



Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date FEBRUARY 28, 2011

Reporter: DONALD MORGAN

Editor: NICK NICHOLS

Implementing a recommendation from a Member Survey (discussed below) to increase the time for fellowship, PRESIDENT MIKE deferred the start of the meeting until 12:35, which he began by leading the Pledge. He asked those present to remain standing and announced that prior long-term Member SKIP HOYT was present. SKIP invited everyone to sing "God Bless America" as he provided piano accompaniment, to much acclaim.

VISITING ROTARIANS AND GUESTS

Visiting Rotarians who introduced themselves at MIKE's request were our pianist SKIP HOYT of the Rossmer Club in Walnut Creek, Sebastian Steinbach of the Stuttgart-Renstal Club in Germany, and Sabine Decker of the Augsburg Club in Germany.

SAM GORDON introduced his guest, Gerry Mack; RICK RAYBIN introduced Mike Baird; and JUDITH STEINER introduced today's guest speaker, Leeor Neta.

OPENING REMARKS

TERRY FATEHI began with observations and some humor about taxes, saying that season was upon us. He then said he was changing subjects to a happier vein, and related results of surveys of a Spanish language class about the gender that "computer" should have.



Each gender group argued for the opposite gender and provided reasons that most thought humorous, but some apparently thought too incisive to be laughed at. Applause put everyone in a good frame of mind.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



BRUCE GEE warmly praised his recently deceased father-in-law and former Member for 43 years, BILLY ALHOUSE.

DICK FREEMAN reported that the We Care Committee is looking for a pool of volunteers to drive long term for wheelchair-bound Member, ISRAEL ZEHAVI, to Club lunch meetings from his home in Mountain View and back. DICK has done this and says it is not difficult, although some extra time may be required. Members who are willing to join the pool should contact DICK or BILL BUSSE, who will develop a schedule to assist

ISRAEL, who very much wants to join our meetings.

TOM GRACON presented an executive summary of the results of a poll of the Members that was taken in November concerning satisfaction with various aspects of existing arrangements and practices, as well as areas for improvement. Details of the results appear on the Club's website.

SHERRI SAGER urged Members to make donations for auctioning at the Club fundraiser on April 9, and to purchase tickets to attend what should be a quite festive and financially significant gathering. She then auctioned a collection of green cookies, evoking St. Patrick's Day. ROGER SMITH won the bidding.

THE PROGRAM: Leeor Neta, "A Second Chance for East Palo Alto"

JUDITH STEINER introduced Mr. Neta as an entrepreneur of services rather than financial aspirations, having founded the East Palo Alto Youth Court a few



years ago, and served as its Executive Director for two years. He received a bachelor's degree from New York University, and a law degree from the University of Chicago. He worked on Death Penalty cases, and more generally as a Public Defender, and now teaches at the Golden Gate School of Law.

With the cooperation of law enforcement officials, juveniles arrested in East Palo Alto come before the Youth Court. There young juries hear about their transgressions in a constructive and non-adversary way and impose sentences of community service, rather than incarceration. Offenders are required to serve on subsequent juries, and may volunteer to serve as bailiffs and lawyers. The Youth Court also counsels the families concerning the offenses and the range of available public services. Compared to normal court proceedings, the Youth Court has seen remarkably low recidivism rates, as low as five percent. Juveniles emerge from the Youth Court without a criminal record of any sort. A brief video reviewed one young man's successful experience going through the Youth Court.

Mr. Neta mentioned that he has recently started working

with Oakland to initiate a similar “Restorative Justice” program there. He motivates his law students to get involved in such programs. A lively Q&A session followed in the time remaining.

An announcement that the East Palo Alto Youth Court is a recipient of a grant this year from the Club evoked substantial applause as the meeting ended.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

[Palo Alto Rotary - Speakers Schedule](#)

March 7 – **Jay Thorwaldson** (PA Weekly), *Top Ten Stories of My Career*

March 14 – **Cash Alaei**, *Reflections on Iran*

March 21 – **Chris Longhurst**, *Data-Driven Approaches to Improve Health and Healthcare*

March 28 – **Ken DeLeon**, *Overcoming Adversity*