

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter Date: March 8, 2010 Reporter: BILL BUSSE Editor: LYLE CONNELL

March 15 Meeting is DARK

Alternate meeting is on March 18 Advance Reservations Only ~ We meet at Flint Center 11:45 am - 1:30 pm for Lunch with Under Secretary of Education and our own, Martha Kanter. Contact Mike McMahon mcmahon@sbcglobal.net For Reservations at \$20 per person.

THE LIGHT SWITCH WON'T WORK EITHER!... 'tis true...we will be dark next week and there's apparently nothing any of us can do about it!

FOLLOWING A ROUSING PLEDGE led by JOAN PLASTIRAS, our Honored Guests were introduced by PIETER KARK...as follows:

ROGER SMITH...Council Woman Nancy Shephard
WALT HAYS...his lovely wife, Kay
LE LEVY...friend Ron Shapiro
BRUCE GEE...Zach Landes, an internet start-up company marketing director
ANNETTE GLANCKOPF...Jackie Tuato'o
MIKE McMAHON...Sue Hartenbaum
BOB SMITHWICK... introduced his driver, Monica

IN KEEPING WITH THE PROGRAM ON "THE EVOLUTION OF THE UNIVERSE", our illustrious Opening Remarker, DAVE PRICE, dipped into the realm of **God, the Creator**, as described by an eight-year old boy named Danny Dutton. Danny's essay titled "An Explanation of God" included the following:

ONE OF GOD'S JOBS is making people. He makes them to replace those who die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grown ups, just babies. I think they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to walk and talk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.

GOD SEES EVERYTHING AND HEARS EVERYTHING, which keeps him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your mom and dad's head for something they said you couldn't have.

YOU SHOULD ALWAYS GO TO CHURCH ON SUNDAY because it makes God happy, and if there's anyone you want to make happy, it's God! Amen!

IN LIEU OF OUR MEETING ON THE 15TH...those of you who have signed up with MIKE McMAHON will be attending the presentation by our past member...and Under Secretary of Education...MARTHA KANTER. Martha's remarks will appropriately be held at the Flint Center on the De Anza Campus. (Your tickets and parking pass will be sent via e-mail.)

A REPRISE OF THE STEVE AND HAL SHOW. To help you mark your calendars for April 24th, the day of our Annual

Fund Raiser, STEVE made the pitch and HAL auctioned off a delicious- looking hazelnut and cocoa concoction. An \$80 contribution to sweeten the fund-raising pot was made by sweetness herself Bill Love.

In addition, STEVE MADE A PITCH FOR THE GOOGLE FIBER OPTIC CABLE PROGRAM...Check the PA Facebook site or call STEVE EMSLIE for information.

PAST PRESIDENT MIKE COUCH REPORTED that the Gunn YCS/INTERACT COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY was a huge success. 300 Students participated with special chauffeuring by Rotarians and others.

PAST PRESIDENT GLORIA HOM says that you can still celebrate Chinese New Year at Ming's this Sunday, March 14th at 6 pm. For reservations, contact GLORIA at dghom@yahoo.com or give her a call.

13.75 BILLION YEARS OF HISTORY IN 20 MINUTES...A DAUNTING CHALLENGE INDEED!

GEORGE FITZGERALD introduced our special speaker, Dr. Helen Quinn...Why special you ask? In part, because Helen is the wife of member DAN QUINN.

Helen graduated from Stanford in 1963 and received her PhD in 1967. Later she Chaired the Department of Particle Physics and Astrophysics at Stanford and served as president of the American Physical Society. At present she is Chair of the National Academy's Board on Science Education. These are most impressive credentials, as GEORGE pointed out.

Dr. Quinn shared from her knowledge concerning "What we know about the Universe" and "How we know what we know." It is rather mind boggling to realize that we know when and how the universe began...and how it has continued to expand; in spite of the fact theory says it should have stopped expanding many years ago...(perhaps even before SAM WEBSTER and HIG HIGGINS were born.) She went on to explain that we now know the universe is made up of matter (5%), dark matter (20%) and dark energy the remaining 75%; and it all has come about since the Big Bang because of the force of gravity.

Following Helen's detailed presentation, our many curious members fired a vast number of questions, such as... "Will it ever be possible to travel to another planet? Is the universe infinite? What lies beyond our universe?...How is it that galaxies of millions of stars can pass through each other?...What is gravity?...Could there be multiple universes?" followed by many post meeting questions. Mind boggling indeed!

Out thanks to the Program Committee for yet another outstanding program and thanks to DAN QUINN for meeting and marrying such a talented and knowledgeable scientist.

