



# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date APRIL 4, 2011

Reporter: DONALD MORGAN

Editor: NICK NICHOLS

PRESIDENT MIKE led the Pledge to start the meeting at 12:30.

## VISITING ROTARIANS AND GUESTS

The meeting warmly welcomed Visiting Rotarians Tony Villanueva of the San Mateo Club and Sabine Decker of the Augsburg, Germany Club.

The meeting appreciated hearing BILL LOVE introduce his wife, Irene, as his guest, saying she wanted to keep him honest when he was to speak about himself during the day's Program. BOB SMITHWICK then introduced his daughter Cathye as his guest, WALT HAYS introduced his guest Kristin Wu, NICK NICHOLS introduced Greg Conlon, and BILL JOHNSON completed the introductions with his for Marilyn Anderson.

SAM WEBSTER occasioned the singing of "Happy Birthday" by announcing that Rotary Exchange Student Philippe de Fries from Germany was present, and had attained the age of 16 the previous day.

## OPENING REMARKS

BEN THRELKELD talked about happiness. He recited a long list of philosophical treatises he had read on the subject, and surprised the audience with his favorite, from a different genre, "When All Hell Breaks Loose." That work focused on crisis preparedness and management, and taught that 90% of getting through a crisis was mental: a positive state of mind is essential, happiness comes from within, and express gratitude if nothing positive comes to mind.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

GINNY LEAR presented a Blue Badge to JOCELYN VILLARUZ, who said she looked forward to continuing to participate in Rotary activities.

GEORGE FITZGERALD, chair of the Speakers Committee, called members' attention to forms at each table that asked for ratings of each Program of the first calendar quarter, and gave the results of a similar poll for Programs in the preceding quarter. He requested filling out the poll completely, keeping in mind that "5" was much better than "1," that the form requested gender of the respondent, and invited suggestions for future speakers that members had heard speak, rather than had just heard of.

WALT HAYS reminded the audience that the Rotary Foundation had adopted a "Future Vision" program that among other things had led to the Club's support for fuel-efficient stoves in Guatemala. He held up a plaque that Guatemalans had sent the Club in gratitude. He remarked he was unsure what to do with the plaque.

CASH ALAEE and AUDREY RUST talked up the fundraiser on April 9, reporting the sale of 150 tickets, with perhaps a few more available. Among the auction items are places at an accomplished performer's organ recital in Sandy Littlefield's home on May 15, perhaps May 8. It might be the last chance to hear that organ, since it is being sold for \$1,300,000 shortly after the recital. AUDREY then quite successfully auctioned off a very fresh chocolate cake, still warm, and two dozen chocolate brownies with pecans.

PRESIDENT MIKE inducted CATHYE SMITHWICK into membership.

## THE PROGRAM: NEW MEMBER AND LONGTIME MEMBER TALKS

ROB LYMAN introduced each of the featured speakers in turn, noting that DERRICK BRITT's Irish Catholic Chicago family loved homemade fried chicken and BEN THRELKELD had cut his own hair the past 16 years, saving \$4,800 in his estimate.



DERRICK reviewed his education including Loyola Academy and both college and law school at Georgetown, and public service for inner city youths in Los Angeles and the District of Columbia, prior to corporate law practice.



BEN talked about his Peace Corp volunteer parents, his upbringing by his mother in Maine, living with his father while attending college in Los Angeles, his graduate work in optometry at Berkeley and UCSF, his optometry practice in Palo Alto, and his entry into the third of "Earn, Learn, Return."

BILL LOVE had many more years to cover, in fact starting with Mormon ancestors in the Smoot family, one of whom had resisted Brigham Young's direction to move to Provo,



until the leader told him in no uncertain terms to "Go to Provo or go to Hell," whereupon he played a large role in founding BYU. A later family member achieved fame, of sorts, as a Senator from Utah who promoted the Great Depression era Smoot-Hawley Tariff. BILL grew up

on a ranch that lacked basic amenities; and his family struggled financially in the latter 1930s. He met his future wife, Irene, at BYU. Having to acquire a livelihood to marry,

he took a bus to the nation's capital, where he found employment and then studied as a night student at George Washington University. He spent WWII in the infantry in Italy, and then returned to BYU's business program. Next were a M.A. in Political Science at Stanford and law school graduation in 1950. He found time in law practice in San Francisco for two years, and thereafter in Palo Alto for a variety of political and other public service activities. Perhaps creating a model for Sacramento and Congress, he helped lead a successful recall of all 13 members of the deadlocked and fractious Palo Alto City Council and the election of a solid majority of the replacements. He is approaching the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his marriage to Irene, who he related says, in humor no doubt, she is getting tired of him.

## **UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

### **[Palo Alto Rotary - Speakers Schedule](#)**

April 11 – Geri Spieler, *The Squeaky Fromme Story*

April 18 – Bill Draper, *Generational Venture Capital*

April 25 – Sid Espinoza, *State of the City*