

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date September 15, 2008

Reporter: BILL BUSSE

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

A CLEAR PRESENTATION OF A DISTURBING SUBJECT

DAVE SMULLIN introduced our speaker, Toni Heineman. Toni is the founder and Executive Director of "A Home Within," the only national organization focused exclusively on the emotional well being of foster youth.

Dave shared a comment he heard at a conference in Copenhagen that "*The measure of a society is how it treats its children and elderly.*" An excellent lead-in to say the least.

The motto of Toni's organization is "*One Child...One Parent...for as long as it takes!*" But what a challenge. The statistics are very disturbing. Some foster children live in as many as 30 different homes. In California foster kids can be turned out by their foster parents in as little as seven days. As a result, they rarely have a sense of belonging or predictability.

Over 50% of those leaving foster care have mental health problems.

50% do not obtain a high school diploma.

25% become homeless.

And 64% will become parents within 3 years. Wow!

Toni's organization recruits therapists who volunteer to work with mentally disturbed foster children. It's obvious from Toni's passion and the quality of her presentation that they are very successful in their recruiting endeavor.

IT WAS A GRAND OPENING!

Following our pledge to the flag...ably led by your scribe...our piano virtuoso, SKIP HOYT, pounded out arousing rendition of "*It's a Grand Old Flag!*" As grand as it gets!

PAST PRESIDENT AND THE NO. 1 WOMAN IN ROTARY, GLORIA HOM, DID THE INTROS

Rotarian Walt McCullough from San Mateo came down to commiserate with fellow Wachovian LE LEVY.

Gloria also introduced guest ED DANGLER who shortly thereafter was inducted into membership of our esteemed organization.

And BILL LOVE's son, Fred, was our "official" guest. Thanks Gloria and welcome one and all!

LE LEVY SET THE CALENDAR RIGHT!

Why for heaven's sake is September, which is derived from the latin "septua" meaning "seven," the ninth month of the year? Answers to this and many other calendar oddities were explained in great detail by our esteemed and astute chronicler. Not only did the Romans foul things up, but along came Pope Gregory to craftfully continue the callous calendar corrections leading to his famous Gregorian Calendar. Thanks LE for sharing the results of your historical research. Extremely well done, Sir Leland!

INDUCTIONS OF PATRICIA & ED

Following introductions by sponsors WALT HAYS and ART STAUFFER...and a heartfelt welcome by President MIKE...Patricia O'Brien, CEO of Life Long Fitness Alliance, and Ed Dangler, a man with at least four distinct careers, were officially welcomed as members of the Palo Alto Rotary Club.

We anticipate that PATRICIA will get some of us older types off our duffs and into a "*Fitness for the Aging*" program. All the while ED will be spending the next four months in France distributing our Club banners hither and yon. Again, "**welcome**" PATRICIA and ED to one of the most outstanding Rotary Clubs in the known universe!...as far as we know!

PUT THESE GRAND EVENTS ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

The Annual ROTARY/ROTARACT mixer will be at

the BOREL BANK on October 2nd from 5 to 7 pm.
This is great opportunity to meet some of the college age Pre-Rotarians and marvel at their service activities. Rotary will continue to grow as we continue to support the Rotaract movement.
BE THERE! 245 Lytton Avenue.

The Annual FOOTBALL TAILGATE. Prior to the STANFORD/USC clash we

will meet for a catered bash to jointly imagine yet another *“upset of the century”* game against the Trojans of USC. The PRICE, LOCATION and DATE will be announced by STEVE *“Yes, they definitely blew it by not making me an All-American”* PLAYER!

OUR ANNUAL FUND RAISER! Seen rushing to the podium...just before our speaker was introduced...was Co-Chairperson KEVIN CURRY with the hot news that the aforementioned event will take place on Saturday MARCH 21st.
PUT IT DOWN!

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF NOTE

Just back from France our “Feed the Homeless” chairman LARRY BAILEY reported that 10 Rotarians answered the call to cook and serve. They shall go nameless as your reporter was unable to scribble the names down as they quickly rose to raucous applause and just as quickly de-rose themselves. Thanks gang!
We’ll put your names in twice next time.

ECONOMIC NEWS!

The Board of Directors has decreed that the price for our luncheon meals will remain at the same, although VICKY CHING’s costs have gone up and the *“Dictionary rebate”* will now go to cover those costs. (Whatever I said.) Fortunately we have sufficient dictionaries to take us through next September, at which time the next Board can address the problem. Nice going MIKE, RALPH, KEVIN, STEVE, MONICA, TOM, KELLY, BRIAN AND

SHARON!

WHEN ASKED when the stock market would go up our Calendar Expert and resident Financial Wizard, LE LEVY, stated without the slightest hesitation, *“It will go up from here on, or wherever it goes up from!”* Now those are words from an astute financial genius. We’ll have to wait to see if he is, in fact, correct!

CLUB NEWS OF NOTE

TOM GRACON rose to announce that forthwith MARTHA KANTER would retire as co-chairperson of the Opening Remarks Recruitment Committee. Great job, Martha! Her replacement to co-chair with STEVE EMSLIE will be none other than LEN ELY! Still in good hands!

RED BADGERS ARE FEELING BLUE

Prez MIKE announced that a push is on to turn the red to blue. If you lost your list outlining requirements for moving up in the ranks, see JOYCE CUSICK for a replacement copy...and then perform. It would be a bit embarrassing to be “grandfathered” in. In which case you would be relegated to the Senior Table henceforth. **(And you know you’re getting old when you sit in your rocking chair, but can’t make it go!)**

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

[Palo Alto Rotary - Speakers Schedule](#)

[September 22 - Dick Henning - Backstage at the Celebrity Forum](#)

[September 29 - Library Bond Pros and Cons - Diana Diamond - Moderator](#)

NEARBY MEETING PLACES:

[Palo Alto Rotary - Meeting Information](#)

SPECIAL NOTE

Congratulations to Brian Steen who retired from nine plus years as Executive Director of Sempervirens Fund. If you know anyone who may be interested in this position with a background in fundraising and building successful collaborations, contact Judith Steiner at judith@jsteiner.org.

