

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Date: January 12, 2015

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After the usual saluting of the flag, the president welcomed visitors. The first was Rotarian Richard Schoelerman, President Elect of the Palo Alto University Club but whose real claim to fame is as the spouse of our own JACKIE SCHOELERMAN.

Member guests were Will Brandin, job seeker from University of Colorado and St Mary's College, London, MBA graduate and grandson of own PAM BRANDIN (ROGER SMITH); Tim Watson, attorney (WALT HAYS); Eduardo Dignoti of the Arte Ristorante, downtown and Rebecca Gerald, science teacher/animal shelterer (BEN THRELKELD). Also introduced was Sam Savage checking on his wife DARYL SAVAGE's presentation.

Making sure that she did not forget to do so, President E.J. invited DAVID SMULLIN to give opening remarks. As a long time member, David



reminded us to take advantage of our "hands on sleeves up" projects and reviewed a number of them. He pointed out that besides making valuable additions to the community, working on the projects promotes fellowship and is fun. Among the many reasons to volunteer is the fact that like the hands we use, the hearts we warm are our own.

This was followed by a series of announcements: ANNETTE GLANCKOPF, using President's Club privileges, advised us

of an interesting lecture titled "Is it the age of pandemics?" at the PA City Hall this coming Thursday 1/15 at 7 PM.

MIKE BAIRD explained how Rotaract is changing to be more community rather than college based and that a promotional meeting will be held on Thursday 1/15 from 5:30 to 7:00 PM at the Steins Beer Garden on Villa Street in Mountain View.

TOM GRACON said we now have six Speech Contest contestants but we are still looking for a total of ten. All Palo Alto students are eligible. The contest will be held on Thursday, January 29 at the PA City Council Chambers and it would be good to have more members attending.

LISA AKSELRAD is out to prove that Rotary means business. On Wednesday, January 28 at 8:30 AM at the Mitchell Park Library there will be (\$10) breakfast meeting in a setting aimed at improving the Rotary-local business interface. Sign up in the next two weeks with cash or check.

SALLY TOMLINSON, head of the Program Committee needs members to respond to the e-mail survey to evaluate recent speakers.

BILL FOGARTY gave an encouraging endowment drive announcement. The dollar goal to take advantage of ROGER SMITH's generosity has been reached but we are still seven short of the 80% member participation goal. After announcing that AXEL MERK will match any contributions collected today, it is believed that the deficiency will shortly be made up.



LEANNAH HUNT joined the President's Club to announce her imminent departure on a world cruise and your reporter noticed a certain number of envious glances being exchanged. At our February 2 meeting it is planned to have a group photograph taken.

The distinguished annual charity event management team of BRUCE GEE, GINNY LEAR, PETER SHAMBORA and

DICK BUSH (in absentia) made an enticing presentation of the exciting



plans for the Saturday, March 14 Crab Feed celebration. The key points were: Note the date; plan to attend; location is the new Mitchell Park (library) Community Center;

support it by providing auction items or soliciting sponsorships; volunteer to help. In summary, we need everyone to get behind it.

MEL MATSUMOTO introduced three club members to speak about their vocations.

First up was DARRYL SAVAGE whose varied and interesting career has involved the fields of politics, writing and theater. It has included doing children's shows with puppets and clowns on TV, improv theater, movies, speech writing for Gary Hart, working for local politicians, the Human Relations Commission in Palo Alto and the FBI community outreach programs. Along the way Darryl has developed a great respect for those engaged in law enforcement.



Next was TODD LEWIS, a third generation Palo Altoan. He described how he had gone from tennis player to city slicker to grower and how being in the agricultural business in the Central Valley could turn one's hair from brown to gray in 10 years. He provided some interesting insight into the pistachio nut business which he entered with our late esteemed club member SAM WEBSTER. In 7 years exports to China of this product have gone from 5 million pounds to 150 million pounds. Halo mandarins are his new interest as he struggles with climate change, high speed rail projects going through his land and the drought.



The final speaker was BETSY BECHTEL who concentrated on her responsibilities and successes in her 12<sup>th</sup> year as a member of the



Foothill-De Anza Board of Trustees. In addition to that role, Betsy, wife and mother of 2 and now grandmother of 5, has been, at various times, a speech pathologist, Peace Corps volunteer, teacher, city mayor, banker and grant writer. California's Community College is the largest system of higher education in the nation and is composed of 72 districts and 112 colleges serving 2.1 million students per year. Foothill-De

Anza is the third largest district serving about 45,000 students and is a leader in the Online Educational Initiative.

Duty crew today were DAVE THORNTON, welcome desk; DANA TOM, check in; JOE SINNOTT, sgt. at arms, STEVE MADSEN, set-up and GEOFF ZIMAN, reporting.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

January 19 Professor Gibor Basri, Vice Chancellor of Equity and Inclusion, UC Berkeley: "Diversifying Higher Education"

January 26, Arne Croce Former City Manager of San Mateo and Los Altos: "Community of Bell - What Happened, Corrective Steps, and Current Status"