

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

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## MARTIN LUTHUR KING DAY...A TRIBUTE TO NON-VIOLENT CHANGE

Past President JOHN KIDD shared thoughts on our advancement toward racial equality. Although our Declaration of Independence includes the premise that *"All men are created equal,"* we have struggled to realize that goal as a national reality. Steps forward were made by President Lincoln, interspersed with road blocks by people such as Nobel Laureate William Shockley. The honorable Dr. King led the movement forward advocating non-violent change. *Non-violence*, quoting Dr. King, *"is the answer to the political and moral question of our time. It is the need for mankind to overcome oppression and violence without resorting to oppression and violence,"* and *"The foundation of non-violence is love."* It was a beautifully-done tribute. Thanks, John.



RUTH SCHNEIDER led us in the pledge which was mostly in synch, perhaps, because DAVID NEGRIN was just a bit late. Sorry David...everyone in attendance may use your creative version of the pledge twice next week...or maybe not!

AUDREY RUST introduced our guest...Mike Smithwick...Mike is BOB SMITHWICK'S son and CATHYE SMITHWICK'S brother. Welcome Smithwicks, one and all.

Welcome to the Club MIKE! MIKE BAIRD joined President SHERRI'S exclusive Club in honor of his niece, who is graduating from Gunn. She has been accepted, and will attend the University of Rochester in New York. Why Rochester, you ask? Well, her grandparents met there some 50 years ago. All of your grandparents will undoubtedly applaud the decision!

GLORIA HOM, Past President, and first female member of the Palo Alto Rotary Club, announced a new and different experience for celebrating CHINESE NEW YEAR...AND YOU ARE INVITED. This year's special event includes a Chinese dinner in Palo Alto, followed by a car-pooled trek to San Francisco. And why San Francisco you ask? First, because that's where the Palace of Fine Arts is and, second, that is where the MISS CHINATOWN PAGEANT will be held. The pageant is an annual talent contest of young ladies, who will be competing for scholarships. The winner will also become a goodwill ambassador for the Chinese community.

YOU ARE INVITED to join this festive occasion taking place on Saturday, FEBRUARY 7th, starting at 5 pm. The cost for the entire evening is \$70. Get your check in to GLORIA by January 27th. Early birds get the best seats. Go for it!

Our WORLD SERVICE GURU, WALT HAYS, announced a meeting at his home this Wednesday for those interested in our Rotary project in Haiti planned for later this year. Call Walt....424.9633.

TOM GRACON rose to announce that details on the Knight-Risser Symposium at Stanford are on the web at <http://knightrisser.stanford.edu/>. The subject has to do with water issues. (Pending water shortage was suggested by our guest speaker as the next global battle ground.)

BILL BUSSE reported that our Sister Cities Display, which will be installed in King Plaza, is nearing completion. A dedication ceremony will be held later this month or early in February. Past President and Ex-Mayor LE LEVY is making arrangements for the unveiling. Clear your calendar of all other events. This will be a special presentation to the City of Palo Alto and Neighbors Abroad. It was initiated by CHET DOUGLAS with support and encouragement by Club members, STEVE EMSLIE and JIM KEENE. (For those of you who may not know, King Plaza is the area in front of the Palo Alto City Hall.)

## THE ART OF MAKING DECISIONS

Our illustrious Program Chairman GEORGE FITZGERALD did his usual outstanding job in introducing speaker, Dr. Errol Wirasinghe. Dr. Wirasinghe had a distinguished career in industry and education. Currently he is a consultant in the field of decision making.



The challenge for your reporter is to "decide" who to write this Pinion for...is it primarily for those in attendance today, or for members who were unable to attend, or both, which is a difficult decision, no doubt. Perhaps I should go to Google. No, that will be information overload. Besides,

I see a frog and you see a horse. (That last statement was for those in attendance...It is merely a curious comment for those not at today's meeting. Bet you wish you were there!)

The problem is how you perceive the problem. If you weren't there, you should know that every problem has a solution. The key is to identify the "relevant" criteria. For example, was it, or was it not relevant for you to be in attendance for me to decide whether I should write this primarily for you? That is a good question. Before this gets completely out of hand, you should know that we enjoyed an excellent presentation, albeit a three-day seminar condensed into a 35 minute talk. The bottom line is, go to [www.wpertus.com](http://www.wpertus.com) to see what you didn't see.

In spite of my rambling, it was another very well received program. It challenged all of us to learn more about the fine art of decision making. Thanks GEORGE, and the entire Program Committee, for another stimulating presentation. For those of you who decided...that I decided...to write this for you....thanks for listening and happy decision making

## FUTURE PROGRAMS

January 23 Jackie Boor, the President's Helicopter Pilots

January 30 John Perry, Self-Deception and other odd

Features of the human condition.

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