

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter **Date:** January 18, 2010 **Reporter:** Brian Steen **Editor:** LYLE CONNELL

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

January 25 Hon. LaDoris Cordell retired as Superior Court Judge and as Special Counselor the President for Campus Relations at Stanford, legal analyst for CBS-5 "Blow and Go"

February 1 Mary Greenwood, Public Defenders Office

February 8, Marilyn Yajom, "400 years of US History Through Cemeteries"

CALL TO ORDER:

RALPH ADAMS started the meeting at 12:15PM.

VISITORS AND GUESTS

ART STAUFFER welcomed our guests:

Visiting Rotarians: Bonnie Welling, Menlo Park, Artist
Rotarians with Guests: VICKY CHING introduced her husband Wu-Chung Hsiang, KAREN SINGER introduced John Edwards, BRIAN STEEN introduced Guillaume Peters, DARYL SAVAGE introduced her son, Jacob Savage.

OPENING REMARKS

were provided by KEVIN CURRY, who expressed



puzzlement over some things he's observed since moving to California from Minnesota.

1. Drivers are courteous in CA compared to MN. Passive aggressive driving doesn't seem to exist here.
2. Power transmission here seems behind modern practices. Why so many overhead wires?
3. Emergency vehicle response

here is overwhelming. Why is a 40ft ladder fire truck dispatched on a 911 ambulance call?

4. Local government is over developed here. Two cities, Palo Alto, CA and Edina, MN are similar comparable, by size, population, crime rate, schools and parks cities, but Palo Alto has 1,416 city employees; Edina has 200. Why so? JUDY KLEINBERG, former PA Mayor, provided KEVIN with some answers following the meeting.

GLORIA HOM urged everyone to purchase tickets to this Saturday's Chinese New Year dinner and party to be held at Ming's starting at 6PM. There will be a Tai Chi demonstration, specially prepared food, and performances by a highly acclaimed Chinese San Francisco dance troop. Attire is "Smart Casual."

GENNY LEAR gave a preview of the 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee to be held at Foothill College on February 26, with Rotarians to meet early for a party dinner. More details to come.

WALT HAYS spoke about different ways Rotarians can provide disaster relief support to Haiti. Walt will send out a special email with details.

BRIAN STEEN announced our next Hands On project will be on Saturday, Jan. 30, helping replant landscape trees on California Avenue from 9-12 noon. 15 volunteers are needed.

JACK WOODSON reported on the Rotary Endowment Fund, currently with a \$500,000 balance. Average gift size to qualified nonprofits is \$10-25K. Pledge cards to be provided next week.

PROGRAM

JUDY KLEINBERG introduced Sam Savage, PHD/Yale, who teaches Management Science at the Stanford Engineering School. He has been a Visiting Professor at Northwestern University's Kellogg School and the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, and has recently been appointed to the position of Senior Associate of the Judge Business School at the University of Cambridge.



He's authored a new book, *The Flaw of Averages: Why We Underestimate Risk in the Face*

of Uncertainty.

NEARBY MEETING PLACES

[Palo Alto Rotary - Meeting Information](http://www.rotarypaloalto.org)
www.rotarypaloalto.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS Last minute !! We just found out that there is a Rotaract Mixer on Monday, January 25th, 6:30 pm, Tressider Union at Stanford. Our Club really needs a few people to attend. RSVP to Rick Tipton right away at (650) 208-2585.