

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date: October 31, 2011

Reporter: WALT HAYS

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

CALL TO ORDER

PRESIDENT SHERRI SAGER called the meeting to order. YORIKO KISHIMOTO led the flag salute.

INTRODUCTIONS

JOHN KIDD welcomed LOU KAVANAU back from his bout with cancer, and introduced visiting Rotarians and guests as follows:

Visiting Rotarians

Former member Klaus Heinemann, Gualala Club

Joan Soriano, Rotary club of Manila: Rizal West, Consultant

Guests

GEORGE WHEATON: his wife, Sarah

MIKE REPKA: Jennifer Gonzalez

SUSAN LUTTER: her husband, Jack Hullman

NINA MOORE: her grandson, Oscar Schams

HALLOWEEN COSTUMES

Those who dressed for the occasion posed for posterity (see photo).



OPENING REMARKS

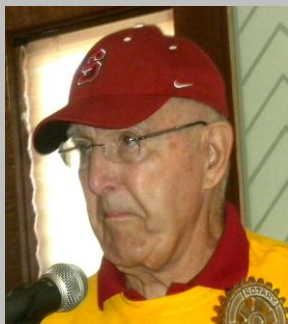
BILL BUSSE related how his four-year-old great grandson demonstrated the Four-Way test principle of "tell the truth":

- When introduced as being four years old, he corrected: "almost" four.

- When his grandma said people take taxis when they have no other way to get home, he said, "They can walk."

- When he

was told that anthropologists search for fossils, he said, "No, it's paleontologists."



REPORT ON HANDS-ON PROJECT AT INNVISION (Homeless Center)

DON MORGAN, who chaired the project, declared it successful and listed participating members: DON MORGAN, BILL BUSSE, SUSAN LUTTER, MIKE MCMAHON, Mary Qian,

JIM SUTHERLAND, and ART STAUFFER. WALT HAYS trucked ladders to and fro.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JIM SUTHERLAND handed out T-shirts proclaiming "PALO ALTO ROTARIAN AT WORK," commenting that it's good they weren't available for the project, because they would be covered with paint splashes.

MIKE MCMAHON noted that this was officially the last day of THE ROTARY FOUNDATION drive, and urged members to contribute.

STEVE PLAYER reminded members the BIG GAME is at Stanford this year, so interested members will gather at Ming's at 10:30 on 11/16 to visit the Berkeley Club.

TREASURER CASH ALAEE noted that the ANNUAL FUNDRAISER will be on April 14, and urged members to think of good items for the Silent Auction.

BILL BUSSE showed dazzling slides of two club projects:

- (1) Sun shades over tables at Greer Park, initiated by ANNETTE GLANCKOPF
- (2) A Sister City Display: a pole with signs pointing toward our six sisters, initiated by CHESLEY DOUGLAS. ANNETTE GLANCKOPF donated \$50 in honor of BILL's work and pledged the other \$50 for the President's Club on project completion.

PROGRAM

TOM GRACON introduced Masood Farivar, currently a Knight Fellow at Stanford, noting that the program invites 20 outstanding journalists/year for a year-long sabbatical, of which about 10 are international; and three are invited to speak to us, offering a different perspective on world events. Mr. Farivar is Afghan, escaped to Pakistan when the Soviets invaded, studied the Koran in a madrassa there, joined the mujahideen, to fight the Soviets, became disillusioned with the Taliban, came to the U.S. and earned a degree at Harvard, and returned to Afghanistan in 2007 to work for the Interviews Network, managing the country's largest network of independent radio stations.

Mr. Farivar said Afghans felt euphoric when the U.S. helped drive the Russians out of his country, but then felt abandoned when the Taliban took over and shut all local media except one government station. When NATO drove Taliban out of office after 9/11/01, media blossomed,



going from one government station to over 100 private ones, plus 30 TV stations and many magazines. In his job, Mr. Farivar has introduced popular programs such as "Farm Talk," modeled after NPR's Car Talk. USAID has spent over \$1 billion on programs to counteract the Taliban. Mr. Farivar expressed hope that the West would not again abandon Afghanistan, but opined that free media are now too entrenched to be oppressed again.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

- November 7 New Member/Longtime Member Talks, CATHYE SMITHWICK/JOHN O'KEEFE & SAM WEBSTER
- November 14 **Dakin Sloss**, Opening California's Finances to the Public
- November 21 **Nan Su**, The Renaissance of Traditional Chinese Culture and Its Global Impact