

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date: December 20, 2010

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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

OPENERS:

PREZ MIKE called the meeting to order promptly at 12:15 PM followed by his leading the Pledge, which was recited with enthusiasm by all present. He then ordained a fifteen-minute socializing period (schmoozing) before starting the serious business of the meeting.

VISITING ROTARIANS AND GUESTS:

There were three visiting Rotarians in attendance, Frank Yin (Shanghai Club), introduced by **CHARLES CHENG**, Atlee Vernon (Lawrence, KA Club) and Warren Neiman (Rosslyn-Ft. Meyer, VA Club).

Guests (Hosts) were Wife Ellie Mansfield (**DICK MANSFIELD**), Wife Joanna Liston (**LAURIE LISTON**), Wife Jayne Curry (**KEVIN CURRY**), Wife Sarah Wheaton (**GEORGE WHEATON**), Wife Joan McCowan (**BOB McCOWAN**), Wife Peggy Stauffer (**ART STAUFFER**), Wife Mary Alice Thornton (**DAVE THORNTON**), Wife Joan Neiman (Warren Neiman) and Francoise Begaux & Anna Schwartz Cohen (Jose Luis Moscovich, of the West Bay Opera).

OPENING REMARKS:

PREZ MIKE called on **MIKE COUCH** to present opening remarks. **MIKE** spoke mostly about the Club's generosity in distributing seventy-two dictionaries to needy second-graders at the Green Oaks Academy. He also thanked the six Club volunteers who helped make the distribution event great success, like **GINNY LEAR** who found the Academy after MapQuest failed, to **DICK MANSFIELD**, who drove all the way to



Petaluma to pick up the books, to **SAM GORDON** who photographed the event, to **BOB McCOWAN**, **ART STAUFFER** and **JIM SUTHERLAND** (a first-timer) who all pitched in, and lastly to **JOYCE** who got lost trying to get there. **MIKE** also mentioned how his three year old granddaughter went to visit Santa to request her Christmas presents, a doll and ballet shoes, which Santa promised to deliver to Grandpa's house in time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Remember to attend the Jan. 2 barbecue in Fremont, and to greet Rotary International President **RAY KLINGINSMITH**, who also will be there.

HAL MICKELSON auctioned off a holiday basket of cookies, candies and other treats for 40 bucks, a real bargain.

TODD LEWIS distributed pledge forms for the Palo Alto Rotary Endowment Fund. The proceeds benefit our local, worthy non-profits. Contributions are all tax deductible.

Use the tax ID #94-2815253 in filing your return.

GINNY LEAR presented **SUE HARTENBAUM** with her blue badge, finally. Get to work **SUE!**

THE PROGRAM:



The program was introduced by **TOM GRACON** who in turn, introduced Jose Luis Moscovich, the General Director of West Bay Opera, the second most significant opera company west of the Mississippi, the San Francisco Opera Company being the first. Jose introduced representative performers with the company: Nicole Takesono, Mezzo-Sopran; Adam Flowers, Tenor; and Axel Schmitt, Pianist.

The performers rendered a wonderful program of classic opera arias by composers, starting with Meyerbeer, proceeding with works by Massenet, Puccini, Rossini and Tchaikovsky. There were four solo arias and one duet by the very talented singers. The final number was a sing-along, "Joy to the World" led by Nicole and Adam, and joined by Rotary members who knew the words. It was a wonderful program, especially for the season.



Maestro Moscovich invited all to attend the remaining programs of the 2010-2011 season, "Turandot" and a two-opera program, "Dido and Aeneas" and "La Vida Breva," both early next year.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

DECEMBER 27: DARK

JANUARY 3: New Member Talks

January 10: Bob Bowsby, Stanford Athletic Director

JOKE OF THE WEEK:

If you want to burn 100 calories, just jump to conclusions.

STAY (DON'T GO) GIANTS !!

