

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date: January 9, 2012

Reporter: DON MORGAN

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

## CALL TO ORDER

PRESIDENT SHERRI convened the meeting at 12:15 PM. At her request, GEORGE WHEATON led the Pledge.

## INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting resumed at 12:40 as TOM GRACON noted the absence of visiting Rotarians and introduced the following members and guests:

Paul Eshoo, guest of RICK RAYBIN and ANDY COE;  
Ramona Ambrozic, guest to OLIVER COOLIDGE;  
Clay Jones, guest of KATIE SEEDMAN;  
Sarah Goodwin, guest of proud father, SAM WEBSTER;  
Paul Wright, guest of DARYL SAVAGE.

## OPENING REMARKS

KAY WILSON quoted uplifting and insightful comments about friends and friendship by George Washington, Henry David Thoreau, Barbara Bush, Abe Lincoln, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Walter Winchell, and Robert Louis Stevenson.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESIDENT SHERRI welcomed RAMONA AMBROZIC into

membership in the club and Rotary

International, presenting her with a Red Badge, a Rotarian pin, and an invoice for initial dues.



PRESIDENT SHERRI presented a Paul Harris pin to MARCIE COX.

DANA TOM joined the President's Club to mark his son's early admission to Tufts.

CASH ALAEE joined to celebrate his shift to a great new job in the Palo Alto government, that of Administrator of the Planning Department.

EDUARDO DANGLER joined to mark his return from an absence of four months, noting he had attended Rotary meetings throughout the period, including some aboard ship.

MARCIE COX joined the President's Club to announce a change in her Official Classification, from Interior Design to Fine Art (a first for our club). Her career in the latter started splendidly with sales of 23 works at a recent show and commissions for works for the Tour de France and Tim Lincecum.

DON MORGAN joined in honor of LYLE CONNELL's many years of service to the Pinion, as photographer, editor, and formatter. (LYLE also schedules the writing assignments.) PRESIDENT SHERRI set off a standing ovation in LYLE's honor.

BILL BUSSE joined the President's Club respecting the Stanford Football Team, which had a fine season and missed by just a foot, ending the year as the number two team in the nation. He added that at the Fiesta Bowl, he had reunited with others in the Class of '45 in a last hurrah.

SAM WEBSTER strongly urged members to fulfill their commitments to make annual contributions to the Endowment Fund. He also asked for written legacy commitments, as a likely source of substantial increases in the Fund.

GEORGE FITZGERALD called our attention to score sheets at each table to evaluate the programs of the meetings in the last calendar quarter. He also invited all members to participate in the Programs Committee, which looks for (and finds) very good speakers, of whom a member has heard deliver a talk and who is not seeking contributions for another organization.

Our Treasurer, CASH ALAEE, asked members to participate one way or another in preparations for the club's annual fundraiser on April 14, including contributing items for auction and purchasing individual tickets for \$75 and sponsoring multiple ticket groupings.

PRESIDENT SHERRI thanked MARY QIAN for serving as cashier for the meeting, DICK MANSFIELD for welcoming members and guests, MIKE McMAHON for greeting them, KAY WILSON for Opening Remarks, STEVE MADSEN for room preparations, DON MORGAN for drafting the Pinion, and LYLE CONNELL for editing it.

GINNY LEAR endorsed SAM WEBSTER's comments and announced a polio eradication trip members could join to India February 14-23.

PRESIDENT SHERRI delivered an appreciation certificate to last year's PRESIDENT MIKE McMAHON for the club's financial contribution to charities.

## THE PROGRAM: Paul Eshoo, Ecotourism in Laos

ANDY COE provided a brief bio for and promptly introduced our principal speaker. Mr. Eshoo talked about his years in Laos, including the two most recent ones promoting ecotourism in a remote, poor, and very scenic area in the northeastern part of the country. He reviewed efforts to preserve the tiger population in the Nam Et-Phou Lovey National Protected Area, which included contracting with several villagers to restrict hunting in exchange for income from ecotourists. He responded to several questions following his presentation.



The meeting adjourned around 1:30 PM.

## FUTURE PROGRAMS

**January 16 Errol Wirasinghe, Why we make sub-optimal decisions, and how to do better**

**January 23 Jackie Boor, The President's Helicopter Pilots**

**January 30 John Perry, Philosophy Corner**

Meeting information: [www.rotarypaloalto.org](http://www.rotarypaloalto.org)