

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

May 19, 2025

Writer: Betsy Bechtel



Celebrating 103 years of Service

THE MAGIC OF ROTARY 2024-2025

WELCOME: President **REBECCA** opened the meeting and welcomed "Zoomers" and "Roomers".

President Elect **BRUCE GEE** called on Visiting Rotarians: Sveinn Magnusson from Iceland, Kim Jessup from Burlingame Rotary and John Henry Fuller from South San Francisco Rotary. **BRUCE** also introduced guest Jon Ishii, staff for speaker Margaret Abe-Koga, plus Zaki Lisha, Randa Hoffman, and Tim Misner, guests of **BRUCE GEE**.



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY



MATT DOLAN quoted from Conrad Hilton and noted that the Hilton Foundation has granted more than \$3 billion toward global initiatives and parallels the Rotary Foundation in priorities.

PRESIDENTS CLUB

JACKIE WHEELER joined the President's Club in honor of her daughter's 60th birthday where they drove 2400 miles from Raleigh, NC to Kentucky and back to celebrate at

the Kentucky Derby and visit historic sites along the way.

SALLY TOMLINSON joined the President's Club in honor of **ANNE CRIBBS** and the work she has done for Professional Women's Basketball as recognized in a San Francisco Chronicle article May 16th, 2025.

OUR ENDOWMENT FUND DRIVE IS ON

BETSY BECHTEL

thanked donors to the Palo Alto Rotary Endowment Fund. She noted that when you support the Endowment you are supporting Rotary Charities because the money goes to charities with the addition of investment earnings..

The goal is \$30,000 and so far over \$16,000 has been contributed. Donors may contribute online or by sending a check to Palo Alto Rotary Endowment Fund.



FLAGS ON MEMORIAL DAY - MAY 26th

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GEOFF BALL encouraged members to contact him if they wanted to be involved with Rotary's climate action efforts.

LIZ KNISS, Past President, invited all to Rebecca's "DeBunking" on June 30th, 5:30 - 7:30 at Bruce and Jane Gee's home for only \$40/person! Sign up beginning June 2nd.



REBECCA thanked volunteers for the Global 2025 Epic Day of Service: **Steve Emslie, Mike Fogarty, Bruce Gee, Kristina Lugo, Karen Rohde, Katie & ERIC Seedman, Ullrich Schwertschlag**.

MATT DOLAN and Homewood Suites, 4329 El Camino Real, will host May 30's TGIF, 5:30 -7.

ROTACARE IN AREA 12 (THAT'S US!)

REBECCA thanked **Dr. ULLRICH SCHWERTSCHLAG** with her confetti tribute for volunteering to serve on the reactivating Rotacare committee.

RotoCare is a mobile clinic serving those without access to health care. Our District is interested in locating the clinic in the Sunnyvale area.



PROGRAM

GINNY LEAR introduced **Margaret Abe-Koga**, member of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.

Margaret represents our District, the 5th, made up of nine of the 15 cities in Santa Clara County and stretching from Palo Alto to Los Gatos. She is the fifth woman to represent the District. Our member Liz Kniss was one of the previous four.

Margaret is one of the first Asian American women to serve on the Santa Clara County board in its 175 years of existence.



Margaret brings 20 years of experience in governing to the county as a two-time Mayor of Mountain View and council member and a former Trustee of the Santa Clara County Board of Education.

In recognition of Asian American Pacific Islander month Margaret was asked to describe some of her experiences. She spoke of the work of Asian immigrants in California and the discrimination endured. Her parents were born in Japan and came to California for opportunity after World War II. Once Margaret, born in California, learned English she became her parents' translator. This is a role often played by children of immigrants.

Margaret spoke about the importance of the services provided by the County. Many of the services provide a safety net for low income residents. The County operates 4 hospitals, half of the County's \$13 billion budget. Any cuts to Medicaid will deeply affect the County. In addition to providing health services the County operates parks,

expressways, has built 5800 units of teacher and other housing, and many, many other services

High priorities for Margaret are to wisely balance the County's budget and ensure that there are no duplications of services. Another top priority is addressing climate issues.

CLOSING REMARKS

At 1:30, President **REBECCA** thanked our speaker, with a gift mug that says "You make the world a better place" and a shower of her special Rotary confetti!



TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Greeter: **Nancy Peters, Suzanne Jain**
 Welcome Desk: **Katie Seedman**
 A/V: **Ben Threlkeld**
 Microphones: **Steve Emslie**
 Pinion Writer: **Betsy Bechtel**
 Pinion Editor: **Ginny Lear**

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

May 26 No Club Meeting Memorial Day	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, 4329 El Camino Real, Palo Alto - Thanks, Matt Dolan! Bring a guest and a beverage to share.
May 31 D5170 Annual Conference	District 5170 Annual Conference, 1 Day. San Jose State University 8:00 am - 8:30 pm
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>
June 9 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Roland Greene, Stanford Professor of English <i>Shakespeare: Young, Old and in the Middle</i>
June 16 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Jonathan Chen, Assist. Professor, biomedical <i>AI in Medicine: Real Magic or Technological Illusions</i>
June 23 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Joe Simitian, Public Servant <i>Reflections on a Career of Public Service</i>
June 30 5:30-7:30 pm DEBUNKING No Club Meeting	President Rebecca's final day on the job! Come to the home of Bruce & Jane Gee as we celebrate her year! \$40 per person: sign up coming