

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date: March 30, 2009

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS

April 6 – Jesse Cool, Restaurant Owner, Flea Street Café in Menlo Park and Cool Café, Cantor Arts Center on the Stanford Campus. “The Farmer and the Cook-Who Are We in the Community”.

April 13 – Babak Dehghanpisheh, Stanford Knight Fellow: The Challenges of Reporting from the Middle East: Afghanistan, Iraq and Iran.

April 20 – Jeffry Walker, Executive Director, Community School of Music and Arts – Title TBA

CALL TO ORDER:

MIKE COUCH started the meeting at 12:15PM. WES GARDINER led the pledge of allegiance (very appropriate for this meeting as you'll see below).

VISITORS AND GUESTS

DARYL SAVAGE welcomed our guests:

Visiting Rotarians- Sant Kumar Jain from Ambala India, Candace Roney from San Jose, Fred Seipp from Dallas, Art Adams from Los Gatos Morning Club

Guests: Michael Thompson/TONY CARRASCO, Katie Seedman, Lee Altschuler/EJ HONG, Audrey Rust/SAM WEBSTER, Ginny Lear/MARTHA KANTER

OPENING REMARKS

Were provided by CYRILLE BETANT who shared insights and history of Rotary as a traditional and yet changing social network. MySpace, Facebook, Twitter are increasing social networks around the world and could dramatically augment Rotary's operations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MIKE welcomed WARREN THOITS back with WARREN saying, “Glad to be back in the fold.” WARREN generously donated to the President's Club and the Palo Alto Rotary Endowment Fund. MIKE added that WARREN also generously donated to last week's Fundraising Gala.

SCOTT GLISSMEYER is still hospitalized after a heart valve replacement on March 10. He now has a recently discovered brain lesion. Hold Scott in your thoughts and prayers.

Sant Kumar Jain from Ambala, India told us about his Rotary Club and their \$50,000 challenge grant campaign with Rotary International.

PETER GUENTERMANN provided signup sheet for those wanting to be Stanford mentors.

MIKE asked for volunteers for the upcoming Rotary District Celebration April 17 and 19. MIKE also thanked DARYL SAVAGE for welcoming guests, JIM SUTHERLAND for cashier work and BRIAN STEEN for E-Pinion reporting.

PROGRAM

YORIKO KISHIMOTO introduced Palo Alto City Manager and new Rotarian JIM KEENE. JIM was the previous City Manager for Berkeley and Tucson and was known for tackling big issues. Recently Executive Director of the California Assoc. of Counties.

JIM shared several career experiences and anecdotes to illustrate his management philosophy.

- Public CEO: Private decisions are final when made; public ones are just the beginning.
- “*The city is a partnership for living well,*” William Shakespeare. Jim feels Palo Alto is the perfect environment for city leadership and partnership. Small enough and big enough at the same time.
- Jim sometimes has the feeling of “*Veja du...I've never been here before, even though I have.*”
- We need to be open to trying new things, to reshape and be viable for the future.
- Real life problems are local.

JIM listed a few of the challenges Palo Alto has to face: Budget shortfall of \$8Million, Fiber to the Public initiative, Stanford Hospital Expansion, redesigning Camino Real.

JIM concluded with the still appropriate Athenian oath:

“We will never bring disgrace on this our City by an act of dishonesty or cowardice.

We will fight for the ideals and Sacred Things of the City both alone and with many.

We will revere and obey the City's laws, and will do our best to incite a like reverence and respect in those above us who are prone to annul them or set them at naught.

We will strive increasingly to quicken the public's sense of civic duty.

Thus in all these ways we will transmit this City, not only not less, but greater and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us.”

MIKE thanked JIM for a great presentation noting a dictionary will be dedicated to Green Oaks Academy, inscribed with his name.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30PM.

NEARBY MEETING PLACES

[Palo Alto Rotary - Meeting Information](#)