

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date: March 12, 2012

Reporter: DAVID NEGRIN

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

## OPENER:

PREZ-Elect HAL MICKELSON called the meeting to order at 12:15 PM and invited CATHYE SMITHWICK to lead the pledge.

## VISITING ROTARIANS & GUESTS

### Visiting Rotarians:

There was one visiting Rotarian, guess who? It was former member SKIP HOYT, now a member of the Rossmore Club. Welcome back SKIP!

### Guests of PA Rotary members:

Michel Gross (DICK BUSH), Dick Franke (DICK FREEMAN), Kieran Osborne (AXEL MERK), Yuri Sergunin (MIKE COUCH), Peter Giles (MIKE McMAHON), and Kimiko Yoshinari (GINNY LEAR).

**OPENING REMARKS:** Were delivered by BILL BUSSE, who spoke about the need to modify our means of acknowledgment of significant events using numbers. For example, why wait five years to celebrate an anniversary, when it can be done in three? BILL is a perfect example, since his next wedding anniversary is perfectly divided by three. Yup, BILL's been married sixty-three years coming up shortly. Congrats, BILL, that's an enviable record.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

MIKE COUCH announced an important meeting tonight (March 12<sup>th</sup>) to signify the efforts of our CLUB in the Rotaract program. It's a bit late, but several members signed up and are attending. Call MIKE for details/results.

LIZ KNISS announced a forthcoming meeting on Identity Theft to be held this Thursday, starting at 6:00 PM at the Senior Center. Call LIZ for more details. Also, she used the opportunity to join the President's Club. Thanks LIZ!



Our member, JOHN BARTON, will be honored as an outstanding Professional at the Tall Trees Awards Dinner, to be held at the Crown Plaza Cabana Hotel on April 11<sup>th</sup>. Contact GINNY LEAR for details.



The annual FUND RAISER will be held April 14<sup>th</sup>; so get your tickets soon (next week will do), and start collecting important auction items. IRIS KOROL hopes to break records with this event.

## TODAY'S PROGRAM

Today's speaker, AXEL MERK, was introduced by GEORGE



FITZGERALD, who highlighted AXEL's distinguished career in the complex field of financial management. AXEL is now the chief executive of his own company. Judging from his talk, which should have been scheduled for a college semester, he's very knowledgeable in the many complicated aspects of the international economy.

AXEL pointed out our free choice faced by our Fed Chief, Ben Bernanke, between depression and hyper-inflation and how; so far, we have avoided both. AXEL pointed out the influence and dependency on the USA throughout the world. Also stressed was the point that no investments are free of risk; and that we should exercise restraint and caution accordingly. It was a very deep, thoughtful discussion. Thank you AXEL MERK!

## CLOSING REMARKS

PREZ ELECT HAL thanked the following Club members before closing the meeting at 1:29 PM

Cashier - RAMONA AMBROZIC

Room Setup - STEVE MADSEN

Official Greeter - MIKE McMAHON

Pinion Reporter - DAVID NEGRIN

## FUTURE PROGRAMS

### March 19

Mike Baird, Mary Qian/Bob Smithwick,

New Members/Longtime Member Talks

### March 26

Kent Drescher, Assisting PTSD Vets Transitioning to Civilian Life

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