

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

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CALIFORNIA POLITICS 101

There may be no one in the State who is more knowledgeable than our own GLORIA HOM! To begin with she skirted the issue of Donald T., also appropriately referred to as the "elephant in the room", and shared a bit of her wisdom as follows: California has a unique system...non-Democrats, (meaning Republicans and Independents), can vote in the primaries for any candidate while Republicans can only vote for Republicans. So, what's the big deal? In our predominantly Democratic state it turns out that there is little interest in vigorously contested elections...the top two candidates (often Democrats) have a runoff. Result...low voter turn out. "Top two elections", also know as "jungle primaries", almost make political parties in California irrelevant! So there! That is your scribe's Readers Digest version of a very well presented analysis of a bad situation. Thanks GLORIA! We look forward to a presentation on the national scene as the "real elections" approach.



VISITING ROTARIAN

Yes, we had only one visiting Rotarian and KLAUS HEINEMANN just barely qualifies. For you newer members...Klaus was a long time member of our club and appears here more often than he does at his current Club in Gualala. Welcome anyway, Klaus!

GUESTS

Diana Bautista was SHERRI SAGER's guest. Diana is with the Stanford Children's Health Council. CHARLIE WEIDANZ's guest was the Director of the Moldaw Residences, Alexander Ben-Israel.

NAMASTE PROJECT

With a brief introduction by WALT HAYS, Bob Graham and Eugenia Duran



gave a report on the Rotary program to provide start-up micro-loan funding and education for financially deprived women in Guatemala. What makes this program different is that it includes mentoring and training. Our outstanding international



wizard WALT led a group of 11...primarily Rotarians...for a first hand meeting with some of the recipients. The program is a huge success and Eugenia thanked us profusely for our generous grant. Way to go WALT and our World Service Committee! What Rotary is all about!

THIS AND THAT

Someone may have left you an insurance fortune in their will! HENRIETTA BURROUGHS reminded us of a recent speaker's suggestion that we go on the State of California web site and see if we are instant millionaires!



ART EXPLORATION ANYONE?

According to SALLY TOMLINSON, anyone can become an instant artist. Build your own masterful collage at the Palo Alto Art Center on March 14th at 5:30. It begins with a light supper followed by instruction from Central Coast artist, Ann McMillan. You could become another Matisse overnight...or at

least during the evening. More importantly your 50 dollar contribution supports our Club charities! This is an opportunity you shouldn't pass

up! Go for it! Please let Sally know if you want to attend.

MORE THIS AND THAT

DICK FREEMAN couldn't attend at the time, but has it on good authority that on May first, 1922, the Palo Alto Rotary Club was chartered. That folks was ninety-four years ago! Here's a bit of trivia that Dick may not be aware of...According to long ago member RIX SNYDER the San Francisco Club refused to be our chartering Club. They were predominantly Cal alums and didn't want to sponsor a club so near Stanford. So we prevailed on the president of the San Jose Club, Tulley Knowles, and they did the honors.

A much belated thanx to Tulley and his associates and a very over-ripe raspberry to the S.F. Club!!

INTO THE WOODS... Palo Alto Players, Lucie Stern Theatre...

Starring ELIZABETH SANTANA is a roaring success! "It's fantastic" ...don't miss it...if it's still on!

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH...A GREAT PROGRAM



Our speaker, Dr. Steven Adelsheim, Director of the Stanford Center for Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing was introduced by SHERRI SAGER.

She noted that the subject is of special concern to Palo Alto because of the numerous recent youth suicides



This program was an eye opener. For example many of us were not aware that:

The stigma surrounding mental problems keeps the subject in the background.

Since youth mental health is not talked about, there are few services.

1 in 5 young adults have mental health issues.

Very few get professional support.

The onset is by age 14.

Very often they don't know where to go for help.

To promote awareness Dr. Adelsheim and SHERRI SAGER are sponsoring a mental health conference in San Francisco. The core issue is "The Silicon Valley Suicides".

He concluded his remarks by noting the fact that countries like Australia, Ireland, Israel, and Denmark are developing programs that include: Walk-in support...Go in with friends, early prevention, etc. His final statement was "It is all about families!"

Questions from JOHN KIDD, HENRIETTA BURROUGHS, LE LEVY and RALPH ADAMS led to comments on stress, self knowledge, family and peer pressure, early support, recognition of what is happening, the need to address the problem in schools and within society. As the man said, "It was a real eye opener for many of us!"

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

May 9, Clive Berkman, Executive Chef at Garden Court Hotel: "Culinary and Gastronomic Trends"

May 16, Jim Colton, Photographer: "What it's Like to be Stranded on an Island with Fidel Castro"