

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter Date: May 10, 2010 Reporter: DON MORGAN Editor: LYLE CONNELL

PROGRAMS IN THE FUTURE

May 17 Delores Carr/Jeff Rosen "District Attorney's race debate"

May 24: Bob Hertzberg, Former Chair of California Democratic Party, "California Forward, no choice but change, how California Forward is developing responsible bipartisan governance reform to make California work again".

May 31: DARK, Memorial Day.

PRESIDENT RALPH asked CALEB BOWMAN to lead us the Pledge.

A SPECIAL REPORT

DICK FREEMAN reported that HIG HIGGIN's wife, Jane, passed away over the past weekend. Discussing absent Members, DICK noted that although CYRILLE BETANT was at work just across the street from Ming's, he was too busy to come for lunch, preparing for a business trip to Europe for his new employer, and that CHALMERS SMITH underwent a hip replacement last week. DICK circulated a card to CHALMERS for signature by the members present.

WHO'S VISITING

PRESIDENT RALPH called upon CHAITI CHATTERJEE to introduce visitors and guests. She discharged this function graciously, with the following:

Visiting Rotarians

Ward Wildanger of the Los Altos club talked briefly about the "Fine Art in the Park" exhibit this weekend in Los Altos, the principal fundraiser for that club. PRESIDENT RALPH later said that visiting the exhibit presented a great opportunity for all who enjoy and appreciate art.

Ray Silva, a Member and past President of the San Jose club, welcomed the opportunity to join the meeting.

Guests

JOY CUSICK introduced her guest, Sigrid Eley.

TODD Lewis presented Derrick Britt.

LE LEVY presented Ron Shapera, a retired physician.

MIKE McMAHON's guest was Sue Hartenbaum.

Real Estate Broker Christina Chu was the guest of GINNY LEAR. BOB SMITHWICK presented Monica Koch.

OPENING "TRIVIA"



LE LEVY conducted a trivia quiz about our nation's Presidents, to the amusement of all and satisfaction of those who came up with correct answers. The last crowd stumper was "Who was the only man to be elected Vice President twice and President twice." It pays to attend the meetings, doesn't it?

WHAT'S GOING ON

DICK FREEMAN reported for the WE CARE COMMITTEE that JIM BAER has moved to the Central Valley for further rehab; and Members can reach him through a website that his friend Jeri keeps, <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/jimbaer>. DICK also praised Members who had attended every previous meeting this year (one of whom was absent from the meeting, in Greece, an acceptable alibi), RALPH ADAMS, BOB BULMORE, LYLE CONNELL. KEVIN CURRY, JOYCE CUSICK, ED DANGLER, TOM GRACON, WALT HAYS, GINNY LEAR, MIKE McMAHON, JOHN O'KEEFE, BRIAN STEEN, JIM SUTHERLAND, and GEOFF ZIMAN. They received a hearty round of applause.

DAVID NEGRIN joined the President's Club, calling his recent move from Menlo Park to Oak Creek a "life-changing event."

We are honored to have two new members inducted, CHRISTINA CHU AND SUE HARTENBAUM.

"OVER THE ALPS WITH AN ELEPHANT, IN HANNIBAL'S TRACKS"

STEVE MADSEN said the principal speaker John Hoyle's background included having been born in China to missionary parents, spending WW II in a Japanese prison camp, and earning an engineering degree at Cambridge University. It was from Cambridge that he had retraced Hannibal's epic crossing of the Alps with elephants.



Mr. Hoyle explained that his venture began with a public disagreement between two distinguished professors about what route Hannibal had taken over the Alps from France to Italy. He put together a student group of nine to try to resolve the dispute by actually taking an elephant with them. They studied ancient texts that detailed Hannibal's ascent to a pass from which the Po Valley could be seen, and his rather precipitous downward journey, and planned to take a route that matched that description. They had no money and no elephant, however. They were very pleasantly surprised when he received an affirmative answer to his question whether the British Consul in Turin knew of anyone who could lend elephant! The head of the zoo there had just received a playful, mature African elephant with a circus background. He not only offered Jumbo for free, but also paid all expenses. The rest is history, amply covered by contemporary press, day-by-day reports of Jumbo's progress, and jubilancy of the first Italian town the group reached. Mr. Hoyle gave an entertaining account of all that, and responded to questions during the time remaining.

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