

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

April 7, 2025

Writer: Steve Emslie



Celebrating 103 years of Service

## THE MAGIC OF ROTARY 2024-2025

President **REBECCA GERALDI** welcomed us at 12:30 and waved a hearty hello to the attending and zooming Rotarians and called on President Elect **BRUCE GEE** to introduce visiting Rotarians and guests of which there were none.



## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

CELEBRATING Rotarians: **PAM KRUDOP, BETSY BECHTEL, SUZANNE JAIN, KRISTINA LUGO, ANNETTE GLANCKOPF, SOHEILA MOYAZAN, MIKE FOGARTY, BEN THREKELD, BRUCE GEE, ED LAUING, STEVE PLAYER.**



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Friday, May 16** will be the memorial service for former longtime member **VIC ROSASCO** 10:30 am at the Church of the Nativity, 210 Oak Grove Ave, Menlo Park.

**Saturday, May 17 -- Rotary International Global Epic Day of Service** with the East Palo Alto and University Rotary Clubs in the morning at Cooley Landing, EPA. -- with Grassroots Ecology.

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

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY



**MARY ANN GEE** delivered an inspirational talk recognizing the importance of strength in our daily lives. Fortitude provides the foundation for cooperation and unity which contribute to our best lives.

## PRESIDENTS CLUB

**JACKIE WHEELER** joined the President's Club in recognition of **LEE LIPPERT** who prepared signs used at the Hands Off demonstration over the weekend.

## ROTARY BELONGS TO EVERYONE

April is **Arab American** Heritage Month  
May is **Asian American and Pacific Islander** Heritage Month  
June is **LGBTQ+** Pride Month

## PROGRAM - ARAB AMERICAN STORIES

**DANA TOM** introduced our speaker from Palo Alto University, a private university in Palo Alto founded in 1975, originally as the Pacific Graduate School of Psychology, becoming PAU in 2009. DANA provided the club with the speaker's background.

Our speaker's talk today centered on describing Arab culture through stories and anecdotes from the speaker's life. The speaker and family immigrated to the US from Palestine at an early age. Much like the artist and author Kahlil Gilbran. This experience reinforced the resilience of Arabic culture.

Our speaker also spoke of the great diversity among the arab community. Much like western Europe, Arab culture is multifaceted and often very different from each other. Arab culture is not defined by region or religion. Many think of Arabs as largely Muslim but actually Islam is a minority within the Arab world. Most Muslims are in Southeast Asia.

The Middle East is largely a term imposed on the region by colonial westerners. MENA (Middle East and North Africa) is becoming a more accurate descriptor for the region.

Arab immigration occurred in 2 waves: the 1st wave began in the late 19th century and was largely driven by those seeking better lives and opportunity; the 2nd wave occurred after WW2 and was driven by the social upheaval and conflict caused by western careless partitioning of the Middle East. Today Arabs are largely born in the US and are concentrated in 12 states including California. A majority of Arabs are Christian and have higher than average education levels.

Social bonds, generosity and hospitality are the foundations of Arab culture. The speaker showed how these cultural elements are also shown to contribute to better health outcomes in all of us.

Service is highly valued in Arab culture. Problems are collectively solved and never

ignored. Arab culture and Rotary share the same values of "Service Above Self" which promotes better social cohesion and gratitude.

Questions followed: Henrietta Burroughs asks how we can change the perspective of people who may be fearful of Arab culture. Our speaker advised us to inquire about all communities and strive to learn all we can about all cultures.

## CLOSING REMARKS

At 1:30, President **REBECCA** thanked our speaker and closed our meeting.

## TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: **Duane Kalar, Steve Player**

Welcome Desk: **Katie Seedman**

A/V: **Ben Threlkeld**

Microphones: **Bruce Gee**

Pinion Writer: **Steve Emslie**

Pinion Editor: **Ginny Lear**

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| <b>April 14</b><br>12:15-1:30pm<br>Club Meeting    | <b>Recipients of Palo Alto Rotary Grants, Bruce Gee, Chair</b><br>Hear about the Charitable works of our Grant Recipients  |
| <b>April 21</b><br>12:15-1:30pm<br>Club Meeting    | <b>Janine Zacharia, Journalist &amp; Lecturer, Stanford University</b><br>Era of Noise: Fake News to Future of Journalism  |
| <b>April 25</b><br><b>5:30-7 pm</b><br><b>TGIF</b> | <b>TGIF: Home of Kathy &amp; Mike Torgersen, Palo Alto</b>   |
| <b>April 28</b><br>12:15-1:30pm<br>Club Meeting    | <b>Bill Liberatore and the award winning Gunn High School Choir</b><br>Musical Selections. Don't Miss It!  |
| <b>May 5</b><br>12:15-1:30pm<br>Club Meeting       | <b>Tara VanDerveer, former Stanford Women's Basketball Coach, (1996-2024) and the winningest coach in NCAA history</b><br>The Changing Nature of College Athletics |