

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date: May 4, 2014

Reporter: ANDREW PIERCE

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

President STEVE EMSLIE called the meeting to order at 12:30 and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. President STEVE asked for introduction of our guests. WALT HAYS brought his lovely spouse, Kay Hays. WALT also hosted our guest speaker, Cindy Wilbur. BEN THRELKELD'S guest was Sheetal Bagde. Sheetal is a UBS financial advisor in Palo Alto and formerly was with a Rotary club in India. Steve Emslie's guests were Rekha Goel and Katlyn Alapati. Rekha has an interest in Rotary and Katlyn is a Stanford freshman from outside the Boulder, CO and is interested in reactivating the Rotaract Club on campus.

JOHN KIDD provided opening remarks. To a hypnotic score, we were shown a number of slides about better living, most of which involved relaxing, slowing down, enjoying life and not taking things so seriously. The presentation was only slightly marred by the fact that so many of the slides showed predators enjoying, or about to enjoy, a meal of another animal that was probably relaxing and enjoying life a few minutes earlier.

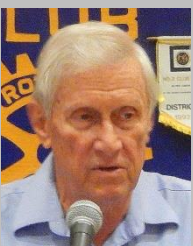


President STEVE presented a Paul Harris award and certificate to



CASH ALAEE for his service beyond the call of duty as Treasurer. This was CASH's first Paul Harris pin, with many more to come, no doubt. CASH was

heartily thanked by STEVE for his service as Treasurer, which will be wrapping up at the end of the Rotary year. CASH said he was honored and grateful, and recognized JIM SUTHERLAND for taking on the Treasurer's role. CASH joined the President's Club in JIM's honor, presumably to provide additional insurance that JIM would, in fact, take over as Treasurer.



shortly.

DON MORGAN provided an update on the project being carried out with the San Mateo club to assist the Apostolic Church in East Palo Alto. A climbing structure for kids has been completed. A basketball court and volleyball court still need to be done. Five thousand dollars has been contributed from our club and there is an additional work session coming up

STEVE introduced WALT HAYS who introduced our speaker for the day. STEVE began by announcing that WALT had been honored at the recent District Conference with the PDG Karl Stucki Award, for being



“the Rotarian who exemplifies the greatest contribution to Rotary ideals”. WALT noted that through Rotary International's involvement in World Community Service, our club has contributed \$1 Million to projects in developing countries over the years. WALT also mentioned that Club member's contributions earn Paul Harris credits, and the Club earns credits as well. Using these credits, our Club will match every member's contributions made to The Rotary Foundation, up to a total of \$35,000, through June 30, 2014. It's a great way to earn your next Paul Harris level and either make or increase your annual TRF giving.



WALT then introduced our speaker, Cindy Wilbur, who came to talk about Proyecto Itzaes, the non-profit in the Yucatan that our Club has supported and visited over the past 12 years in collaboration with the Los Altos Rotary Club. The project has a mission to provide resources to Mayan families in the impoverished villages outside of Merida. These families may live on less than \$1 per day, and the schools and transportation situation is poor.

Rotary's first project began in 2002 at Chicxulub Puerto where a library was renovated and improved. The photos included a shot that included the very recognizable back of WALT HAYS' head.

Another project featured education on how to avoid Type 2 diabetes, which has become distressingly common in the Mayan population. A third project was a farmers' market which meets monthly in Merida to allow villagers to sell their cilantro and other products at fairer prices. In 2014, more work will be done in classroom areas and school supplies, as well as the development of Eco-cocina stoves that will be healthier for the people. There are also scholarships being distributed by the school fund. There have been results from these activities including the rate of diabetes going down, and an increase in sustainable gardening.

After the presentation, WALT HAYS returned to emphasize the need for additional contributions to The Rotary Foundation until June 30th. President STEVE reminded us that we are short of our annual \$20,000 goal and have until June 30 to reach it. These funds support WCS projects in the following year. Thank you to WALT and to Cindy Wilbur for an excellent program. Adjourned.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

May 12 Dr. Judy Miner, President Foothill College

May 19 New Member Talk

May 26 Dark – Memorial Day Holiday

June 2 Dr. Harvey Fishman, “Femtosecond Laser Cataract Surgery”

Info: www.rotarypaloalto.org