

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

**March 31, 2025**

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*Celebrating 103 years of Service*

## THE MAGIC OF ROTARY 2024-2025

President **REBECCA GERALDI** welcomed us at 12:30 and asked **BRUCE GEE** to introduce our visitors and guests. We had two visiting Rotarians. They were: **Marc Limacher, from Bein Kischenfelt, Sweden**, and **Tzu-Wen Kuo, a Rotarian from Beford, MA**, (past-president and past district secretary) and also the spouse of our speaker.

A briefly non-Rotary guest was **Yudy Deng**, but she was soon to be inducted and became a member.

President REBECCA proudly introduced her daughter **Winter Pickett**, soon to graduate summa cum laude from Cal Poly Pomona College.

Winter is a long time volunteer at our Rotary fundraisers. We'll always need you, Winter!

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

**JON GOLDMAN** gave a complimentary and heartfelt message about Palo Alto Rotary...

"I want to share some reflections on my times in Rotary and encourage everyone to do the same. I joined Rotary in May 2024.

I have been on the membership committee since the beginning. So I've always been focused on talking about benefits of membership. Sometimes, when talking to others about Rotary, they essentially ask "what's in it for me?" I can tell them about networking, volunteers,



opportunities, holiday parties, social hours, lunch, speakers, etc. But the nature of their question implies that they'd really be better off in a networking group.

Rotary's motto "Service Above Self" extends beyond the various volunteer opportunities it offers. Rotary is about community. It provides a chance to share selflessly, volunteer and join a community of leaders. It's about respectful discussions, mentoring and allowing others to impart their wisdom. It's a welcoming space filled with intentionally kind people. Every member here dedicates energy and positivity to Rotary, expecting no reward. As Winston Churchill wisely said, "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life with what we give."

The customs and standards of the Rotary community exemplify these values. Greeters welcome you at the door, from the desk, volunteers check you in with a smile, and every table comes with ready, interesting people, ready to engage. The President's Club donations and accompanying stories, the new member talks and the long time member talks are profoundly interesting and illustrate the values of service and community. At a Rotary lunch, there is always something to learn from both the conversations and the presentations.

Honestly, everyone I've ever met at Rotary is doing interesting things and has an amazing life history. When members of Rotary ask someone for advice, about something I know about--like commercial real estate--I am honored to be asked. My call to action for all members is to continue embodying our culture. Volunteer and attend events when possible, and think about ways to enhance our special Rotary community."

## PRESIDENTS CLUB

**CHARLIE WEIDANZ**, in honor of club volunteers at Sunday's Joe Simitian event, **MIKE FOGARTY, ERIC JENSEN, JAKE YOO** and **GREG HOOD**.

**STANS & JOOP**, in honor of their grandchildren and special time with them;

**CASH ALAEE**, in honor of **LEN ELY** who wore the famous DICK BUSH crab hat at our fundraiser; **JACKIE WHEELER** in honor of her MANY birthday celebrations with grandchildren; **JUDY KLEINBERG**, in honor of her husband's birthday and his brave law letter signature;

**BEN THRELKELD**, in honor of his clients, many of whom are club members, with a promise of future President's Clubs honor to his clients, for every Rotarian's Yelp review of his practice at Cambridge Optometry; and Rebecca Geraldi, in honor of her daughter, Winter Pickett's upcoming Cal Poly Pomona university graduation with summa cum laude honors. Winter is a long time volunteer at our Rotary fundraisers. Don't forget about us, Winter!

## NEW MEMBER INDUCTION



**YUDY DANG** (yes, that is correct) was inducted by President REBECCA, joined by her sponsors **ANNE CRIBBS** and **JUDY KLEINBERG**.

YUDY is an active member of the Palo Alto community serving on

the Parks and Recreation Commission with ANNE. She

was welcomed as the newest Rotary member in the world and showered with confetti!



## GIRL SCOUT SUPPORT

**ANNETTE GLANCKOPF**

introduced Palo Alto Girl Scout Leader **Darcy Huston** who told us about some of the activities of Troop 601 and thanked the Club for supporting their local Girl Scouts.

