



Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date APRIL 5, 2010

Reporter: LE LEVY

Editor: NICK NICHOLS

Amidst the gentle ululation of Rotarians sharing the trivia of their weekly travail, President ADAMS, enduring his (weekly travail), banged his gavel with increasing cacophonous resonance in an attempt to bring order out of chaos and deliver another Rotary meeting to the ungrateful minitude.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by CHESLEY DOUGLAS of whom (enforced) absence has, indeed, made our hearts grow fonder. Recovered from two broken vertebrae, he looks (I might say) as good as ever.

GREG SCHARFF introduced visiting Rotarians Stefan Schultz from Nantes Atlantique, France, Vince Bitz from Los Altos Sunset, and District Governor LOREN HARPER. Governor HARPER urged Palo Alto Rotarians to attend at least some of the Apr. 23-25 Spring Conference in Monterey. On Friday the 23rd, the speaker will be famed underwater explorer, Jacques Michel Cousteau; the evening's entertainers, the Waterloo Band, famed for their "ABBA"-type music. Even if you're attending our April 24th fund-raiser (about which more later), you could have a wonderful time on the 23rd or the 25th in Monterey.

GREG then called on Rotarians with guests, a plethora of whom arose. PAM BRANDIN introduced her daughter, Vanessa Roach; BRUCE GEE introduced, Zach Landes; TOM GRACON, Christine Larson; GINNY LEAR, Christina Chu; MIKE MCMAHON, Sue Hartenbaum; and BOB SMITHWICK, Monica Eva.

In his opening remarks, STEVE PLAYER spoke of visiting his dad's grave over Easter and thinking of all that his father and his family meant to him. He read a moving "letter from a son to his father" on the importance of family, patience and devotion.

Our April 24th "Notte Italiana" received special attention. AUDREY RUST, deftly taking a hand-off from STEVE EMSLIE, called on STEVE PLAYER to whet our appetite for bidding by auctioning off (does anyone ever auction "on") a beautifully home-baked pachetto of PAM BRANDIN'S savory cookies. Spirited bidding between JOY CUSICK and JOHN KIDD ended with KIDD taking home the bacon, err, biscotti.

Even more and better auction items will be available on the 24th, but if you have a bottle of wine, or know a

generous restaurateur, the auction committee will welcome additions to its list.

The Notte Italiana, of course, is to raise funds for our club's support of local non-profits. MARCIE COX, who serves on the Community Grant Committee, presented checks from last year's fund-raising efforts to Dr. Philip Rey, Executive Director of Adolescent Counseling Services, and Tammy Cardenas from Second Harvest Food Bank.

JUDITH STEINER, Chair of the Speaker's Committee, joined the President's Club and received applause for the excellent job her committee has done.

Evidence thereof was available in the person of today's speaker, James MacGregor, Publisher of the San Jose Daily Business Journal. Introduced by DIANA DIAMOND, the Toronto-bred, member of the Rotary Club of San Jose, spoke on job growth in Silicon Valley. He praised the relative economic health of our area versus say, Phoenix, where 67,000 homes were on the market last month. He already sees more start-up activity, and this area continuing to be strong. His prime message though, was that we would do better by focusing on regional cooperation, to develop an economic development strategy and reduce the bureaucracy confronted by Valley businesses.

Next week, our inimitable DAVID PRICE will M.C. a debate featuring the three local candidates in the Democratic primary for State Assembly.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

[Palo Alto Rotary - Speakers Schedule](#)

April 12 – "June Primary Debate", Assembly candidates Kishimoto, Gordon, and Becker, Moderated by Dave Price.

April 19 – "How will you use your influence? Women, Men, Money and Social Change", Christine Larson, Knight Fellow speaker and published author.

April 26 – "State of the City", Jim Keene, Palo Alto City Manager.

NEARBY MEETING PLACES:

[Palo Alto Rotary - Meeting Information](#)