

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

August 19, 2024

Writer: Steve Emslie



Celebrating 102 years of Service

## THE MAGIC OF ROTARY 2024-2025

President **GERALDI** called the meeting together at 12:30 and reminded attendees to silence their electronic devices.



**STEVE EMSLIE** introduced attending guests: Rebecca Gerald introduced her children, Wolfe and Winter Pickett. **DARYL SAVAGE** introduced her guest, Melissa Denny

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY



**JENN TORAI** provided a personal story about gratitude based on overseas volunteer work she performed and how it, and the magic of Rotary, resonates with today's service build for The Grateful Garment Project.

## PRESIDENTS CLUB



Joining the President's Club were: **MIKE REYNOLDS** to highlight the World Community Service Committee's work in granting \$40K to 12 different small recipients and to give a

special shout-out to Co-Chair **STANS KLEINJEN** for her recent WCS efforts; **CHARLIE WEIDANZ** joined in recognition of **JENN TORAI'S** just announced Emerging Leader Athena Award from the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce; **REBECCA GERALDI** also joined in recognition of **JENN TORAI'S** Emerging Leader Athena Award, and of JENN and **ED SHIKADA** recently joining the Vocational Scholarship Committee **LE LEVY** joined to recognize **ANNE CRIBB'S** City Council candidacy.

## SOCIAL AND SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Social Chair **GREG HOOD** has organized a social activity at the San Francisco Giants ballgame on Sunday, September 29th. This game will be the last regular season game and will be highlighted as Fan Appreciation Day! We still have seats available.



**Interested parties should let Greg know.**

**DANA TOM** announced a volunteer opportunity to **usher at the Palo Alto Players** PA Rotary sponsored student performance of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" on Thursday September 12th at 9:30am.



## PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT 10/5 & 10/6

**LINNET KWOK** pointed out that there were flyers on the table for the upcoming **NEW! Pickleball Tournament** for those interested in playing. She hopes this will become a yearly event for our club, and a way to partner with the community and attract new members. Please save the dates of **October 5th and 6th** and we'd love our members to show up to participate or volunteer for this exciting new event.

## TODAY'S PROGRAM

President GERALD introduced today's speaker and hands on project sponsor, **Lisa Blanchard**, Executive Director of the Grateful Garment nonprofit. Also with Lisa was Georgina Ong, a volunteer with the group.

Before the club started its hands-on project to assemble backpack materials for the Grateful Garment Project, Ms. Blanchard provided a brief overview of their mission and some important data points on how important these backpacks were to the victims of sexual violence.



The Grateful Garment Project provides essential clothing and hygienic supplies to victims of sexual violence and trafficking. Victims' clothing is retained by law enforcement as evidence leaving victims to return to safety without decent clothing or sanitary items. The Grateful Garment Project allows victims to return home with dignity and the basics to start the healing process. She reminded the club that this will be the 6th year the club has assembled backpacks for the project and that the club is a major financial supporter.

Ms. Blanchard related that victims are both male and female and that males victimized by sexual assault often go unreported. She also stated that the upcoming Super Bowl and World Cup events are associated with dramatic increases in sexual assault and trafficking. Grateful Garment does not want to run short of backpacks during these events. She also thanked **ERIC JENSEN** for all his help in organizing the hands-on project as well as **MATT DOLAN** of Homewood Suites.

## ADJOURNMENT

President Gerald also thanked **Eric Jensen** for organizing today's project and thanked Lisa Blanchard for joining us and sharing more about their mission.

President Gerald adjourned the meeting at 1 pm and invited members to join in the backpack building exercise.

## TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: **Daryl Savage, Liz Kniss, Patty McGuigan**

Welcome Desk: **Katie Seedman**

A/V: **Dana Tom**

Mics: **Kathy Torgersen**

Guest Introductions & Pinion Writer: **Steve Emslie**

Pinion Editor: **Ginny Lear**







## UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

<b>August 26</b> 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	<b>9 Palo Alto City Council</b> <b>Candidates:</b> Panel Moderator, Gennady Sheyner, Journalist
<b>August 30</b> 5:30-7:30 pm	<b>TGIF; Homewood Suites</b> 3429 El Camino Real, PA
<b>September 2</b> NO MEETING	<b>DARK - LABOR DAY</b>
<b>September 9</b> 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	<b>Gina Dalma, EVP,</b> <b>Community Action, Silicon</b> <b>Valley Foundation</b> Hispanic Heritage
<b>September 16</b> 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	<b>Jill Duerig, District</b> <b>Governor, 2024-2025</b> Our Rotary District 5170
<b>September 23</b> 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	<b>Sam Liccardo, Evan Low</b> Candidates for US Congress, District 16, Moderator Henrietta Burroughs, Journalist
<b>September 30</b> 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	<b>3 Long Time Member talks</b> Introduced by Jim Sutherland
<b>October 5 &amp; 6</b> Mitchell Park	<b>Inaugural Rotary Pickleball</b> <b>Tournament: Open to All</b> <b>Details to follow.</b>

