

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

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PRE-PROGRAM

Do you know where you were at 1:41:41 4/14/14? Perhaps just walking out of the Elks Club, embracing, as was Dick Freeman, the uniqueness of the moment.

Visiting Rotarians included Marty Behr, a friend of VIC ROSASCO and member of Santa Rosa's Sunrise club; and Kevin Zwick, a friend of JOHN BARTON and member of San Jose's Downtown club. BOB MCGOWAN introduced his guest, Jake Kin, grandson of a friend of Bob's from a Brazilian Rotary Trip.



PRESIDENT STEVE presented ROGER SMITH with his two blue sapphire Paul Harris Award pin, and announced two events: our Rotary Board Meeting next Thursday @ 4:00 pm in EJ HONG's office, 2225 E. Bayshore; and our Club Spring Social on 3 June at the home of Himself & his bride.

LEE LIPPERT, a fresh member, jumped up the President's Club plate to honor his 30th wedding anniversary on a date that he will never forget, tax day.

MICHAEL WICK, in Opening Remarks, reminded us that we are winning the war on cancer. Despite excessively high expectations set by President Nixon's 1971 'War on Cancer' when it was thought such a battle would be comparable to landing a human on the moon, we've learned that eradication of the complicated disease is better analogized to landing a human on Mars. But the death rate has fallen 20% since it's peak in 1991, or an equivalence of avoiding over 1 million fatalities during that period, so we can take pride in great progress.

PROGRAM



CASH ALAEE took obvious pleasure in introducing his friend, his boss, and our fellow Rotarian, Palo Alto City Manager JIM KEENE as today's speaker.

Since becoming City Manager in 2008, Jim has demonstrated that he can juggle a seriously impressive number of balls in the air without

losing his aplomb, or his mind. Just one problem he hasn't been able to solve ... how to get Council Members not to demand his time over the lunch hour on Mondays.



Starting with the declaration that the State of the City is very good, Jim elaborated by describing our economic health (as reflected by a 46% rise in housing prices since 2009 among other data) and by reciting the results of several polls which make it clear that citizens of Palo Alto appreciate their city.

However. Parking and traffic problems represent the most visible of the myriad challenges facing the City and its managers. Like an iceberg, Jim said, many of the challenges are below the waterline, such as: the continuous need to update a comprehensive plan that is usually made obsolete before ever being realized; the infrastructure vs. services demands in the face of limited resources and a citizenry that usually wants the City to be like it was when they first moved here – whenever that was; flood relief planning that takes 16 years before competing agencies can almost agree on an approach; balancing the aforesaid citizens' desires with demands from a State Government; etc.

The current Council recently took solace from a viewing of a 1969 recorded interview with Stanford's Fred Terman which made one thing clear --- it will ever be so. In closing, Jim reflected that he really believes the country is 200 years into a magnificent experiment in democracy, and that the proving point will be whether or not citizens participate in local government. With this he recommended we become aware of, and find a way to participate in, "Our Palo Alto."

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

April 21 Today ONLY! - Meeting Upstairs at the Elks Club

April 21 James G. Workman, Water and the drought

April 28 Jim Sweeney, Stanford Professor of Management Science and Engineering, What is Happening With Energy & Energy Policies?

May 5 Rotary Past President WALT HAYS

May 12 Judy Miner, President Foothill College

May 19 New Member Talks

Info: www.rotarypaloalto.org

