

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date: September 12, 2011

Reporter: BRIAN STEEN

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

CALL TO ORDER:

SHERRI SAGER started the meeting at 12:05 PM with a one minute silent pause in honor of 911 with JOCELYN VILLARUZ then leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROB LYMAN introduced:

Visiting Rotarians: Mary Qian from San Mateo Rotary Sunrise Club; Klaus Heineman from Gualala, CA (past PA Rotary member)

Guests of Rotarians: Chuck Roberts, guest of GINNY LEAR; Marnie Shuey, guest and new wife of JIM SUTHERLAND; Zafar Iqbal, guest of ART STAUFFER; Joel Brinkley, guest of ANDY COE and today's program speaker.

OPENING REMARKS

JIM SUTHERLAND acknowledged 911 comments might be appropriate, but in a pleasant surprise read his wedding vows just taken last Saturday in his wedding to Marnie Shuey. His vows were sensitive and animated with boats symbolizing family relationships and life changes. JIM summed it up by committing to "a wonderful cruise together."



LUNA FESTIVAL

VICKY CHING called everyone's attention to the festive desserts being placed at each table in honor of the Luna Festival.

PRESIDENTS CLUB CONTRIBUTIONS

SAM WEBSTER announced DON LANGENDORF is doing well.

SHERRI SAGER contributed in honor of her niece.

BRUCE LIEDSTRAND was thankful for his recovery from knee surgery.

ANDY COE honored the "new" surgeons at Stanford: MIKE COUCH, GINNY LEAR and DAVE THORNTON.

BILL KIRK announced his great grandson's birthday.

RALPH ADAMS celebrated his 45th wedding anniversary.

JOHN O'KEEFE celebrated his 61st wedding anniversary.

SHERRI thanked volunteers DICK MANSFIELD, DANA TOM, and BRIAN STEEN for their help in signing in guests, cashiering, and writing the E-Pinion.

PROGRAM

ANDY COE introduced our speaker, Joel Brinkley. Joel is the Hearst Visiting Professional in Residence at Stanford. He joined the Department of Communication in the fall of 2006 after a 23-year career with The New York Times. There, he served as a reporter, editor, and Pulitzer Prize winning foreign correspondent.

At Stanford, Brinkley writes an op-ed column on foreign policy that appears in about 50 newspapers and websites in the United States and around the world. His areas of research include American foreign policy and the future of the nation's newspaper industry. He is a native of Washington D.C., and a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. At The New York Times, Brinkley served as Washington correspondent, White House correspondent, and chief of the Times Bureau in Jerusalem, Israel. Over the last 30 years, Brinkley has reported from 46 states and more than 50 foreign countries. He won the Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting in 1980.

Opening with his attention-getting opinion that Israel has a terrible self-defeating government and "needs to grow up," Joel went on to explain that Palestine is beginning to control its future by not blaming everything on Israel. When will there be peace between the two? "Not in my lifetime." The Mid-East peace process is an oxymoron. Israel should recognize Palestine with an opportunity coming up at The United Nations this November.

Q: What about the Israeli press?

A: They have a genuinely free press.

Q: Is there a chance the US can bring Israel and Palestine together?

A: In 2009 President Obama suggested Israel stop settlement activity, which was a non-starter, so a US negotiated peace is very unlikely.

Q: Why does Congress historically back Israel?

A: Their support is unexplainable and baffling.

SHERRI thanked Joel for his provocative presentation and promised a dictionary will be presented to a second grader at Green Oaks Academy in his honor.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

September 19 **Dan Archer**, Graphical Novels

September 26 **Ted Atlas**, Bay Area Spectator Sports

October 3 World Community Service Speaker, Topic TBA

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