

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter Date: May 12, 2014

Reporter: SALLY TOMLINSON Editor: LYLE CONNELL

VISITING ROTARIANS & GUESTS

The club welcomed Bob Tucknott, visiting from Dublin where he is an electrical contractor.

BEN THRELKELD proudly introduced his lovely wife Cindy, and EJ HONG introduced former member Elliott Wright, whose work location may permit him to rejoin our club. Elliott and his wife are expecting their first child in August.

OPENING REMARKS



MEL MATSUMOTO came across his old wallet and looked inside hoping to find long-forgotten money. Instead, he found long-forgotten wisdom, which he shared with us. Mahatma Gandhi's seven deadly social sins, first published in 1925:

Wealth without Work; Pleasure without Conscience; Knowledge without Character; Commerce without Morality; Science without Humanity; Worship without Sacrifice; Politics without Principle.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, REPORTS AND REMINDERS

EJ HONG reminds us that STEVE EMSLIE's debunking will be at Michael's at Shoreline, 6 PM on June 30. Tickets are \$55/person, cheap change for the entertaining roast in store.

EJ also invited volunteers to fill some club positions.

- The Welcome desk needs 2-4 people because that is how many it takes to replace DICK MANSFIELD, who is retiring from that job.
- LEE PFAB needs a Social committee co-chair to plan the December party. And we need a Host for December party.
- MEL MATSUMOTO is looking for a seasoned member to co-chair Opening Remarks with him.
- Everyone is a member of the Membership Committee: when you see a visitor, be nice, even if it hurts.

President STEVE reminded us that he will host a club social on Tues June 3, 5-6:30 PM at his house. Only a year late.

WALT HAYS reported that there was a generous response to last week's program on the Rotary Foundation, and we are getting close to our annual \$20,000 goal but still invite contributions through June 30 to meet that goal.

STEVE PLAYER gave everyone a chance to exercise Wealth with Responsibility when he put four Giants tickets up for auction, bringing in \$250 for the club.

MEMBERS FIGHT FOR THE MIKE TO JOIN PRESIDENT'S CLUB!

JOHN KIDD started a trend at today's meeting when he took the mike to describe a recent Portland trip to celebrate a granddaughter's birthday, another granddaughter's graduation, and Mother's Day. Granddaughters rule! LAURIE LISTON upped the ante with triplet granddaughters, ages 8-12, who just won places 1, 2, and 3 in an international archery contest in Redding, and took rankings 1 and 2 in the World. JOHN O'KEEFE described his granddaughter's path from American Studies at Yale, to group housing in San Francisco, to a daily seat on a white bus for her new job at a tech firm in Silicon Valley. GLORIA HOM completed the granddaughter tales, having just returned from 10 days in Paris with her granddaughter as a 16th birthday gift. Finally, DAVID BLITZ bucked the thematic trend with news of his very own, having completed his 21st marathon last weekend!

Info: www.rotarypaloalto.org

PROGRAM

BETSY BECHTEL introduced Dr. Judy Miner, President of Foothill College. Dr. Miner has been president of Foothill College for seven years, and has been with the Foothill – De Anza (FHDA) Community College District for a total of 26 years.



Enrollment at Foothill has steadily declined over the last six years, a trend she attributes to the economic slow-down and resultant cuts in faculty and class offerings. During that time, the percentages of students who are African American, Asian, Filipino and Latino grown while the percentages of white and "other" have fallen. The two Palo Alto high schools send about 100 students total per year to Foothill.



Technology and online attention at Foothill, annual free technology help students get college-ready: 75-85% of entering students are not college-ready in math: after just two weeks in the summer bridge program, 66% can move up one or more levels in math. STEM summer camp, which the PA Rotary helped support in 2013, is so popular that even though Foothill will double the spaces this summer, it filled up in a few hours and has a wait list of over 1000.

The Allied Health programs are strong. The Fine arts and Communication division puts on productions and has an excellent sound engineering component. The Veteran resource center is among the top 10 in state. The Family Engagement institute serves ages preschool-20 and their families. Foothill also teaches educators. The Kraus Center for Innovation is nationally recognized for its teaching of K-12 faculty in uses of technology in teaching. The college has received awards for the Best Green Project for its Physical Science and Engineering Center; and for Historic Preservation in the Landscape category.

Dr. Miner thanked the PA Rotary for grants over many years, supporting Vocational Scholarships, STEM programs, and Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS) Book Voucher Program.

During Q&A, DANA TOM said that serving on the Vocational Scholarship committee has been the best experience for him, and has brought him 3 surprises: Community college is not necessarily cheap; Vocational degrees are not just two years – many require 2 years of experience before going to community college; and some of the programs are very selective, taking only 5% of applicants. Dr. Miner noted that while Allied Health degrees are highly competitive and require advance experience, Foothill students have a 100% pass rate for state and national licensing, with scores in the top 5% in nation. Students love their experience at Foothill and the faculty love teaching.

BEN THRELKELD asked about transfer rates to 4 year institutions, and we learned that Foothill transfers about 55% of its students, which is one of the highest rates in the nation.

BOB BULMORE questioned the use of contract vs. full time faculty. Dr. Miner replied that Foothill just got 8 new full time positions for this fall, and they exceed the state minimum for full time faculty. Part-time faculty members teach 48% of the instructional hours.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

May 19 New Member Talks

May 26 Dark – Memorial Day Holiday

June 2 Dr. Harvey Fishman, "Femtosecond Laser Cataract Surgery"