



Palo Alto Rotary Pinion



Weekly Newsletter DATE March 3, 2008 REPORTER: David Negrin EDITOR: Lyle Connell

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

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

March 17 - Bob Medearis - Solar Energy - where it's at and where it's going

March 24 - Longtime Member and New Members Talks - David Blitz, Adrian Mikolajczak, and Mark Nadim

OPENERS:

PREZ ROB called on BRUCE LIEDSTRAND to lead us all in the Pledge which was enthusiastically rendered, as usual.

OPENING REMARKS:

JOHN KIDD delivered the Opening Remarks. It was about the process of deciding on the selection of fifteen possible items to retrieve from a sinking ship, for the purpose of survival. The correct answer was "profound and counter intuitive". But it took enough time for the ship to sink. (Ed.: I didn't get it.) Please call John.

VISITORS & GUESTS:

Introduction was by KAREN BROSI. **Visiting Rotarians** were HREFNA KRISTMANNSDOTTIR from the Akureyri Club in northern Iceland, GRAHAM DOCKRILL Christchurch Club in New Zealand and BOB DENEBEIM (East Palo Alto). **Guests** (Hosts) were Ellie Mansfield (wife of) DICK MANSFIELD and Bess Greenstone (wife of) SY GREENSTONE.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

HERSH DAVIS invited club members to participate in a worthy hands-on project on Saturday, April 26, at the Bread of Life in East Palo Alto. Call HERSH for more details and to sign up. [Palo Alto Rotary - Calendar of Events](#)

JUDITH STEINER joined the President's Club as a tribute to PREZ ROB. That's great, JUDITH.

LIZ KNISS announced that a free lunch would be offered to all women who attend the District Conference in San Jose.

WALT HAYS challenged tennis players to compete in the Rotary Tennis Tournament on Wednesday, April 9, and/or to help with the Gunn H. S. service club event on Wednesday, March 9. Call WALT for info. on either/both events.

MIKE COUCH (Chair) thanked all the attendees, and

especially the helpers who made last Saturday night such a success, both socially and FINANCIALLY (the rough estimate is that we took in about \$50K, including \$14K in live action items. Credit goes to HAL MICKELSON (Organizer), STEVE PLAYER (Auctioneer), IRIS KOROL, LARRY BAILEY, PAM BRANDIN, NATASHA FRENCH, ELLIE MANSFIELD, MIKE McMAHON, BARBARA MITCHELL, VANESSA ROACH, SHERRI SAGER, DARYL SAVAGE, and of course to PREZ ROB and PAST-PREZ ART STAUFFER. Thanks guys and gals for a great party (we should organize our weekly meetings in a like fashion), and for the fantastic prizes some of us walked away with, after a great evening.

Also at the event, BILL JOHNSON introduced the recipients of this year's charitable grants. This is what it's all about folks!

THE PROGRAM:

VERA KALLMEYER introduced today's speaker, Margot Gerritsen, who has a most impressive resume and more importantly, the qualifications to speak to us on a very critical subject: oil and its practical alternatives. Margot is a mathematician who received her Ph.D. from Stanford in 1997. She was a Rotary International Scholar, who traveled to New Zealand doing sail design, and to Holland to begin her studies in energy sources. Her comprehensive survey of the subject revealed the fact that even though oil consumption is increasing dramatically, we are not likely to run out - the real challenge is to increase production efficiency, and to find alternate sources of energy. The most promising appear to be solar and nuclear energy, with wind and hydro power among the leading potential sources. In the interim, among the leading oil producing countries are Canada and Venezuela (both in heavy oil), Saudi Arabia, and the U.S. We here in our country generate most of our energy from coal and natural gas (both increasing) and oil (declining). Of great concern is the release of carbon dioxide, which affects the atmosphere and our climate. We're going to have to work fast to put a serious dent into these problems. Margot's talk was most informative. To learn more, you're encouraged to visit her Blog site <smartenergy.com>.

JOKE OF THE WEEK: (Really bad; don't read if you have a cough or a rash.)

QUESTION: What would we call our country if everyone drove a red car?

ANSWER: A red carnation.

OTHER ROTARY MEETING PLACES.

[Palo Alto Rotary - Meeting Information](#)