

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date: October 22, 2012

Reporter: BRIAN STEEN

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

HAL MIKELSON started the meeting at 12:15 PM with BEN THRELKELD ably leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Guests were welcomed by HAL:

Visiting Rotarians: Bob Barrett from the Palo Alto University Club.

Guests of Rotarians: Maureen Hogan, guest of ANDY COE; Ryan Gawn and Robert Walker, guests (speakers) of Bob Barrett; Carol Roddy, guest of BRIAN STEEN; Phillip Myers, guest of his mother, JOAN PLASTIRAS.

OPENING REMARKS

Opening Remarks were provided by DERRICK BRITT, who shared some of his and his father's favorite Theodore Roosevelt quotes: "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are," "The only man who makes no mistakes is the man who never does anything," "Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing," "The things that will destroy America are prosperity at any price, peace at any price, safety first instead of duty first, and love of soft living and the get-rich-quick theory of life."



ANNOUNCEMENTS

BETSY BECHTEL shared information about Smartpens for Veterans, a fundraising party to help local Veterans at Foothill College. It will take place Friday, Nov. 2, 5-8 PM at the Nature Gallery in Los Altos, corner of State and 2nd St.

President's Club

ED DANGLER joined the President's Club in celebration of his admission to the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States. ED thanked HAL for supporting his application for admission – as a sponsoring member.

DICK MANSFIELD also joined to honor the Rotarians who filled in at the registration desk while he was on vacation: DAVE THORNTON, GEORGE WHEATON, and KATIE SEEDMAN. ANNETTE GLANCKOPF offered to join, as well, with the encouragement to members to wear their Halloween costumes at next Monday's meeting. HAL is rumored to provide a "special" surprise.

HAL extolled everyone to attend Rotary District 5170's Avenue of Service meeting this Thursday, October 23, in San Jose. Featured topics include membership, publicity, and club development. Past International President Cliff Dochterman is the speaker. Our club will reimburse expenses for attendees.

HAL also reminded members to fill out and return Rotary Foundation Pledge cards that were available on each table.

PROGRAM

HENRIETTA BURROUGHS introduced our speaker, Robert Walker, who is the President of the Population Institute, where he directs the organization's advocacy and public education activities, including its work on issues related to health, economic development, sustainability, and the environment. He also has

served as President of Handgun Control, Inc. and the Center to Prevent Handgun Violence; and as Legislative Director at Handgun Control, he led the lobbying campaigns that led to the successful passage of the Brady Law and the federal assault weapons ban.



The Population Institute's mission is to provide essential leadership to promote voluntary family planning and reproductive health services, and increase awareness of the social, economic, and environmental consequences of rapid population growth. PI works actively to educate policymakers, policy administrators, the media, and the general public about population issues.

"It's not how many people the world can contain, but how many it can sustain." As of Oct. 2011, world population reached 7 billion; in Oct. 1999 it was 6 billion. Robert noted the following changes during these years:

- The prices of food commodities have doubled.
- Birthrates are rising in contrast to the decline forecasted in 1999.
- Higher adolescent pregnancy rates
- Greenhouse gas emissions are rising.

The good news:

- Population projections are not written in stone and are highly subject to fertility rates.
- Empowering young women through family planning education has been successful. This is a primary purpose of [The Rotarian Action Group for Population and Development \(RFPD\)](#).

Our SECOND speaker, Ryan Gawn, a Rotary Foundation grant recipient, is Strategic Campaigns Advisor for the Department for International Development, based in Islamabad. Ryan is also Director of Stratagem International, a strategic political affairs consultancy assisting clients in understanding, engaging, and influencing in challenging political environments. He has previously worked for the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and Save the Children UK.



Ryan thanked Rotarians and the Rotary Foundation for their support, which enabled him to participate in international conflict resolution negotiations in New Delhi, Afghanistan, Iraq and Finland.

HAL thanked both of our speakers and promised dictionaries would be donated in their honor at East Palo Alto schools.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

October 29 Sam Stewart, Stanford Knight Fellow, Image Forensics and the Media

November 5 Joe Hamilton, District Governor, State of the District

November 12 Steve Levy, California Economy/Post Election Analysis

Meeting Information www.rotarypaloalto.org