

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date: January 24, 2011

Reporter: DONALD MORGAN

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

PRESIDENT MIKE led the Pledge at 12:20 and called the meeting to order at 12:35.

VISITING ROTARIANS AND GUESTS

At his request Members introduced their guests, as follows:

TOM GRACON introduced Melina Platas

GINNY LEAR introduced Annie Hagan, D. D. S.

JUDITH STEINER introduced Andy Pierce

GEOFF ZIMAN introduced his wife, Ann Ziman

SPECIAL REPORT

Honorary Member HARRY BROWNE said that former President GEORGE KNOWLES was still quite active and doing very well at 104, among other things regularly writing a newsletter.

OPENING REMARKS

RICK RAYBIN commented that he had expected to present Opening Remarks at a December meeting, had missed connecting with PRESIDENT MIKE, but that everything happens for a reason. In this case, the reason was the intervening death of a long-term friend, Gordon Murray, whom RICK eulogized. A retired investment banker, Murray had recently testified to Congress about the internal workings of Wall Street, a matter of intense interest there and elsewhere, and had been the focus of a television special, "The Hero of Wall Street." Although not a Rotarian, he had in general, lived in compliance with Rotary's Four Way Test.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND AWARDS

DICK FREEMAN reported for the We Care Committee the availability of a free service for house cleaning for women cancer patients. Those interested may reach the service at <http://www.cleaningforareason.org> or at 1-877-337-3348.

ROB LYMAN spoke on behalf of the Palo Alto Rotary Endowment, thanking all who had contributed and announcing a celebration on February 23 of Legacy Circle members. They, he explained, had made increasing contributions and had arranged Legacy gifts. Those attending would hear a speaker explaining how to make a legacy gift.

PRESIDENT MIKE announced a meeting of the Board of Directors the next day, and invited Red Badge Members to attend, in satisfaction of a requirement for a Blue Badge.

DANA TOM joined the President's Club to mark his joining the Board of Directors of the California School Association. TOM GRACON also joined, in honor of his recently arrived and very healthy eighth grandchild. SHERRI SAGER joined in recognition that a week before the Mountain View Chamber of Commerce had honored Jack Liman as the American Red Cross

Volunteer of the Year. ED DANGLER joined the Club to commemorate a recent vacation cruise that held a special meeting of members of service organizations, awarding certificates of attendance.

GINNY LEAR presented a Blue Badge to long time Member YORIKO KISHIMOTO, advising that it was never too late.

Treasurer CASH ALAEE announced that beginning next week Members would be able to purchase ten-packs of lunch tickets, shortening the check-in process. He also reported on progress for using credit cards at future fundraising events.

THE PROGRAM

TOM GRACON presented a brief introductory biographical sketch of today's guest speaker, Angelo Izama, a Ugandan journalist currently with the Knight Fellowship Program at Stanford. Mr. Izama began by noting he had originally planned to talk on the ten things you should know about Africa, later reduced to five things, in view of the limited time available for his talk, and finally reduced to two. He then discussed (1) ramifications of the recent establishment of a new state in the southern part of Sudan, and (2) China's cultivation of contractual arrangements with leaders of mineral-rich areas. The referendum in Sudan separates a predominantly Muslim North from a mainly Christian South, after years of fighting. What the new state will name itself is unresolved. How to handle recently discovered oil reserves and whether and how to reapportion the waters of the Nile are the largest issues there. For Africa as a whole, Mr. Izama foresees a growing cultural conflict between traditional Western institutions and China's interventions. He concluded with observations of the significance of his two major issues for charitable activities and for governments themselves. A Q&A session followed, during which Mr. Izama referred a question about infant mortality, birthrates, and AIDS in Uganda to his fiancée, Melina Platas, who had thoroughly studied those matters at Stanford.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

February 7 Dr. Shelly Fisher Fishkin, "The Mark Twain Autobiography"

February 14 Larry Gerston, "California Challenge, 2011: Now What?"

February 21 Hans Steiner, "ADD: Driven to Distraction"

February 28 Leeor Neta, "A Second Chance for East Palo Alto Youth"

Palo Alto Rotary - Meeting Information www.rotarypaloalto.org