karamali, E. J. HONG; Harry Rodda and Kent Mather, ROB LANCFIELD; Tahor Fatehi, Kelly MORARIU; Berndine Fong, MARTHA KANTER. Welcome to all.

OPENING REMARKS

It was nice to know that DUANE KALAR had been writing down thoughts and ideas about the various phases in his life, so that his children would know more about him. He started with subjects such as religion, presidencies, and war. It seemed to him the only time of peace that he remembers was during the depression, when he was born. Thereafter was World War II, Korean War, Cold War, Vietnam, and Iraq. However, after all this deliberation, his 12 year old grandson said

“just tell the “dental story” about one of his first patients here in Palo Alto.

TIME FOR AWARDS

PRESIDENT ROB opined that “this is the time of year when Rotary year ends”. It is also the time when awards are handed out in recognition of many months of work-usually unseen. That is true for our club and our members. Some awards are given to individuals and some to the entire club.

The first award is to an individual, GLORIA HOM, from District 5170 for her part- from the start- to right this minute-of twenty years of women in Rotary, and her role at the luncheon in San Jose at the District Convention in April.

The second award is from Rotary International for a Health and Hunger Resources Gold Level Award. Most clubs do not qualify for this award. To be eligible a club must participate in two local community projects-one in health and one in hunger. The clubs must also have participated in two international projects, one in health and one in hunger. That is a total of four projects. This is a special recognition to everyone who worked on the Charitable Awards Committee, Feed the Homeless, local community projects, World Community Service Committee, and all those who worked directly or indirectly on the projects.

AMBASSADORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

NANCY PETERS excitedly announced that the committee had succeeded in getting scholarships awarded to two students recommended to District 5170. One is a Stanford Medical Student ,majoring in internal medicine, headed for a Spanish-Speaking country; and the other is a Political Science major going to Cambridge, and then heading for China as a translator.

ENDOWMENT FUND

TODD LEWIS made the exciting allegation that the endowment fund is in good shape. He then produced a check for \$25,000 to give to MIKE McMAHON. Again, we thank for the generous support. However, it is not too late to still contribute. See TODD LEWIS! Also pledge cards were to be available on the table at the exit.

WELCOME TO PANAMA

Our best wishes go out to MARK and Martine HEYER, who send us a welcome link to their adventures in Panama. Check out these amazing photos at <http://web.mac.com/markheyer> or [Welcome to Panama](#).

DEBUNKING DINNER

With the usual flair, HAL MICKELSON again reminded us of the celebration of the retirement of PRESIDENT ROB. This event will take place on Monday evening at 6:00 PM on June 30th. It should be a fun evening. Since the affair has an international theme, wear any type of clothing or hat picked up in the course of your travels. See you there.

At the same time, HAL wanted to join the Presidents Club before the end of this administration. This is in honor of David Lang from Stanford. This event will be remembered by the caption "Stanford Marching Band member wins Pulitzer Prize".

PROGRAM

PRESIDENT ROB introduced our program speaker, Dr Martin Hellman, Professor Emeritus Electrical Engineering, Stanford University. His topic was Soaring, Cryptography and Nuclear Deterrence. These three topics, each a major interest of the speaker, are tied together by the importance of low probability, catastrophic events.

Dr Helman advises that we need to "read the fine print" which, in the case of a glider 99.9% safe, is a downdraft which is a rare event and which has happened and can be disastrous. We need to think about it in these probability terms when we consider the laws of nuclear deterrence. Over the years since WW II there have been a number instances where there was a nuclear threat. The Cuban missile crisis was the most well known and perhaps the most dangerous. This situation seemed to come out of nowhere but there were underlying tensions for some time and it was also at the height of the

Cold War. There was not a lot that was known at the time and how really close it came to a nuclear confrontation.

Note that the last nuclear scare was in 1983 and the question arises: "is the Cold War over"? However, there are tensions in Eastern Europe and the Middle East such that nuclear and non nuclear crises are possible. The real problem is complacency since there has not been a world war in 63 years. There are things going on today that could result in a nuclear confrontation. But what is the solution? There needs to be increased public awareness, use of risk assessment techniques and a thoughtful approach to defusing a nuclear threat in anticipation of a crisis. More information can be found on www.NuclearRisk.org.

NEARBY MEETING PLACES:

[Palo Alto Rotary - Meeting Information](#)