

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date: March 26, 2012

Reporter: GEOFF ZIMAN

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

The following steadfast crew took care of business today: DICK MANSFIELD noted visitors. EJ HONG was there, as usual, bludgeoning members into signing in properly. DAVE PRICE handled the lunch money details. STEVE MADSEN took care of room arrangements and audio-visuals (including a neat improvisation at one point).

At the appointed time, Prez SHERRI SAGER called on KAREN KIENZLE to lead us in the flag salute. After allowing the members some time to enjoy food and socializing, PAUL WRIGHT was called on to introduce visitors. We acknowledged Rotarian Dr. Charles Arnold from the Tiburon Club (and a cruising friend of MIKE McMAHON), together with his wife, Carol. Former member KLAUS HEINEMANN, now a Rotarian at the Gualala Club, was also greeted together with Brian Schmidt, a friend of WALT HAYS. Brian was making his third visit to our club.

DAVID NEGRIN started his opening remarks with the assertion that there should be a six-way test. He suggested that the brief two-way test admonition – *Work Hard and Be Honest* – drummed into him by his parents, needed to be added to Rotary's Four-Way Test. David added family background (Romaniote Jews from Ionnina, Greece) and World War II naval service as substantiation. He admitted that his desire to join the navy was predicated on a personal decision to either come home in one piece (which he thankfully did) or not come home at all.



KATIE SEEDMAN reminded members that the Annual Fund Raiser is coming up on April 14. If you have not already provided an auction item, then members should consider bringing a bottle of (good) wine next week. The event is both fun and of vital importance to the club's charitable efforts. The cost of attending is only \$75. Both SHERRI SAGER and CHESLEY DOUGLAS very strongly encouraged more members to sign up.

Prez Elect HAL MICKELSON advised us that seven members had signed up to attend the District Assembly on this coming Saturday, March 31. Contact HAL if you have not yet signed up and wish to attend this opportunity to find out how Rotary really works.

GEORGE FITZGERALD introduced our speaker Dr. Kent Drescher, a licensed psychologist on the staff of the National

Center for PTSD in Menlo Park, as well as being deeply involved with the Pathway Home in Yountville. At the Pathway, a non-profit institution, veterans from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars are



offered residential care and skilled treatment. The speaker started by reminding us that these wars have been the longest and costliest now in US history. They involve a small all-volunteer army in an environment of technology and rapid communications. "Dear John" letters

arrive instantly, not two months later. Out of the 2 million who have served, there are 178,000 with traumatic brain injuries. Contributing factors in the high numbers exhibiting Post Traumatic Stress Disorder are multiple deployments and veterans returning to communities with no fanfare or extra resources to help them. After involuntary discharge veterans often find themselves without identity, support, or homes. This is where the Pathway Home is able to help. The Rotary Club in Yountville is one of the local organizations that support the Home by helping to bring veterans into healthy social networks. Members who go to the website <http://cycle4sight.com/> will find details of the Yountville Rotary Club's fund-raising ride in the Napa Valley on April 21.

GEOFF ZIMAN asked how long veterans stay at the home and was told that it was 4-5 months. JOHN O'KEEFE asked if varying attitudes towards the problems are found. The speaker said that support was mixed and varied greatly across the country. ROB LANCEFIELD asked about standards for identifying PTSD. Apparently there are many different ones.

## FUTURE PROGRAMS

- April 2 **Kory Russell**, Building Capacity for Improved Access To Water
- April 9 **Ben Hu**, Why China's Domestic Policy Matters to the Rest of the World
- April 16 **Will Durst**, You Can't Make Stuff Up Like This
- April 23 **Paul Wise, M.D.**, Saving Babies in Mayan Villages: Making Philanthropy Work in the Real

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