

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter Date: April 26, 2010 Reporter: GEOFF ZIMAN Editor: LYLE CONNELL

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

May 3 Russ Jones "The 'War on Drugs' is a public policy failure: America should end drug prohibition"

May 10 John Hoyte "Over the Alps with an elephant, in Hannibal's tracks"

May 17 Delores Carr/Jeff Rosen "District Attorney's race debate"

"Life Is Uncertain—Eat Dessert First!" - Ernestine Ulmer

The meeting concluded on schedule at 1:30 PM when President RALPH ADAMS announced a new illustrated club directory that members could purchase for \$5 (or for a greater amount going into the club charitable funds). He had just spoken of a dictionary being given in the speaker's name to an ESL student at Green Oaks Academy.

Before then, Palo Alto City Manager and fellow Rotarian JIM KEENE had concluded his remarks by answering penetrating questions regarding projected CALPERS returns, and the conflict with representative government in the fire department initiative. Jim had provided a very clear picture with graphic illustrations of where the City of Palo Alto stands today. He had started by discussing the many challenges the city faces with finances as the over-riding concern. Other challenges were the problems



in state governance; labor; boomers now leaving with their institutional knowledge; infrastructure backlogs; high-speed rail; Stanford hospital; economic vitality, and K-12 education. He had shown how the city is caught between rising costs and flat or declining revenues, and explained the limited areas for maneuver. It was made clear that staff reductions and lay-offs were inevitable, but despite the bleak and uncertain future, the staff and government of the City of Palo Alto were planning to take definite and difficult steps now to minimize future impacts. Jim had been introduced by MIKE COUCH, who had described Jim's qualifications briefly.



Prior to this, MIKE McMAHON had presented the gift of an illustrated book to DICK and Ellie MANSFIELD to honor the outstanding work that they had done on the fundraising committee.

It was announced that a report on the previous Saturday's Italian night affair, will be forthcoming.

This had followed a very special twelve-minute video presentation that had been prepared by BILL BUSSE, which was linked to an opening event today - our club's 88<sup>th</sup> birthday. The video included historic photographs of Mayfield and Palo Alto buildings, and facts and portraits of several outstanding individuals who had played key roles in the formation of the city, as well as in the founding of our Rotary Club.

Notable among these people were three generations of the Thoits family. It was clear that the members present enjoyed Bill's well-constructed and informative contribution to the program today.

Opening remarks had been given by DAVE SMULLIN, who included some reminiscences of hands-on events and some of the great individuals, past and present, who were positive role models of what it means to be a Rotarian. Dave used these examples to help us appreciate what we should be grateful for, and how fortunate we are.



MIKE COUCH and DAVID SMULLIN, as "We Care"

representatives, had reported that JIM BAER is making good progress in recovering from his unfortunate recent cycling accident, and that special efforts were being made to improve his memory.

There were no visiting Rotarians today – perhaps feeling that the speaker's topic today was too parochial. However, there were several guests of Rotarians. GINNY LEAR brought her husband King Lear (who, incidentally, helped with the AV) and Christina Chu; LE LEVY brought Ron Shapera; BOB SMITHWICK brought his helper Monica; DAVE THORNTON brought his wife, Mary Alice; KAREN KIENZLE had two guests, Dory Ives and Louise Carroll; MIKE McMAHON and LINDSEY NORTH brought Sue Hartenbaum. RICK RAYBIN took care of the introductions.

MICHAEL LOVE had led the flag salute, which was followed by members singing to commemorate the founding anniversary of our club 88 years ago. ROSEANNE FAIRTY had ably collected the lunch money; and DICK MANSFIELD had taken care of documenting visitors. To start the meeting, President RALPH ADAMS had successfully brought the membership to order.

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