



Palo Alto Rotary Pinion



Weekly Newsletter

Meeting Date: January 28, 2008

Reporter: David Negrin

Editor: Lyle Connell

SCHEDULE:

<http://www.rotarypaloalto.org/SpeakersSchedule.cfm>

February 4 – Violet Gonda - Development of Media in Emerging Democracies

February 11 – Dr. Frank Benest - Addressing the Retirement Wave in Public Service February 18 - Dark - President's Day Observed

February 25 - Sarah Freedman - Teaching History after Genocide in Rwanda

GREETER(S):

The Official Greeter for today's meeting was ART STAUFFER, Greeter Extraordinaire.

OPENERS:

PREZ ROB called on MARK HEYER to lead us all in the Pledge which was enthusiastically rendered, as usual. It was followed by a difficult-to-believe announcement of SAM WEBSTER's 90th b'day, but we all sang "Happy Birthday to You," in case it was true (it is).

VISITORS AND GUESTS:

Rotary visitors and guests were introduced by ADRIAN MIKOLAJCZAK. The only visiting Rotarian was DAVID NEGRIN of the Outer Galaxy Rotary Club, classification - Astronaut (he has a blue badge to prove it, for you doubters).

Visitors (Hosts) were - Roz Bal (DAVID BLITZ), Gary Betts (ANNETTE GLANCKOPF), Sarah Freedman (JUDITH STEINER), Claire McDonald (VIC ROSASCO), Dennis Boyle (YORIKO KISHIMOTO and WALT HAYS), wife Bess (SY GREENSTONE) and Steve Blank, today's speaker and Mark Seiden, his friend (WALT HAYS).

OPENING REMARKS

ARNE STOSCHEK spoke of his travels through eastern Europe, especially to Romania, on a trip that he took about 15 years ago, during the Cold War and again more recently. The difference was marked; instead of encountering check points and a depressed economy, where food, electric power and transportation were limited, he told us that the GDP of the European Union was now about \$40 trillion, getting closer to ours here in the US, which is about \$100 trillion. People seem happier and more free and the comparison as he spoke with the natives was striking. Thanks for the good news, ARNE.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PREZ ROB announced JUDY KLEINBERG's b'day (no numbers) and we all sang "Happy Birthday to You."

JOAN PLASTIRAS reported the results of her analysis of our recent survey regarding program guest speakers. The median rating for almost all programs was a 4 rating, considered quite good. Keep it up, Program Committee.

HAL MICKELSON reminded us to be sure to attend our annual fund raising event on March 1, **Building a Better World**. There's a special discount for friends and relatives. Instead of paying \$125 per person, they will be able to receive a \$25 discount, again per person. The wine auction should be especially rewarding with many fine wines being offered. So, sign up with MIKE COUCH.

PROGRAM:

WALT HAYS introduced today's speaker, Steve Blank, a local entrepreneur in many Silicon Valley startups and now on the faculty at Stanford, who spoke on their combined technical influences on our business and educational systems. Steve traced the history of the technical needs of fighting W.W.II, how they influenced the development of numerous startups, and how they, in turn, resulted in the partnerships between these technically advanced companies and our educational systems, especially the engineering curricula of Stanford, MIT, CalTech, and Harvard, among others. Those especially influential in promoting technical developments that allowed us to prevail during the war, included Hewlett and Packard and Fred Terman who had a profound influence at Stanford, and included the formation of business/university partnerships. In addition to providing leadership for our defense needs, these partnerships also provided innovation for development of IC's, PC's and the INTERNET. These developments as described by Steve Blank were beyond imagination; his talk was fascinating and comprehensive. For more detail, it's suggested that you go online (try UTUBE). Thanks again Steve, for a most enlightening presentation.

JOKE OF THE WEEK:

Two atoms hurtling through space, were having a great time. One atom said to the other, "you know, I'm getting tired. I think I lost an electron. The second atom asked, "Too bad, are you sure?" The first atom replied, "I'm positive."

OTHER ROTARY MEETING PLACES

<http://www.rotarypaloalto.org>