

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter Date: October 25, 2010 Reporter: BILL BUSSE Editor: LYLE CONNELL

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

1-Nov Ronald Lynn, Director of Player Development-Stanford Football

8-Nov Joe Simitian, "Disconnected: Is Democracy Still Doable?" Have the American public and the institutions that represent them reached such a level of alienation that conventional notions of democracy are still viable?

15-Nov Steve Player, Big Game Social w. Berkeley Club (Palo Alto)

PAKISTAN...THE PERCEPTION AND THE REALITY
We were treated to an insider's view of a country that is at the very heart of the world's human tragedy and political upheaval. Knight Fellow SAHAR GAZI, who was born in New York, but now lives in Islamabad, presented an outstanding slide show and talk documenting "*Pakistan...the Disposable Ally!*"

TOM GRACON's introduction, and Ms. Gazi's description of the two views of her country are detailed later in the Pinion.

PRESIDENT MIKE AT THE "MIKE"

Following the Pledge, Mike once again assumed the "Mike" to handle introductions of visitors as follows.

VISITING ROTARIAN

...Frank Verlot from the Los Altos Club

VISITORS and GUESTS OF ROTARIANS:

DICK BUSH introduced Clay Marr, President of a Silicon Valley start up

ROB LANCEFIELD had as a guest Dan Dykwel, Chairman of the PA Chamber of Commerce

BRAIN STEEN introduced Mike Lee with Morgan Stanley

LE LEVY's guest was fellow Wells Fargoan, John Steiner

MIKE COUCH had two guests...Phillipe Leconte from Paris and Jean Couch from Los Altos

RALPH ADAMS brought along an old West Point buddy, Wayne Richardson

DAVID SMULLIN introduced Andy Pierce

...and GEOGE FITZGERALD introduced the speaker's brother, Tabish Habib

Last week, TRISH BUBENIK introduced her guest, Deebra Lindo, Director of Secondary Education PAUSD

AMIDST GIANT FEVER

PREZ MIKE and BRIAN STEEN accompanied ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT RAY KLINGSMITH on a walk from Pier 39 to the Ferry Building. *The "walk" on October 24th commemorated World Polio Day.* Thanks Mike and Brian for representing the Palo Alto Club!

DICK FREEMAN OF ENTERTAINMENT BOOK FAME

...assumed the rostrum to give us an update on under-the-weather Rotarians. Our "We Care Committee Guru" DICK "*such a deal!*" FREEMAN's report included news that DAVID NEGRIN and BILL LOVE now have improved eyesight...each

having had cataract surgery. You'll both look forward to SEEING us at Rotary soon...we assume!

The afore mentioned Entertainment Books can be purchased from Dick for \$30...six goes to our Club. The possible savings total is \$10, 970...after subtracting the investment of \$30. See Dick at the next meeting and avoid the Christmas rush!

DIANA TAKES ON THE BANKS!

Our fearless news reporter, DIANA DIAMOND, laid into the money-lenders in her OPENING REMARKS. Trying to find out why a 79 year old was unable to get his loan modified by the B of A, she contacted 25 bank executives to get an answer, but all to no avail. Then a final answer from a high up in Chicago, "*We can't give out that information.*" The bank, according to Diana, knew it was violating the standards of the banking industry. It is currently being sued by investors. She capped off her remarks by asking the question, "*Does the bank meet the 4 Way Test?*" Her answer, an emphatic "*no!*"



YOUR VOTE COUNTS!

GEORGE FITZGERALD, representing the Speakers Committee, asked that we fill out the program ballot. This feedback will help the Committee select future programs. Incidentally, great job this past year all of you programites. The "Committee" probably include most of the following: GEORGE FITZGERALD, TOM GRACON, ROB LYMAN, DIANA DIAMOND, MIKE COUCH, CARL KING, ROB LANCEFIELD, STEVE MADSEN, DAVID NEGRIN, ANDY COE, DARYL SAVAGE, JAYNE BOOKER, RALPH ADAMS, TERRY FATEHI, GINNY LEAR, and ART STAUFFER. **A most impressive group!**



HOLD THE PRESS

Our election pundit, NICK NICHOLS, has found a fatal flaw in his "*Anti-Mudslinging Voting System*" so forget whatever it was you were supposed to remember. Thanx anyway, Nick!

PRESIDENT'S CLUB INDUCTEES

DICK MANSFIELD, back from seven weeks in the Pacific Northwest.



TRISH BUBENIK... for announcing the upcoming **Dream Builders' "Access to Success"** Brunch hosted by the Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic Northern California Unit.





DAVID BLITZ joined to celebrate his daughter's engagement, ("*Contributions to the Blitz Wedding Fund gratefully accepted*") along with having run his 20th marathon. Way to go, David!

GRANTS COMMITTEE

Join the Community Grants Committee

The Community Grants Committee begins its annual review of grant applications soon and chairman Bill Johnson invites interested Rotarians to join the committee.

The committee holds several meetings between November and January. Committee members review and evaluate grant applications from local non-profit organizations and conduct site visits of semi-finalists. The committee ultimately recommends grant recipients to the Rotary board of directors in early February.

PROGRAM NOTES

TOM GRACON introduced our speaker by first reminding us of our good fortune in having Knight Fellows willing to share their insights on international matters. Our guest speaker, Ms. Sahar Gazi, is one of 25 Fellows who spend a year at Stanford studying and researching subjects of their choice. In 2006 Sahar established the first English language radio station in Karachi and has been deeply involved with her country for many, many years.

As background Sahar noted the following facts about Pakistan:

The population is 180 million with 97% Muslim
It was carved out of India by the British in 1947
Pakistan has the 6th largest army in the world and has been governed by the military for half of its life
It is the only Muslim nation with nuclear weapons
There have been four wars with India over Kashmir
The recent floods affected 20 million people. The U.S. was quick to respond
According to the United Nations, the flood in Pakistan was the single largest disaster in human history

Sahar also shared the following information from the Pew Polls:

57% of the people are opposed to the U.S. efforts
Only 17% have a favorable view of the U.S. although 64% want it to improve
There have been 89 drone attacks this year with approximately 1,800 deaths, including 600 civilians
79% see us as a threat, although this view has recently changed to 65% as the Obama Administration has promised 1.5 billion a year for five years...the money is primarily to go for schools and hospitals
On who represents a threat to Pakistan...58% India...23% The Taliban...3% al-Qaida

The slide show and talk were most sobering and informative. We are certainly enriched by the Knight Fellow presentations. Our thanks to Sahar and to the Program Committee for yet another outstanding program!

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