

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter Date: December 21, 2009 Reporter: Bill BUSSE Editor: LYLE CONNELL

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

January 4, TBA

January 11, Justin Arenstein, Stanford Knight Fellow, publisher and CEO, African Eye News Service (AENS) and HomeGrown Magazines, Nelspruit, South Africa. "Current Political Crisis in South Africa"

January 18, Sam Savage, PhD, founder and president of AnalyCorp Inc, a firm that develops executive education programs and software for improving business analysis; Consulting Professor at Stanford, husband of Dayrl, "Understanding Risk and Probability"

ALTHOUGH WE STARTED WITH THE PLEDGE...ably led by ROB LYMAN...you may note that after the pledge very little of this Pinion follows in chronological order... but most of us wouldn't know, or probably care anyway, so here goes.

IT WAS BILLED AS A CLUB ASSEMBLY, but was it? **President RALPH announced** that the question for the "Assembly" was, *"What one thing would you like to recommend to our Rotary Club?"* As you read this Pinion you will note that nary a suggestion was made. Which leads one to believe that either the Club is perfect in all respects...or that no one other than your scribe heard Prez RALPH's request.

(Our Exalted Ruler went on to note that today was not only the shortest day of the year, but was the nadir of his presidential term...which he asserted means that it is all up hill from here.)

GOOD GOING BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

In it's great wisdom your illustrious Board has determined that outstanding Rotarians BILLY ALHOUSE and CHET DOUGLAS warrant being advanced to Honorary Membership. Way to go, guys! (Note: In addition to being honorees, our heroes are no longer required to pay dues! What a deal!)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY BOB!

It was a much deserved standing ovation, followed by a rousing chorus of *"Happy Birthday to You"*, for the Honorary BOB SMITHWICK. Bob noted that it may be the shortest day, but on the other hand it's the longest night...which is good news for all you party goers.

GUESTS OF PALO ALTO ROTARIANS (There being no Visiting Rotarians)

E.J. HONG...Roseanne Fairty

GEORGE FITZGERALD...His son, David Fitzgerald

BOB McCOWAN...Eliane Neukermans.

LE LEVY...Mike Repka (As reported later, both Mike and Eliane were

also inducted into membership.)

STEVE'S OPENING REMARKS

It was good advice, and as Alan Sherman said many years ago, *"Good advice costs nothing and it's worth the price!"* However, STEVE EMSLIE shared a lot of **very valuable thoughts** for the Holiday Season. A brief sampling:

Spend time with people

Start planning your summer vacation

Schedule some guilty pleasure

Live the spirit of the Holidays all year long

THANKS TO ALL OF THE BOOKIES!

Immediate Past President MIKE COUCH reported on the annual visit to Green Oaks Academy to distribute English/Spanish dictionaries. Participating in this joyous event were: GINNY LEAR... ART STAUFFER... JIM SUTHERLAND... and LOU KAVANAU

GINNY LEAR ON MEMBERSHIP

"During Prez RALPH's tenure nine new Red Badgers have been inducted." And thanks to the efforts of DAVE THORNTON we have been reinstated as a "Feeding the Homeless" Club at the Presbyterian Church. What is the connection, you may ask? Well, a new Red Badge requirement is to participate in this important homeless dinner event. As before, Blue Badgers are also welcome!

IT COMES AROUND EVERY YEAR and "IT'S A GREAT WAY TO ENTERTAIN YOUR FRIENDS!"

And according to GLORIA HOM this year it's the Chinese *"Year of the Tiger."* Join in the festivities on January 23rd at... where else... Ming's Restaurant. Check your e-mail for details! **Gong Hey Fat Choy!**

A WELL DESERVED ACCOLADE

On behalf of the Board of Directors fellow lawyer E.J. HONG presented a beautiful orchid plant to JOYCE CUSICK in honor of her many outstanding contributions to the Club. Oh, the fellow lawyer is not Joyce, but is none other than the founder of Rotary, PAUL HARRIS. Nice touch, E.J.!

IT WAS A GREAT HOLIDAY PARTY!

Seventy-five revelers descended on BRIAN and SANDY STEEN's abode for a bit of Rotary Holiday Cheer! Able support was provided by NINA MOORE... JOYCE CUSICK... CASH ALAEE... STEVE EMSLIE... DICK and CORKIE FREEMAN and unnamed others. *"Thanks Steens for being such gracious hosts."*

OUR POTENTIALLY MAGNIFICENT PRESIDENT-TO-BE CLARIFIED MONEY MATTERS.

MIKE McMAHON explained via Powerpoint where our

many contributions go. The slides were prepared by Past President ART STAUFFER and mostly made good sense. A copy of the various charts will be available on our outstanding web site...that is assuming our web master BRUCE GEE can swami them out.

PAST PRESIDENT LE LEVY MOUNTED THE PODIUM TO LEAD THE APPLAUSE FOR ROTARIANS *“who helped make Palo Alto a better place”*

Our newly remodeled Downtown Lytton Plaza came about, in part, due to the efforts of many dedicated Palo Alto Rotarians. LE singled out ROGER SMITH... STEVE EMSLIE... JIM KEENE... WARREN THOITS... KELLY MORARIU...JIM BAER... PAT BURT and YORIKO KISHIMOTO. Of course, the prime mover was none other than the LE-ster himself. LE made a contribution to our Endowment Fund in honor of all the participants. (An effort is underway to rename the park after Rotarian WARREN THOITS. That would close the loop in a most appropriate manner!)

INDUCTED

ELIANE NEUKERMANS and MIKE REPKA... sponsored by BOB McCOWAN and LE LEVY respectively... were welcomed into the Club by President RALPH. Please take time to introduce yourself to Eliane and Mike. A minor challenge is to pronounce Eliane's name correctly. It's something like *“Elly on.”* In any event, it's nice to have you

both on the Team!

THE PROGRAM

As noted, this was a Club Assembly, but the assembled club members had nary a recommendation as to how we might improve matters during President RALPH's last six months as high mucky muck. You must be doing outstanding work, Sir Ralph!

AS A FINAL GESTURE

Those in attendance filled out ballots for our Annual Election. The results may come as no surprise since the nominating Committee does such an exemplary job of selecting candidates for President... President Elect and the Board of Directors. Assuming there are no write-in candidates, it is a done deal! So, come to our January 4th Meeting and congratulate the winners! (We would have appended a list of those so honored, but there were just enough ballots to go around.)

AND AS A FINAL FINAL GESTURE

Under the guidance of LYLE CONNELL a group photograph was taken. No minor task this. Just imagine herding a vast number of unruly Rotarians into position and having them both smile and stand, or sit, still. Way to go Lyle!



Happy New Year

NEARBY MEETING PLACES

[Palo Alto Rotary - Meeting Information](#)

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