

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

May 5, 2025

Writer: Hal Mickelson



Celebrating 103 years of Service

THE MAGIC OF ROTARY 2024-2025



President **REBECCA GERALDINI** greeted Roomers and Zoomers, and then invited President-Elect **Brice Gee**, who appeared in full and fulsome Nerd Nation regalia, to introduce Visiting Rotarian Pete Dailey, Mayor of Los Altos.... A massive drove of members' guests were

thanked for joining us, but there simply wasn't time for individual introductions.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

To begin her thoughtful remarks, **ANNE CRIBBS** recalled words attributed to Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." The case in point ANNE had in mind was Rich May Field, created by "committed citizens" as a memorial to May, an East Palo Alto police officer gunned down on the job in 2006. It is used by 15,000 young people every year. In 2026, its turf must be replaced at a cost of \$1 million. You can find more information at

<https://richmayfoundation.org/donate/> .



NEW MEMBER INDUCTION



The next order of business was the induction of a new member, **MIKE GULLARD**, sponsored by **BEN THRELKELD** MIKE is a Montana native, experienced in finance, general management and venture capital, and former president of

Boys and Girls Clubs of the Midpeninsula, He volunteers as a driver with Meals on Wheels. He was welcomed to the world of Rotary with confetti and sound effects.

OUR ENDOWMENT FUND DRIVE IS ON

DANA TOM spoke about the quarterly sequence of our club fundraising, the value of the funds we have and how they are distributed, and how to make an endowment donation online. We'll hear from **TIM WATSON** on May 12 about ways that gifts to the Endowment can fit in with your other financial strategies.



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.
- To Join In, see below!
- 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



Our speaker, **Tara VanDerveer**, was introduced by **SALLY TOMLINSON**. Tara retired last year after 38 seasons

as head coach of Stanford Women's Basketball, having won 1,216 games, which made her at that time the winningest coach in men's or women's college basketball. She took a year off to lead an undefeated US Women's Olympic team to a gold medal in Atlanta in 1996. She is admired for her role in coaching and mentoring women as athletes who have gone on to careers as doctors, lawyers and engineers, as well as many head coaches, including those who lead women's basketball at both Stanford and Cal.



Tara recalled that she had come to Stanford as head coach against her father's advice: He had warned her she would come home, unemployed, in three months.... The legendary track coach Brooks Johnson gave her a tour of campus, under orders to keep walking her around until she said Yes to Stanford's offer....

Among the players she remembers as team leaders: Angela Taylor, a walk-on member of Tara's first National Championship team. When asked to say what role she expected to play on the team, she wrote down the words, "Spread sunshine..." Jennifer Azzi, also on that team, Stanford's first All-American. In Kyiv, when the bus was surrounded by women asking for spare change, she opened her suitcase and gave away spare clothing.... Chris MacMurdo, whose father was a nuclear physicist, had asked to see SLAC on her campus tour. Arriving as an incoming freshman, riding down Palm Drive, she said, "I want to make a difference in this world..."

Tara reviewed some of the explosive changes that are taking place in college sports: The "implosion" of the Pacific Twelve... the financial "haircut" required to join the ACC... Stanford's loss of "50, 60 or 70" football players to better pay from NIL "collectives..."

A softball star who left Stanford for \$1 million from Texas Tech.... We should pay close attention to the House case, pending in San Francisco. A settlement has been proposed that would set a salary cap of \$20.5 million each year, soon to increase to \$30 million.... Said Tara, "The toothpaste isn't going back in the tube."

In Q&A, Tara noted her connection to Pat Summitt through her sister Heidi, who became a graduate assistant at Tennessee to learn everything she could possibly learn; she's now head coach at UC San Diego.... When asked about transgender athletes, Tara said, "We don't have enough research in hand to decide what we must do. We want to create opportunities for everyone, and we want to make it fair."

CLOSING REMARKS

At 1:30, **President REBECCA** thanked everyone, especially our speaker, Tara Vanderveer. She invited Tara back to give her a small gift and Tara asked "Will I get confetti, too!" Yes, she did! Check out REBECCA'S arm extension, hook shot!



TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Greeter: **Anne Cribbs, Sally Tomlinson**
 Welcome Desk: **Katie Seedman**
 A/V: **Ben Threlkeld**
 Microphones: **Charlie Weidanz**
 Pinion Writer: **Hal Mickelson**
 Pinion Editor: **Ginny Lear**

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

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: <i>Asian American Stories & How the Board of Supervisors Serve You</i>
May 26 No Club Meeting	DARK: No Club meeting Memorial Day Weekend FLAGS on University Avenue Project happening
May 30 5:30-7:00 pm TGIF	TGIF at Homewood Suites, El Camino Real, Palo Alto - Thanks, Matt Dolan!
June 2 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Dorothy Brown, Prof. of Law, Georgetown University <i>The Whiteness of Wealth: How the Tax System Impoverishes Black Americans - and How We Can Fix It</i>

2018 - HAL & COACH TARA

