

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

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ROB LANCEFIELD led the Pledge of Allegiance.

SHERRI auctioned two Oakland A's tickets, for opening night of the 2012 season.

JUDITH STEINER welcomed our guests:

**Visiting Rotarians:** None

**Rotarians with Guests:** Kumiko Yoshinari, guest of GINNY LEAR

**OPENING REMARKS:** NINA MOORE shared her sister's heart transplant story as an example of courage that also illustrates the 4-way test. Azza El Sissi is a TV producer, Canada. Diagnosed with a rare heart disease called Fabry in 1989, Azza is now a survivor having lived 16 years with her heart transplant. She has since raised funds for Fabry research. She has stopped medications and continues to be healthy!

For the full story:  
[http://www.canadianliving.com/health/mind\\_and\\_spirit/her\\_heart\\_goes\\_on\\_a\\_story\\_of\\_organ\\_donation.php](http://www.canadianliving.com/health/mind_and_spirit/her_heart_goes_on_a_story_of_organ_donation.php)



**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** CASH ALAEE encouraged all members to support our April 14 Fundraiser. 93 tickets have been sold to date. He encouraged all members to donate an auction item before the March 30 deadline. SHERRI emphasized this is our one and only fundraiser for the year, so your support is important. Make sure to get your tickets and to bring your friends!

DANA TOM encouraged the purchase of Rotary luncheon tickets. The tickets are easier than fumbling for cash or writing a check each Monday: \$160/ten.

WALT HAYS summarized our club's recent trip to Haiti. WALT described the 11<sup>th</sup> Hour Foundation's work to install composting toilets in Port-au-Prince. Sanitation is a big problem. Only 10% of Haiti's top soil is left. Walt presented a Port-au-Prince Rotary flag to SHERRI.

## PRESIDENTS CLUB CONTRIBUTION

ROB LANCEFIELD told us that JACK WOODSON and he are distant cousins; and to honor that relation, ROB made a contribution. Also, ROB's wife, Rita, recently found his father's military records signed by Dwight Eisenhower.

**PROGRAM SPEAKER:** ROB LYMAN announced today's New/Older member talks.



MIKE BAIRD is sponsored by RICK RAYBIN. He grew up in Biscayne Bay/Vero Beach, Florida, near the SF Giants Spring Training site and as result; he is a BIG fan of Gator football. He worked at Charley Brown's Restaurant and served several sports celebrities including: Sandy Koufax, Walter Alston, Tommy Lasorda, and many more. MIKE

went to Indiana State, where he rode in the famous Indiana Little 500 bicycle race. See

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zSD8VX2WPtM&noredirect=1> MIKE moved to SF with KPMG as a CPA. He moved back to "Miamah" and then returned to CA in 2009. He specializes in financial research and compliance. "It's great to be in Palo Alto!"

ROB then introduced MARY QIAN, who is sponsored by NINA MOORE. MARY is Editor in Chief of Sound of Hope Chinese Radio Network. She has written over 100 classic Chinese poems. She was born in China and remembers when she was 10 years old grabbing books before they were to be burned. MARY has one brother and one sister. She recounted once accidentally feeding brother liquor, instead of cough syrup! MARY attended the Academy of Art in SF and Cal State Hayward. She has one son who went to UC Davis. In 2001, she started working with Chinese media to provide news for the local Chinese community about China/Taiwanese events. MARY wants to get more involved with the Palo Alto community and to learn more about Western culture. Her mother's family helped with the move and US College.



ROB introduced former club President, BOB SMITHWICK, who recounted the story of Rotary accepting women as members. Rotary had been an all-male organization until 1989. BOB recounted how PA Rotary met at Rickey's in 1986, just after a Monterey Rotary conference. BOB invited a guest from the Duarte Rotary, whose club had admitted three women. But as a result, Duarte's charter was revoked by Rotary International. On appeal by Duarte in 1987, the US Supreme Court ruled women could not be excluded by gender. On June 7, 1987, Palo Alto Rotarian GLORIA HOM was voted in as first woman formally to join Rotary International within moments of US Supreme Court decision. Duarte got their charter back. Now, there are over 145,000 women Rotarians.



GLORIA HOM (her birthday is today!) thanked Bob and remembered the 1987 club was very welcoming, particularly among the older members. She mentioned some Hong Kong Clubs today don't admit men! Various Rotarians recalled anecdotal memories.

## FUTURE PROGRAMS

**March 26 - Kent Drescher**, Assisting PTSD Vets Transitioning to Civilian Life

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