

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date October 27, 2008

Reporter: BILL BUSSE

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

November 3 - Dr. Judy Miner, President of Foothill College - Topic TBA

November 10 - Lee Hockstader - The Great Unmentionable: Immigration and the Next President - Lee will talk about how the issue of illegal immigration fell off the political map in the general election and why it is likely to come back to challenge the next president.

November 17 - Steve Player officiates- The Annual Big Game Exchange with Berkeley Rotary Club

November 24 - Dark - Happy Thanksgiving!

“SEND YOUR GOOD IDEAS TO ME!”

Our State Senator, JOE SIMITIAN, did an outstanding job of describing why and how we can change the world... well, at least the United States!

Before writing notes on Joe's talk here's the introduction by County Supervisor Supreme...the Honorable Liz Kniss.

“Joe came up through the ranks of the Palo Alto School Board and Palo Alto City Council and has been a State Senator since 2004.”

“What do you think Joe's salary is a year?” SAM: “One million!” Actually it is \$116,000 which includes all of his travel to and from Sacramento.

“A special welcome to LEN ELY, the elder, who is a great supporter of the Valley Medical Center Bond Measure and is one of our Palo Alto icons!”

LIZ: *“I take long walks and Joe takes short walks.”*

JOE: *“Actually I get most of my exercise RUNNING for office...JUMPING to conclusions and taking LEAPS of faith.”* So there!

SENATOR SIMITIAN talked at length about *“what goes on in Sacramento”* and fielded an array questions. First he paid homage his Paly Class of '70 which included such luminaries as GARY FAZZINO, TODD LEWIS, and LARRY BAILEY. (Not to mention Curt Busse)

As most of us know, JOE has sponsored some key State legislation. Perhaps the most well known is the bill to make talking on cell phones while driving a punishable offense. As a result of his effort 40 other states have followed suit and he has become known nationwide as *“The distracted guy in California.”*

Did you know that during the past two years there have been 4,865 bills introduced...that 2,151 made it to the Governor's desk and that Arnold vetoed 651...the highest ever in the State of California

Where do proposed laws come from? *“From people in California who see a need.”* Joe has sponsored a program called *“There ought to be a Law”* which asks constituents for their recommendations. Four hundred ideas were submitted last year...three were selected...all were enacted into law.

Two of Joe's favorites legislative missiles, which died early deaths, were “Ferret Amnesty” and a “No Spanking” bill.

In conclusion, Senator Simitian noted that when California passes landmark legislation, the world follows.

So *“Send your good ideas to Joe!”*

Other Simitian comments:

There has not been a veto override in California in 30 years.

He is for Proposition 11, Redistricting. It will minimize voter cynicism and give the public more confidence in the democratic process.

He has been able to reach the public through Town Hall Meetings, Sidewalk Office Hours, speaking to Rotarians, and appearing on TV. (He has been on the Dr. Phil show)

All in all, it was an outstanding program. Thanks to everyone who made it possible and special thanks our guest speaker, the Honorable Joe Simitian!

Contact President MIKE! Do it today!

THE PELDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was led by **DAVE SMULLIN** who prefaced the event by noting that we have the collective good fortune of living in a land where voting is a given right.

AT THE SUGGESTION OF LIZ KNISS a Straw Vote was taken as to whether the condiment with the fruit salad should be yogurt or cottage cheese. The “straw” was a “draw.”

BARB MITCHELL INVITED MEMBERS TO INTRODUCE THEIR GUESTS...

However, Barb started by introducing member/guest **GARY FAZZINO**. (Gary proceeded to contribute \$250 for each of his children. Perhaps out of “lack of attendance” guilt or out of pure charity. In any event, the generous contribution was much appreciated.)

OTHER GUESTS:

PIETER KARK...Inna Skvortsova from St Petersburg, Russia

LEN ELY, JR....His dad and Simitian supporter, Len Ely, Sr.

IRIS KOROL...Palo Alto City Manager Jim Keene

DAVID BLITZ...Steve Clark a past Rotary Exchange student

JACK HENRICKS...his son, John

GLORIA HOM...longtime friend, Mary Ann Wong

WALT HAYS...Foundation for Global Community Pres. Richard Rathbun

BARB MITCHELL...Simitian Staffers Henna Morgan & Tyler Haskell

GLORIA HOM, OUR RESIDENT POLITICAL

GENIUS gave a non-biased review of the State Propositions. Well, almost non-biased. She gave a somewhat impassioned pitch for Proposition 11, Redistricting. Way to go Gloria. We knew you could overcome your non-bias bias!

PRESIDENTIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Plan to attend the **STANFORD/USC TAILGATE!** We will be tailgating at **STEVE PLAYER'S** tailgate. More tailgate info to come...but put down “Tailgate” on your tailgate calendar. See you at the “Tailgate.”

OAXACA SIGN-UPS. To date we have 21 who have signed up and deposited \$200. The trip and project will be from February 2nd to the 12th. There are a few places left.

BLUE BADGE GURU ANNETTE GLANCKOPF, with an assist from our illustrious Prez, presented Blue Badges, symbolic of high Rotarydom, to **ANDY COE, KEVIN CURRY, SCOTT GLISSMEYER, KELLY MORARIU, and SHARON WAGNER.** Congratulations one and all! And especially long time member **SHARON.**

NEW MEMBER INDUCTION

President **MIKE** with an introduction by **E.J. HONG** welcomed **TERRY FATEHI** as the newest member of the Rotary Club of Palo Alto. Welcome, **TERRY.** We look forward to getting to know you!

FOR SMITHWICK SAKE...WAIT FOR THE MIKE!

BOB requests that members who have a question in Q & A wait for the microphone, so that everyone can hear the question. Amen...brothers and sisters!

ROTARY FOUNDATION TESTIMONIAL

Past Prez **ROB LANCEFIELD** concluded his October Foundation Fund Raising effort by asking **JOYCE CUSICK** to share her thoughts on the importance of giving. Joyce did so with personal insight into the need to work for world peace through Rotary. Also, if you are a new contributor, **AXEL MERK** will contribute \$100 for the first ten gifts of any amount, but preferably \$100 plus. Go for it! Our goal is \$22,000. (Rob reports that the amount is \$11,000 as of the date of this publication.)

ED SCHLEH, a Club member for over 30 years, but unable to attend meetings in recent years, passed away on October 21st. The family asks that gifts in his name be sent to Palo Alto Rotary Charities or the Palo Alto Rotary Club Endowment Fund.

Ed had his own management firm for 35 years. He wrote many articles and five books on management and was given the Frederick Taylor Award in management. Ed was a devoted Rotarian. Our thoughts and condolences go out to his family.

NEARBY MEETING PLACES:

[Palo Alto Rotary - Meeting Information](#)