

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

March 24, 2025

Writer: Sally Tomlinson



Celebrating 103 years of Service

THE MAGIC OF ROTARY 2024-2025

President **REBECCA GERALDI** greeted Roomers and Zoomers, and invited President-elect **BRUCE GEE** to introduce visiting Rotarians and guests.

Rotarian Shemi Reddy hails from Durban, South Africa, and she brought her friend Sarot Naran, also from Durban. Sabine

Goesch visited from Germany, having come to see her twin daughters who are getting their PhDs in neuroscience at Stanford. John Henry Fullen attended from the Rotary Club of South



San Francisco. Tim Misner attended as a guest of **BRUCE GEE**. **STEVE PLAYER's** guest was his brother Gary from Utah.

HAL MICKELSON introduced his neighbor Victoria Burton-Burke of the SCC Juvenile Justice Commission.

Yudy Dang attended again as a guest of **ANNE CRIBBS**.

BEN THRELKELD introduced Mike

Gullard, who was visiting for his third time.

BRUCE GEE introduced Anne Ream who came in support of our speaker Anna Eshoo, for whom she worked for 31 years.



QUOTES FOR THE DAY

The QUOTES FOR THE DAY were brought to us by **SUZANNE JAIN** who shared quotes that

her mother kept on her desk.

Entitled "A to Zen of Life," it is a rich collection of the Dalai Lama's wisdom that includes such nuggets of wisdom as: Give more than you planned to. Hang onto your dreams. If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door. Remember that

silence is sometimes the best answer. You are unique. Nothing can replace you.



PRESIDENTS CLUB

RALPH ADAMS hailed back to the fall of 1992 when **GLORIA HOM** was the first woman President of our club. Politics were not approved for Rotary programs, but after a heated discussion our club decided to hold a forum for the candidates to represent our Congressional district. Anna Eshoo was one of the candidates. Ralph thanked Anna for coming then and for coming today.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DANA TOM announced your opportunity to serve our community by ushering at the Palo Alto Players' matinee performance of Jersey Boys on Sunday, April 27. It is an easy gig, 12:45-4:45, and you get to see the play – when else will you have a chance to see Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons!? Only three spaces left! Sign up at <https://forms.gle/djKtzzUYb9CGkfK68> or contact DANA.

Rebecca thanked **DUANE KALAR** for adding to his Magical donation to put the fundraiser over \$100,000, and to **SALLY TOMLINSON** for finding two friends to take a cruise to New Zealand, also adding to the event revenue.

This Friday, March 28, come to the Mountain View Community Center to see our very own **LIZ KNISS**, former County Supervisor, highlighted, and our **BETSY BECHTEL**, who will be honored as one of five “**Remarkable Women**” in the 5th District by County Supervisor Margaret Abe-Koga in recognition of Women’s History Month. See the Sunday Rotary notes for details. Registration closes Tuesday, March 25.

Save the date! Saturday, May 17, for the **Rotary Global Day of Service**. Our club will plan something with an environmental focus in collaboration with the University Club and East Palo Alto Bayshore Club.

PROGRAM



LIZ KNISS introduced our speaker, the **Honorable Anna Eshoo**, Member of Congress, CA-18, 1993-2025. Prior to her election to the US Congress, Congresswoman Eshoo served on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors for ten years.

When Liz asked Anna what she was most proud of, her reply was that, second only to her kids, she is most

proud of representing such a prestigious district.

Anna recognized that this is Women’s History Month. Women were left out of the Constitution.

When she ran in 1992 there were 34 women out of 435. The results of that election increased the number to 54 women, dubbing that “the year of the woman.” But there was backsliding, and in the next election, most of those women lost

their seats. Nearly 400 women have served in Congress. As of January 23 this year, there were 153 women serving in Congress.

The single most memorable moment for her is the attack on the Capitol. “They came to kill.” It ended when Speaker Pelosi said they were going back into chambers, because the people of the US and the people of the world need to see our democracy functioning.

Nancy Pelosi’s election as speaker in 2007 was a milestone, and Pelosi worked hard to recruit more women for elected service. Other memories that stand out for Anna: visiting our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan; the visit of the Pope to a joint session of Congress; being sworn in every two years, which reminded her of the careful planning by the framers of our Constitution.

“The power in this country is embedded in the people.” She is heartened by what people are doing, protesting, writing and calling their representatives. She was reminded of a Russian diplomat who said to her, “you have something we don’t have. You have citizens, you have philanthropists, you have volunteers.” She believes that we need to



recognize the strengths we have and keep committed to them. We need to fortify ourselves in those things that bring strength to a community – when communities are strong, we all are stronger. She called on the memory of the men buried at Normandy, who knew what they were risking when they went into war. If they could give what they did, then we can rise to the occasion as well. She has no doubt that we will.

SHERRI SAGER: How do we get more members of Congress to live up to their principles? Anna responded – it is important to understand what the framers designed and intended. It is not only sad that the Congress is not engaged, it is dangerous. Our system depends on both political parties functioning. Citizens are letting their elected officials know when they think the representative is not standing up for their principles.

There is hope, but the American people are the ones that are going to change it.

HENRIETTA BURROUGHS joined the President's club to thank Anna for all the support she gave Henrietta and all of us. Question: When do you think we will see some changes? Anna responded that the midterm is the next chance. Right now, Congress isn't handling it.

"Keep the faith in our beautiful country. We're going to come through it."

CLOSING REMARKS

At 1:30, President **REBECCA** closed our meeting. Thanking our Honorable speaker and all who attended.

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: **Suzanne Jain, Roger Smith**

Welcome Desk: **Bruce Gee, Rebecca Gerald**

A/V: **Ben Threlkeld**

Microphone: **Jake Yoo**

Pinion Writer: **Sally Tomlinson**

Pinion Editor: **Ginny Lear**

In honor of Women's History Month, all of the women attending stood for a photo with our speaker, Hon. ANNA ESHOO.

Thanks to **ERIC JENSEN** for suggesting it.



March 31 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Victor Tom, Chief Scientist at BAE Systems: How Rocket Science Made its Way into Major League Baseball and the Strike Zone
April 7 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Kristel Nazzal, PhD, Palo Alto University, Senior Director Arab American Stories: Sharing History, Heritage & Health Practices
April 14 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Recipients of Palo Alto Rotary Grants, Bruce Gee, Chair Hear about the Charitable works of our Grant Recipients
April 21 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Janine Zacharia, Journalist & Lecturer, Stanford University Era of Noise: Fake News to Future of Journalism
April 28 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Bill Liberatore and the award winning Gunn High School Choir Musical Selections. Don't Miss It!