



Palo Alto Rotary Pinion



Weekly Newsletter

Meeting Date: February 4, 2008

Reporter: Bill Busse

Editor: Lyle Connell

SCHEDULE:

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

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

ZIMBABWE...MAN MADE TRAGEDY

Wow, what a sobering, yet highly informative program! (If you think four or five per cent inflation is high, how about 2,600%. And how about two thousand citizens each week leaving because of famine and brutality)

Following an introduction by NATASHA FRENCH, our speaker, VIOLET GONDA, shared with us the tragedy that is today's Zimbabwe. Violet is currently a Knight Fellow at Stanford. She has resided in London since 2001. Because of her courageous efforts to incite her fellow citizens to resist the inhuman regime of Robert Mugabe, she cannot return to her native country. An amazing story...no health system, no education system, no rule of law, rampant corruption, state sponsored violence, no free media of any kind, people forced to destroy their own homes, and on and on.

Her efforts with SW Radio Africa in London provide a voice for the voiceless by exposing the Mugabe regime for what it is. As SCOTT GLISSMEYER says in the below Opening Remarks section, "one person can make a difference!" You know that Violet is certainly doing so.

A PLEDGE...PLUS KUDOS

BOB McCOWAN led the pledge followed by our Supreme Leader's appropriate KUDOS. Over the years Sir Robert has done a yeoman's job of maintaining our Club's ever changing Bio Pages. Later in the program Pres. ROB thanked the following support staff:

VERA KALLMEYER...for taking your lunch money
BILL BUSSE...for being today's scribe
ART STAUFFER...for officially greeting one and all.
(With able support from E.J. HONG)
LYLE CONNELL...for years of faithful service in producing the Pinion.

Thanks for the great work, Bob, Vera, Bill, Art, E.J. and especially Lyle!

VISITING ROTARIANS & GUESTS introduced by:

SALLY TOMLINSON

Rotarians: Art Adams, Los Gatos Morning Club;

Past Member Charles Cheng of the Shanghai Club. "Welcome back, Charles"

Guests: Lisa Stotlan: President ROB's Guest, Pieter Kark: GEOFF ZIMAN's Guest; Anna Waring: IRIS KOROL's Guest.

IT WAS A WONDERFUL OPENING!

Using George Bailey's ability to positively affect the lives of others as depicted in "It's a Wonderful Life," SCOTT GLISSMEYER presented examples of how ordinary people have changed the world. Very inspiring OPENING REMARKS, indeed. Steve's examples ranged from a minority of San Franciscans convincing the city fathers that a freeway through Golden Gate Park was a lousy idea to Greg Mortensen (Author of "Three Cups of Tea,") bringing about construction of 50 schools for girls in remote regions of Northwest Pakistan. The capper, of course, was to remind Rotarians that we can, and do, change lives throughout the world. Way to go, Rotarians!

46K FROM THE 2007 GALA TO BE DISTRIBUTED THIS YEAR!

From 69 applicants our Grants Committee has selected nine outstanding non-profit organizations to present proceeds from last year's Fund Raiser. IRIS KOROL, standing in for Chairman BILL JOHNSON, thanked her fellow committee members, VIC ROSASCO, MARCIE COX, LEANNAH HUNT, DAVID NEGRIN, DICK FREEMAN, GEORGE NEWTON (and of course, Chairman BILL) for their diligent work in making the difficult decisions. Quite naturally, the Committee is suggesting we all get behind this year's "gala" GALA in order to increase the amount of next year's grants by 10K. We may be well on our way!

OUR GREAT & GRAND GALA GURU, one HAL MICKELSON, proceeded to auction off a meal at Bistro Elan to MARTHA KANTER for 70 of the big ones. Thanks Martha! Only \$9,930 yet to go!

At last week's meeting, MC HAL MICKELSON auctioned off a fine bottle of wine that was awarded to the top bidder, none other than our Social Chair, NINA MOORE. NINA generously proceeded to donate it back to our Gala Booty for a second auctioning of the same bottle of wine to boost proceeds and promote our annual fundraiser. NINA, thanks for all you do!

JUDY KLEINBERG...ALL A GOOGLE!

Our ex-mayor rose to present a donation in honor of the non-profit international start-up, fathered and mothered by Google, and of which Judy is Vice President and COO. They are "an innovation lab for

technologies designed to improve early disease detection and rapid disaster response.” Certainly a great cause! Take a look at <http://www.instedd.org> and learn what all the fuss is about. Congratulations to Google and Judy!

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF RETIRES!

Although he was mentioned in the kudos above, we need to re-mention the great work done by LYLE CONNELL over the years. In addition to taking the photos of visitors, guests, finees and assorted dignitaries, Lyle, along with JOYCE CUSICK, have carefully proofed the sometimes clumsy and inept text submitted by Pinion writers. He has followed that by preparing a PageMaker document for submission to MARC DICKOW at Jungle Copy for printing and mailing to our non-e-mail capable members. He and JOYCE have also seen to it that the formatted Pinion is posted to our web site. Lyle, we all know that you will enjoy your “Pinion free” years of retirement. Well done! (Oops! Lyle tells me that he will continue to edit Pinion copy, so his retirement is not one of total freedom.)

CHANGE OF COMMAND

Our “Feeding the Homeless” leader, LARRY BAILEY, announced that forthwith new member CARMEN VALVERDE will be in charge. Sign up Monday for the homeless feed that will take place the following Wednesday, February 13th. Our new skipperess will appreciate your support!

“LISTEN TO PEOPLE WE DON’T AGREE WITH,” SAYS DAVE SMULLIN!

As an astute political observer, Dave observed that at a recent presidential debate one, or more, of the debatees, did in fact listen. He is hopeful that the typical mutual harranging is about to change. Well said, Dave! (This may have been a non-President’s Club announcement brought about by badgering our esteemed Prez, but a contribution to the Rotary Party is still in order.)

BRING YOUR CHECK BOOK OR CREDIT CARD to our next meeting and SIGN UP WITH HAL. If he doesn’t hear from you, Hal or one of his minions, will contact you with a “Not too intrusive” phone call. In any event, plan to attend our “BUILDING A BETTER WORLD” Rotary Charities 3rd Annual Community Awards Dinner and Auction. Bring neighbors, relatives and friends (One of each will do) to the Sharon Heights Golf and Country Club on MARCH FIRST starting at 6:30 pm. Incidentally, the array of auction items will astound you. BARGAINS GALORE FOR A GREAT CAUSE!

ERRATA The following report was inadvertently omitted from the Pinion for Monday, January 18: GEOFF ZIMAN contributed three checks to the Rotary Endowment, Club Endowment and the Club Charities to commemorate his 25 years of club membership, his newly arrived fifth great-grandchild and his forthcoming granddaughter’s wedding



OTHER ROTARY MEETING PLACES

<http://www.rotarypaloalto.org>