RALPH ADAMS started the meeting at 12:15PM. JANE BOOKER led the pledge.

VISITORS & GUESTS

ED DANGLER welcomed our guests:
DICK FREEMAN's guests Corky Freeman and Andy Chen**;** WALT HAYS's guest Jim Sutherland**;** LE LEVY's guest Jack Adler**;** BILL KIRK's guest Grace Kirk.

OPENING REMARKS

BOB SMITHWICK shared memories prompted by the pending transfer of the US Presidency. In 1942, Bob was stationed with the Navy at Great Lakes Naval Station with 25,000 new recruits and eager trainees coming and going daily. Bob developed a friendship with the first African American to achieve the rank of Lieutenant JG, but who still was not allowed equal privileges or services. Bob's story illustrated how far we've come with racial equality and achievement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WALT HAYS made a special announcement to update everyone on the success of Rotary's polio eradication program. Cases of polio are down 99%, with Afghanistan, India, Nigeria and Pakistan as the only countries where polio is left. To finish the job, the Gates Foundation has given Rotary $100 million to Rotary International as a matching grant. Our club's obligation will be $3,000 over three years.

GLORIA HOM invited everyone to a special Rotary Banquet to celebrate the **Year of the Ox** at Mings on **Friday**, January 30 at 6:00PM (**Note the new date!**). Special menu items will be provided. Please pre-pay $50.00 per person (includes tax and gratuity) to GLORIA or VICKY CHING.

DAN QUINN quickly announced the SOIL (Sustainable Organic Integrated Livelihoods) program for Haiti has calendars for sale. Contact DAN.

MIKE COUCH reminded us of the upcoming March 21 Gala which will honor SAM WEBSTER.

ED DANGLER and AXEL MERK made generous donations to the President's Club.

Reminder: No Rotary meeting on Monday January 19, Martin Luther King Day

RALPH ADAMS thanked members of Jack Hendricks' family and friends for their generous memorial donations to Palo Alto Rotary.

PROGRAM

ANDY COE introduced Larry Diamond, who is a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution and at Stanford University's Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies. He is also founding coeditor of the Journal of Democracy, co-director of the International Forum for Democratic Studies of the National Endowment for Democracy, and received Stanford's 2007 Teacher of the Year. His new book, "Spirit of Democracy" will be available in February.

Larry provided a provocative discussion criticizing the Bush administration, stating that, "Democratic progress under Bush has been a failure due to arrogance and unnecessary use of force." He recommended Tom Friedman's book, "Hot, Flat, and Crowded" for more insight on world events and ineffective US policy and implementation. He felt Obama is inheriting the biggest set of challenges since FDR, adding that we need radical change in foreign aid if we are to advance human development.

Q—US is not always the best or transparent in its foreign aid programs…we even support dictatorships.

A—Yes. The Haiti situation is very complicated. Need to give incentives for good governance.

Q—What about demonetizing the drug trade?

A—Could produce great long-term results, particularly for Mexico, but immediate result would be a skyrocketing increase in consumption

Q—How do traditional values enter in international diplomacy?

A—Sometimes cultural values impede societal progress. Increasingly, traditional values are changing to question authority.

RALPH thanked Larry for a great presentation with a book to be dedicated to Green Oaks Academy inscribed with Larry's name.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS
Palo Alto Rotary - Speakers Schedule

January 19 – Dark for Martin Luther King Day

January 26 – Bill Johnson – "Why Newspapers are dying – and should we care?"

February 2 – Dionne Bunsha – "Who's Riding the tiger? Exploring the Underbelly of the Shining India Hype"

NEARBY MEETING PLACES:
Palo Alto Rotary - Meeting Information