

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

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## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**October 6 – Margo McAuliffe, Father Kiriti, Geoff Ziman, and Walt Hays - Three Elements of Last Year's Activities with World Community Service**

**October 13 - Rotary International Speaker ~ Mr. Frank S. C. Yih Chairman of the Board & Managing Director of Asionics Shanghai Ltd.**

**October 20 - Kevin Skelly, PhD ~ Topic TBA**

### **VISITORS AND GUESTS:**

**NINA MOORE** introduced visiting Rotarian **LARRY GRACE** of Saratoga, her new grandson **TAYLOR JAMES LOCKWOOD**, and guests **LAVERNE SHEEHAN (DENNIS SHEEHAN)**, **RENATA PORAY (ANNETTE GLANCKOPF)**, **LYNNE RUSSELL (SCOTT GLISSMEYER)**, City Librarian **DIANE JENNINGS (KELLY MORARIU)**, **BARB LARSON**, CEO of the new Red Cross of Silicon Valley (**TRISH BUBENIK**), **IAN PORT**, reporter for the *Daily Post* (**DAVE PRICE**), and **KELLY CHANG**, co-president of Stanford Rotaract (**MIKE COUCH**). Kelly announced that her club has a project to help a slum in Kenya, and is sponsoring a fundraising event with Macy's on 10/4-5.

**NINA** joined the President's club in honor of her grandson, and **TRISH** joined in recognition of the merger of two Red Cross chapters to form the new Silicon Valley Chapter, of which **TRISH** will be Executive Director of Strategic Relationships.

### **OPENING REMARKS:**

**JOAN PLASTIRAS** talked about how her family covered up the rape of one cousin by another, and how contrary that was to the admonition of the Four-Way test to tell the truth.

### **THANKS:**

**MIKE** thanked new member **PATRICIA O'BRIEN** for cashiering, **ADRIAN MIKOLAJCAK** for greeting, and **WALT HAYS** for doing the Pinion.

### **PRESIDENT'S CLUB:**

**BRIAN STEEN** joined in honor of **BERN BEECHAM** and **TONY CARRASCO**, who were featured on the cover of the *Weekly* together with Councilman **JOHN BARTON**, as

advocating that any high-speed rail be run underground.

**ANNOUNCEMENT: MIKE** reported meeting with two young people from East Palo Alto who said that their experience at Rotary-sponsored Camp RYLA was life-changing in building their self confidence.

### **PROGRAM:**

**DIANA DIAMOND** moderated a debate on Measure N, the \$76 million library bond on the November ballot. **ALISON CORMACK**, president of the Palo Alto Library Foundation and chair of the pro-N campaign, spoke in favor. Among other things, she showed a slide of a 1956 Ford Fairlane to bring home the age of the Main and Mitchell Park branches, which were built then. An average of 2400 people use the libraries every day, but they are dilapidated, cramped, and an embarrassment to the city, especially in comparison to the new ones in neighboring cities. Having five branches costs more, but that's what Palo Altans want. The median assessed value of homes in the city is \$485,000, and the bonds would cost owners of a home with that value only \$139/year in taxes.

**RICHARD PLACONE**, chair of the opposition, spoke against. While he said he loves libraries, he claimed that this measure is fiscally irresponsible. In his mind there was insufficient analysis of the cost of having five libraries vs. only one in Mountain View. Staffing costs are already high in relation to other cities, and will rise further if the bond passes. With the city's having a half-billion dollar infrastructure backlog and planning a new police building, now is not the time to increase taxes.

**DIANA** asked several probing questions of each speaker, followed by questions from members. In answer to the question, "Why do we need five libraries?", **Alison** responded that just as Palo Alto has 32 parks, which few if any other cities have, its citizens want five libraries; and if the smaller branches were closed, it would take 124 years to save enough money to do the upgrades proposed in the bond. And in answer to the question, "What if the bond fails?", **Richard** admitted that the libraries are dilapidated and need upgrading, but argued that the City should come up with a better plan.

### **NEARBY MEETING PLACES:**

[Palo Alto Rotary - Meeting Information](#)