

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Date: December 15, 2014

Reporter: DON MORGAN

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

**BRIAN STEEN** led the Pledge.

**President E.J.** welcomed Visiting Rotarians Dave Fraser of the Mad River Club (formerly a member of our club), and Jeff Orth of the Gilroy Club (District Governor Nominee), who brought his wife Barbara as his guest. **DICK FREEMAN** introduced as his guests his wife Corkie, Joan Deaton and Dick Franke. **DICK MANSFIELD** introduced his wife Ellie, and **TOM GRACON** introduced Jose Luis Moscovich (Conductor of the West Bay Opera).

**PETER SHAMBORA's** Opening Remarks praised the Palo Alto VA Hospital while reviewing its history. The hospital provides excellent care in a wide variety of medical fields to 85,000 veterans, mainly from 21st Century wars. It conducts leading-edge research in relevant areas. With a thousand beds, it is a teaching hospital, in close cooperation with the Stanford Hospital. Volunteers, 2,600 strong, transport patients to and from the hospital, drive shuttles from parking lots, assist on clerical matters and visit with hospitalized patients. We who wish to serve as volunteers or contribute funds, which in 2013 amounted to \$9.6 million, should contact **PETER**.



**PRESIDENT E.J.** thanked **CHARLIE WELDANZ** as Cashier today, **JACKIE SCHOLERMAN** at the Welcome Desk, Pinion Writer **DON MORGAN** and editor **LYLE CONNELL**, Greeters **DERRICK BRITT** and **ROGER SMITH**, and **JOE SINNOTT** and **STEVE MADSEN** for room set-up.

**EJ** announced that **Ming's** would close before month end, so it would now be timely to visit **VICKI CHING** there. **E.J.** also invited contributions for the staff serving lunch, via envelopes placed at each table. Rotary will be dark the next two Mondays, but light returns January 5. "Light Up Rotary" is this year's theme.



**E.J.** singled out for exceptional contributions to the club's functioning **STEVE MADSEN**, **JIM SUTHERLAND**, **BRUCE GEE**, **GINNY LEAR**, **JOE SINNOTT**, **NINA MOORE**, **LEE PFAB**, **SALLY TOMLINSON** AND **LYLE CONNELL**. She presented gift-wrapped tokens of appreciation to each of

them in a photo op. (The gift was a 2015 calendar, illustrated and signed by **LaDoris Cordell**, our recent speaker.)

**LISA AKSELRAD** announced a business networking breakfast that she and co-chair **JACKIE SCHOLERMAN** are arranging for members at Channing House, courtesy of **MEL MATSUMOTO**. The date and time will be announced at our first meeting of the New Year on Monday, January 5.



Past President **JOHN KIDD**, acting as proxy for vacationing birthday celebrant, Past President **BILL BUSSE**, offered **BILL'S** contribution of \$870 to the Endowment Fund. **Rtn. KIDD** then joined the President's Club in honor of **Rtn. BUSSE**. President **E.J.** allowed for announcements about The Endowment Fund by **BILL FOGARTY**, who said it stands at \$750 thousand as of

September 1, and pays out 5% of its assets annually to the **PARC Annual Charities Fund**. **Rtn. FOGARTY** also said the Endowment Fund drive was doing well in its "Make Roger Pay" campaign, within \$6,000 of its goal but needing contributions of any amount from 30 more Members. (The **Smith Challenge** requires 80% member participation.)

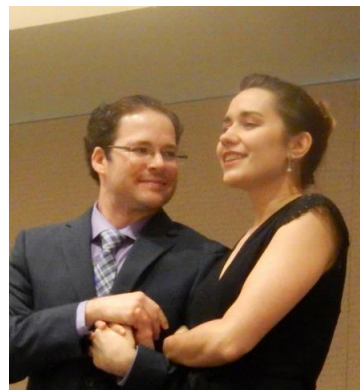
**TRF Chair STEVE EMSLIE** reported on The Rotary Foundation annual drive, with about 80% participation, has thus far exceeded by \$4,000, **EJ's** goal of \$22,000, all very welcome as **PARC** receives matching funds from **RI** and the **District** based on these donations.

## THE WEST BAY OPERA

**TOM GRACON** introduced Conductor **Jose Luis Moscovich**, who reviewed the history of the West Bay Opera, the second oldest opera



company west of the Mississippi River, its funding, its 2015 program of performances at the **Lucy Stern Theatre**, and its talents. He then introduced pianist **Bruce Olstad**, soprano **Elizabeth Zharoff**, and tenor **Michael Desnoyers**.



They regaled us with beautiful arias and duets from **La Traviata**, **Rigoletto**, **Gounod's Faust**, **The Abduction from the Seraglio**, **Turandot**, and **Così fan tutte**. The meeting ended a bit late, with a standing ovation for the performers.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

December 22 NO MEETING

December 29 NO MEETING

January 5: **Linda Starr**, Northern CA Innocence Project