

THE BEAM



The Rotary Club of Menlo Park

OFFICERS

President – Eric Hartwig [ehartwig@llesd.org]
President-Elect – Bill Senner
Secretary – Mary Ann Somerville
Treasurer – Paul Woollomes
Immediate Past-President – Bob Kelly

DIRECTORS

Club Administration - Emily Chapman
Membership – Michelle Tsui
Public Relations – Jason Sewald
Service Projects – Jerry Gruber
The Rotary Foundation – Debbie Peri
(Rotary International)

Meeting of September 1, 2010 Meeting Summary & Comments from President Eric Hartwig

FUTURE EVENTS:

- **Wednesday, September 8, 2010 (12:00 pm)** – Youth Protection Training en lieu of the regular Club meeting. (NOTE THE EARLY START TIME!) **This training is required for any member who did not attend the training last year or who is / will be meeting with students one-on-one.** No Charge. The Club will pay for lunches and LiveScan (fingerprinting). **THE MEETING WILL BE “DARK” FOR THE REST OF US.**
- **The Rotary Club of Menlo Park FOUNDATION** will be honored at the annual Chamber of Commerce Acorn Awards dinner on September 23. Dinner reservations (\$100/ea) can be made through the Chamber.

GUESTS & THINGS:

Terry Kane visited us from the downtown San Jose club and our speaker, **Doug Thompson** (PhD and head of school at Mid-Peninsula High School) gave a thought provoking talk on how his school approached the task of education. At least President Eric was thought provoked, according to those in attendance.

Back by popular demand was visiting Rotarian **Jari Multisilta** from Finland. We were also joined by scholarship recipient **Alicia Mergenthaler** (and her mother, Paulette) and **Barbara Brown** (guest of Sophie Lo). **Art Flegel** did double duty on The Thought and the song.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Remember, **we're dark next Wednesday, September 8.** Rotarians who have signed up for Youth Protection Training should arrive prior to 12:00 for an early start. Bring the affidavit that Mary Ann has sent out.

Rick Washington thanked all who cooked, poured, set-up and tore-down, and otherwise helped make Friday's barbecue such a success, including hostess Chris, cook Roger, setter-uppers Eric, Kelly and wife Marilyn, bartender Tom... It was a fantastic event.

"Puttin' on the Ritz" is the theme for this year's District Foundation event to raise money for the RI Foundation. It will be held at the Crowne Plaza in Foster City on November 7. Debbie Peri is supervising the [raffle ticket sale which satisfies the required annual donation of \\$150 to TRF](#) ...and it gets you 10 chances at a great prize. Betty Toguchi is going to help with the raffle aspect because Debbie has a pending appointment that will occupy her attention, soon.

Doug Adams asked members to consider helping out with his Garfield School annual trip to Menlo College, where 7th graders come face-to-face with the idea of college life. He will be "recruiting" us in time for the October event.

Glen Rojas announced that the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce **Acorn Award** Committee has selected the Rotary Club Foundation as the Outstanding Educational Award Winner for 2010! There were a number of organizations and individuals being considered for this prestigious award, with the Foundation winning out due to its long-standing dedication to providing college scholarships.

The Chamber will be recognizing all the award winners (there are 4 other categories) at their **annual dinner September 23rd at the Stanford Park Hotel**. This is a great honor for the Foundation and a great time to promote what we do each year to assist high school students obtain needed funding for college. (Glen did say that he is on the Acorn Award Selection Committee, but that it should be noted that the Foundation won on its own merit!)

Betty Toguchi announced that there will be a **baby shower** – a first for MP Rotary – on September 15, just before the DG's talk. Debbie is expecting a girl, and they're "into" elephants. Participate as you wish. There will be cake for all, regardless. (If you're male and not sure about the protocol, ask your wife...)

NEW MEMBER POSTING:

Emily Chapman is sponsoring Lila Gee for membership. Lila deals in health insurance and has been to several meetings. This is her second "posting." Please notify President Eric with any comments.

HAPPY BUX:

Doug Adams just came back from three weeks in New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Nova Scotia. He says the area reminds him of California in the '50s. He had a minor need for majorly expensive walk-in health care, but he ended up getting a two-fer.

Carolyn Emmerson had a "Happy / Unhappy Bucks" experience on Highway 280 while she was driving her husband to the airport. They got a flat ...big bummer... but a Good Samaritan

from Ulrich Construction picked up her husband and got him to SFO so he could get his flight to Korea. And other good Samaritans kept showing up to help her.

Also happy, and lucky with health care in Canada -- **Dean Holman**.

Dave Johnson reported that the Cancer Society Walk for Life was a giant success, and his team "Vickie's Valentines" took first place with a fund-raising total of \$9,500.

Joining the ranks of happy parents with fully-employed children is **Carla Anisman**, whose daughter just landed a swell job as fitness director at Snowcreek.

Oh Canada! Is everybody enjoying great health care there? **Mark Flegel** did. And soon he's off to Bar Harbor for his wife's high school reunion. What a guy, that Mark.

Speaking of high school reunions, last weekend **Sandy Crittenden** chaired his Menlo-Atherton 40th reunion, and hardly recognized the school. But that's OK, people hardly recognized Sandy, too. They knew him as Howard. Reunions are his forte, having done the 10th, 20th, and 30th.

