

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

**April 14, 2025**

Writer: Matt Dolan



*Celebrating 103 years of Service*

## THE MAGIC OF ROTARY 2024-2025

A ringing bell and opening Roomers and Zoomers waive President **REBECCA GERALDI** opened our meeting.

Incoming President **BRUCE GEE** recognized our visitors. **STEVE EMSLIE** introduced Stu Kowitz. **CHARLIE WEIDANZ** introduced Randa, and we said hello to Mike Gullard, returning guest and future Rotarian.



## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

**BETSY BECHTEL** shared the thought based on the first Native American Poet Laureate **Joy**: "We all have a part in shifting the story." There is, an overfull classroom, a woman teaching not only history, but compassion.

There's a barista making hearts in the foam over every cappuccino she serves. There's a man helping another man on crutches as he struggles to cross the icy street. There's a library room full of women chanting about praying for their enemy.



There are students raising money to help those with breast cancer and AIDS. Two girls are laughing for the joy of laughing 'til their faces are tear streaked and their ribs and bellies sore.

There's a poet who pours courage and music into every word she shares with the world. And another woman hears these words and thinks, "Me. That poet is talking to me." one true word, one long laugh at a time. Because now, that woman is ablaze with wondering: What is my part of shifting the story?

## PRESIDENTS CLUB

**KANIKA SABHARWAL** joined in gratitude for time spent with family in India and the Maldives. **SALLY TOMLINSON** joined in recognition of the community organizations present at our meeting and for the contributions of **KAREN RHODE** for her bird's project. **RENE MORGAN** joined to celebrate The SF Giants 12-4 record this season and ranking 2<sup>nd</sup> in NL West. Go Giants!

**MATT DOLAN** joined in tribute to his daughter Lizzy and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual: [passion.cff.org/lizzygotwings](https://passion.cff.org/lizzygotwings)

## WFE CARE FOR OUR MEMBERS

**JULIE JEROME** passed around greeting cards for the We Care Committee. A card for **LE LEVY** who is doing well is to cheer him along. A second card was for former PA Rotary Club member **DAN QUINN** and wife Helen, who recently lost their son in a tragic accident. We send warmest sympathies and best wishes.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**April TGIF** will be hosted by **KATHY & MIKE TORGERSEN** in their Palo Alto home on Friday, **April 25<sup>th</sup>**, from 5:30pm to 7:00pm. Always a pleasant gathering to be better acquainted with our fellow Rotarians. Watch for more information.

### **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

## PROGRAM - OUR GRANTS RECIPIENTS

A big thank you to our Grants Chair, **BRUCE GEE** and the Grants Committee for their efforts in awarding community grants to local non-profits providing much needed support for the vulnerable among us. A representative from each non-profit presented their good works in service of others.



### **Animal Assisted Happiness:**

Laurie Lagussi shared that their mission is to enrich the lives of youth with needs through barnyard animal interactions at Smile Farm and mobile visits, creating moments of joy and happiness throughout our AAH community.



Find out more on their website:  
[www.animalassistedhappiness.org](http://www.animalassistedhappiness.org)

### **Bay Area Friendship Circle:**

Steve Davis, parent of an autistic child communicated their mission that strives to create a more compassionate community in which individuals with special needs are fully embraced as contributing members. Find out more on their website:

[www.bayareaafc.org](http://www.bayareaafc.org)



### **Beyond Barriers Athletic Foundation:**

Marybeth Dorst presented how the foundation



promotes healthy lifestyles, improves personal safety, and adds structure for lifelong achievement by providing scholarships for aquatic programs to underserved youth. Find out more on their website:

[www.beyondbarriersaf.org](http://www.beyondbarriersaf.org).

**CASSY:** Amy Gibson provided a review of their mission to provide comprehensive mental health services for students at all of their partner schools. This includes on-campus counseling and proactive mental health education for students, including Special Education students, free of charge. Find out more on their website:

[www.cassybayarea.org](http://www.cassybayarea.org).



### **Dream Catchers:**

Nicole Chiu-Wang, Executive Director at DreamCatchers shared their program





is focused on providing free after school tutoring and mentoring programs available to PAUSD middle school students.

DreamCatchers tutoring takes place immediately after the end of the school day for 2.5 hours twice a week. Families and/or students are admitted based on eligibility basis. Find out more on their website:

[www.dreamcatchersyouth.org](http://www.dreamcatchersyouth.org)

### **East Palo Alto Senior Center:**

Millicent Grant, President Elect of EPA Rotary Club, shared heartwarming stories from The East Palo Alto Senior Center. Since 1990 they have provided services and activities that foster independence, and dignity to enhance the quality of life for senior citizens. Find out more on their website:

[www.seniorcenter.us/sc/east\\_palo\\_alto\\_senior\\_center\\_inc\\_east\\_palo\\_alto\\_ca](http://www.seniorcenter.us/sc/east_palo_alto_senior_center_inc_east_palo_alto_ca)



### **Environmental**

**Volunteers:** Toby Goldberg, Director of Programs expressed gratitude for the support of their dedicated staff and board who bring expertise in environmental science and education, inspiring all ages. This guides their mission and ensures sustainability and making a positive impact on the community. Find out more on their website: [www.environmentalvolunteers.org](http://www.environmentalvolunteers.org)



### **Friends of the Palo Alto Junior Museum and Zoo:**

Jill Hartnett, board member



presented on The Friends, a non-profit organization that works to support the Palo Alto Junior Museum & Zoo (JMZ), a beloved early-education science institute founded in 1934. The Friends and the City of Palo Alto

strive to provide an equitable and meaningful experience to visitors of all communities, backgrounds, and abilities. Find out more on their website:

[www.cityofpaloalto.org](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org)

### **Health Connected:**

Alex, CEO of Health Connected a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in East Palo Alto, is dedicated to empowering young people to make informed decisions about their sexual health and



relationships. Each year, they reach over 18,000 students, parents, and educators in California through our comprehensive sexual health education programs. MOre info is on their website: [www.health-connected.org](http://www.health-connected.org).

**Job Train:** Siosuia "C2" Vea, Training Manager and alumni of their programs presented on how Job Train transforms lives and communities in Silicon Valley. By assisting those most in need to reclaim their lives from poverty and unemployment and preparing them for successful sustainable careers in high-demand



and emerging fields. Find out more on their website: [www.jobtrainworks.org](http://www.jobtrainworks.org)

## CLOSING REMARKS

After a series of impressive local non-profit presentations **President REBECCA** rang the meeting to a close.

## TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Greeter: **Daryl Savage**

Welcome Desk: **Katie Seedman**

A/V: **Dana Tom**

Microphones: **Kanika Sabharwal**

Pinion Writer: **Matt Dolan**

Pinion Editor: **Ginny Lear**

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

<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, Palo Alto</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!
<b>May 5</b> 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	<b>Tara VanDerveer, former Stanford Women's Basketball Coach, (1996-2024) and the winningest coach in NCAA history</b> The Changing Nature of College Athletics