

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

November 4, 2024

Writer: Sally Tomlinson



Celebrating 102 years of Service

## THE MAGIC OF ROTARY 2024-2025

As the roomers dug into their burgers - veggie or beef with all the toppings - and macaroni salad, President **REBECCA GERALDI** opened with the Zoomer-Roomer mutual "hello" wave. Such a nice way for us all to be in the company of one another.

Rebecca invited visiting Rotarians to introduce themselves. Rotarian Sharon Schendel Zoomed in in support of her sister, Suzanne Jain, who was inducted today. Renee Johnson and Judi Walter visited us from the Silicon Valley Rainbow Club, and they introduced their guest, Michaela.

**BETSY BECHTEL** introduced Solomon Kim and Roman Scott, Stanford graduate students interested in Rotary. **JOHN ST. CLAIR** introduced his daughter Erika Chang and soon-to-be son-in-law Kevin Meyers.



## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

**ERIC JENSEN** was a boy scout when **GEOFF ZIMAN** (SKIP!) was a leader in scouts. Eric gave us a quote from Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of scouting: "The real way to gain happiness is to give it to others."



## NEW MEMBER INDUCTION

With New Member Chair **LINNET KWOK** presiding, we welcomed **SUSANNE JAIN** as our newest member. Susanne was sponsored by **DANA TOM**. In an effort to replace the festive confetti that requires clean-up, Rebecca tested a "streamer cannon" to celebrate Susanne's induction. A huge explosion and a slight scent of smoke almost set off the smoke alarm and most certainly set off the internal alarms of Susanne, Rebecca and Dana! Streamers did fly, but the astonished threesome didn't see them in the smoke. Future inductees need not fear, the streamer cannon has been retired.



## PRESIDENTS CLUB

**JACKIE WHEELER** celebrated the marriage of her granddaughter Tess. This is Jackie's third grandchild to get married in a year, and another just got engaged. That's a lot of fondu pots for Jackie to have wedding-wrapped!

**PATTY MCGUIGAN** offered gift bags containing her two children's books, "Leonardo and the Time Travelers" and "Leonardo's Magic Sketchbook," in exchange for a \$25 donation to the Rotary Endowment.

**SHERI SAGER** donated in honor of our speaker, Jenna Dougherty, for her courage.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

In honor of Veteran's Day next week when we will be dark, President **REBECCA GERALDI** recognized the 15 members of our club who are veterans of military service in the US and Great Britain. Thank you for your service, **RALPH ADAMS, GEOFF BALL, RICK BLOCK, KEVIN CURRY, BILL FOGARTY, MIKE FOGARTY, DUANE KALAR, ROB LANCEFIELD, MIKE MANSFIELD, MIKE MCMAHON, JOHN O'KEEFE, PETER SHAMBORA, ART STAUFFER, JACK WOODSON, and GEOFF ZIMAN.**

On Sunday, November 10, several of our members will usher at Lucie Stern Theatre for Palo Alto Players. If you would like to do this in the future, please contact DANA TOM.

On Monday, November 11, you can help post and take down flags on University Avenue in honor of Veteran's Day. For set-up, meet at 8 am at Cowper and University and plan to stay for coffee afterwards. For take-down, meet at High and University and plan to stay after for drinks at a local bar. This project is co-sponsored with our University Rotary Club friends.

Mark your calendars for the Holiday Party on Wednesday, December 11, 5:30-7:30 pm at **PATTY MCGUIGAN's** house. There will be

music, food, drink and good cheer. You know it will be fun if Patty is in charge!

## THE ROTARY FOUNDATION & POLIO PLUS



TRF Chair **KAREN ROHDE** invited us all to donate to the Rotary Foundation, and she recapped the information she has given us over the past 4 meetings. Our club hopes that every member will give \$200 or more, but any gift is valuable. Please donate if you have not yet done

so. She closed with a brief and inspiring video showing people served by projects of The Rotary Foundation.

## TODAY'S PROGRAM

DANA TOM introduced today's speaker, **Jenna Dougherty**. Jenna is a trans activist, home



schooled by fundamentalist Christians whose religion she left behind, but whose activism and Christian principles of humanity she brings to her work as an activist. Last June, in celebration of Pride Month, California

Assembly Member Alex Lee honored Jenna for her advocacy for the LGBTQ+ community.

Jenna was born 1986. She felt at age 5 that she was a girl and prayed to become one. She struggled with her gender identity and by age 9 began to struggle with aspects of the Christian faith. Though home schooled, she

had 4 siblings who gave her similar-age companions. Her father liked (Christian) music with a few exceptions for the Beatles and Genesis. They also had a TV which many of the other homeschooled kids didn't.