REBECCA presented Darcy a check with our support and appreciation for building these future leaders. Darcy delivered Girl Scout cookies to all of the tables.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

5th District Supervisor **Margaret Abe-Koga** gave a Women's History Month Luncheon last Friday. She honored 5 Remarkable Women with awards.

One award given was named for our former Supervisor **LIZ KNISS**, by creating The Liz Kniss Healthcare Champion Award.



**BETSY BECHTEL** was honored with **The Gerry Steinberg Justice in Action Award**, for her service as a dedicated community leader and empowerer of women. BETSY had been Gerry's Chief of Staff. LIZ and BETSY were cheered on by eight Palo Alto Rotary members in attendance: Ginny Lear, Jackie Wheeler, Karen Rohde, Kathy Torgersen, Kristina Lugo, Rebecca Geraldi, Sherri Sager, and Yudy Deng!

**CASH ALAEE** -- World Community Service) in Thailand Past President CASH reported on his recent world commitment service trip to Thailand. On this trip, CASH traveled with a very special guest, his mother. They visited the Rotary Club of Bangkok (RCB) where our club's District 5170 distributed \$5,000 to join KCB's global grant, The Children of the Forest nonprofit organization. CASH and his mother also visited the Rotary Club of Samu-Phangal, where our club's small grant donations of \$2,750 for their Support4Autism program and \$2,000 for their Swim4Life program were seen in action. **CASH** continues to spread hope and magic through World Community service. On March 28, 2025, a 7.7 earthquake struck in Myanmar and Thailand. Cash has been in contact with Rotarians and in coming weeks and months may seek club support for relief efforts in SouthEast Asia.



Baseball established the current strike zone, thereby the way home plate umpires call balls and strikes. The history of the events surrounding the development was a rare glimpse into all of the problems, technically and politically, that he had to overcome.

**Dr. Victor Tom** received his BS, MS, and PhD all from the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Dept. at MIT.

**Dr. Tom** is a third generation Rotarian, Past President of the Rotary Club of Bedford, MA. Past District Governor to the MIT Rotaract Club. He is assisting students to refine innovative projects to help under-served students refine innovative



projects to help under-served populations around the world.

## **Saturday, May 17 -- Rotary International Epic Day of Service**

Cooley Landing in EPA -- with Grassroots Ecology

- \*Indoors and outdoors activities
- \*Bathrooms available
- \*All abilities welcome

Details to come...stay tuned!

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

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

## **PROGRAM**

**SALLY TOMLINSON** introduced our speaker Dr. Victor Tom. He is the Chief Scientist at BAE Systems and Past District Governor of District 7910, speaking on "How Rocket Science Made Its Way into Major League Baseball and the Strike Zone."

His very interesting, informative talk was first given at the Baseball Hall of Fame in 2016 and then at many Rotary Clubs from Iowa to the UK. It chronicles how he leveraged camera mapping technology to win the America's Cup in 1992 and then in 2000 help Major League

## **TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS**

Greeters: **Eric Jensen, Charlie Weidanz**  
 Welcome Desk: **Katie Seedman**  
 A/V: **Ben Threlkeld**  
 Pinion Writer: **Trish Bubenik**  
 Pinion Editor: **Ginny Lear**

<b>April 7</b> 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	<b>A Speaker from Palo Alto University, a private college in Palo Alto.</b> Topic: Arab American Stories: Sharing History, Heritage & Health Practices
<b>April 14</b> 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	<b>Recipients of Palo Alto Rotary Grants, Bruce Gee, Chair</b> Hear about the Charitable works of our Grant Recipients
<b>April 21</b> 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	<b>Janine Zacharia, Journalist &amp; Lecturer, Stanford University</b> Era of Noise: Fake News to Future of Journalism
<b>April 25</b> <b>5:30-7 pm</b> <b>TGIF</b>	<b>TGIF: Home of Kathy &amp; Mike Torgersen</b>
<b>April 28</b> 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	<b>Bill Liberatore and the award winning Gunn High School Choir</b> Musical Selections. Don't Miss It!