

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

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AGIAN THIS YEAR THERE SHOULD BE NO QUESTION!

EVERY YEAR we rate our programs and every year the winner is "New Member Talks." Last Monday we were once again treated to three outstanding life stories....RAMONA RAYBIN...BRIAN SCHMIDT... and JON STOUMEN. If you missed it, you missed three most unusual human adventure stories. The summary below does not do justice, so make a note to never ever miss "New Member Talks!"

OUR LOQUACIOUS AND LOVABLE LEADER once again opened the meeting with a few well-chosen phrases, followed by JOYCE CUSICK admirably leading the Pledge. Prez HAL called attention to the obvious...we had a new Room Layout. It was the brain child of TONY CARRASCO and his team of experts who had tired of looking into the bright background and straining to see the faces of our illustrious speakers or anyone else manning or womanning the podium. A hearty "Well Done" to Tony and the Design Team!

A rousing "Welcome Back" to RUTH SCHNEIDER! The following is a related memo from the "We Care" Committee.

Members are needed to occasionally drive Rotarians to and from Rotary Meetings... If you can help with this need, please contact Team Members DICK FREEMAN, BILL BUSSE, and JOYCE CUSICK. Remember it's called "SERVICE ABOVE SELF."

BRIAN STEEN ambled to the podium to introduce our Guests, to wit: Rotarian, and past member of our club, KLAUS HEINEMANN. Guests; Sharon Gitzen...intro by ANDY COE, Brian Hurwick by KATIE SEEDMAN, and Lun Shin Yuen by DENNIS MCGINN.

HONESTLY!

Our Opening Remarks were presented by self-proclaimed political junkie DIANA DIAMOND. Her outstanding presentation centered on the fact that she is upset (to put it mildly) by the lies bandied about by both political parties. Her question, "Why are we not moral?" It seems the lies are never corrected...which goes for bankers, too. On top of that no one goes to jail as a result. A final caveat..."Unless you have the data you're just another person with an opinion!"



ANNOUNCEMENTS...

ANNETTE GLANCKOPF announced a "Leader Training Workshop" by Palo Alto's tree planting specialists, CANOPY. The Workshop is from 5:30 to 7 pm either Sept. 20 or 21. This is a lead into a planting Hand-On project on October 6th from 8:30 to 4, lunch included. Sign up for either a half day or all day at our next meeting!

PRESIDENT HAL'S "NEW PRESIDENT" PRESIDENTIAL RECEPTION will be held at IRIS KOROL's from 5 to 7 pm Wednesday, October 3rd. Bring a bottle of white wine, if you'd like. (It must be that Prez Hal only drinks the white stuff!) *This is an annual Club Tradition. Don't miss it either intentionally or unintentionally!*

DAN QUINN ANNOUNCED that our continuously supported Project Itzyes is in need of Rummage Sale items. Contact either WALT HAYS or DAN if you have items for this more than worthy cause on the Yucatan Peninsula.

CONTRIBUTIONS

BILL LOVE...A President's Club Membership in the Endowment Fund. KEVIN CURRY...MIKE BAIRD...MARCIE COX joined the President's Club. If you have not done so already, consider joining this exclusive Club. There are only a few slots available, so join now.

A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FROM OUR PROGRAM COMMITTEE AND PRESIDENT HAL!

Our meetings on September 24, October 8, and October 15 will feature concise three-minute presentations that will analyze November ballot measures dealing with the death penalty, "three strikes," County and Water District tax proposals, labeling of genetically engineered foods, and repeal of Palo Alto's ban on medical marijuana dispensaries.

ON TO THE NEW MEMBER TALKS

ROB LYMAN introduced each of our presenters with a little known fact designed to pique ones interest, which it turns out was not needed.

RAMONA RAYBIN.

A brief rundown on Ramona's eventful life. She was a weather girl on Don Sherwood's short lived TV show. (If you remember Sherwood you are at least as old as your scribe.)...An import from Detroit...Oldest of 7...Known in the family as "The General"...a Michigan U. grad...a model...an MBA from Alabama...a marketeer for Dole...lots of world travel...retired after death of her first husband...does volunteer work including taking care of her husband and our good member RICK RAYBIN. Welcome



Ramona!

BRIAN SCHMIDT.

Claim to Fame...Self-professed "World's Best Mediocre Rock Climber!" From Rochester NY...washed dishes for Rotary...went to Georgetown U. to study politics...on to Santiago, Chile, to work with street children...a bus driver at Denali National Park...travel to Burma...studied law at SU...became an environmental lawyer...currently on the Santa Clara Valley Water District Board...blogger on climate change...from washing dishes for Rotary to having lunch at Rotary. A real success story, Brian! "We also" thank WALT HAYS for introducing you to our Club!



JON STOUMEN.

A New Renaissance Man...Check this out...up at 6 this morning running the jitters off for 2 1/2 hours...born in Philly...studied architecture at Cornell...won the Irish Sweepstakes...her name was O'Malley O'Connor...studied music with Arlo Guthrie of Alice's Restaurant fame...lived in the nor-cal woods like Robinson Crusoe...built wind generators and solar panels...constructed a 24 ft. diameter geodesic dome for living quarters...brought apprentices from Cal to restore creek...Jon and O'Malley had children in 1980 and 1983...moved to Healdsburg...president of Rotary Club...designed many architectural projects while in Healdsburg...been living in PA for six years...bone marrow donor...developed solar oven being used in Botswana...Jon's interests include gardening, travel, and hiking.



Our three New Member Talks had those in attendance enthralled. Those I talked with after the meeting noted that we are extremely fortunate to have such an outstanding trio. Amen to that!

FUTURE PROGRAMS

September 24 - Bill Johnson, Palo Alto Weekly, As newspapers die, what becomes of journalism & democracy?

October 1 - Proposition 30 Pros and Cons, Governor Brown's Income and Sales Tax Initiative

Meeting Information www.rotarypaloalto.org