

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

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## SO WHAT MATTERS?

**SAY YOU ARE 41 YEARS OLD...AN ATTORNEY WITH 3 CHILDREN AND A WONDERFUL WIFE....AND THE DOCTOR SAYS, "TIM, YOU HAVE 2 MONTHS TO LIVE!"** See the program notes below for TIM TOSTA'S uncommon response.

**IS IT POSSIBLE THAT AT THE NEXT MEETING WE CAN IMPROVE?** This is a pregnant question, considering our practice song that featured two or more different keys. In anticipation that Lyricist LE LEVY and accordionist TOM GRACON can get it together to properly welcome our new **District Governor, ANGIE HASSLER**...we are including the lyrics to one of LELAND'S newest Rotary ditties titled, "**ROTARY**." (A somewhat inventive title, don't you think!) We recommend that you commit the words to memory and run through the tune while in the shower...assuming you will shower this week.

**"ROTARY"...**Lyrics by P.P. LEVY....on the squeeze box our big squeeze T. GRACON

The melody is "*Ain't She Sweet*." (If you are too young to know this grand old ditty call up one of our more senior members....preferably one who can carry a tune. I suggest JOHN KIDD or BRIAN STEEN. Here goes! Sing-a-Long to "**ROTARY**" *Rotary, That's the place for you and me, Where we join in serving our community, Rotary Monday noon, Cannot come around too soon, It's a treat to meet and get together at Rotary, Today the Guv'nor will address us, And I predict she will impress us.(Well, maybe not!) You'll like lunch, And the Camaraderie, Oh, the place to be in Palo Alto is ROTARY!*

## ESTEEMED GUESTS

WALT HAYS introduced Sharon Tennison, who has a membership application pending. (Speed this up gang....we can use her many talents!) SALLY TOMLINSON introduced Tess Byler, who is a hydro-geologist and consults in sustainable watershed management. Our VISITING ROTARIAN was Jim Ousman, an Event Manager from Princes Town,



Trinidad. Jim informed the uninformed that Trinidad is 9 miles East of Venezuela, with a population of 1.4 mil. They provide 77% of our liquid natural gas. A mind blower!

## OUR THOUGHT FOR THE DAY WAS ANOTHER GOOD ONE.

ZAFAR IQBAL informed us that it's never too early to consider next year's resolutions. It was obvious from a show of hands that very few Rotarians kept last year's solemn pledge. So, to improve your chances of success this year do the following:

1. Write them down (This is most important if you are serious.)
2. Set realistic deadlines.
3. Make an action plan.
4. Take action!
5. Never give up! (He added, "*Whether you feel like it or not!*") His final thought was an obtusely related quote from Mark Twain on how to stop smoking, "*I certainly know how to....I've done it so many times!*"



## ROTARY FOUNDATION GURU!

I.P.P. (For you newer members and those of us with a slight memory problem this stands for **Immediate Past President**) HAL MICKELSON reminded all who call themselves Rotarians to make a contribution to the Rotary Foundation, no matter how small or large. We want the gigantic thermometers to hit the top with all members contributing, and a grand total of \$200 per member....which means that some of you with big bucks will need to improve on \$200 to ensure that we average that magic number.

**I.P.P. HAL WAS HONORED** by a contribution to the **President's Club** from BETSY BECHTEL. At last Saturday's outstanding football game, HAL announced the half-time appearance of the Stanford Band with his famous, "*The one...the only...the incomparable Leland Stanford University Jr. Marching Band!*". This was in honor of the band's 50th Anniversary, attended by about 550 ex-bandites and their families. (A random observation...It was the first time since HAL made that announcement 50 years ago that the entire football crowd was listening in silence. No doubt because of his booming senatorial voice.) It may be time to bring back Chief Lightfoot and the great HAL MICKELSON! (Just joking Native American friends!...but not about HAL. We should start a Mickelson memorial movement!)

**PRESIDENT STEVE REMINDED ALL.....**to attend the VICKY CHING/Mings Thank You Happy Hour, Thursday October 24th. Whoops...that's tomorrow. Hope you make it in spite of the bad timing in publishing the Pinion.

