

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

Weekly Newsletter Date: May 3, 2010 Reporter: BRIAN STEEN Editor: LYLE CONNELL

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

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"

CALL TO ORDER: RALPH ADAMS started the meeting at 12:17PM. CARL KING led the Pledge of Allegiance.

INTRODUCTIONS by DICK BUSH

No visiting Rotarians.

Rotarians with Guests:

RICK RAYBIN, Wife Ramona Ambrozic

GINNY LEAR, Kathleen O'Brien

TRISH BUBENIK, Fred Kohler: Bd Chair of Recording for the Blind and his wife June Chang

ANNETTE GLANCKOPF, Sue Hartenbaum, Eldercare specialist

WARREN HIGGINS, Son: Steve Higgins from Nevada

DAVE THORNTON'S OPENING REMARKS

"All kids are our kids." How many kids in your neighborhood can you name? Or say Hi to at the grocery store? Years ago it was different; youth were known; neighborhoods were tighter. Kids are now assigned to professional, therapists, coaches, etc. The impact of adult avoidance of youth has been detrimental. All kids need to have concrete experience values: known as the 41

developmental assets. Surveys shows kids who have at least 31 specific development assets, have the best chance of surviving the teen years, maturing, resisting drugs, etc. The fewer the developmental assets, the higher probability of trouble. Average in US is 19 assets, in Silicon Valley only 8% report having 31 or more developmental assets.

See related PA Weekly article

http://www.paloaltoonline.com/weekly/story.php?story_id=12861

One of the big assets for all youth: Being valued outside of their home.

What is our task? Engage with young people. Inquire; ask questions. Let us resolve to treat All Kids as Our Kids. Agreed by unanimous consent by all Rotarians present.

ANNOUNCING:

DICK FREEMAN, We Care Committee. CHALMERS SMITH will have hip surgery this Thursday.

Notte Italiana: STEVE EMSLIE thanked co-chair AUDREY

RUST, and fundraiser committee members. Event numbers are still coming in; current net is \$35,580, after expenses.

LYNDA STEELE: Thanked Rotary for Wheel Chair funding.

ANDY COE, attended his first Rotary meeting in a while, because he's been caring for his wife, who is in melanoma treatment. ANDY thanked all for their care and sentiments.

RALPH: Be sure to pick your yellow Rotary Member Directory. Ralph thanked BRUCE GEE for making it happen.

GLORIA HOM: AND SOCIAL EVENTS

Week of May 24: Social event at Mike's in Menlo Park, following a tour of Menlo Atherton's new facilities.

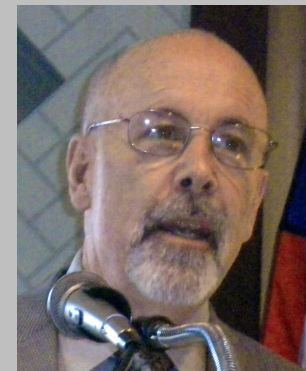
June 17: Cocktail party at MIKE COUCH'S house.

GLORIA joined the President's Cub because she was visiting China. instead of attending Rotary's fundraiser. She complimented Shanghai's World's Fair Expo, starting May 1. She's going in Sept. and welcomes other Rotarians to join her at a 5 star hotel.

MIKE McMAHON, President Elect, gave a preview of upcoming District 5170 Assembly at DeAnza College, Saturday, May 15.

"THE WAR ON DRUGS"

Russ Jones was introduced by ROB LANCEFIELD



Russ grew up in Texas, now lives in Los Gatos Hills, and is involved with the war on drugs for 37 years with different enforcement and rehab agencies. MS from U of San Francisco.

Richard Nixon coined the phrase, "War on Drugs" in 1971. Russ started his career with San Jose police at the same time. Most arrests then were for being under the influence. He discovered San Jose had become a hub of drug trafficking in 1975. 80% of prisoners then were in jail for drug-related offenses. Russ worked undercover with DEA in late 70's. But nothing was getting better: more OD's, arrests, etc. Walter Cronkite: "War on drugs is a failure."

Russ left enforcement in 1980 to work with reform efforts. He was invited by China and USSR to meet with their drug agencies and communities, and came back questioning how the US could regulate it, if the USSR couldn't succeed in their highly-controlled society.

Laws of supply and demand apply to the drug world, just like

the legal world. Russ feels that the drug problem continues to get worse, despite agency efforts. 1.9 million were arrested for drug use last year. (same as population of New Mexico.) Internationally, drug trade generates \$400 Billion, virtually ALL profit. The current US prison population is 2.2million, which is 22% of world's prisoners.

IF WE WANT DIFFERENT RESULTS

We need to redefine the debate, and get away from law enforcement, as it is not effective. You can be anti drug and pro reform.

We need a new policy that is based upon reality that offers good value for the money spent, remove the profit motive, end

prohibition, and regulate drugs instead. Doctors should be able to prescribe drugs to treat addiction as a health problem, instead of a crime, which will reduce marketing to kids.

Harm reduction policies have been successful in Switzerland, resulting in a 50% decline in OD's deaths, and a 60% drop in drug related deaths. Employment among addicts has increased.

QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

Q: What about medical marijuana?

A: Good to have

Q: Why can't we get drugs regulated by BATF?

A: Moral arguments prevent. The treatment industry doesn't want to intervene.

Q: How do we deal with US puritanical attitude?

A: Difficult

Q: Where do hard drugs fit in?

A: Any drug you don't want to legalize will be left to kids, unfortunately.

Q: Does legalized marijuana increase crime?

A: No! State and Federal law conflicts...any Federal progress?

A: Progress on state

Palo Alto Rotary - Meeting Information

www.rotarypaloalto.org