

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date: February 27, 2012

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## CALL TO ORDER

PRESIDENT-ELECT HAL MICKELSON began the formal part of the meeting at 12:15 by calling on BRUCE GEE, who led the Pledge.

## INTRODUCTIONS

At 12:35 PRESIDENT-ELECT HAL called on Members with guests to introduce them. DICK BUSH introduced Roger Lowther, RALPH ADAMS introduced Chris Richardson, STEVE PLAYER introduced Paul Wright, GEORGE FITZGERALD introduced Pedro Garcia, and WALT HAYS introduced Zack Hou, all to welcoming applause.

## OPENING REMARKS

MONIQUE leCONGE regaled the audience with statistics and customs concerning February 29ths. Picking up on her review of jurisdictions in which women could propose marriage to men, PRESIDENT-ELECT HAL asked for a show of hands by those who remembered Sadie Hawkins Day, confident that many older members would. They did. For the benefit of those too young to have enjoyed Al Capp's mid-20<sup>th</sup>



Century comic strip Lil' Abner, we note that on that day if a woman physically caught a man in the rural community of Dogpatch, he was required to marry her. No proposal or acceptance was needed.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

GINNY LEAR reminded Red Badgers of a 25 minute meeting to follow the luncheon that would feature a talk by WALT HAYS on the Club's World Community Service activities. She also encouraged others considering joining to attend.

DAVE THORNTON reviewed the Club's support for programs conducted by local churches to feed the homeless, and asked for volunteers willing to help fulfill the Club's plans to provide two persons every fifth Wednesday to help serve dinner and clean up at the First Presbyterian Church in Palo Alto. He added that he needed two to help on Wednesday, March 7.

KAREN KIENZLE encouraged participation in a fundraiser for the Palo Alto Arts Center Foundation. PRESIDENT-ELECT HAL urged those present to seek corporate sponsors for the Club's fund raiser, or to finger others who could do so. Aware that many had watched the prior evening's Academy Awards and its corporate sponsors' commercials, he quizzed his audience on what were the last words spoken by Alfonso Bedoya in the film version of The Treasure of the Sierra Madre. To his surprise, and to everyone else's, GINNY LEAR confidently recited those last words – accurately!

LE LEVY and BILL BUSSE invited attendance at the dedication of the Club's signpost to sister cities of Palo Alto (all six of them) at 5 pm on Monday, March 5, on the plaza in front of city hall. The ceremony will mark completion of a club project they started about two years ago.

## THE PROGRAM: The Power of Two

ROB LYMAN introduced today's speakers, identical twins Isabel Stenzel-Byrnes and Anabel Stenzel. They suffered from birth with Cystic Fibrosis about 40 years ago, a deadly disease caused by a defective gene. Doctors told the parents the girls would be lucky



to live ten years. As it turned out, they were lucky, lucky to live near the Stanford Hospitals.

The sisters explained that medical advances including drugs and lung

transplants came to their rescue. They reviewed the travails of their daily lives before the transplants and contrasted their relatively normal lives today. They are no longer identical twins, as they have male lungs, with an x chromosome, free of the defective gene. They had thanked the donor families for saving their lives, and have been urging others to sign up as potential donors. Those efforts took them to Japan where organ donors were extremely rare, due to religious and cultural reasons. They reported on very modest increases in donors there, to about 30 to 40 a year. The U.S. has 14,000 donors a year, but 112,000 people waiting for donations, gifts of life that survive death. A Q&A session took up the available time remaining. A resounding round of applause expressed the audience's sympathy for the twins and appreciation for their presentation.

PRESIDENT-ELECT HAL concluded the meeting at 1:30 with an admonition to review Living Wills to include consent to organ donations.

## FUTURE PROGRAMS

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| March 5  | <b>Victor Gauthier</b> , The New Bay Bridge                               |
| March 12 | <b>Axel Merk</b> , European Contagion – Global Dynamics Unplugged         |
| March 19 | <b>TBA</b> , New Members/Longtime Member Talks                            |
| March 26 | <b>Kent Drescher</b> , Assisting PTSD Vets Transitioning to Civilian Life |

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