MESSAGE FROM PP DICK GIVENS:

1. BBQ

I wasn't at the meeting Wednesday. There is a little less light in my life. I was, however, at the BBQ the previous Friday. Held at the **Brosterhous** estate and under the leadership of **Rick Washington**, the BBQ was the social highlight of the Rotary year. **Roger and Lee** sweated over the grill, **Bob and Marilyn Kelly** spent long hours shucking beans and mixing mysterious herbs and spices for "Bob's Beans," and **Chris** spent most of the time in the kitchen making sure everybody enjoyed themselves. **President Eric's** speech was a marvel of brevity. Thank you all, and thank you President Eric.

2. Golden Acorns

I understand that that our very own Foundation has received a "Golden Acorn" award from the Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce. The receipt of the award is a great honor and we should all be proud of it. A dinner will be held, and President Eric will announce the details of how to attend and how much the tariff will be.

3. Past Presidents and the Visioning Thing

A year or so ago, the Club had a visioning session put on by the District. One of the products of the 'visioning thing' was the reinstatement of the Past Presidents forum (hereafter and forever the "PP's). Last (Wednesday) evening the PP's held its first meeting. The temporal relation between the decision to reinstate the PP's and the execution might strike you as unusually long. If so you are wrong. I was in charge, and it does not strike me as unusually long at all. All great and good things take time -- Bob's Beans for instance.

Anyway, the PP's are the 5 immediate Past Presidents. Each year, the most senior President drops off and is replaced by the 'Kicked-Out' President of the past year. The purpose is to lend aid and support to the current President, who, it is thought, is a stumbling amateur and not nearly as cool and on top of things as the PP's were when they were in power. President Eric attended, as did President-Elect Bill. Also, Chris Brosterhous, Bob Kelly, Dave Johnson,

Betty & Roger and myself. The meeting was great. We didn't accomplish anything but we had fun, and maybe that's an accomplishment that can't be quantified.

4. **It's the Silly Season**

As you no doubt have noticed, people are running for political office. Some high, some low, and some simply nutty. The 'nutty' are low hanging fruit (to make a mixed metaphor) for people like me. In Colorado, Dan Maes is running for Governor. Dan, as he likes to be called, features himself as a typical 'blue collar' guy who everybody can't help but like and agree with. Dan believes in apple pie, the American dream and that the Denver bicycle sharing program is part of a United Nations conspiracy that "could threaten our personal freedom." On our own soil we have an Atherton resident who has assumed the role of *pater noster* and, among his other enunciations, wants to merge the towns of Atherton and Menlo Park. I'm heading for the rabbit hole down by the bridge.

NEWS FROM COLLEGE:

Scholarship recipient, Darrell Ford, sent the following message:

Hello!! I apologize for not getting back to you guys earlier. I have been really busy. I had a job at Stanford earlier in the summer and as soon as that ended, I participated in a summer program at Stanford in which I learned about different types of engineering and took math and computer science classes. It was definitely a lot of fun. I move into Stanford on the 14th and start classes on the 20th. I will be taking a linear algebra and multivariable calculus class. I also will be taking an English class called "Word and Image" where I analyze people's perceptions of different words. Lastly I will be taking a writing class where I analyze how Hollywood films influence American culture.

I am really excited and I will definitely keep you guys updated!! Thank you so much, again, for the scholarship!!

TODAY'S SPEAKER:

Doug Thompson, PhD, Head of School at Mid-Peninsula High School, was our guest speaker. He spoke on "Trends in Education." Instead of discussing the details of education policy, he urged us to look at the big picture. To help us in that endeavor, he shared several comic strips that portray school as a nightmare drudge of boredom and meaningless work. School apparently is torture to everybody, or at least to the characters in comic strips. But if kids are unhappy, they must really be sweating it and learning a lot of meaningless test-driven material.

At Mid-Peninsula HS, kids are happy, so some folks think they might not be learning anything. But one thing is for certain; they're not hung up on testing. "Testing is stupid. Everybody cheats. Only being right matters." At Mid-Pen, how you got the answer matters.

Dr. Thompson referenced San Francisco Unified School District, which has just adopted a policy where students who graduate from that district will have fulfilled the course requirements for the University of California system. He states that this policy assumes that all children want to go to college, and he asks, "Why can't we respect that today's students are concerned about managing their lives and may not even want to go to college?"

Public schools, like home, is "where they have to take you." Thompson believes they have a reputation for being big, competitive, and strict. Mid-Peninsula is not this way. With 130 students, it is the opposite. Dr. Thompson left us all wiser.

FUTURE SPEAKERS:

- September 8** Youth Protection Training (for registered participants, only)
- September 15** **District Governor Bill Koefoed AND "Baby Shower" for Debbie Peri**
- September 22** Mark Simon, Changes in Caltrain Services
- September 29** Kay Wilson, Update on the "Stanford Hospital Renewal Project"
- October 6** Returning District 5150 GSE Team who went to Italy

Contact Debbie Peri at debbie@curranandlewis.com or Dean Holman at deholman@comcast.net with speaker suggestions!

ROTARY CLUB EXECUTIVE BOARD

**Next Meeting: September 14, 2010
5:00 PM**

**Las Lomas School District Office
1011 Altschul Avenue, Menlo Park**

ROTARY CLUB OF MENLO PARK FOUNDATION BOARD

**Next Meeting: September 16, 2010
7:30 AM**

Menlo Park City Hall
701 Laurel Street, Menlo Park

ROTARY MAKEUP OPPORTUNITIES

You can find the meeting times and locations for make-up meetings by going to <http://www.rotary.org> and clicking on "club locator" in the small box at the top of the page. Then type **5150 for our District** or **5170** for the District that includes Palo Alto, Mt. View, Sunnyvale, San José, etc. to the south of us.