

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

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## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

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

November 24 - Dark - Happy Thanksgiving!

### **VISITORS AND GUESTS:**

SHERRI SAGER introduced visiting Rotarians: Harry Springer from Sunnyvale. Guests Russell Albright and Riccardo Torleo were introduced by JOAN PLASTIRAS and PETER GUENTERMANN, respectively.

### **OPENING REMARKS:**

E.J. HONG revealed the mysterious processes of the Program Committee. She is co-chair with JUDITH STEINER. Other members of the Committee are ANY COE, MIKE COUCH, DIANA DIAMOND, TOM GRACON, SKIP HOYT, CARL KING, DAVID NEGRIN, JOAN PLASTIRAS, ROB LANCEFIELD, DENNIS SHEEHAN, and ART STAUFFER, with STEVE MADSEN as AV support. WES GARINDER AND MARK NADIM, though not currently members, have also served on the committee this year. (It's almost easier to list who is not on the Committee.) E.J. said the programs have three 'moving parts': the Inviter, the Introducer, and the Coordinator (the latter making all arrangements).

### **PRESIDENT'S CLUB:**

BILL BUSSE joined and paid \$102 in honor of longtime member and past president GEORGE KNOWLES, who just attained the age of 102.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

MIKE noted that a picture of the play structure the club is buying for the orphanage in Oaxaca is on the bulletin board. He also thanked DENNIS BOYLE for a great visit to IDEO, and invited red badgers to attend the Board meeting on Thursday at the Cardinal Hotel.

DICK FREEMAN requested that the following ad be included: In today's tough economy, we're all looking for ways to save a dollar. Entertainment Books are one answer – for yourself or a perfect Christmas gift with savings at restaurants, hotels, airlines grocery stores, sporting events and much more. The price is only \$25.00, with \$5,00 going to the club.

RALPH ADAMS, chair of auction items for the club's 2009 Gala, urged members to think out of the box and come up with "priceless gifts," such as last years gift of lunch with former

Defense Secretary William Perry.

STEVE PLAYER reminded everyone that next week, after Stanford "crushes" USC, is the annual Big Game Exchange, when members of the Berkeley Club will visit us.

CASH ALAEE noted that the Club Tailgate is this Saturday, in the Toyon Grove. Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served. Also, the club's Holiday Party will be on Tuesday, December 16, from 6-8:30 at the Kniss home.

SALLY TOMLINSON announced that the Environmental Volunteers are restoring

old Sea Scout building in the Baylands to become their new office and EcoCenter. She invited members to come and watch on Friday.

PETER GUENTERMANN reported that he attended a District meeting involving representatives from Rotary, Rotaract and Interact. He also said that our club, the University Club and Stanford Rotaract are planning a Habitat Work Day on Saturday, January 10.

**Finally**, MIKE announced that in January he and Jean will host a "Salon" in their office, where Bob Spears will talk about his experience in the Republic of Georgia.

### **PROGRAM:**

MIKE MCMAHON introduced Lee Hockstader, a journalist who has served the Washington Post in Latin America, Russia, Rome and Jerusalem and is now on its editorial board, to talk about "The Great Unmentionable: Immigration and the Next President." It is such a controversial issue that in eight hours of debates the candidates studiously avoided it. In fact, their platforms were quite similar: a pathway to citizenship for the 12 million illegals in the country; a guest worker program; a wall to keep others out; and enforcement against employers. Both advertised heavily in Spanish media, and Obama's ads were effective in attacking McCain for switching from a positive to a negative position on the issue. McCain also suffered from the virulent anti-immigrant actions of the Republican Party on all government levels. As a result, Latinos helped Obama win in the formerly Republican-leaning states of Nevada, Colorado, New Mexico and Florida.

*The issue will not go away now that the election is over, because the current policy – or lack thereof – is untenable. Despite the wall and the tripling of the Border Patrol, approximately 500,000 illegals enter each year. While other pressing issues will enable Obama to avoid dealing with the problem soon, he will have to do so to be reelected, or he will lose the large and growing population of Latinos who supported him this time.*

### **NEARBY MEETING PLACES**

**[Palo Alto Rotary - Meeting Information](#)**

