

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date: December 16, 2013

Reporter: DICK MANSFIELD

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

It was West Bay Opera Day at Palo Alto Rotary, and a good turnout of members and guests enjoyed an excellent concert at our last meeting of 2013.

President STEVE EMSLIE was away, and President-Elect E.J. HONG presided in his absence, but the first voice we heard from the podium was ANDY COE's, encouraging us to complete and return the quarterly Program Committee Survey, a suggestion later seconded by HAL MICKELSON with special mention of the hardworking Program Committee members.

After an opportunity to savor another good Elks Club buffet spread – today's headliner was grilled talapia – P-E E.J. called on DAVE THORNTON to lead the pledge and announced that this week DAN QUINN and his camera were present to take directory photos of members who did not have them or were dissatisfied with their current likenesses.

NANCY PETERS' thoughtful opening remarks focused on the importance of memories and traditions in our lives, particularly in the holiday season. She shared some of her own memories, concluding with her grandfather's poignant observation that he was in the middle of five generations ranging from his grandparents to his grandchildren. Continuity, NANCY suggested, "is the glue that holds us together."



No visiting Rotarians today, but many guests of Rotarians: Rene Morgan, DON's wife; Bev Bulmore, BOB's wife; Sarah Wheaton, GEORGE's wife; Baha Cinar and Lily Chang, GLORIA HOM's friends; Mary Riviello, VIC ROSASCO's friend; Ken Brownlee and George Drapeau, MIKE BAIRD's friends; Patty O'Keefe, JOHN's wife; Ann Ziman, GEOFF's wife; Shirley Douglas, CHESLEY's wife; Jayne Curry, KEVIN's wife; and Ellie Mansfield, DICK's wife.

And speaking of memories and traditions, wasn't that a fine holiday party at the DICK BUSH/Patty McGuigan residence on December 12? P-E E.J. extended recognitions and thanks to DICK, Patty, KAREN KIENZLE, BRUCE GEE, Jane Alhouse Gee, BRIAN HURWICK, JOYCE CUSICK, barkeeps LAURIE LISTON, MIKE BAIRD and DICK M., and all who brought food and drink (which included just about everyone who attended, all of whom also contributed abundant good cheer).

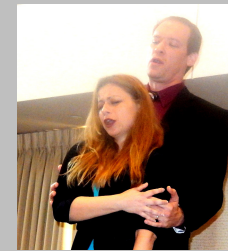
Sensing a lull in the proceedings, P-E E.J. cast about for prospective President's Club members and JUDY KLEINBERG stepped up to honor her brand-new grandchild. Still vamping 'til ready, P-E E.J. next thanked today's help: Setter-upper STEVE MADSEN, cashier MIKE WICK, roll-caller KATIE SEEDMAN and guest-greeter DICK M.

Past West Bay Opera board member and president TOM GRACON introduced José Luis Moscovich, the Opera's general

director, who described opera as "a slice of life, timeless and compelling," which transports the audience member through the power of music. He encouraged us to attend an Opera production – Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love* and Mozart's *The Magic Flute* are in the works – and to consider West Bay Opera in our year-end giving. He then introduced soprano Elisabeth Russ, bass-baritone Bill O'Neil, and accompanist Carl

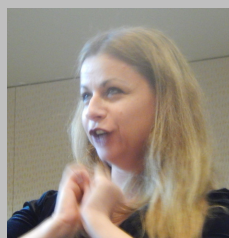
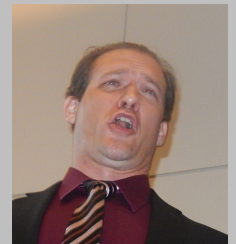


Pantle, who gave us a first-rate performance. With gratitude to TOM and to José Luis for helping your scribe with the names of the selections, these are what we heard:



From Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Leporello's "catalog aria" *Madamine, il catalogo è questo* (Mr. O'Neil), the duet *Là ci darem la mano* (Ms. Russ and Mr. O'Neil), and Zerlina's *Batti, batti o bel Masetto* (Ms. Russ).

The "Toreador Song" from Bizet's *Carmen* (Mr. O'Neil).



From Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Lucia's aria *Regnava nel silenzio* (Ms. Russ) and the second-act duet (Ms. Russ and Mr. O'Neil).

And Wolfram's aria, *O du, mein holder Abendstern*, from Wagner's *Tannhäuser* (Mr. O'Neil).

In support of the talented singers, Mr. Pantle (who met the Elks Club piano as the first selection began) performed with the restraint and deference to the soloists that are the marks of an excellent accompanist.

How good was it? At 1:32 p.m., two full minutes past the witching hour, P-E E.J. asked whether we wanted to hear the final number (the Donizetti duet) and by acclamation the show went on. It doesn't get any better than that.

Remember: This was the last meeting of 2013. Our next gathering at our Elks Club venue will be on January 6, 2014, to hear Shabbir Latif discuss "Emotional Intelligence."

Happy holidays and a good new year!

UPCOMING DATES:

December 23rd, DARK

December 30th, DARK

January 6 Shabbir Latif, Emotional Intelligence

Info: www.rotarypaloalto.org