



Palo Alto Rotary Pinion



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St. Patrick's Day 2008

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

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

March 31 - Judge Leonard Edwards - Creative Ways of Rehabilitating Drug Abusing Parents - and Reuniting Families

April 7 - David Magnus - Emerging Issues in Bioethics

April 14 - Martha Kanter - Foothill and De Anza Colleges: Our Mission, Accomplishments, and Challenges Ahead

A CHIP OFF THE OLD BLARNEY STONE

Our own Kevin O'CURRY led the assembled Irish types in a stirring rendition of "MOLLY MALONE" accompanied by Skipper O'HOYT on the O'Steinway! Oh, well...they were certainly alive, alive-o!

GUEST & GUESTESSES

BILL KIRK...Brad Ramon (Visiting Rotarian)
SHARON WAGNER...hubby Tom
NINA MOORE...hubby Don Douglas
NANCY PETERS...Michaela Hellman-Tiacher

NANCY'S GUEST graduated from Gunn High School and George Washington University. Michaela took the mike to announce her quest for a Rotary Scholarship. She is interested in studies leading to post-conflict skills. Her specific area of concern is Darfur. Good luck, Michaela. The world needs young students willing to tackle some of the world's seemingly intractable problems.

HIS CHOICE

As co-chair of the Opening Remarks Committee, STEVE EMSLIE announced the fact he could choose the best days...such as Columbus Day and St. Patrick's Day...to do

the hallowed Openings of our meetings. So here are a few PADDY'S DAY specials:

Paddy Bumps: An odd Irish birthday tradition is to lift the birthday child upside down and give his or her head bumps on the floor for good luck...not to mention a splitting headache.

Obscure Legend: A ringing in your ears means a deceased friend is stuck in Purgatory. So that's what all those bells are about!

Little Known Historical Fact: The Vikings founded Dublin in 988.

(Not one of Steve's Nuggets): Who Threw the Overalls in Mrs. Murphy's Chowder? According to the third verse of the Irish diddy, Mrs. Murphy herself! Seems she was doing the laundry in the pot and forgot to take Mr. Murphy's overalls out before making her famous Irish Stew. (The flavor should have given it away!)

THANKS FROM PREZ ROB

To Capable Cashier MARK NADIM...Greeting Guru ART STAUFFER...and Our fine Financial Fund Fellow MIKE McMAHON.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Financial Fund Fellow MIKE followed his accolades with a report on income from our Annual Fund Raiser. To wit: We currently have 46 K in the bank and it should top out at 50K. Well done Rotarians and Guests!

PRESIDENT ELECT COUCH REPORTS FROM RIO...

"The proceeds from the gala are not going far. Send supplementary semolians soon!"

OUR "FEED the HOMELESS" CHAMPION,

CARMEN VALVERDE, IS RECRUITING ROTARIANS...

to once again cook, prepare and serve the vitals...and in the process cheer up the homeless diners. It takes place on Wednesday the 19th at the First Presbyterian Church from 3:30 to 6:30. Be there unless you are going to Anaheim to see the Cardinal feast on the Cornellians. Call Carmen at 496-2036 (O) or 391-7871 (H)

“HANDS-ON” HERSH DAVIS...is looking for more “able bodied and able minded Rotarians” to participate in our workday Saturday April 26th. The project will be to spruce up the Bread of Life facility in East Palo Alto. Congratulations Hersh for spearheading another important Rotary outreach effort!

SPECIAL THANKS TO SALLY TOMLINSON
The recent front page Palo Alto Daily article touting our Vocational Scholarship Program was well done. Hopefully it will reach some of the young people who could benefit from vocational training. This Rotary effort has been well received in the past. With this excellent boost it will no doubt continue!

PRESIDENT ROB ANNOUNCED

The District Conference to be held at the Double Tree Inn in San Jose, the District Tennis Tourney in Sunnyvale and the Women-in-Rotary Luncheon, also in San Jose. Look for related flyers and sign up!

PAST PRESIDENT GEORGE WHEATON INTRODUCED OUR SPEAKER, BOB MARDARIS.

Bob has had a distinguished career with Stanford University and many research and engineering firms in Northern California. His current passion is the development of photovoltaic electrical energy, which he optimistically sees as one of the solutions to

our dependence on foreign oil. Bob's company, Solaixc, manufactures silicon ingots. When sliced into thin wafers these become the soul of the solar arrays. Wafer costs are coming down rapidly and their efficiency rising. His projection is that by 2010 solar power will be on parity, cost-wise, with our current grid power. Bits of info:

The overall growth rate in the photovoltaic industry is 35% a year.

Solar cells convert the sun's photons into electrons.

Solar cells are good for life. Connections between cells last 15 to 20 years.

There will be an explosive growth over the next 5 to 7 years.

Temperatures over 85 degrees reduce the efficiency of photovoltaics.

The best areas for sun power are Africa, India, the Middle East, Australia, South America and the United States Southwest.

Needless to say, Bob is extremely optimistic about the future of the solar industry. It was an inspiring presentation that left many of us also extremely optimistic. Thanks Bob and thanks George for bringing us this excellent program!

OTHER ROTARY MEETING PLACES.

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

