



# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion



Weekly Newsletter DATE March 10, 2008 REPORTER: Brian Steen EDITOR: Lyle Connell

**PRESIDENT ROB LANCEFIELD** called the meeting to order at 12:15 with DANA TOM leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

**VISITORS AND GUESTS** were introduced by NINA MOORE.

Visiting Rotarians included Jim Trembath and Tom Hansen from the San Jose Club. Guests of Rotarians included BOB McCOWAN's guest Kristina Lindsay, LE LEVY's guest Jack Adler, GEOFF ZIMAN's guest Pieter Kark; BRUCE SWENSON introduced Warren and Patti Kourt.

**OPENING REMARKS** were provided by DIANA DIAMOND, who shared her wisdom and a few quotes about aging, including:

"Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter." ~ Mark Twain;

"The more birthdays you have the longer you live." ~ Diana

"Middle age is when your age shows around your middle." ~ Bob Hope

"Forty is the old age of youth; fifty the youth of old age." ~ Victor Hugo

Rob acknowledged and thanked DENNIS SHEEHAN as our cashier, BRIAN STEEN for E-Pinion reporting and ART STAUFFER as our friendly greeter.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

MIKE COUCH provided additional thank-you's to HAL MICKELSON, MIKE McMAHON, AND E.J. HONG for their work and commitment to make our March 1 fundraiser such a success.

CARMEN VALVERDE asked for new volunteers to help feed the homeless on March 18 and encouraged volunteers to sign up.

BOB McCOWAN shared the positive Service Day work of YCS (Youth Community Service) recently at Gunn High School. BERN BEECHAM and WALT HAYS had also attended.

## **PRESIDENT'S CLUB:**

ROGER SMITH enthusiastically joined the

President's Club and provided a contribution and a thanks to recognize the volunteers and bidders who made the March 1 fundraiser a success.

ROB LANCEFIELD reminded EVERYONE to sign in for our Monday luncheons. It's important.

## **TODAY'S PROGRAM:**

### **The Status of Women in Islam**

JUDITH STEINER gave a befitting introduction to Sumbul Ali-Karamali, our program speaker. Sumbul earned her undergraduate degree in English, with Distinction, from Stanford University, and her J.D. from the University of California at Davis. She has a graduate degree in Islamic Law, with Distinction, from the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies. Her book, Islam at Home: Conversations with the Muslim Next Door is due to be released by White Cloud Press in August 2008.

Sumbul provided detailed insights on Muslim women and Islam, including:

Alkaida is not representative of Islam. A similar comparison would be the KKK to Christianity; Saudi Arabia has adopted an extremely conservative form of Islam and is also at odds with the Muslim world. Islamic law actually prohibits extremism. Five women have held position of Heads of State in Muslim countries; The majority of Muslim women are not cloistered and therefore, not of interest to world media. Regarding headscarves, wearing them is not really a religious symbol, rather it's a way of being modest and practical. Headscarves can be seen as a freedom to participate in the workplace.

ROB thanked Sumbul for an excellent presentation and encouraged questions after adjournment.

For more on Women in Islam, see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women\\_and\\_Islam](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Women_and_Islam)

Meeting adjourned at 1:30PM.

## **OTHER ROTARY MEETING PLACES.**

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