

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date: August 5, 2013

Reporter: DON MORGAN

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

PRESIDENT STEVE began the meeting officially at 12:25 and substantively at 12:39, leading the pledge.

In what truly were Opening Remarks, GLORIA HOM reminisced about how the club arrived at its current quarters. She reviewed various prior locations going back to the 1930s, the criteria for new locations, and changes in cuisine, attire and liveliness of the gatherings, the last in particular due to the availability of a bar prior to meetings at the Hyatt House. She recalled the discounting of members' potential aversion to eating Chinese food once a week when the club moved to Ming's with the observation that 1.3 billion people eat it every day.



PRESIDENT STEVE welcomed back Visiting Rotarian and former member Klaus Heinemann of the Gualala Club.

LE LEVY announced that four members planned to participate in the Tour de Menlo bike rides on August 17 and invited others to join them. PRESIDENT STEVE reminded members who entered through the side door to register at the front entrance, and that anyone foregoing the meal should so notify the cashier and pay the usual non-lunch charge of \$5, which the club allocates to the purchase of dictionaries for disadvantaged school children.



CHESLEY DOUGLAS joined the President's Club on this, his 84<sup>th</sup> birthday, in memory of his parents, the parties responsible for his being here today.

JOHN BARTON joined for two reasons, the recent wedding of his older son and what he happily characterized his younger son's good behavior as a "return to human form."



CASH ALAEE briefly reviewed the work experience, civic activities and official responsibilities of our main speaker to introduce Peter Pirnejad, City of Palo Alto Development Services Director. Mr. Pirnejad said Development Services

was a new Department of the city government, whose mission is to expedite the issuance of construction and occupancy permits once an application is filed. Applications are generally preceded by discussions with the Planning Department. Upon the filing of applications, they must be reviewed by several different departments, including Fire, Police, Public Works, Planning, and Utilities. Each reviews the



application and comments back to Development Services, which takes them all into account in eventually issuing a construction permit. Construction is subjected to "a slew of inspections" and upon successful completion the issuance of an occupancy permit. Mr. Pirnejad discussed efforts to effect desirable cultural changes in the process, under headings of Initiatives, Customer Oriented, Honor Commitments, Transparent, Streamline Code Compliance, Solicit Feedback, Organize Brainstorming Sessions, and Outreach & Education. These efforts have made substantial progress, with many permits being issued the day an application is filed. The process applies to new construction, remodels, and Photo Voltaic installations. New technology accounts for some of the improvements, for example inspectors use hand-held devices to send approvals directly from construction sites to central authorities. In a Q&A session, Mr. Pirnejad explained that the city has its own codes that in some respects differ from the state's codes, but both must be complied with. Air quality officials ban new internal fireplaces, but not outdoors ones; and the city has no choice in the matter.

PRESIDENT STEVE said Mr. Pirnejad would stay to answer additional questions after the on-time adjournment, and thanked members responsible for the conduct of the meeting.

## FUTURE PROGRAMS

**August 12--**Abenomics and Beyond: Prospects and Pitfalls for Japan, **Professor Takeo Hoshi**, Sr. Fellow, **Walter Shorenstein** Asia Pacific Research Center, Stanford University, and **Glen Fukushima**, Sr. Fellow, Center for American Progress

**August 19--**Club Assembly, **STEVE EMSLIE**

**August 26--****Bernard Muir**, Director of Athletics, Stanford University

Info: [www.rotarypaloalto.org](http://www.rotarypaloalto.org)