**NEW MEMBER JACKIE SCHOELERMAN** presented a flag from a club in Switzerland plus a book they published. (Footnote: In the old days when we were required to attend meetings without missing more than three weeks in a row many of us brought back flags from exotic climes, not to mention one or two from Milpitas. In addition, we had numerous guests every meeting. Unfortunately in this day and age of impossible personal schedules that policy has been rescinded.



However, if you have the time, visit other Rotary Clubs....you will find it extremely rewarding!

## NEW MEMBER INDUCTED!

Membership Chairman BEN THRELKELD introduced our newest member, PAM ANTIL. PAM has the distinction of being sponsored by not one...not two...but three Club members...to wit: LIZ KNISS, President STEVE, AND IRIS KOROL. PAM is our new Assistant City Manager and is in charge of everything that JIM KEENE can't handle, which from the introduction by LIZ seems like everything. Not only that, but PAM has an illustrious background in both City governance and the non-profit sector. Welcome PAM....we look forward to your participation in Rotary!





**PREZ STEVE PRESENTED DICK MANSFIELD AND JOYCE CUSICK with PAUL HARRIS + 3 pins, in honor of contributions to The Rotary Foundation. For you newer members...a pin is awarded for each contribution that totals 1K.**

#### **PREZ CLUB INDUCTEES**

BETSY BECHTEL was mentioned above. ANNETTE GLANCKOPF donated in recognition of the passing of GLORIA HOM'S husband and great Rotary supporter, PETER HOM. JACK WOODSON contributed \$200 in recognition of his 50th Stanford Reunion...and as a tribute to STEVE PLAYER who initiated the *"Club Panel."* This is a panel of fellow class members who recall their Stanford days and their lives these past 50 years. STEVE is certainly one of the most outstanding PLAYERS to ever grace the Stanford Football squad and the University's Development Office. Great idea, JACK!

**MENS' UNDERWEAR....DON'T FORGET TO BRING SOME,** or in lieu thereof the cash to pay for such. This is in response to our District Governor's request for a gift to those less privileged, rather than the mystery gift from another Club, which we have auctioned off. Certainly a timely change in an old pattern!

#### **OUR PROGRAM WAS INTRODUCED BY PREZ STEVE**

Tim Tosta has been a friend of STEVE's for some 25 years. In his career, Tim has been a land use attorney...until a life changing event. (See the first paragraph of the Pinion for the beginning of Tim's personal story.)

#### ***"TEACHINGS FROM THE EDGE"***

Well, Tim beat the odds! Now 23 years and 26 surgeries after the announcement of his impending death, he is alive and well and on a mission. Deep reflection on the issue of death has changed his life. He has become an author of books on death and dying and a hospice volunteer. In the process, he has reflected deeply on the meaning of life. The following are Tim's early contemplations:

1. Our death is inevitable
2. Our life expectancy is uncertain
3. Death comes whether or not we are prepared
4. All the stuff we have accumulated will do us no good.

"What really matters in life are the relationships we have developed, and the point of living is to be in relationship.



As an attorney, learning to have "no enemies" was mind blowing for him. In volunteering for hospice work, he has learned that he was better than he thought he was. He also discovered that dying people see things that we don't; and that is enriching. Tim has started a book club to help adversaries know one another." (A wise man once observed that "Our enemies are people we don't know!") Tim has written two books on death and dying and is working on one that will address "How to be 'present' with someone who is dying." This was a difficult subject to bring to the Club, but an outstanding presentation that was most meaningful. Thanks STEVE for inviting Tim; and thank you Tim for an excellent and...for some of us...*"a timely presentation."*

#### **NEXT PROGRAM**

**October 28 District Governor, Angie Hassler**

**November 4 Aimee Ferris-Rotman, Stanford University**  
Knight Fellow, Women's Struggles in Afghanistan  
During the War

**November 11 Fred Luskin, Director, Stanford University**  
Forgiveness Project, The Art of Forgiveness

**November 18 Vocational Talks: Tony Carrasco, Andy Coe, and Judy Kleinberg**

**November 25 Martin Hellman, Stanford Professor of Electrical Engineering, NSA Domestic Spying: Boon or Bane**

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