

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter

Date: February 22, 2010

Reporter: BRIAN STEEN

Editor: LYLE CONNELL

March 1 – TOM GRACON, "Population & Fertility Rates"

March 8 – Helen Quinn, SLAC Physicist, "The Evolution of the Universe"

March 15 - DARK

VISITING ROTARIANS *Introduced by ELIANE NEUKERMANS*

Kathleen Voit, Madison, Wisconsin, 8th largest Rotary club in the world with 510 members, exchanged banners with RALPH.

Bonnie Welling, Menlo Park Rotary

Rotarians with Guests: ROB LANCEFIELD introduced Ray Fisher from Boulder CO, BOB SMITHWICK introduced Monica, his care provider.

OPENING REMARKS: AUDREY RUST shared glimpses of Feb 22nd's significance by starting out with the history of George Washington's birthday and the mythical cherry tree story, made up by Mason Lock Weems, a bookseller of the time. Actor Robert Young was born Feb 22, 1907. US hockey team defeated USSR on Feb 22, 1980. So what is most beneficial to us on this Feb 22? Nature inspires Audrey, so take a walk this week, look at the flowering plums and enjoy the beauty of the trees, particularly, "the softness of the air, summit of the mountains, the rhythm of the sea, and the strength of the fire..." as described by Chief Dan George.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SAM WEBSTER provided a short story about sharing a little money effectively with many people. This is how the Rotary Endowment Fund works, currently with a balance of \$425K, goal is \$1.0 million. We can reach that goal through bequests made to Rotary in members' wills and estate plans. Bequests to Rotary total only seven so far. We need your pledge in writing. We just need 50 people to pledge \$10,000 to make our goal. Rotary does a lot good for everyone.

Another SAM story "from a very impeachable source": We all have to go through the "pearly gate." To the right is paradise, to the left is a cold frozen place. First question at the gate is: Did you leave something for PA Rotary?" If you haven't, you know which path you'll take.

RALPH gave SAM a Paul Harris pin to recognize his generous donations of over \$10,000 to Rotary.

DAVE THORNTON announced a current Red Badge project is to help serve homeless meals. We need two Rotarians every 5 weeks. 4:45 to 6:30. Please sign up, next meal is March 10.

LEANNAH HUNT: Last week she spent a day in jail with LIZ KNISS, the result of bidding on this package at last year's Rotary fundraiser. She received a tour of the jail, seeing both the good and the bad. Message: Young people and all need to be careful about DUI. She reflected on race relations, poverty, and many other community issues, and concluded by joining the President's Club with a \$100 contribution.

RALPH welcomed **GREG SCHARFF**, a new member. GREG'S sponsor is ANNETTE GLANCKOPF.

STEVE and STEVE show: STEVE EMSLIE reminded us that tickets are now on sale for the April 24 fundraiser..see KATIE SEEDMAN. STEVE PLAYER auctioned off 5 brownies and 5 cookies from Mayfield Bakery for \$80 to SALLY TOMLINSON and her table.

PROGRAM SPEAKER:

One of most fulfilling public activities for **LE LEVY** had been to serve on the board of Achieve Kids. LE introduced their Executive Director, Michael Gennette. Michael has a PhD from Oregon State, MBA from San Jose State and Stanford School of Business.

Autism: What we know, and what we don't know

Autistic Spectrum Disorder: Wide Range of associated disabilities in communications and social interest. Sudden onset is a big concern, as is Asperger's syndrome...difficulty with social interaction. Autism has a genetic component; at least 6 genes are involved. Looking at the larger family tree often shows autism factors, 4X more frequent in males.

Environmental triggers: Mothers with autism may have high reaction to rhesus monkey tissue as an immunological factor.

According to the Center for Disease Control: Increase of 600% in autism in last 20 years. 1.4 M children now have autism, which is a big change in recent years. One child in every 110 gets A., 1 in every 70 boys. Social costs: Between \$3.5 and \$5.0million to raise just one autistic child.

Achieve Kids provides:

- Individual Educational Plan (IEP): Visual schedule of activities.
- Achieve Kids encourages early intervention. Some programs funded by tobacco tax money. Diagnostic centers at SJSU and Stanford.
- Speech Therapy: Communication skills, sign language, pragmatics: play, song, and dance.
- Medication: One FDA approved to help with symptoms.
- ABC's of behavior: Applied and functional behavior analysis to try to teach them a better way.
- Nutritional therapies. Special diets.
- Social skills training: Interaction in playing games and conversation.
- Vocational training for kids over 16 years of age.
- Community integration: Public transportation training, banking, paying for purchases, recreation.
- Daily living assistance: Personal hygiene, preparing food, laundry.

[Palo Alto Rotary - Meeting Information](http://www.rotarypaloalto.org)
www.rotarypaloalto.org