

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Date: June 1, 2015

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## OPENING REMARKS

STEVE EMSLIE talked about some of the changes he has seen in his 15 years as a member of the Palo Alto Rotary. When he joined cell phones were used for making phone calls, and a U-Tube was a piece of plumbing under the sink. STEVE then listed some forecasts for the next 15 years: the average person will receive 4.5 packages per week delivered by drone, driver-less cars will populate many freeways, and 50% of colleges will collapse, although student loan debt will not!



## PROGRAM

LIZ KNISS introduced our speaker, Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian speaking on the topic, "Can the Buena Vista Mobile Home Park be saved?" The Buena Vista Mobile Home Park is located at 3980 El Camino Real in Palo Alto. The existing mobile home park consists of 117 units. It is home to 400 Palo Altans, including 125 children, 100 attend Palo Alto schools. The long-time owner is seeking to close this last mobile home park in Palo Alto and sell it.



Supervisor Simitian started by recalling 4 students who started Palo Alto High School in 1967, 3 of whom's parents probably could not afford to

purchase a home in contemporary Palo Alto. The fourth student was a daughter of the Hewlett Packard CEO. All four students graduated together. Two of the students were Joe Simitian, and the late Palo Alto Rotarian, GARY FAZZINO. At that time, if you received a good education and worked hard there was no limit to what a person could (and did) accomplish. Supervisor Simitian then raised some questions:



Where should the 400 residents go if they are evicted? Is there any way to replace

the affordable housing?

Should the housing be saved? What is in it for Palo Alto Rotarians, and businesses in Palo Alto? He then stated that businesses need affordable housing for their employees. Further, if you care about traffic, what about the incremental traffic from employees who have to commute from Modesto? Another issue occurs in the event of a major catastrophe, and the first responders have to come from their homes in the Central Valley. Should Palo Altans give up on Palo Alto as a place of opportunity for all who work here? What kind of place should Palo Alto be?

Supervisor Simitian then described some affordable housing funds available at both Palo Alto and Santa Clara County. Further, he has located a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation, Caritas, which operates 20 mobile home parks in California. There are still many loose ends to such a venture, such as, will the owner sell? How much will it cost? Where will all the funds come from? He concluded that we have to try in order to have Palo Alto continue to be a place of both opportunity and innovation.

## GUESTS



Visiting Rotarian: Thorston Fridlizius and his wife, Christina, from the Täby Attunda Rotary Club in Sweden.

Guests of Rotarians: Elizabeth Santana from Palo Alto Players, guest of BEN THRELKELD; Owen Lewis, son

of TODD LEWIS; Santa Clara County Supervisor and today's speaker, Joe Simitian.

## PAUL HARRIS AWARDS

STEVE EMSLIE presented awards to JACKIE SCHOELERMAN, JIM BAER, and CARL KING.



JACKIE then reported that 5 Rotarians put up and later took down the national flags on University Ave with the Palo Alto University Rotary Club on May 25.

## NEW MEMBER



BEN THRELKELD assisted in the induction of new member EDUARDO D'IGNOTI, owner of Arte Ristorante in Palo Alto. EDUARDO came to the U.S. in 2007 from his native Sicily. This was BEN'S last induction; he is turning over the reins of the Membership Committee to CHARLIE WEIDANZ after 3 successful years. Thank you, BEN!

## PESIDENT'S CLUB

RALPH ADAMS joined because he could. TODD LEWIS joined to honor his visiting son, Owen. JIM BAER joined in honor of his daughter's magna cum laude graduation from Chapman College. DUANE KALAR joined to describe his and Ann's recent trip to Paris.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

June 8, Jeff Rosen, District Attorney, Santa Clara County: "Crime and Punishment - Past, Present, and Future"

June 15, Joseph Stagner, Executive Director, Sustainability and Energy Management, Stanford: "Stanford Energy Systems Innovations Project"