

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

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Editor: LYLE CONNELL

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

October 26 - Teru Kuwayama, Knight Fellow at Stanford

November 2 - Alain C. Enthoven, Marriner S. Eccles Professor of Public and Private Management (Emeritus) in the Graduate School of Business at Stanford University, "Please don't call it Reform because it isn't."

OPENERS:

PREZ RALPH called on STEVE EMSLIE to lead us all in the Pledge, which was, as usual, enthusiastically rendered by all...

OPENING REMARKS:

Opening remarks were delivered by NANCY PETERS who spoke on the need to allow our natural tendency to suppress our emotions in favor of devolving a conscience in dealing with our daily and sometimes difficult obligations.

VISITORS and GUESTS:

Visiting Rotarians and guests were introduced by BRUCE GEE.

Visiting Rotarians were: Chaiti Chatterjee, guest of GINNY LEAR, and today's speakers, Jim Baer and Chop Keenan.

Guests (Hosts) were: Marnie Feurer (JIM SUTHERLAND), Dave Conklin, George McKee, Georgie McKee and Owen Johnson (all guests of LENARD ELY), Greg Scharff (ANNETTE GLANCKOPF), Samir Tvma and Peter Drekmeier (ROGER SMITH), Michael Love (BRIAN STEEN), Jocelyn Villaruz (ANDY COE), John McNellis (DARYL AVAGE) and Tim Clark Lerner, and Cristina Cienfuegos (BOB SMITHWICK)

A near record crowd of over 100 attended today's meeting, by count and by noise!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PREZ RALPH announced that a Board meeting will be held this Wednesday morning, 8:30 am at Ming's front small dining room and that a past-presidents' breakfast will be held next Friday at 7:30 am at Scott's Seafood Grill & Bar, Town & Country Village, El Camino Real & Embarcadero Rd.

STEVE PLAYER auctioned off a "secret item" with generous offers to match the winning bid eventually made by ROGER SMITH, from both ROGER SMITH and PREZ RALPH. All of this action gave the club \$4,200 and got us closer to our goal for the year of \$20,000 (we're now above \$11,000, as reported by MIKE COUCH). The "secret item" was a bottle of wine, vintage 2000 and was gifted to Kim Webster, and is to be delivered by SAM.

IRIS KOROL announced recent decisions by the Think

Tank to be re-named, the Spring Event Committee. It's Goal is to raise \$50,000 to \$75,000 at the fund raising event, now scheduled to be held in April or May, 2010. The response to the inquiry was enthusiastic, **110 club** members answered the request for feedback about the event - the dominant themes expressed were for low key, a location to match, concentration on fun as opposed to fund raising. However, we have many worthy causes to support and IRIS expressed the need for committee volunteers (and "assignees"). The location selected by the committee was the "YW" on Alma St., also the location of Congregation Etz Chayim, a local synagogue. They're charging a modest \$900 to rent their spacious dining facility (which is being underwritten by committee member DAVID NEGRIN). Y'all help out - call IRIS1

THE PROGRAM:

Today's speakers were introduced by DAVE PRICE. Speaking for and opposed to Measure A, the business license tax, respectively, were **Jim Baer and Chop Keenan**. Both have played a major role in re-developing downtown PA and are both property managers and owners affected by the business license tax.

Jim received both his bachelor's JD and MBA from Stanford. He practiced law specializing in real estate transactions. Beginning in 1983 he became involved with the development of commercial buildings in Palo Alto through his entity Premier Properties, which has become the most active developer of small parcel commercial properties in the city.

Chop is the President of the Keenan Land Company, which he founded in 1968. He has been responsible for the development of major office, retail and residential projects in the Bay Area over the past four decades.

The discussion involved the effect the business license tax would have on local current and new businesses. Jim contended that the attraction of Palo Alto, Stanford and the local area was such that a negative impact is very unlikely. He noted that the cost, \$95/yr. was not a hardship and that the positive aspects compensated in terms of business interests.

Chop contended that it was "bad" for small and home-based businesses, and that there was no provision for renewal notices, thereby forcing penalties to be levied in case of failures to renew. DAVE fielded and assigned questions to both. In any event, the issue is now scheduled to be decided on Election Day Nov. 4. Study and vote!

JOKE OF THE WEEK: A sign on the lawn of a rehab center said: "Keep off the grass."

NEARBY MEETING PLACES

[Palo Alto Rotary - Meeting Information](#)
www.rotarypaloalto.org