

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

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## STANFORD FOOTBALL AND CALIFORNIA COMMON SENSE

We were treated to a great double header at today's Rotary Meeting....an Outstanding Program plus a special Big Game warm up!

### THE BIG GAME WARM UP

To kick things off the venerable Stanford Axe was paraded about the room. Leading the parade were the equally venerable SAM WEBSTER and BILL BUSSE. Thanks to *"The One...the Only...The Incomparable HAL MICKELSON"* we were honored by having four members of the Axe Committee (two of whom were handcuffed to the Axe plaque) give us an up close view of the Big Game trophy. Thanks once again HAL and thanks Daniel, Cyrus, Patrick and Brad!



In addition to the Axe display, we were treated to a rendition of the Stanford Fight

Song...with words by "true blue" LELAND LEVY. So sing along with UNCLE HAL...

*Come Join the Club  
And give a cheer for Rotary.  
We are the hub,  
Of this esteemed community.  
On service we're sold,  
And though our banner's blue and gold,  
With spirits high.*

Following TOM GRACON'S "countdown to the Pledge" and subsequent rendition thereof, President-in-Waiting HAL introduced visiting Rotarian Arne Christiansen from Denmark and the following guests: Tom Wagner (WALT HAYS), Alexander McFarland (RICK RAYBIN).

### OPENING SALUTE TO VETERANS

Immediate Past President MIKE MCMAHON shared the following poem by Archibald MacLeish in honor of those who have served our country:



*The young dead soldiers do not speak.  
Nevertheless, they are heard in the still houses:  
who has not heard them?  
They have a silence that speaks for them at  
night  
and when the clock counts.  
They say: We were young. We have died.  
Remember us.  
They say: We have done what we could*

*but until it is finished it is not done.  
They say: We have given our lives but until it is finished  
no one can know what our lives gave.  
They say: Our deaths are not ours; they are yours,  
they will mean what you make them.  
They say: Whether our lives and our deaths were for*

*peace and a new hope or for nothing we cannot say,  
it is you who must say this.  
We leave you our deaths. Give them their meaning.  
We were young, they say. We have died; remember us.*

As you know we travel to Berkeley on Wednesday to meet with the Berkeley Rotarians. This annual home-and-home visit is a long time tradition of our Big Game festivities. (It was originated in the 1950s by our revered member BILL MILLER and past International President Stan McCaffery)

We will congregate at Ming's parking lot at 10:30 according to STEVE PLAYER, and car pool from there. The program has been arranged by the aforementioned STEVO and will be excellent, as will be the hospitality...which includes a free drink. Certainly worth a trip across the Bay!

### YET ANOTHER OUTSTANDING PROGRAM!

GINNY LEAR introduced Dakin Sloss, a Stanford senior who is studying physics, mathematics, and philosophy. But those subjects...and his interest in quantum theory and neuroscience...were not what brought him to Rotary. He is president of California Common Sense and shared the objectives of that organization with the assembled Rotarians and



guests.

The non-profit organization, formed in 2010, was initiated by Stanford students and alumni. Its basic purpose is to improve the efficiency of the California state government...certainly no small task! However, with the support of such diverse luminaries as Willie Brown, George Shultz, Duf Sundheim, and Steve Westly

there may be hope. Dakin described how his team is gathering financial information on many of the 3,200 State entities. The follow-on purpose is to disseminating factual data to the public that will help drive the discourse on how to fix Sacramento. (Take a deep breath.) At present they are in the process of establishing groups on every campus in California by using mass media, such as Facebook. It is intended that this new model for representative democracy will promote dialogue with state officials and, in so doing, compete with special interests, thereby outweighing money as the basis for our governance.

Dakin's presentation was far more interesting than this brief summary can describe. But this writer came away encouraged by what young people and modern technology may be able to do. California Common Sense is in the process of raising funds and developing community support. Visit their web site at <http://www.cacs.org> for more information. Then consider signing the petition to Governor Brown.

ANDY COE on Dakin Sloss, "He's so smart it's scary!"

[Palo Alto Rotary - Meeting Information](#)

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