



Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date APRIL 18, 2011

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Editor: NICK NICHOLS

PREZ MIKE called the meeting to order at 12:31, following lunch. He invited the members to join him in reciting the Pledge, followed by singing Happy Birthday to the club on its 89th B'day. PA Rotary was founded on 4/18/1922.

VISITING ROTARIANS AND GUESTS

There was one visiting Rotarian, Sabine Decker from Augsburg, Germany, an attorney, who spoke later-on about her experience in America. She's here on a 3-month visit while her husband is on Sabbatical at Stanford. She didn't use these words, but she thinks that anyone who is not impressed with our friendliness and especially our sports, is plain nuts. (She even likes baseball and rooted for the Giants against the Dodgers.)

Visitors (Guests) were Ted Tussing (GEORGE FITZGERD) and Bill Draper, today's Speaker, who also was hosted by GEORGE.

OPENING REMARKS

WALT HAYS reminded us that this coming Friday is Earth Day. You can look it up at www.storyofstuff.com. WALT reminded us that we have ONLY 5% of the world's population; and yet we consume about 30% of its resources. Waste has doubled. However Palo Alto's Zero Waste program is achieving some positive results. We are high up in the country on that measure, but DON'T QUIT NOW. Thanks for the reminder, WALT.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Blue badges were issued to DERRICK BRITT, an attorney, who was sponsored by TODD LEWIS, and BEN THRELKELD, an optometrist, sponsored by DAVE SMULLIN. BEN didn't actually receive his blue badge, since his movement from new member to Blue Badger beat the manufacturing process.

On behalf of Vista Center for Blind and Visually Impaired, PAM BRANDIN accepted a grant check from us of \$1,300 for the purchase of eight sets of devices that help convert written texts to spoken speech.

TRISH BUBENIK contributed \$100 to help acquire a device that allows visually impaired folks to read text that's diminished in size.

ELLIOTT WRIGHT needs tree-planters on May 7 for morning and afternoon stints. Call him ASAP to sign up.

We all have the opportunity of attending the District 5170 celebration at the Santa Clara Marriott Hotel from May 6-8. Register on line at www.rotary.org. It sounds like an attractive event with an opportunity to contribute to ROTARY.

Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic, an organization that we've supported for years, has changed its name, and is now called Learning Ally, and its web site is www.learningally.org. It has the same mission and enjoys the support of more than 6,000 volunteers and 80,000 donors throughout the country. Let's continue a GOOD CAUSE!

The recent District 5170 newsletter included a thank you letter from LISA AKSELRAD to all her friends who wished her a rapid and smooth recovery from recent surgery. She's now a member of the Sunnyvale Sunrise Rotary club.

The newsletter also included a listing of all the clubs in the district (there are fifty-six) and the number of members in each one. The San Jose club beats all others with a membership of 458!

The results of the recent Fundraiser were provided to members: the net gain as of this date is \$41, 023.71. We're not done yet.

THE PROGRAM

Bill Draper, today's speaker, was introduced by GEORGE FITZGERALD, who informed us of Bill's numerous accomplishments. He is Managing Director of Draper Richards LLP that focuses on funding support for early-stage technology companies. His past achievements are numerous such as, honorary Doctor of Laws from Southeastern University and an honorary M.A. from Yale University. Bill's role in expanding the world economy has been phenomenal.

As President and Chairman of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, appointed to that position by President Ronald Reagan, he had the opportunity to provide early support to companies that influenced world trade. Thanks, Bill Draper, for all your good work!!

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

[Palo Alto Rotary - Speakers Schedule](#)

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