

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

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Editor: LYLE CONNELL

President EJ HONG called the meeting to order by inviting DICK MANSFIELD to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. She then moved quickly to issue a correction to last week's Pinion, in which ANDREW PIERCE mistakenly reported a penurious exchange regarding her name badge. She in fact donated \$100 to the club in appreciation for having her badge personally delivered to her at the podium. She also noted that last week, ROGER SMITH donated to the President's club in gratitude for being allowed to use a paper ballot for program evaluation.

## GUESTS OF ROTARIANS

DANA TOM introduced his wife, Nancy Kawakita, and Perle Siegal, mother of today's speaker.



## OPENING REMARKS

LEE PFAB related an inspiring tale illustrating the mutual exchange that can result from charity. In offering help, the giver realized that she needed help as well, and that we all need help in various forms. In giving we can receive. Our big-hearted President EJ was almost brought to tears.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS, REPORTS AND REMINDERS

DICK FREEMAN announced the upcoming visit to Memorial Grove at Big Basin Sunday, April 26, rain or shine. This grove recognizes deceased members of Palo Alto Rotary, and a brief ceremony will be held in their honor. Those going will meet at Elks Club to carpool at 10-10:30 am. Bring your own lunch - no alcohol (fees incurred!). If interested please contact DICK. Deceased members honored include: Syd Akselrad, Billy Alhouse, John Bracken, Bob Brown, Harry Browne, John Childress, Gary P. Fazzino, Arthur Gleim, Sy Greenstone, Sam Gordon, Jack Hendricks, Warren Higgins, Joe Jedd, Vera Kallmeyer, Lou Kavanau, Ralph Keller, Al Kenrick, Bill Love, Andy Moser, David Negrin, Daryl Pearson, John (Jack) Riddle, Allan Mike Traugott, Warren Thoits, Ed Schleh, Robert (Bob) Smithwick, Sharon Wagner, and Sanford (Sam) Webster.



EJ HONG noted that the Rotary District Conference will be April 17-19, and features an agenda packed with good speakers and seminars. Registration is free but you have to pay for meals.

MIKE BAIRD ran out of synonyms for "amazing" in describing the Interact



Club members visiting today. Sandie Luo, Rebecca Goldgof, Paige Ogawa, and Natalie Perreault described the club's service projects. Last year, the group renovated the playing fields for a school in the mountains of Costa Rica, creating a soccer field, basketball court, gravel pathway, and other amenities. This year, they will go to Guatemala during spring break and will help with renovations at an elementary school and some homes. Both trips include community activities and touring.

The combined Interact-Youth Community Services clubs at Gunn include about 200 students, of whom about 17 will go to Guatemala. President EJ presented them with a check for \$1500 for their Guatemala project.



LEE PFAB alerted us that the next Rotary social will be April 30.

YORIKO KISHIMOTO joined the President's club to share that she was invited to have a table showing her watercolors at Gamble Gardens on April 24 and 25, during their annual garden tour. Please come by and see her work!

## PROGRAM - "The Secret Life of Viruses"

DANA TOM has known our guest speaker, Professor Robert Siegel, since their sons were both at Duvneek. Doctor Siegel has widely diverse experiences and interests. He delivered two of his own sons; was a founding member of Stanford's ultimate Frisbee team, was the second Stanford Tree, and loves travel photography. He holds appointments at Stanford Medical School, the Human Biology Program, the Center for African Studies, and the Woods Institute. He loves teaching, leads student trips abroad, and also loves Rotary.



Juggling a scepter/pointer, various plushy viruses, and two copies of his HIV book (one in English and one in Swahili), professor Siegel led us through a brief history of his life as the second Stanford Tree, a recipient of an MD and a PhD ("paradox"), and as an admirer of Rotary's leadership in fighting polio and other viruses. He then moved into a poetic rendition of the sub-microscopic features of viruses, of which the most important take-aways are: viruses are not living; viruses are everywhere; and "Condoms make good envelopes, but envelopes don't make good condoms."



If you don't understand the last, you should have been there!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

April 6 - Izabela Moi, Knight Fellow: "Bringing Underrepresented Voices to Journalism in Brazil"

April 13- New Member Talks: Richard Keller, Lee Lippert, Lisa Akselrad

April 20- Scott Sagan, "The Nuclear Future: Can we have the Spread of Nuclear Power without the Spread of Nuclear Weapons?"