

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date: August 13, 2012

Reporter: BILL BUSSE

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

FRAUD OR IDENTITY THEFT ANYONE?

We were treated to a most informative presentation at today's Rotary meeting by Detective Sergeant James Reifschneider of the Palo Alto Police Department. If you missed it, pay attention to the suggestions listed later in this Pinion. These will help to minimize your exposure to the bad guys.

FOLLOWING THE PLEDGE...led by the inimitable CHET DOUGLAS and the **INTRO of GUESTS** by world traveler, JOHN KIDD...our own "would be" terrorist, DARYL SAVAGE, shared her experience at an FBI exercise held at Facebook. In her **OPENING REMARKS**, DARYL began by describing the scene...FBI agents repelling from three Blackhawk helicopters and one repeller coming down with "Billy the Dog." Billy is trained to knock a suspect down by ramming him or her. DARYL survived the exercise and came away with an official FBI hat. Way to go, DARYL!



VISITING ROTARIANS

Bob Denebein and Maisha Mouton from the East Palo Alto Club

GUESTS of ROTARIANS

ED DANGLER...Nancy Chan

JOAN PLASTIRAS...Ron Roth

DARYL SAVAGE...Jocelyn Dong

GLORIA HOM...Ellen Lau

KATIE SEEDMAN...Brian Hurwick

BEN THRELKELD...Jake Loewenheim

Alex Scollon

A guest of our speaker was fellow Palo Alto Policeman, Cole Ghilarducci

NEW MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENT'S CLUB

President HAL inducted three new members. To wit: AXEL MERK, BETSY BECHTEL and JUDY KLEINBERG

AXEL is back from Finland, where he addressed a Rotary Club complete with translation by his wife and fellow Rotarian HANNA TIKKANEN MERK. The mayor and press showed up. AXEL made headlines in the local paper, although HANNA should have received all the credit for being able to translate from German to English to Finnish. Certainly worthy of a PC membership.



BETSY cased into the reason for joining by commending the McMAHONS, DOUGLASES and GRACONS for throwing an outstanding Mexican

Fiesta Party. It was payback for their generous Rotary auction item. Muchas Gracias Amigos and Amigas! You want to know the real reason for joining the PC? Well, BETSY is running for re-election to the Governing Board of the Foothill/De Anza College District. She thought that a plug for votes was worth the membership fee of 100 big ones. Good luck, BETSY! You have served us well; and we'll pass it on.



JUDY joined in memory of DAVID NEGRIN, and the fact her daughter passed her architectural licensing exams. (No small feat, as TONY CARRASCO, JON STOUMEN, and BILL BUSSE will attest.) "It's as challenging as becoming a brain surgeon, but they can only kill one person at a time." And that was a direct quote from new PC member JUDY!



ANNETTE GLANCKOPF took the mike to announce that she had Rotary caps looking for their owners. If you worked on the Greer Park sun shade structures, your cap awaits you! If you don't remember, ask your spouse. Also, she has a few for sale at a bargain price...what ever that is!

NOW OUR PROGRAM ON FRAUD AND IDENTITY THEFT

The affable LIZ KNISS introduced James Reifschneider, a Detective Sergeant with the Investigative Services Division of the Palo Alto Police Department. James graduated summa cum laude from Santa Clara Law School and gravitated to police work. He has been with the PA force for seven years, during which he trained in many police specialties. Of note is the fact he was awarded the "Local Hero" Award from the Chamber of Commerce.



Just how big a problem are we dealing with, you ask? Well, in 2010 there were 8.6 million victims of fraud or identity theft at a whopping

loss of 13.3 billion dollars. That's "billion," folks.

A few of the descriptive words for this line of work are: mail theft, burglary, phishing, skimming, hacking, and social engineering. James shared examples of the above scams and left us with these words of advice.

Safeguard your mail. A number of Rotarians have accessible mail boxes. Add a lock and key.

Remove your name from mass marketing lists.

Safeguard your personal info. Keep your wallet secure. Don't carry social security numbers.

Don't make yourself the low hanging fruit is a good idea, whatever it means. Get a shredder.

Bad guys use skimmers to get credit card info at gas pumps. Use a pump closest to the office.

Monitor your Credit Reports. Go to AnnualCreditReport.com. Look for address changes.

Use credit, not debit cards. (The bank picks up the tab if your credit card is compromised.)

Keep your anti-virus program updated.

Don't open e-mail from unknown sources. (If in doubt, right clicking on the name for more info.)

Inform the police, even if the problem seems minor.

It was indeed a stimulating and informative presentation by an outstanding member of our Police Department. As Obi Won would say, "May the "force" be with you!"

It should be noted that our esteemed leader, PRESIDENT HAL is doing a phenomenal job of keeping the troops in line...and keeping your scribe alert with his erudite remarks.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

August 20: **Phil Taubman**, International Security / International Relations

August 27: **Amir Dan Rubin**, Stanford Hospital President and CEO

September 3: **Dark**

Meeting Information www.rotarypaloalto.org