



# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date MAY 9, 2011

Reporter: BRIAN STEEN

Editor: NICK NICHOLS

President-Elect SHERRI SAGER started the meeting at 12:15PM.

The pledge of allegiance was led by VIC ROSASCO.

**Visiting Rotarians** were introduced by DERRICK BRITT: Ray Silva from San Jose, Tony Villanuela from San Jose, Florence Buatois from Palo Alto University Club. Florence came to announce the University Club's May 14 Annual Gala at the University Club. For more details, contact: [Jamie.barnett@gmail.com](mailto:Jamie.barnett@gmail.com).

**Guests:** DANA TOM introduced School Board Member Camille Townsend; ED DANGLER introduced his wife Yvonne Dangler and Eveyne Kuznezon.

**Opening Remarks:** KAY WILSON presented Thomas Jefferson's "Ten Rules to Live By":

- 1) Never put off 'till tomorrow what you can do today.
- 2) Never trouble another for what you can do yourself.
- 3) Never spend your money before you have it.
- 4) Never buy what you do not want because it is cheap; it will never be dear to you.
- 5) Pride costs us more than hunger, thirst, and cold.
- 6) Never repent of having eaten too little.
- 7) Nothing is troublesome that we do willingly.
- 8) Don't let the evils which have never happened cost you pain.
- 9) Always take things by their smooth handle.
- 10) When angry, count to ten before you speak; if very angry, count to one hundred.

DICK FREEMAN welcomed back ISRAEL ZEHAVI, whose attendance will depend on those willing to drive him to and from meetings. We have a small group of volunteers at this point, and welcome more participation. Please contact DICK FREEMAN [rkfreeman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rkfreeman@sbcglobal.net), if you would be willing to assist.

**Polio Update** from MIKE McMAHON in Brazil:

The latest figures regarding polio are now available through April 26, 2011. Although the numbers may seem disappointing versus last year, I think they show some excellent progress. The total is up from last year by 36 cases worldwide, however, the numbers do show the extension of the outbreak in the Congo which started late last year. On the other hand, the outbreak in Tajikistan has been stopped in its track. The endemic countries of India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Nigeria are even with last year, but Afghanistan and India are both showing great improvements. Pakistan is still a problem, much of which was caused by last year's flooding and the inability to perform NID's.

Country	Apr 2011	Apr 2010	All 2010	Last Case
Afghanistan	1	8	25	01/11/11
India	1	19	42	01/11/11
Nigeria	8	2	21	03/18/11
Pakistan	33	14	144	04/10/11
Others	77	41	1,060	04/02/11
<b>Totals</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>1,292</b>	

SHERRI thanked today's meeting volunteers: DAN DYKWEL-cashier, BRIAN STEEN-EPinion reporter, RALPH ADAMS-greeter, and STEVE MADSEN-audio visual.

ELLIOTT WRIGHT and BRIAN STEEN thanked Rotarians who volunteered last Saturday with Canopy to plant over 200 trees at Green Oaks Academy.

**President's Club contributions** were generously made by: ELLIOTT WRIGHT for his recent marriage to Rachel, KAREN SINGER for winning three gold Tai Chi medals, LIZ KNISS for her recent visit to the White House, SAM GORDON in honor of his new blue badge, CHRISTINA CHU, and DAVID NEGRIN because he couldn't avoid making a donation.

**Program:** YORIKO KISHIMOTO introduced Esther Wojcicki, a Journalism and English instructor at Palo Alto High School since 1987, and vice chair of the [Creative Commons](#) board of directors. She graduated from UC Berkeley with a B.A. in English and Political Science. She received a secondary teaching credential from UC Berkeley, as well as a graduate degree from the Graduate School of Journalism at Berkeley. She has a M.A. in Educational Technology from San Jose State University. She has worked regularly as a professional journalist for multiple publications and blogs for The Huffington Post. She was selected as the California Teacher of the Year in 2002 by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

Esther presented an eye-opening look at how she works with over 500 Paly students to create various student publications that are nationwide models of journalism achievement. She suggested the technology revolution in education started in 1984 with IBM's introduction of the personal computer, followed by Google's 1999 Search technology. Even so, many schools and educators have not adopted educational technology, and still are not engaging students. Teaching content can be handed over to students; and this encourages collaboration and originality. She feels all high schools should have one year of journalism. See <http://www.21stcenturylit.org>

**Questions and Answers** following her presentation:

Q: How do you teach student collaboration?

A: By teaching them how to plan.

Q: How do you grade and evaluate?

A: No grades are given until a student successfully revises his/her paper up to an "A" level.

Q: How do you avoid the "80/20" rule of participation?

A: Peer pressure helps. Having your work published is a big incentive to work harder.

Q: Do you use standard tests?

A: No. The class final is to create one page of the school newsletter, "Campanile."

Q: Can adults enroll in your class?

A: Yes.

Q: What is the most important thing to tell school board members?

A: Give teachers more professional directives to creatively use computers in class.

Esther has provided the following educational web links as referenced in her talk:

**Khan Academy:**

[http://www.ted.com/talks/salman\\_khan\\_let\\_s\\_use\\_video\\_to\\_reinvent\\_education.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/salman_khan_let_s_use_video_to_reinvent_education.html)

**350 Online courses from top universities**

<http://www.openculture.com/freeonlinecourses>

**Open textbooks at CK12** <http://www.ck12.org/flexbook/>

**Palo Alto High School Journalism website**

<http://voice.paly.net>

**Palo Alto High School sports magazine**

[vikingsportsmag.com](http://vikingsportsmag.com)

**Learn how to search on Google using AGoogleADay**

<http://www.agoogleaday.com/#date=05-10-2011>

**Google Docs** [docs.google.com](http://docs.google.com)

**Lynda.com** (learn software programs online easily)

[www.lynda.com](http://www.lynda.com)

**Creative Commons** (an alternative to all rights reserved copyright) [www.creativecommons.org](http://www.creativecommons.org)

SHERRI thanked Esther for her enlightening presentation. Appropriately, a dictionary will be presented to a second grader at Green Oaks Academy in Esther's honor.

**Adjournment:** 1:30PM.

## **UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

[Palo Alto Rotary - Speakers Schedule](#)

May 16 Axel Merk – *Challenges for the Dollar and the Economy*

May 23 New Member Talks by Jim Baer, Susan Lutter, and Elliott Wright

May 30 **Dark**, Memorial Day Observed