

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter Date: Aug 16, 2010 Reporter: DAVID NEGRIN Editor: LYLE CONNELL

CALL TO ORDER:

PREZ MIKE called the meeting to order precisely at 12:15 PM. Good goin' PREZ.

OPENERS:

PREZ MIKE called on CHESLEY DOUGLAS to lead today's Pledge; and he got an enthusiastic response from all present.

VISITORS and GUESTS:

Visitors and guests were introduced by DICK MANSFIELD. There were three visiting Rotarians at today's meeting, Klaus Heineman (Gualala, CA), Candace Roney (San Jose) and Betty Dow (La Jolla), who brought a guest, Valerie Dow, who now resides in Palo Alto.

Guests (ROTARIANS) were: Tommy Fehrenbach (STEVE EMSLIE), Mark Garcia, today's speaker. (Ed.: One of several names, as we'll learn), and the aforementioned Valerie. A warm welcome was rendered to all our guests.

Ed.: At this point, PREZ MIKE offered a joke, which fell a bit rounded, not flat, mind you. Anyway, I think it was about alcohol abstention, but I didn't get it (I didn't want to). If anyone did, please let me know.

OPENING REMARKS:

Opening remarks were delivered by CHRISTINA CHU on the subject of the Giving Tree. When asked by a young boy for some leaves, the tree complied. Similarly, with apples, branches, its trunk, all for worthwhile purposes and punctuated by requests that the boy, growing older, and now an old man, should swing from its branches. Finally, with only its stump available, the old man rested on it, while the tree thought about his life's contributions. This is all in a book recommended by CHRISTINA called, "The Giving Tree" by Shel Silverstein.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PREZ MIKE announced that annual dues reminders have been emailed. He requested that we all respond promptly.

DAVE THORNTON received his Blue Badge today, and immediately joined the President's Club.

DERRICK BRITT was inducted into the Club today. He was sponsored by TODD LEWIS. Welcome Derrick, thanks TODD.

There's an End Polio event scheduled for October 24th. Notices will be sent out, so don't vacation in October.

DAVID NEGRIN, a permanent member of the President's Club, "rejoined" in recognition of his son's (Dr. Rob) 200-mile bike ride from Portland to Seattle to help raise funds for the Lymphoma/Leukemia Society.

THE PROGRAM:

Today's speaker, Mike Garcia, was introduced by DARYL SAVAGE, who described the many aspects of his past experience. Mike is a recently retired Lieutenant of the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office. He has received extensive recognition for his service, such as the FBI Outstanding Performance Award.

He spoke on the subject, "Matrix, Are We Winning? (And the answer will surprise you.)" He has held key positions in a number of undercover assignments, most recently the Primary UCA (Undercover Agent) on FBI's Operation Matrix team. He received the UCA designation as a result of special training in which only two of about twenty class members qualified.

Mike described the job as consisting of assuming several identities, one of which his own. He assumed several names, homes, associations, and other means of obscuring his true identity and purpose. His latest assignment involved the identification of the perpetrators, who stole millions of dollars of special software. The methods used were fascinating and complex. In working on this assignment, Mike lived in multi-city luxurious homes, had unlimited financial resources, including cars, yachts, and extensive travel to the east and southwest.

This was truly an aspect of our national effort to eliminate crime and corruption, about which most of us are completely unaware. And in response to a question from the floor "Are we winning?" Mike's response was an emphatic, "No". In order to win, he explained, we must train the next generation to assume a new set of values, apart from our own. Mike's description of his efforts was most memorable.

JOKE OF THE WEEK:

A few items from an exercise Calorie Chart found in a trash bin:

Beating around the bush	25 calories
Jogging your memory	125 calories
Jumping to conclusions	100 calories
Had enough? There's more.	

ADJOURNMENT:

PREZ MIKE adjourned the formal meeting at 1:30 PM.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

AUG. 23 – New Member Talks: CHRISTINA CHU, ROSEANNE FAIRTY, and DON MORGAN.

AUG.30 - JOHN ETCHEMENDY, Provost at Stanford, on: "Why U.S. Universities are the Envy of the World (and Can We Maintain Our Advantage?)"

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