

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

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It was one of those “where-did-that-come-from” meetings. Not only did **Ed Dangler** pull one out of the hat by making a successful segue from bathroom humor to inspirational opening remarks; but the speaker with a least-likely-to-interest topic captivated his surprised audience. But first:

Ex Pres Emslie with the PofA, and then **Pres EJ** handling the introductions of: **Dana Tom**’s wife, Nancy Kawakita; and **Ben Threlkeld**’s guest Eduardo Dignoti; followed by the **Bruce Gee** and **Dick Bush** show pumping the upcoming Crab Festivities this coming Saturday night, Pi Day, 3.14.15. (Sorry Bruce, you are actually year too early to claim it!) Notable note: Please advise Bruce or **Ginny Lear** if you have signed up and for any reason can’t make they buy the entre. it.... before is very expensive this Turns out crab year and they want to make sure as much of the charities as possible. And volunteers are still MOST welcome for SetUp @ 10:00am; Welcome @ 5:00pm, and CleanUp.



Speaking of charities, **Bill Johnson** made us all feel even more proud of our Club as he described the work of the Charities Committee and the 2015 recipients. This year’s \$45,000 is to be spread between seven successful applicants and one “Fund a Need” recipient: 10 Books a Home, Acterra, EPA Youth Court, ICubed, Marine Science Institute, Palo Alto Housing Corp, Ravenswood Education Foundation; and Downtown Streets Team. These recipients were selected from the 66 applications reviewed. Good Work!



Back to Opening Remarks, **Ed Dangler** navigated from bathroom to optimism (it really is too hard to explain) and wound up on his feet with inspiring quotes about optimism from a diverse group including Colin Powell, Norman Cousins, Sylvester Stallone, Helen Keller and Michael Jordan. Relevance: Rotarians feed on the optimism that they can, by their individual and collective efforts, make a positive difference in the world.



Of no surprise came **President EJ**’s announcement that the proposed slate of next year’s officers all were elected in last week’s vote. Congratulations *and* condolences go particularly to **Brian Steen**, next year’s President-Elect.



In the \$100 contribution to the President’s Club department, **Bill Busse** celebrates his 66th Anniversary with Barbara this coming Friday, the 13th.



Jack Woodson chose to honor friend and fellow Rotarian Steve Player for his work as founder of the “Foundation for a College Education,” a successful program to increase the number of East Palo Alto children going to college;



Henrietta **Burroughs** clarified that her announcement last week about the Mid Peninsula Open Space “Walk with the Doctor” has nothing to do with either dogs or dolphins.

The Program today was on the banal topic of Frisbee. Right. The little plastic toy you have occasionally been asked to throw around with someone younger than you. *But*, put in the hands of a bright, very articulate, highly enthusiastic spokesman, the subject came alive. Chris Farina, a Paly High teacher and advocate of



Ultimate Frisbee was introduced by **Dana Tom**. Chris has coached Dana and Nancy’s son in this relatively new sport that started with a toy in 1955 and is currently a real contender for the next sport to be introduced into the Olympic Games. There was dramatic video footage portraying real athletic skill and a fast paced game with

constant sprinting. But the quality that seemed to attract most attention from our Club was the spirit of the game. As a self-officiated sport, it encourages – no actually demands - real time conflict resolution. Chris contended that it not only works, but in fact forces empathic response to the opponent. A far cry from the ‘anything you can get away with’ quality of officiated games. And since the game is often played co-ed, it was easy to see how it can be touted as a sport that offers both gender equality and character development.

The measure of positive response by the Club was demonstrated by a fast-paced ten minute Q&A with questions left over. And no, professional Ultimate Frisbee players (Chris is one) don’t come close to making a living wage. But, they no longer have to pay to play!



Upcoming Programs

3/16/15 Deborah Gordon, Stanford University, ‘How Ants Colonies work’

3/23/15 Marcy Darnovsky, ED Center for Genetics, :”Does Biotech Become Us?”

3/30/15, Robert Siegel, Professor of Microbiology, “Viruses”

4/6/15 Representative Jackie Speier, “National Issues”

3/3/0/15

Info: www.rotarypaloalto.org