



# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion



Weekly Newsletter

Meeting Date: February 25, 2008

Reporter: Le Levy

Editor: Lyle Connell

## SCHEDULE:

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

**March 3 - Margot Gerritsen - Meeting the Daunting Challenge of Supplying the world with energy**

**March 10 - Sumbul Ali-Karamali - The Status of Women in Islam**

**PRESIDENT:** ROB LANCEFIELD

**GREETER:** ART STAUFFER

## SPEAKER:

Our speaker today was Sarah Freedman, Professor of Language and Literacy, Society and Culture at U.C. Berkeley. In 1999, she began working with the Rwandan government to develop a history curriculum for their schools; something she had previously done in the former Yugoslavia.

Rwanda, about the size of Maryland, is a central African country of 8,000,000; 90% Hutu, 9% Tutsi. In 1994 genocide, 500,000 Tutsi were killed. Many felt that what was taught about the history of Rwanda's ethnic groups contributed to the genocide.

Dr. Freedman has worked with the Rwandan government for eight years. She described the difficulties and the importance of working with a country to develop a history free from the teaching of ethnicity in ways that contribute to distrust among groups.

It is a slow project, in part because the government is reluctant to recognize ethnic differences and discourages the open discussion that could help resolve differences.

## OPENING REMARKS:

JOYCE CUSICK, quoting from the German medieval theologian, Meister Eckhart, urged us to think above all, about our actions and about living our lives in terms of simplicity.

## VISITING ROTARIANS:

Battling a balky microphone, RACHEL MEYER introduced visiting Rotarians: Harry Springer from Sunnyvale; Tom Hansen, San Jose; and Ginny Lear, Los Altos. TODD LEWIS introduced his guest, Penny Lave, spouse of Los Altos Rotarian Roy Lave.

## FINANCES:

PRESIDENT ROB called on Stanford Business School alum, ART STAUFFER, to explain from whence funds flow to our Rotary Club, and towards hence they are sent. Being a Cal grad, and thus more succinct than the Stanfords (or is it that we just have less of which to speak?) I will summarize:

Our Club disburses about \$100,000 a year in charitable Funds: \$50,000 to local charities, \$20,000 to international service, \$15,000 to vocational scholarships, \$9,000 to Youth, and \$4,000 for our Literacy project,

Q: Where do the funds come from? Over half from our annual fundraiser.

Q: When is the annual fundraiser? This Friday, March 1st.

Q: Where? Sharon Heights Country Club

Q: Will it be fabulous? Don't even bother to ask!

Q: Can tickets still be acquired? Ask Hal Mickelson (nicely). You'll be glad you did!

## OTHER ROTARY MEETING PLACES.

### TUESDAY

Los Altos: China Shuttle, 22382 Homestead Road, 19:15

Mountain View: Adobe House, Moffett & Central Mountain View, 12:15

Sunnyvale, Ramada Inn, 1217 Wildwood Avenue, Sunnyvale, 12:15

### WEDNESDAY

Menlo Park: Menlo Park Recreation Center, Menlo Park, 12:15

East Palo Alto Senior Center, 560 Bell Street, East Palo Alto, 12:15

Woodside/Portola: Woodside Village Church, Woodside, 07:30

### THURSDAY

Los Altos: Garden House, 400 University Avenue, Los Altos 12:15

### FRIDAY

Palo Alto University: Sheraton Hotel, El Camino, Palo Alto, 07:15

San Carlos: Piaceri's Restaurant, 727 Laurel Street, San Carlos 12:15