

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date: December 10, 2012

Reporter: DON MORGAN

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

PRESIDENT HAL began the meeting at 12:25 with a fulsome introduction of BETSY BECHTEL, who led the Pledge. Everyone remained standing in honor of SAM WEBSTER, who was unable to attend, by singing God Bless America, which HAL said SAM would have wanted us to do.

HAL announced there were no visiting Rotarians, but several Members had guests. WALT HAYS introduced his guest Niki Hilton, ROGER SMITH his brother Ken, ROB LANCEFIELD Sara Wood Smith, and STEVE EMSLIE Pam Antil.

WALT HAYS' Opening Remarks spoke on the difficulty of



attaining "peace on earth, good will to all" and offered insights from a book he had just read, The Righteous Mind: Why People are Divided by Politics and Religion, by Jonathan Haidt. In an evolutionary contest among groups, those whose members work unselfishly for the common good fare the best; so the evolutionary function of religion is to establish such moral communities. While

morality "binds" a group together, it can "blind" the group from respecting the virtues of other moral communities, who are necessary for a healthy political life. Thus Stanford and Cal, for example, should accept each other as complementary.

Social Chair KAREN KIENZLE encouraged attendance at the Club's Holiday Party on December 13, and thanked VICKY CHING and her husband for again hosting the party.

On behalf of a group at his table that included DAVE PRICE, an alumnus of the University of Colorado, ROGER SMITH joined the President's Club in honor, he said, of CHESLEY DOUGLAS, whose alma mater, San Jose State, had just lost its football coach to CU.

ROB LYMAN introduced two new and one veteran Member who gave autobiographical talks.



ZAFAR IQBAL spoke about his education at various stages of his career as an accountant, rising rapidly to head Hilton Hotels' accounting, and serving at numerous locations around the globe. Now settled locally, he questioned whether the journey was the award, suggesting the destination could be that.

ALEX SCOLLON talked of what it was like to grow up in a show business family, his schooling for theatre management, his various management roles, and his new challenge as Managing Director of the Palo Alto Players. While not as widely traveled as ZAFAR, ALEX noted his love of domestic travel, to 42 states so far, and aiming next at whatever state includes Seattle.



Speaking on short notice due to the illness of the scheduled third



speaker, LE LEVY talked of growing up in San Francisco, undergraduate studies at Cal, an MBA from Harvard, employment on the East Coast for seven years, residing in Palo Alto since 1967, and serving on the City Council for 12 years beginning in 1979, a year before joining the Club. Noting his service as Club President for the normal one-year term, he expressed pride in the fact that it took two Stanford

grads to replace him. Whether this remark constituted "good will to all" was not entirely clear, but he was very complimentary about the membership of the Club and its international service ventures, including the upcoming one in Cameroon.

Exercising a prerogative of office, HAL closed the meeting with in the last "good will to all" comment -- that LE in San Francisco attended Lowell High, which had the same mascot as that of an institution 35 miles to the south at the time, namely the Indians, so LE was both a Bear and an Indian.

HAL also noted that next week's program features the West Bay Opera, so Members should bring guests; and the Club would be Dark on December 24 and 31.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

December 17 West Bay Opera
December 24 Dark, No Meeting
December 31 Dark, No Meeting

Rotary Meeting Information www.rotarypaloalto.org