

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date: October 13, 2014

Reporter: SALLY TOMLINSON

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

President EJ HONG called the meeting to order and invited SALLY TOMLINSON to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Though few could hear Sally start the pledge, everyone figured out how to chime in.

(The magic number is 45, not 42 as some had thought.)

## VISITING ROTARIANS

Reiner Fageth, visiting from Germany, brought us a flag from Oldenburg Schloss (Castle) Rotary Club. How many members? 45. It is the only one of the five clubs in Oldenburg that has female members.



Denesh Shah, who works in the environmental field, is visiting from Bombay. How many members in his club? About 45 members, half women.



For the third question answered by the magic number 45, read on.)

## NO CHAIR FOR THIS GUEST



Annalena August Wright attended as the guest of her father, ELLIOTT WRIGHT. Annalena is 2 months and one day old, and enjoyed her first Rotary meeting snuggled up to Elliott's chest.

## OPENING REMARKS

LE LEVY brought us our inspiring thought for the day.



A lover of books from an early age, LE is especially fond of Mark Twain, and quoted to us from Twain's autobiography, published in 2010, 100 years after his death as he requested. Twain grew up in Hannibal, Missouri, and describes his

relations with slaves as a boy.

"All the Negroes were friends of ours ... We were comrades and yet not comrades; color and condition interposed a subtle line... which rendered complete fusion impossible." He wrote of his liking of "this race". In his school days, he had no aversion to slavery – it was just accepted. He claims that in Hannibal, he seldom saw a slave misused, but he remembers one young slave boy who was taken from his family at a young age. This boy, Sandy, would sing loudly for hours on end, and Twain complained to his mother. His mother said the singing comforted her because it meant that young boy was not thinking about the mother he would never see again, and it was when Sandy was silent that she feared he was thinking.

## OPPORTUNITIES AND SAVE THE DATES

You could have been first to "ooh" and "ah" over baby Annalena, but today it was JACKIE SCHOELERMAN at the Welcome desk. She still needs people to sign up to Welcome on some of the upcoming Mondays.

Help give money away! LEN ELY announced that the



Grants Committee is looking for additional members review grant applications and select those who will receive awards and one who will be the fund-a-need program at the spring gala. This year they will have about \$50,000 to give away, so our club will have a big impact.

Please let Bill Johnson know if you want to join the committee.

Save you're crabbing for March, but volunteer now. BRUCE GEE announced the Crab Feed date of Saturday, March 14, 2015, 6 PM at the new Mitchell Park Community Center. (Everyone is optimistic that it will be open by then.) Co-Chairs are BRUCE, GINNY LEAR, and DICK BUSH. New member PETER SHAMBORA is the first to sign onto the Committee. Please join this merry band!

The Holiday Party is set for Tuesday, December 2, and BRIAN STEEN welcomes everyone to his home for the festivities. Mark your calendars.

## PRESIDENT'S CLUB CONTRIBUTIONS



ROMAN KAGARLITSKY has returned from a trip to Italy, where he visited the Rotary Club Napoli North. He brought a flag and joined the President's club. How many members in the Rotary Club Napoli North? There were about 45 members, but no women except for two guests, one of whom was Roman's wife, Valentina.

**PROGRAM** – Past Rotary District Governor Oscar Garcia: Rotary Partners in Service

GEORGE WHEATON introduced our guest speaker, managing to read his notes with one eye (or one lens in his broken glasses). Oscar Garcia graduated from the National Autonomous University of Mexico and works in the insurance business in his hometown of Chihuahua. He is District Officer in charge of public relations and public image of Rotary, which is what brings him to the Bay Area. Mr. Garcia founded the



Rotary Club Chihuahua Crece.

Mr. Garcia described some of the needs in Mexico that are being addressed by The Rotary Foundation through joint projects. Problems facing children in Mexico include lack of opportunity, drugs, child abuse, lack of food and water, and lack of access to a good education. Problems facing the general population include contamination of water, lack of public parks, and lack of medical care. Rotary is helping address these problems through Foundation projects, and Mr. Garcia emphasized the role of friendship in making those joint projects happen.

What is a Rotary Partner in Service? A Partner in Service goes to other Rotary Clubs to make friends and to find opportunities for joint projects.

How many members in Rotary Club Chihuahua Crece? Ten. (What happened to 45?) His club includes women, but it happened over protest. Oscar lobbied hard to accept women, and succeeded, but all the original men left the club. Now, in this growing club, there are four men among nine women.

**BONUS FEATURE – DEFINITION OF ROTARY**  
 “Rotary is an organization of business and professional persons united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help build goodwill and peace in the world.”

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**October 20, David Kennedy**, Stanford Professor of History Emeritus: *“Who Bleeds, Who Pays: The US Armed Forces Today”*

**October 27, Dr. Max McGee**, Superintendent, Palo Alto Unified School District: *“Preparing Students for Careers That Don't Exist”*

**November 3, Gloria Duffy CEO**, and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense in Clinton Administration: *“The Crisis in Ukraine”*

**November 10, Tina Selig**, Professor of the Practice, Dept of Management Science and Engineering, Stanford University: *“A Crash Course on Creativity”*

**Info:** [www.rotarypaloalto.org](http://www.rotarypaloalto.org)