



Palo Alto Rotary Pinion



Weekly Newsletter

Meeting Date: February 11, 2008

Reporter: Lyle Connell

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SCHEDULE:

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

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

A PLEDGE...WITH THOUGHT!

RALPH ADAMS led the Pledge encouraging us to overlook the routine and have serious thought about what the Pledge means to us.

VISITING ROTARIANS & GUESTS introduced by: SHERRI SAGER

Rotarians: There were no visiting Rotarians
Guests: NANCY PETERS introduced her guest Daiva Deah who is seeking an Ambassadorial Scholarship; JOHN O'KEEFE took the opportunity to introduce ROMAN KAGARLITSKY who in turn stated that he wanted to join the Presidents Club. Welcome back ROMAN

WHAT ABOUT CITY MANAGEMENT

Using an example of an Indian tribe, ADRIAN MIKOLAJCZAK, in his OPENING REMARKS, illustrated the importance of good city government, and what can happen when not well done. The Indian village was a thriving city of around 20,000 populations, and had a sophisticated culture that developed Stonehenge type edifices, such as miles of log walls and 50 million cubic feet dirt mounds. These edifices required a huge amount of effort and resources to build and maintain.

The village lasted for considerable number of years, but eventually died out because they had not managed their resources on a sustainable basis.

THE FUND RAISING GALA SOON UPON US

Super auctioneer STEVE PLAYER advised us not to wait to sign up for the "Building a Better World" Gala at the Sharon Heights Country Club on March 1st. Hal Mickelson will be available to take your money at the back of the room. He will take any kind of money, cash, checks or credit card. AT THE EVENT WILL BE FUN SURPRISES. Many of the non profit organizations will be honored. Don't delay!

HELP FEED THE HOMELESS

LARRY BAILEY informed us that five people have signed up for feeding the homeless, but more volunteers are needed for next Wednesday (February 13th). A number of willing hands were raised which

should be enough. The "feeding" is at the First Presbyterian Church on Cowper in Palo Alto starting at 3:30 PM.

BELATED CHINESE NEW YEAR

PRESIDENT ROB admitted that he had totally missed the fact that last Thursday was the Chinese New Year celebration and that Rotary had not carried out the usual Chinese New Year tradition. Accordingly he presented Vicky Ching with a red celebration package.

HEADS UP

Next Monday, February 18, will be "dark" on account of Presidents Day

CRITICAL ISSUE—RETIREMENT WAVE IN PA

Our Mayor, YORIKO KISHIMOTO introduced our speaker for the day. He was Dr. Frank Benest who has, for eight years, been the City Manager of Palo Alto. He has spent a lifetime in public service.

Dr. Benest stated that the City of Palo Alto has a talent crisis because 50% of the baby boomer employees will soon be eligible to retire. There is a gap in finding qualified replacements, particularly in the key professional and leadership positions. Contributing to the problem is that fewer young people are deciding to enter into the public sector employment picture. He then described what "The City" is doing about it.

Palo Alto has adopted a number of initiatives to address the problem: Organizational Priority, Work Force Analysis, Key Talent Need by Department, Employee Development, Management Exchange Program, Readiness Assessment, and Preservation of Institutional Knowledge.

He then went on to discuss what great government is, and why or why not individuals would be attracted to joining city government. Great government is when you have a demanding population, but not hyper critical. Palo Alto should be attractive because of its environment, schools, community support, vibrant business community, and proximity to Stanford. Negatives are the high cost of housing, and "The PA process".

OTHER ROTARY MEETING PLACES.

[Palo Alto Rotary - Meeting Information](#)

