



Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date January 11, 2010

Reporter: GEOFF ZIMAN

Editor: NICK NICHOLS

Vocational emphasis has always been an important aspect of Rotary. Accordingly, your reporter has chosen to underscore this element as you will see in this report of last Monday's meeting.

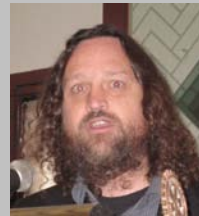
Attorneys DICK MANSFIELD (visitors sign-in) and MIKE REPKA (lunch money) guarded the portal. Realtor-Military President RALPH ADAMS opened the meeting and had IBMer Col. HIG HIGGINS lead us in a precise salute to the flag. After the usual social period, World-Adventurer CYRILLE BETANT introduced a visiting Rotarian from Oakland; Fred Morse accompanied by two guests Lynn Poole and Joanne Claire. Members with guests were Software Developer DANA TOM (Bob Golton); Educational Activist BARB MITCHELL (Kevin Skelly-PAUSD Super); Estate Planner E J HONG (Roseanne Fairty); Education Expert JULIE JEROME (Lyra Ghose); Dentist and Veteran Public Elected Official BOB SMITHWICK (Rigat); Attorney-Community Activist WALT HAYS (Jocelyn Villaruz, who later in the meeting was inducted as a new member). Electrical Engineer TOM GRACON introduced our speaker's partner, Sharon Hammond.



In her opening remarks Grant Writer LINDSEY NORTH skillfully tied together Nelson Mandela, food and sharing concepts. Real Estate Developer MIKE COUCH was recognized for squeezing our club to reach a contribution goal \$31K for the Rotary Foundation, making us #2 in the District. Econ. Prof. GLORIA HOM lined up ten club members to make a strong pitch to join the Rotary Chinese New Year Celebration event to be held on Saturday evening, January 23 (see 10 reasons to do so below). Cost is \$50 per person, but includes theme entertainment.

Ex PA Mayor, JUDY KLEINBERG for an extra (half) president's club contribution shared her excitement at a successful mothers' match making for her daughter, Lauren. At the same time, she garnered a bunch of signatures to facilitate her husband Jim's Superior Court Judge ballot authorization. Land Use Consultant BRIAN STEEN reported that Ex Banker CHESLEY DOUGLAS is slowly recovering at home from his fall off a ladder that resulted in the fracture of several vertebrae. Club Pillar JOYCE CUSICK reported Realtor NINA MOORE was under the weather, Interior Designer MARCIE COX sends greetings and Realtor INGE ANGIETTA is temporarily in Portland. Engineer/Exec. DICK BUSH drew attention to a newspaper article where a prominent Silicon Valley executive Cary

Rosenzweig quoted his Rotary Fellowship as a salient experience.



TOM GRACON introduced our speaker Justin Arenstein, a Stanford Knight fellow from South Africa with remarkable credentials in investigative reporting and corruption exposure. Justin started his interesting talk by illustrating a different-from-usual view of South Africa – a

country of high tech capabilities, world-class industries and outstanding mineral resources. At the same time the government is grappling with 48 million people speaking 11 official languages (of which English is the smallest), stretched resources, massive unemployment, frustrated communities, high rate of crime, rampant HIV/AIDS and unequal opportunities. Despite all these difficulties, Justin left us with an upbeat impression that he felt that South Africa has positive possibilities as a nation and that the government is trying hard to come to grips with the problems.

SPECIAL MESSAGE #1

There will be an important Rotaract mixer event on Monday, January 25 at 6:30 PM at the Stanford Club. This will be a dinner event. It is a special opportunity for our club members to meet and mentor Rotaract members. For more information contact RICK TIPTON or the Rotaract Co-President Shannon McClintock [smcclint@stanford.edu. (619) 846-8224].

SPECIAL MESSAGE #2: The Top Ten Reasons Rotary's Chinese New Year is a Must

10. It's a way to visit China without paying the airfare.
9. Regardless of your belief system, you always want to keep your karma cash register full. For the Chinese this means ushering the New Year in with good friends, good food, and a special Chinese menu.
8. You'll have a chance to taste a variety of gourmet Chinese food; much different from Monday's lunch fare. Vicky has spent painstaking efforts making sure the menu is perfect.
7. You'll find out why this year is called the Year of the Tiger. Hint: Does it have to do with Tiger Woods?
6. If President Ralph approves, the event may be good for a make-up or a requirement for the blue badge. (He did!)
5. You'll see an exciting presentation by KAREN SINGER who will show how lethal she and her group can be.
4. It's an easy and unforgettable way to entertain family & friends.

3. An opportunity to view a unique show of the many skills and talents of Chinese American Women from San Francisco's night club scene – It's the first time ever performed in Palo Alto.
2. It has the three "E"s -- Exciting, Enjoyable and Educational – You will simultaneously learn about the inscrutable Chinese customs and culture and the celebration of the New Year
1. It's a nice price for dinner and a show, along with good fellowship, easy and free parking, and no traffic – Does it get any better?

The date is **Saturday, January 23 at Ming's.** Please, come one and all, put it on your calendar, and give GLORIA your check for \$50 a person, by January 18 (next Monday). It would be helpful if you can make your reservation as soon as possible, since many of the dishes need advance preparation.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

[Palo Alto Rotary - Speakers Schedule](#)

January 18 – Sam Savage, PhD, founder and president of AnalyCorp Inc, a firm that develops executive education programs and software for improving business analysis; Consulting Professor at Stanford, husband of DARYL, "Understanding Risk and Probability"

January 25 – Hon. LaDoris Cordell, retired as Superior Court Judge and as Special Counselor to the President for Campus Relations at Stanford, legal analyst for CBS-5; "Blow and Go"

NEARBY MEETING PLACES:

[Palo Alto Rotary - Meeting Information](#)