

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

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After the Pledge, Not-Long-To-Be-Our-President Katie Seedman presided over the introduction of just one Visiting Rotarian, Caleb LaPlante. Caleb is from the Greater Grants Pass Club in Oregon where he has been a major contributor to the creation of "Rotarians Against Child Slavery." This, obviously, to make an effort to engage Rotary in making a real difference in the awful business of sex trafficking. Impressive initiative.

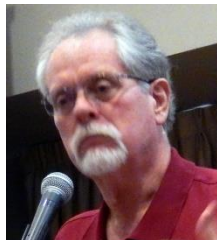


Ginny Lear was called to the podium to be singled out and congratulated for an undisclosed, but obviously impressive, contribution to The Rotary Foundation.



Heavy traveler Cyrille Betant attributed the fact that he was giving Opening Remarks to a habit cultivated at a young age of 'volunteer first, think later'. Despite the humble disclaimer, he conveyed inspirational comments on the subject of Rotary and it's role in providing education and outreach as invaluable tools in positive societal change. On a personal level, he

reminded us that to be engaged in change, our actions should be the embodiment of our strategy. He concluded by acknowledging that he is personally proud, grateful, and inspired to be a Rotarian.



Soon-To-Be-Our-President Brian Steen just returned from the annual Rotary International Convention in Seoul, South Korea. He thanked us for sending him. Listening to his report, it was apparent that the feeling of being joined in common cause by 40,000 other Rotarians from Africa and Asia and around the World was quite

moving. In particular, the fact that reducing worldwide Polio cases from 550,000 in 1989 to the current day level of just 16 has brought us "THIS CLOSE" to eradicating the disease. With enthusiasm, Brian shared an RI challenge to every club in the coming year to contribute \$2800 toward the international effort to END POLIO.



Rob Lyman assumed his role of introducing the three new members whose introductory talks would comprise today's program.

First was Eric Kwon. Eric was born and raised in LA's dairy country - where chickens and livestock outnumbered humans by many multiples in a most un-LA like manner. His parents had both immigrated from South Korea and blessed Eric with a solid perspective on hard work and service above self. His hard work took him through USC and



dental school. His first experiences of service were the result of an inspiring trip to Paraguay, which he subsequently repeated several times. Having opened Grace Dental as his own practice less than a year ago, he finds the name a good reminder of the value of being gracious. In addition, he also serves the community by collaborating in his practice with two worthy local non-profits organization. Welcome to the club Eric!



BILL OBERMAN...Bill's career followed that of his parents. Music was their thing. His dad played in Bing Crosby's band and his mother went to Julliard which led him directly into swimming and ultimately to a career in investment management...with a few bumps along the way. As a "math-science-swimming guy" he naturally

morphed into philosophy during the Viet Nam War. Then off to Europe to become a writer, but was attracted to photography instead. Back to So Cal and a free ride from LAX that included a 45 caliber slug in his leg as the result of a bit of out of hand "road rage". Then a stint as a draft counselor...then off to law school which led to financial planning which is, perhaps, his last career...but who knows. Bill is married and began his remarks by sharing with us a few childhood experiences in LA. He recently took his son on a walking tour of the "old neighborhood" with a view of his home, schools and location of the rock fights of his youth. His final footnote, "Today reminds me of Stanford in the 1960's...there are changes afoot in this country!"



AKRAM PIRACHA was sponsored by WALT HAYS and has the classification of "Humanitarian Relief". Although Akram started his talk with "The good news is that it's a short story"...it was anything but that. Akram, who was with the UN for 34 years began by reminding us that Rotary signed

the UN charter in San Francisco in 1945. He also noted that, due largely to Rotary's efforts, there are now only 16 known cases of polio in the world. Akram echoed President-elect Brian's comment that we are "Only this far from eradicating polio". During his career with the United Nations Akram was the coordinator for UNICEF in Indonesia, Laos, Pakistan, China, India, Somalia, and Namibia. Activities included investigating murders in Sudan and Kenya and starting a school in Namibia. Akram and his wife have three daughters and live here in Palo Alto. In answer to a question Akram noted that the reason there are still a few polio cases existing in the world is that there is a natural resistance to immunization by outsiders. What is needed is a change in attitude.

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

June 20, Jeanne Tsai, Stanford Psychology Professor: "How Culture Shapes Our Feelings: Implications for Happiness and Other Important Things"

June 27 DARK, No lunch Meeting

5:30 p.m. Debunking, Michael's at Shoreline