

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

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## FUNDAMENTAL FINANCIAL FACTS

All you need to know from today's speaker will be found at the end of this column. In the meantime, a bit of personal info.

*"I should have listened to my wife, Barbara. Having almost recovered from rotator cuff surgery, she suggested I postpone my Pinion writing until another day. Who me? No way! The good news is that the surgery was on my left shoulder...the bad news is that I am left handed. What I discovered was that taking notes was an unusual challenge. For every three rapid fire financial facts offered by our speaker, if I was lucky, I was able to record portions of one. So if you want to know all that was said, ask LE LEVY. He knew everything without even listening."*

## ONCE AGAIN

Our illustrious PREZ did the honors by introducing our Illustrious Visitors. To wit:

Rotarians Jim Rochette from San Mateo Sunrise and Shanna McClearn from San Mateo

## GUESTS OF ROTARIANS

DICK BUSH introduced his niece, Maria Russo, and Membership Chairman BEN THRELKELD introduced Stephanie Evans.

## ROGER "the Smithy"



Did **OPENING REMARKS** and I caught some of his cogent comments. To wit: "Before you speak consider the "Cs"...Courtesy, Concern, Common Cense (and I think he added "Curiosity plus a few more") He added...that in order to succeed we need them all plus a healthy dose of "backbone", "wishbone" and, of course, "funny bone"! Well done, Roger!

## DICK & BRUCE... OUR FAVORITE PITCHMEN



...paid rapt attention to ROGER's above admonition. They pointed out the fact that the **FUND RAISER** will be a great success if we all pitch in and bring friends and neighbors, potential Rotarians

and confirmed bidders to our ANNUAL SOIREE!

Remember, you can buy tickets on line and the price of the ticket includes listening to our favorite auctioneer STEVE "I'm out of retirement" PLAYER.

## THE PRESIDENT'S CLUB INCREASED ITS MEMBERSHIP



BY ONE! One MARCIE COX is our new member. *And for what reason you might ask?* It seems that our artist in residence (Well, she has to reside somewhere) is having her first solo painting exhibit at Hotel California in South Palo Alto. The opening reception is Friday February 28th from 5 to 7 pm. Check it out...  
marcia@marciacoxart.com

## FINANCIAL FACTS

Introducing our speaker, Vivek Thoppay, Sr. VP for Wealth Management at Merrill Lynch, was the effervescent HENRIETTA



BURROUGHS. She noted that Mr. Thoppay had a BS in Chemical Engineering along with an MBA from Santa Clara

University. She added that he has successfully predicted the direction of the market for the past three years.

Mr. Thoppay made the following comments: (Plus many I wasn't agile enough to record.)

*"I am bullish on the market for a few more years."*

*"Real estate in the Bay area will increase annually 6% to 7 %"*

*"East Coast weather is effecting growth negatively, but demand will open up later."*

*"Gold could go down."*

*"Natural gas is key to the U.S. becoming the No. 1 manufacturer in the world."*

His comments prompted a vast number of questions from the audience including:

*What could go wrong?*

*What is the impact of the student loan debacle?*

*How do we redistribute income?*

*How do we foresee corrections to the market?*

*What will be the effect of the lessening of Union's influence?*

*What are the long-term trends globally?*

And many more that escaped your scribe's scribbling prowess.

And, finally, a statement from BOB BULMORE, or was it LAURIE LISTON? **"I used to be a banker, but then I lost interest!"**

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**March 3 ... Dr. Donn Posner**, PA Health Care VA, "Sleep Like a Baby, the Latest Research on Insomnia and Aging"

**March 10 ...Bishop Patrick McGrath**, Bishop of San Jose

**March 17 ... Alain Enthoven**, Professor Emeritus, Stanford Graduate School of Business on "The Affordable Care Act"

**April 4...Palo Alto Rotary Crab Feed, 6:30 p.m. Don't miss it!**

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