

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Date: December 12, 2016

Reporter: MKE McMAHON

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

President BRIAN STEEN called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM. STEVE MADSEN led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## VISITING ROTARIANS

Masahiro ISHIHARA from the Rotary Club of Takarazuka-Naka, Japan, Anthony Ngai from the Rotary Club of Hong Kong, and Rob Linkares from the San Mateo Rotary Club.

## GUESTS

Esther Nigenda and Keith Bennett of Save the Palo Alto Groundwater, guests of ANNETTE GLANCKOPF, and Candace Gonzalez, Executive Director of Palo Alto Housing Corporation, guest of BETSY BECHTEL.

## OPENING REMARKS



KATIE SEEDMAN presented suggestions for making it through the holiday season:

1. Slow down.
2. Don't over commit.
3. Decorate less.
4. Shop early or late.
5. Take a walk, suggesting Christmas Tree Lane.
6. Smile!

She also announced that the Rotary Foundation drive was at \$17,800.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



JULIE JEROME, the President of the Palo Alto Rotary Endowment Fund stated that the Endowment had raised \$14,000 so far this year.

President BRIAN thanked DICK BUSH and Patty McGuigan for hosting the highly successful Holiday Party at their home.

GLORIA HOM announced the TGIF party would be at the Pottery Barn in Stanford Shopping Center this Friday, December

16, from 7 to 9 PM.

ROGER SMITH announced that he was challenging the Free Throw ability of any Palo Alto Rotarian at the Palo Alto Elks Youth Hoop Contest on December 17th from 1 to 4PM at the Bell St. YMCA in East Palo Alto.



DICK FREEMAN announced that TRISH BUBENIK was out of the hospital, and staying at Webster Health Care, Palo Alto, and receiving visitors.

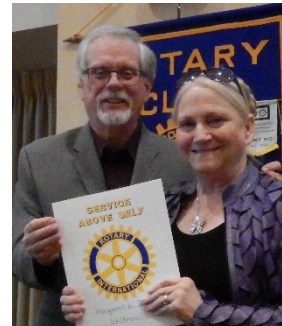
President BRIAN announced who will be on the Club ballot at the next meeting:

President-elect elect – GINNY LEAR

Board Members - DICK BUSH, REBECCA GERALDI, and HAL MICKELSON and Secretary – SALLY TOMLINSON

## NEW ROTARIANS

President BRIAN inducted returning member JAMES YOUNG, sponsored by HAL MICKELSON, and MARGARET



BOLES, the minister at

Covenant Presbyterian in Palo Alto,

sponsored by CHARLIE WEIDANZ.

## PROGRAM

SALLY TOMLINSON introduced our speaker, Steve Phillips, a Hydrogeologist, speaking about

“Managing Ground Water in California”. Steve works at the US Geologic Survey’s California Water Science Center, which provides science needed by Federal, State, and Local agencies to manage California’s water resources by collecting long term data and providing interpretative studies.

Ground water used to be easy in the 19th Century; insert a pipe into the ground in the Central Valley and you had an Artesian well. Today the water level there is ~500 feet below ground. Today California uses 38 billion gallons of water a day, using up one full Shasta dam reservoir every 40 days! In California today, we do not know how much ground water we use for irrigation, but it is estimated that it represents 20% of the national total.

The state of California has established by law a Framework for Sustainable Groundwater Management in specific Groundwater Basins throughout the state. Each basin has to prepare a Groundwater Sustainability Plan by 2020, which measures significant and unreasonable: Lowering of Groundwater levels, Reduction of Groundwater Storage, Seawater Intrusion, Water Quality Degradation, Land Subsidence, and Depletion of Surface Water.

This plan will be evaluated by the State every 5 years, and if it fails the State can step in and stop the pumping of groundwater in the basin! You may want to recommend to your young friends entering college the field of Hydrogeology! .



## PROGRAMS & EVENTS

December 19, Jose Luis and West Bay Opera Singers: Musical Program

December 26 DARK - No Meeting  
January 2, 2017 Happy New Year! – No Meeting  
January 9 Welcome Back!