

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

April 28, 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. **CHARLIE WEIDANZ** introduced Randa Hallman, visiting for the third time. Randa has put in her application for membership. **STEVE PLAYER** introduced Bob Grant, retired former attorney. **TODD LEWIS** introduced his brother Garth Lewis, who came to hear Bill Liberatore, who played and sang at his daughter's wedding. **BRUCE** introduced Mike Gullard, who will be inducted next Monday.



working for the common good are great life goals that need courage and vigor."

PRESIDENTS CLUB

TOM GRACON announced that his grandson has chosen to go to UC Davis, giving Tom 3 grandchildren in college and 5 in high school.

Happy to celebrate with you, Tom!



QUOTE FOR THE DAY

ERIC JENSEN brought us a QUOTE FOR THE DAY that describes the values of Rotary. Pope Francis spoke of the need for a "movement of people who know we need each other, who have a sense of responsibility to others and to the world. We need to proclaim that being kind, having faith, and



OUR ENDOWMENT FUND DRIVE IS ON

BETSY BECHTEL thanked all who have contributed to the endowment fund. Because some people have said they had difficulty finding how to donate online to the endowment, **DANA TOM** and **BETSY** walked us through how to make an endowment donation online. On the website:

- Scroll to **DONATE** in the blue bar just under the picture of Stanford.
- Click on Endowment Fund.
- Scroll to the bottom of the Endowment Fund page and click on the **DONATE NOW** button.
- Choose a dollar amount, or, where it says \$0.00, you can fill in your desired amount.
- Click on Donate and follow the instructions for payment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DANA TOM celebrated some great recognition for our club. The Rotary Magazine May edition features the Vocational Scholarship Program with a two-page spread! Be sure to read this inspiring description of the scholarships we provide to people on their path to a more secure future. (And then bring your magazine to a meeting so we can share with others.) Committee members **PAM KRUDOP, JOY OCHE, JULIE JEROME, ED SHIKADA, ED LAUING, JENN TORAI, DANA TOM, REBECCA GERALDI,** and **SALLY TOMLINSON** are currently reviewing and interviewing this year's candidates for scholarships. All possible thanks to your support of Palo Alto Annual Charities.

THANK YOU NOTES

REBECCA thanked **KATHY & MIKE TORGERSON** for a wonderful TGIF at their home last Friday.

Thank you to **DANA TOM, GINNY LEAR, KAREN ROHDE, STEVE MADSEN, KATHY TORGERSEN, MARY ANN GEE** and husband **Tim, JON & O'Malley STOUMEN** and **REBECCA GERALDI** for ushering at the Palo Alto Players' matinee performance of Jersey Boys on Sunday, April 27.

Rotary DAY OF SERVICE - MAY 17th

Saturday, May 17 -- Rotary International Global Epic Day of Service

Volunteer at Rotary's Global Epic Day of Service – Do More Good!

- Co-hosted with the Palo Alto University Club and the East Palo Alto Bayshore Club, supporting the Non-profit: Environmental Volunteers
- Saturday, May 17th, 9:00 am to noon
- Cooley Landing Park in the Ravenswood Open Space Preserve in East Palo Alto (at the end of Bay Road)
- Indoor and outdoor volunteer activities will be available, all physical abilities welcomed. One is habitat restoration, the other is assembling bamboo plant stake and gopher cages.

- Signup: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/epic-day-of-service-habitat-restoration-at-cooley-landing-registration-1297272068679>
- Space is limited. Email **Eric Jensen** at erichorjensen@gmail.com if you don't get in. Other options coming soon

ANOTHER SERVICE OPPORTUNITY!

Monday, May 26 – Volunteer Service (instead of our meeting): **Flags on University Ave.**

- 8:00 am: Meet at corner of Cowper St. and University Ave. to put up flags. After installing flags, socialize with fellow volunteers at a local coffee shop
- 5:00 pm: Meet at the corner of High St. and University Ave. to take down flags. After putting flags away, socialize with fellow volunteers over drinks at a local establishment
- Co-sponsored with the Palo Alto University Rotary Club

PROGRAM

EJ HONG introduced Bill Liberatore and the Gunn High School Choir. Bill has been director of the choir since 1969. EJ talked of the many trips she was able to go on with the choir while her daughters were in the choir. Our club provides an annual grant to help make it possible for every student to go on those trips.



This year's Choir recently returned from New York city where they achieved:

- Gold Ratings for Concert Choir, Treble Choir, Chamber Singers and Chamber Ensemble

- First Place Awards for both Concert Choir and Chamber Singers
- Adjudicator Awards (recognizing an overall score of 95 or higher) for Concert Choir, Chamber Singers and Treble Choir
- Choral Sweepstakes for having two choirs with an average closest to 200

AND the Gunn Concert Choir was named the Outstanding Choir of the whole festival!

We were fortunate to hear them sing a special concert for us. The voices were magical and the audience entranced. If you missed the concert, or would like to listen again, you can visit Bill Liberatore’s YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/@williamliberatore9617/videos>.

CLOSING REMARKS

At 1:30, **President REBECCA** thanked everyone, especially our wonderful Gunn High School Chamber Choir. She then hit the right note and brought the meeting to a close.

TODAY’S VOLUNTEERS

Greeter: **Bruce Swenson**
 Welcome Desk: **Katie Seedman**
 A/V: **Dana Tom**
 Microphones: **Charlie Weidanz**
 Pinion Writer: **Sally Tomlinson**
 Pinion Editor: **Ginny Lear**

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

May 5 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Tara VanDerveer, former Stanford Women’s Basketball Coach, (1996-2024) and the winningest coach in NCAA history <i>The Changing Nature of College Athletics</i>
May 12 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Elizabeth Santana, Managing Director, Palo Alto Players <i>Theatre in Crisis? Performing Arts Resiliency in a Post-Pandemic Landscape</i>
May 19 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Santa Clara Co. Supervisor Margaret Abe-Koga, Topic: Asian American Stories & How the Board of Supervisors Serve You
May 26 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	DARK: No Club meeting Memorial Day Weekend FLAGS on University Avenue Project happening