

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter Date: August 3, 2009 Reporter: GOEFF ZIMAN

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS

August 10 – Managing General Partner, Bill Neukom, SF Giants

August 17 - Linda Craighead, Public Arts Commission - Visuals and Controversy

August 24 - Archaeologist, Mark Hylkema, Early Palo Alto - Ohlone Indians

There has been a move recently to upgrade our image and attempt to bring a greater degree of decorum to club affairs. It has been noted that some recent Pinions have tended to be somewhat lighthearted and overly candid. However, in order to illustrate what may be imposed on your reporters, this account shows how its original form (stricken through) has been modified (in italics) to comply with the desired upgrading.

Members ~~ambled in~~ arrived promptly as usual. Past President IRIS KOROL ~~did her duty~~ acted as a cordial greeter. Lunch dues were ~~fairly~~ very efficiently collected by BRUCE SWENSON. STEVE MADSEN, ~~unsung club stalwart~~ devoted club member, was again responsible for the meeting logistics. President RALPH ADAMS ~~with difficulty~~ authoritatively got the attention of the club and requested ED DANGLER to lead the flag salute. Ed ~~demande~~d suggested that veterans should make a forehead military hand salute, rather than the conventional hand-over-heart gesture. JACK WOODSON ~~just~~ managed in masterly fashion to introduce three ~~refugees~~ distinguished Rotarians from the Los Altos Club. He also ~~allowed~~ encouraged ADRIAN MIKOLAJCZAK to introduce his guest, Kinzie Ferguson.

WALT HAYS proudly introduced Sasha Kramer, who made a quick presentation on her outstanding work in Haiti and the exceptional organization SOIL (Sustainable Organic Integrated Livelihoods). A description of basic sanitation needs in Haiti would hardly seem an appropriate luncheon topic, but Sasha's



devotion to helping the underprivileged there made a positive impression on the members. PIETER KARK is heading up our current support for her work.

This serious moment was followed by CHESLEY DOUGLAS confessing to reaching the ~~old~~ venerable age of three score years and twenty. There was a ~~noisy~~ polite debate on the expected magnitude of his contribution ~~with the majority calling for \$200.~~ A compromise was reached with a ~~ragged~~ stirring Happy Birthday rendition. The President ~~groveled with~~ expressed a Mea Culpa. He decreed no more political announcements would be allowed from the podium. At this point the meeting ~~deteriorated into~~ was elevated by ~~dubious~~ hilarious joke telling by SAM WEBSTER, JOHN O'KEEFE and SY GREENSTONE. Some of them paid ~~deserved~~ fines, while others tried to make use of their President's Club immunity. DAVID NEGRIN for \$100 (although immune) spoke of a 100-mile walk accomplishment by his son and daughter round Lake Tahoe to benefit cancer research. LE LEVY also kicked in \$100 to the club to praise a performance of "The Producers" in the (our club's own BOB) SMITHWICK Theater at Foothill College.

Our main speaker, Sharon Tennison, was *ably* introduced by LINDSEY NORTH. What followed was a most enlightening talk about the reality of Russia today from a very thoughtful person who lives a large part of the year in St. Petersburg, and who travels extensively in the country. In addition, Sharon has had the benefit of working for many years to promote exchange of business people between the two countries. It is hard in this report to do justice to the many interesting points that Sharon made, so it is recommended that members interested in learning more should Google on "Sharon Tennison" as well as going to the informative website www.russiaotherpointsofview.com Sharon used a large portion of her time in a question and answer session that proved very effective.



NEARBY MEETING PLACES Palo Alto Rotary - Meeting Information www.rotarypaloalto.org