



Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

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Reporter: BILL BUSSE

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ONCE AGAIN WE WERE HONORED by having President-Elect RALPH ADAMS preside over our Palo Alto Rotary Club proceedings. As someone said after Ralph brought the meeting to order with a mighty ring of the Club bell, *"You can always tell a West Point graduate!"* Another wag added the well-worn bromide, *"But you can't tell him very much!"* (Don't hurry back, Mike!)

FIRST ON THE DOCKET (Following the pledge led by General Adams) was OPENING REMARKS by ex-Navy type, BILL BUSSE. It was about a Navy Reunion in Pensacola, Florida...the famous Flying Midshipmen including Neil Armstrong...the first Atlantic crossing by a Curtiss flying boat in 1919...the Blue Angels in their F-15 jets practicing amazing routines...the incredible advance in various devices since SAM WEBSTER was born...Amazon Kindles...Apple iPhones...moon landers...and women in Rotary. It ended with a story about an alleged statement Pilot Armstrong made as he boarded the moon lander for the return flight. *"Good luck Mr. Grovski!"* You had to be there!

GENIAL GEORGE WHEATON ABLY HANDLED INTROS Visiting from Slovenia was Ziga Vavpotic who was promised a Palo Alto Club banner on his next visit. **Guests of Rotarians** were AUDREY RUST, shortly thereafter welcomed back as a member of the Club and BRUCE GEE, also to be welcomed into our midst.

THE CLUB ENDOWMENT FUND PITCH was made by Past President JACK WOODSON. *"Consider making a contribution from your 201K (previously known as a 401K) on Memorial Day in memory of someone near and dear!"* All Club members are encouraged to participate at whatever level is appropriate. **Past Presidents JOHN O'KEEFE and WALT HAYS were recognized for initiating the Fund.**

A PLETHORA OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

First up was CASH ALAEE requesting we each bring a bottle of wine. The event is the **SPRING PARTY** hosted by his immanence President COUCH and wife, JEAN. Save the date...Sunday June 7th 4:30 to 7 pm...26790 St. Francis Rd...Los Altos Hills. (Pick up a map at our June 1st Club Meeting.)

Another great upcoming event. Immediate Past President LANCEFIELD announced this year's **DEBUNKING** is scheduled for Monday June 29th at six pm. The Dinner & Program will take place at the Community School of Music and Arts...230 San Antonio Circle...MV.

GEORGE FITZGERALD announced that the **Memorial Service** for SHARON WAGNER will be at 4 pm June 4th at the Presbyterian Church in Palo Alto.

According to SAM WEBSTER, HIG HIGGINS is recovering from a major heart attack. Best wishes Hig, and hurry back!

NEW MEMBERS INDUCTED!

WALT HAYS introduced past PA Rotary member and Executive Director of Peninsula Open Space Trust, AUDREY RUST. TODD LEWIS and BILLY ALHOUSE introduced BRUCE GEE. Bruce is an associate of Todd and Sam Webster and is Billy's son-

in-law. Mr. Alhouse also welcomed himself back to the Club in a most gracious way. Great to see you again, Billy!

PROGRAM..."INDIA'S ARRIVAL AS A GREAT POWER." "STAND IN" PRESIDENT ADAMS did the honors of introducing speaker John Ciorciaria. RALPH noted that John is a National Fellow at the Hoover Institute and a specialist on the nation of India. It was evident to all that he is a consummate scholar on the history and future of this important country.

Dr. Ciorciaria started by sharing the fact he had received a Rotary Scholarship some years ago and was most appreciative.

John related India's "rebirth" at the time of the separation from Pakistan. (This event triggered the largest migration in human history.) As the new nation of Pakistan developed, it became very important to the United States... primarily because it bordered on the Soviet Union, our Cold War adversary. As a result, India tilted politically toward the Soviet empire. They also became a nuclear power. (John noted that they still refused to join the IAEA...The International Atomic Energy Association.)

Under Nehru the country embraced socialism. With a series of economic reforms in the 1990's they have gained stature on the world stage and like to consider themselves a "Great Power."

"What does a strong India mean to the United States?" India is a swing state as far as our political interests are concerned. They are currently preoccupied with Pakistan over Kashmir, but at the same time are interested in improving ties with the United States to counterbalance the influence of China.

In answer to questions..."Bush was popular with the people of India." *"At this time we have our best relationship with India in the past 60 years, and the challenge is to maintain it."* *"The outlook between nuclear powers Pakistan and India is dicey!"* *"The social inequities continue, but are slowly improving."* *"They still suffer from internal rebellions."*

John gave a most lucid and informed presentation. For obvious reasons, it's a special gift to have Stanford University next door. Thanks to the Program Committee for their efforts in providing us with such outstanding programs!

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

[Palo Alto Rotary - Speakers Schedule](#)

May 25 – Dark – Memorial Day Observed

June 1 – Dennis Boyle, Partner and Founding Member at IDEO – "Flight to Oshkosh"

June 8 – Steve Levy, Director and Senior Economist of the Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy (CCSCE) – "When will the Recession End in California and the Country?"

June 15 – New Member Talks by Terry Fatehi, Dave Thornton, and TBA

NEARBY MEETING PLACES:

[Palo Alto Rotary - Meeting Information](#)