



Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date October 13, 2008

Reporter: GEOFF ZIMAN

Editor: NICK NICHOLS

“So what happened at Rotary today?” you may ask. “Much the same as usual.” I would respond.

OFFICIAL GREETERS

RUTH SCHNEIDER aided by JOYCE CUSICK collected the lunch money. ROB “spare a dime” LANCEFIELD aided by ADRIAN MIKOLAJCZAK greeted.

OPENERS

West Pointer SAM WEBSTER got us all together doing the Columbus Day Flag Salute

VISITORS & GUESTS

DICK MANSFIELD welcomed visiting Rotarians STEVE TING (Cupertino) and Speaker FRANK YIH (Shanghai). In addition Dick welcomed Chelsey P Souza, guest of CASH ALAEE and Ricardo Forleo, guest of KELLY MORARIU.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

During the meeting a “Get Well” card was circulated for WARREN THOITS who, it was reported, has had two health episodes recently, but is now at home again recuperating.

The Stanford Alumni weekend provided an opportunity to extract financial contributions for having a good time there from JOHN “famous name dropping” KIDD (50 years) and STEVE “empty stadium” PLAYER (45 years). While on the Stanford theme a reminder was given to everyone of our Rotary football tailgate party planned for Saturday, November 15. Two other volunteers contributed to the President’s Club - DON LANGENDORF for becoming a great-grandfather and reaching the venerable age of 83, and DAVID NEGRIN for being ABEL to be vertical without a CAIN (*groan!*).

Some other reminders: On November 6 DENNIS “ideas” BOYLE is inviting members to his office at IDEO to hear about his cross-country flight to Oshkosh and to have a brief tour of the intriguing design consulting company. DENNIS MCGINN announced that on Wednesday, October 15 we are again going to be feeding the homeless, and help from members is needed. Although the official deposit commitment date for the club Oaxaca, Mexico trip is November 15, MIKE COUCH would like to know definitely as soon as possible because of the need to firm up the hotel reservations. Get those checks in! BRIAN “hands on” STEEN announced that on Friday, October 17 and Saturday, October 18 from 9 AM – 1 PM volunteers are needed for our project to beautify the Menlo Park entrance to Palo Alto on Middlefield Road.

KEVIN “Minnesota” CURRY announced with determination that our fundraiser this year will raise more, have new twists, and provide greater fun than ever. It will again be at Sharon Heights because extensive research indicates that this really is the best place to hold it. Save the date of March 21 and watch out for seemingly benign requests from Kevin to meet with him! He has assumed that tough delegator look!

OPENING REMARKS

KELLY “city hall” MORARIU used the theme of community for her opening remarks emphasizing connections, common values, and friendship in Rotary. It wasn’t apparent to your reporter and some of the other more senior members of the club why she should mention the continuous need to recruit new members in conjunction with an observation about the average of the club membership!

THE PROGRAM

Our speaker Frank Yih from the Shanghai Rotary Club was introduced by GLORIA HOM. She started by mentioning her long friendship with Frank (over 40 years) and even longer friendship with his wife Nancy (over 50 years). Frank, after graduating from London University and MIT, has had a distinguished career in electronics business in Silicon Valley, Taiwan, and China. His main focus now is as a social worker with his private foundation working with Rotary. Frank started his talk by reviewing Chinese history and revealing some modern achievements – the Olympic buildings, the Hangzhou Bay Bridge and the High Speed Bullet Train. He emphasized that although the coastal areas of China were very advanced, conditions in the vast interior of China were still in poverty. From this point Frank showed some of the humanitarian projects that he has initiated. In the health field he has been involved with a cleft lip mission (in conjunction with Interplast); open heart surgery, wheelchair distribution (4,500 in 2 years); cataract surgery; AIDS outreach as well as water projects. In addition, to combat literacy Frank has been instrumental in getting a new school built in a remote area, as well subsidizing the minimal wages of “barefoot” teachers. One could not help admiring the devoted effort that Frank has put in to help the disabled and impoverished in China. Frank did mention that he is working with CHARLES CHENG a former member of our club now in Shanghai, and the fact our Palo Alto Club has assisted financially in some of his projects. Rotary is not officially recognized in China, but Frank’s philosophy is that doing good work there is more important than formal approval at this time.

CLOSING

Our esteemed Club President MIKE COUCH closed the meeting after explaining to the speaker our practice of presenting a dictionary in their name to a child in East Palo Alto. (*Comment - Have you watched the speaker’s pleased expression when the significance of doing this dawns?*)

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

[Palo Alto Rotary - Speakers Schedule](#)

October 20 – Kevin Skelly, Ph.D. – Topic TBA

October 27 – Joe Simitian – The Latest in Laws: Who Thinks This Stuff Up?

NEARBY MEETING PLACES:

[Palo Alto Rotary - Meeting Information](#)