She started playing Little League and enjoyed the company of other kids her age. She was uncoordinated, and began to get a reputation as a weirdo for doing things like telling kids that Jesus doesn't like the F word. By age 13 she started attending a Christian school. Though she had been secretly dressing in her sister's and mother's clothes, at age 15 she had a chance to cross dress in public. One of her friends, a girl, suggested that Jenna dress as her twin for spirit day. She chose the name Jenna for that day, and by the end of the day she promised herself that if one day she could transition for real, Jenna would be her name.

In 2011, she was in college and working in broadcast media. After dressing as Katie Perry on Halloween as a test run, she started going as a woman to places where she would not know anyone.

Her ultimate catalyst came in 2015, when Caitlyn Jenner was asked why she had made the change at the late age of 65 something. She answered that she didn't want to go through the rest of her life saying "what if?" Jenna was 28 when she heard that – not too late after all.

She started by growing out her hair. The "baby" trans phase is the hardest. You have no idea what you are doing. When you first come out you are a little performative with the gender. She feels very blessed with many trans friends, and she has the support of most of her family except her father. Even some of her Christian friends have said "I love you, I don't care who you are."

She started hormones in 2018, began surgeries in 2021, had four surgeries (breast and facial) in less than 8 months. After recovery from those, she finally began to see her real self in 2023. Then there was one more surgery, bottom surgery, in early 2024.

After 8 years of focusing on the transition process, she has started speaking publicly, recognizing that speaking is a strength of hers. She was honored by the City of Fremont for her activism, and last June was honored by California Assembly Member Alex Lee. She has been interviewed by the San Jose Mercury News, and loves the opportunity to speak to groups like ours. She is now looking for employment but continuing to speak and maintain optimism. She hopes we can see the beauty in our differences.

**HENRIETTA BURROUGHS** asked, when should children transition, because one worries that they might later regret it? Jenna replied that kids know who they are. There is not much long-term information on kids who transition early because there are so few cases, but in other long-term studies of people who transition, 97% stick with their new identity. Pre-puberty, being trans is just social.

**SHERRI SAGER** asked how allies can support trans people? Jenna believes the best way to be an ally is to treat trans people how you would treat anyone else, with respect. And speak up if you see a trans person being mistreated.

## CLOSING REMARKS

President REBECCA thanked our speaker, our members and guests for attending--both roomers and zoomers.

***Reminder, no meeting next week.***

## TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: **Eric Jensen, Matt Dolan, Jack Cabaness, Ullrich Schwertschlag**

Welcome Desk: **Katie Seedman**

A/V: **Ben Threlkeld**

Pinion Writer: **Sally Tomlinson**

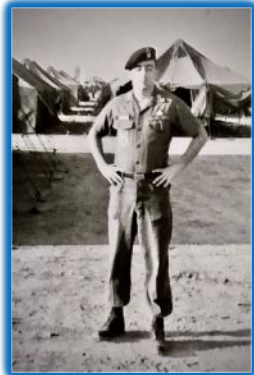
Pinion Editor: **Ginny Lear**

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

<b>November 11</b> <b>NO meeting</b>	<b>Veteran's Day.</b> <b>No Meeting</b> Post flags on University Avenue
<b>November 18</b> 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	<b>Garth Illingworth, Professor Emeritus, Astronomy &amp; Astrophysics, UC Santa Cruz</b> Discoveries from the James Webb Telescope
<b>November 25</b> 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	<b>Desiree Lyons, CEO, Namaste Direct: A World Community Service Project</b>
<b>December 2</b> 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	<b>Elena Kadvany, SF Chronicle Food Reporter</b> The Palo Alto Restaurant Scene and Life as a Food Reporter
<b>December 9</b> 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	<b>Kenneth N. Lee, Chaplin Associate, Office for Religious &amp; Spiritual Life Stanford University</b> Hindu Religion and Cultural Celebrations
<b>December 11</b> 5:30-7:30 pm	<b>Holiday Party! Festive Home of Patty McGuigan!</b> <b>Halls will be Decked!</b>



# Honoring Our Veterans



**Ralph Adams**  
US Army



**Geoff Ball**  
US Navy



**Rick Block**  
US Navy



**Kevin Curry**  
US Army



**Bill Fogarty**  
US Army



**Mike Fogarty**  
US Navy



**Duane Kalar**  
US Air Force



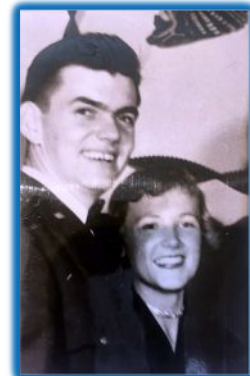
**Rob Lancefield**  
US Army



**Dick Mansfield**  
US Army



**Mike McMahon**  
US Navy



**John O'Keefe**  
US Air Force



**Peter Shambora**  
US Navy



**Art Stauffer**  
US Navy



**Jack Woodson**  
US Army



**Geoff Ziman**  
British Army