

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

March 17, 2025

Writer: Hal Mickelson



Celebrating 103 years of Service

THE MAGIC OF ROTARY 2024-2025



The Rotary Club of Palo Alto was called to order promptly at 12:30 pm on March 17, 2025, by its President, **REBECCA GERALDI**, who graciously gave "Roomers" and "Zoomers" a chance to greet each other.

President-Elect **BRUCE GEE** called on Rotarians to introduce their guests: **DARYL SAVAGE** presented the District Attorney of Santa Clara County, Jeff Rosen; Assistant District Attorney Jay Boyarsky; retired Sheriff's Deputy Don Dardanelli, and today's speaker, Mark Garcia. **BEN THRELKELD** brought Mark Gullard; **JUDY KLEINBERG'S** guest was Yudy Deng, while **BRUCE** brought Lynn Rankin-Esquer.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

As a lyrical Thought for the Day 🍀 **KEVIN CURRY**, representing the Minnesota Lakeside Chapter of the Ancient & Noble Order of Bogus Hibernians, crooned a Saint Patrick's Day tribute to his favorite Irishman, **LE LEVY**, who



is known as "Liam O'Levy" among his cousins in the Auld Sod. According to KEVIN'S song, LE is always "looking for the rainbow . . . whenever the Cal Bears fall apart." KEVIN'S ballad in LE's honor qualifies him for paid-up associate membership in the Smiling Sons of the Saintly Shillelagh.

KEVIN'S adapted lyrics are at the end of this Pinion rainbow!

PRESIDENTS CLUB

MATT DOLAN joined the President's Club for "Lizzy Got Wings". Which was the highest earning individual fundraiser for the Cystic Fibrosis Northern California (CFFNorcal) office. Raising \$16,500, The 2nd annual "Lizzy Got Wings" is in progress and all are invited to jump (out of an airplane) with him.

ROGER SMITH joined the PC in honor of our distinguished visitors from the District Attorney's office....

LINNET KWOK announced that she will be on a relay team with **BEN THRELKELD** and **JON STOUMEN** in an Ironman Half Marathon to be run on September 7 in Santa Cruz; LINNET, BEN and JON will have the wonderful team name "**Service Above Speed**"....

LEANNAH HUNT recalled that she'd had an educational tour of the County Jail with Jeff Rosen and Jay Boyarsky, among today's official guests....

WE CARE FOR OUR MEMBERS

JULIE JEROME circulated a cheerful greeting card addressed to **PETER SHAMBORA**, who is recovering from open heart surgery....

MARCH 15! MAGICAL FUNDRAISER



Wearing his top hat as a Crab Feed organizer, **BRUCE GEE** thanked the dozens of our club's members who made the event successful: the setup and cleanup crews, greeters, and bartenders; Rotarians who worked with our helpers from our Scout troop and Ada's Café;

EJ HONG, who underwrote the cost of the crab we had for dinner; **MATT DOLAN**, who provided the wine; **REBECCA GERALDI** as graphic artist; **SALLY TOMLINSON** as auction marshal; **DANA TOM**, who reviewed the myriad ways our money is put to work; and Master of Ceremonies **SIMON PENNINGTON** and Auctioneers **STEVE PLAYER** and **ELIZABETH SANTANA**.

According to BRUCE, we had 35 sponsors and more than 30 donors to Fund a Need (for the Heart and Home shelter). In all, to date, we raised more than \$105,000.



DANA TOM followed BRUCE'S words of thanks with a reprise of his crowd-pleasing summary of "the magic made" through our club's fundraising efforts and

service activities: We provided 100 backpacks that delivered fresh clothing and comfort to victims of sexual trafficking and assault, with the Grateful Garment Project; we supported and provided ushers for Palo Alto Players and installed American flags for holidays on

University Avenue; we presented a two-day Pickleball tournament, led by our Membership Committee, that raised over \$10,000. We are making \$32,000 in grants to twelve local nonprofits in addition to our support for Heart and Home. When our World Community Service grants are added to monies from Rotary International, they add up to \$70,000 for humanitarian projects worldwide. We're assisting the Girl Scouts, Scouting United, and the Gunn High School Choir. And - - This spring, we plan to offer \$40,000 in vocational scholarships to worthy students at our nearby community colleges.

PROGRAM



DARYL SAVAGE introduced our speaker, **Mark Garcia**. He is now Director of a firm called Golden State Investigations following more than 30 years in law enforcement, including service as

Lieutenant in the Investigative Services Bureau of the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department and work with the FBI, the California Department of Justice and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Let's just say that Mark has many amazing stories to tell. He was called on to pose as a bad guy - given hundreds of thousands of dollars to establish his fake identity - to draw in international drug dealers and dudes who had money to be laundered. At one point, he set up a phony company called "Silicon Valley Liquidators";



as Mark said, "Let's face it: That name by itself says, 'Hey, I can buy any kind of stolen stuff you may want to sell to me.'" Criminals could be sentenced to ten years in prison for each deal they did with him.... "When you dance with the devil, you need to look like the devil, and in time there's a chance you'll become the devil..."



Special guests attended as Friends of Mark: (L-R) Jeff Rosen, District Attorney of Santa Clara County; Mark Garcia, our speaker, and Jay Boyarsky, Assistant District Attorney.

CLOSING REMARKS

At 1:30, President **REBECCA** closed our meeting. Thanks to all who attended.

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: **Matt Dolan, Patty McGuigan**
 Welcome Desk: **Katie Seedman**
 A/V: **Ben Threlkeld**
 Pinion Writer: **Hal Mickelson**
 Pinion Editor: **Ginny Lear**

KEVIN's song is from the Broadway hit musical "Finian's Rainbow", 1946

**On the day I was born,
 Said my father to LE,
 I've an elegant legacy, waiting for thee,
 Tis a Ryne for your heart,
 And a song for lips,
 To sing it whenever your world falls apart.
 Look, look, look to the rainbow,
 Follow it over ten hill and dale,
 Look !, look!look to the rainbow,
 Follow the fellow who follows LE's dreams**

**So I bundled LE's heart,
 And I timed the world free,
 To the East with a lark,
 And the west witness sea
 And I scanned all the sky,
 'Til found it at last in my own true live's eyes.**

**Look,! Look! Look to the rainbow,
 Follow it over the hill and dale
 Look, look to the rainbow,
 Follow the fellow, who follows LE's dreams,**

March 24 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	ANNA Eshoo, Member US Congress, Retired <i>Perspectives on Women's History in the Past 30 Years</i>
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