

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date: July 16, 2012

Reporter: BRIAN STEEN

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

CALL TO ORDER: HAL MIKELSON started the meeting at 12:15 PM, observing that "Once again, we are here!" DICK BUSH led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MIKE COUCH welcomed our guests:

Visiting Rotarians: Phillip Boudart from Millbrae, Bob Denebeim from East Palo Alto, KLAUS HEINEMANN from Gualala.

Rotarians with Guests: Trish Mulvey guest of SALLY TOMLINSON, Rene Morgan guest and wife of DON MORGAN, Trish Shur guest of GEOFF ZIMAN, and Jerry Patrick guest of DAN QUINN.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: STEVE EMSLIE announced the upcoming Rotary Garden Social August 5, 3-6 PM at Greer Park, Colorado and Bayshore. We'll inaugurate the Greer Shade Structures recently created by our club.

President HAL reminded us this is one of two picnics our members should attend, the first being the August 28 University Rotary Club Picnic at Foothill Park. Please sign up at our next meeting and be sure to identify whether you and your guests live in Palo Alto or not.

HAL introduced "Professor" LE LEVY, who led us in singing one of his best songs yet, "Mickelson Can" to the tune of the *Candy Man*, originally made famous by Sammy Davis, Jr., whose style and spirit were invoked as we sang LE's clever lyrics.

SHERRI SAGER presented President HAL with his official Rotary President's pin.

President's Club generous contributions were made by MIKE COUCH, OLIVER COOLIDGE, and GEOFF ZIMAN.

WALT HAYS indicated he recently had seen former member SKIP HOYT, who told WALT he has been a Rotarian for 62 years in 8 clubs, adding that PA Rotary is the best!

OPENING REMARKS: DON MORGAN provided interesting and historical insights about the Declaration of Independence.



Apparently the Declaration was not much in the public's mind until 1848 when a group of Quaker women organized to adopt the Declaration of Sentiments, which was closely modeled after the Declaration of Independence. Then President Abraham Lincoln led the Civil War to implement the aspirations of the Declaration. 1870 saw the creation of July 4th as our national holiday with

the Declaration clearly held high in the public's mind since.

PROGRAM: YORIKO KISHIMOTO introduced Dr. Rick Lanman, Chief Medical Officer with Veracyte. Dr. Lanman



founded the Friends of Adobe Creek, and is an Advisor to the Santa Clara Water District. He has a particular interest in California's historical ecology, adding that Californians have particularly poor understanding of the state's historical ecology. This is illustrated by the lack of public awareness that many of our bay area streams were once perennial steelhead trout fisheries, but now are only intermittent streams that can't

support a trout population. He provided various printed references supporting this fact going back to 1877, with modern oral histories agreeing that trout remained in the stream until the 1950's. What happened?

- Adobe Creek starts near the top of Black Mountain at 2600 feet in what was once a forest environment. That forest was completely cut; and as a result, there is no mulch left to absorb winter rainfall, which historically would have maintained Adobe Creek's year-round status. With no forest, there is no fog drip, which normally creates several inches of water to replenish the aquifer.
- Overgrazing kept small trees from growing.
- Wells for irrigation and domestic water lowered the water table.
- Adobe Creek has been channelized in concrete from Camino Real to Hwy 101, which prevents ground water absorption and serves as a trout barrier.

Friends of Adobe Creek are advocating the restoration of Adobe Creek with the ultimate goal of bringing back the trout fishery.

Q: Is the Santa Clara Water District supportive?

A: To the extent they have authority.

Q: If the stream is restored, how will adjacent property be protected from flooding?

A: By increasing wetland water dispersal in the Baylands and increasing woody debris in the Adobe Creek channel to slow flow and increase absorption

Thank You's: HAL thanked our greeters, cashier, EPinion writer, and the other volunteers who helped make this meeting possible.

Adjournment: HAL reminded us to sign up and attend the July 28 University Club Picnic at Foothill Park.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

July 23 **New Member Talks**

July 28 **Lou Thompson**, High Speed Rail, What's Next For California and The Peninsula

Meeting Information www.rotarypaloalto.org