

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

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VISITING ROTARIANS AND GUESTS

At PRESIDENT MIKE McMAHON's request, the following Visiting Rotarians introduced themselves:

Dean Merritt from the Shanghai, China Club;

Gary Waldeck from the Los Altos Club;

Jim Lang from the North Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, Club

ANDY COE introduced his guest Mark Blumenkranz, M.D.

GINNY LEAR introduced her guest Roberta Rhudy.

GEORGE FITZGERALD introduced John Harrison as his guest.

OPENING REMARKS

MICHAEL REPKA began by noting how surprised he had been during a recent visit to Africa with how happy ordinary people there seemed, despite being very poor. Continuing that all those present had much to be thankful for, in a far more prosperous setting. MIKE read "More Than a Day", a poem about non-quantifiable benefits and relationships that were celebrated on Thanksgiving, and that should continue well beyond the holiday itself.



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND AWARDS

PRESIDENT MIKE drew long laughter with two jokes about the Transportation Security Agency's controversial screening of would-be air passengers.

In recognition of ISRAEL ZEHAVI's long Rotary membership, PRESIDENT MIKE presented an Honorary Membership Status plaque to him.

MIKE COUCH spoke about the upcoming Dictionary Project event on December 9. One hundred second graders at the Green Oaks Academy will receive dictionaries. He asked for ten volunteers to help pass out the dictionaries.

PETER GUENTERMANN received a Paul Harris Fellow plaque from President MIKE. PETER offered for auctioning an authentic Oktoberfest beer mug and a wooden top inscribed with "Palo Alto Rotary." He explained that during Oktoberfest, Rotary Clubs in Germany met every day except weekends. HAL MICKELSON then led spirited bidding for the unique combination that PETER had presented...

RAPLH ADAMS prefaced his talk for The Rotary Foundation by saying the United States had a dichotomy of Thanksgiving traditions. The Pilgrim Ethic called for hard work to do well, but did not answer how to give thanks for something you did all by yourself. On the other hand, there are those who give thanks for what they have, in large part the product of what others have done. Adverting to the Opening Remarks, he said that many in

other countries work much harder than Americans do, for much less. Give to The Rotary Foundation, he urged the audience, to benefit those less fortunate.

NINA MOORE announced that over 80 people had signed up to attend the Club's holiday party on December 7 at VICKY CHING's home, guaranteed to be a rollicking good time. She invited those who had not signed up to do so, advising that sign-up sheets were at each table.

ROB LANCEFIELD joined the President's Club in honor of the recent appointment of the first woman to be President of Lancefield Farms Company, a family business dating from his great grandfather's receipt of free land after walking the Oregon Trail (with oxen, in November and December) in the latter half of the 19th Century.

STEVE EMSLIE asked those present to save the date for The Palo Alto Rotary Fundraiser on April 9, 2011. Year-end gifts such as bottles of wine for the silent auction are welcome.

THE PROGRAM

ANDY COE briefly recounted the career of today's speaker, Mark Blumenkranz, M.D., head of Stanford's Department of Ophthalmology.



Dr. Blumenkranz titled his slide talk "The Eye in Health and Disease: Vision Care and Science at the Eye Institute at Stanford." He discussed common diseases of the eye, explaining what they were and providing incidence rates, treatment outcomes, and ongoing research. He reviewed the history of the Eye Institute, which started in San Francisco in 1872, and recent growth in

facilities, staff and patients. He said remarkable improvements have been made in prevention and treatment of vision loss during the past 60 years and that more advances should result from the large number of research programs that are active today. He answered audience questions in the remaining time, and received a hearty round of applause. PRESIDENT MIKE told how the Club was presenting in his honor a dictionary to the Green Oaks Academy Elementary School in East Palo Alto.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

December 6: New Members / Old Member Talk, Michael Repka, Dick Bush, Bob Bulmore

December 13: Kevin Skelly, PA Superintendent of Schools, "Palo Alto Education: Navigating the Iceberg".

December 20: West Bay Opera, Holiday Program