

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

June 9, 2025

Writer: Trish Bubenik



Celebrating 103 years of Service

THE MAGIC OF ROTARY 2024-2025

President **REBECCA** rang the bell and welcomed attendees, introduced herself and reminded all to turn off cell phones.

Visiting Rotarians and Rotarians with Guests: REBECCA welcomed **HERB RITTER**, visiting District 5170 Governor-elect with Rotary Club of Pleasanton North. **CHIEKO NISHINO**, Rotary Club of Osaka Southwest, visited while husband does some work at Stanford.

One guest, Bob Waymouth, is a Professor of Chemistry at Stanford, introduced by **CHARLIE WEIDANZ**.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

MIKE GULLARD shared this from an OPED piece in the Washington Post by Nicole Krauss, a novelist and a 2025 Guggenheim fellow. This struck me because I am a reader. My father, besides being a Rotarian, was a reader. I married a writer. Here is some of what Nicoll Krauss wrote..."Throughout history there have been many crossroads, and we are at one now.

For thousands of years, we have been finding words for ourselves, we have been writing our own story and, in the process, have done something far more radical than expressed ourselves: We have invented ourselves. We have asked the essential question: Who are we, and what kind of people do we want to be? And it is, I believe, only as readers and writers, only as people educated in the bonding of language and meaning, that we have any hope of rising to the occasion of an answer.

THE PASSING OF LELAND LEVY



It is with very heavy hearts that we share the sad news of the passing of our dear friend and 45 year club member, **LELAND LEVY** on Tuesday, June 10th.

LE's lively and playful presence will be profoundly missed by all who knew him. **LE** served as our President in 2002-2003. We will miss him every day.

Please keep his wife Judy and their family members in your thoughts.

LELAND's Service will be held:

Date: Friday, June 13, 2025

Time: 11:00 am

Location: Congregation Beth Am

Address: 26790 Arastradero Road, Los Altos Hills.

All are welcome.

NEW MEMBER INDUCTION YAY!

LINNETT KWOK inducted **TIM MISNER** sponsored by **BRUCE GEE**, who is TIM's long-time neighbor across the street.

TIM was welcomed by **REBECCA, HERB RITTER**, District Governor-elect, and the Club, with the official confetti toss! We will soon learn more about **TIM**.



DEBUNKING TIME: JUNE 30th, 5:30 pm

GINNY LEAR, Past President, invited all to Rebecca's "DeBunking". Sign up now for **PEACE, LOVE, REBECCA**, the DeBunking of our President **REBECCA GERALDI**, Monday, June 30, 5:30-7:30 pm at the home of **Jane and BRUCE GEE**. Tickets are \$40/person for a dinner of paella (regular and vegetarian) and an evening of fun.

Please purchase your tickets online NOW:
<https://square.link/u/8hXS5zro> It's easy!

OUR ENDOWMENT FUND DRIVE IS ON

BETSY BECHTEL announced that we are at \$21,000 towards our goal of \$30,000 for the Endowment Fund. If you haven't given, or can't remember if you already gave, now is the time to make that gift!

VOCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS REPORT

ED SHIKADA told us about our Vocational Scholarships this year totalling \$40,000. There were 30 applications with 15 recipients selected. Awards ranged from \$4,000 to \$1,500. Their community colleges are Foothill, DeAnza, Canada and Skyline.



SPECIAL THANK YOU TO TWO MEMBERS

REBECCA asked **SALLY TOMLINSON** and **KAREN ROHDE** to come forward to receive her special thanks for their service to our club and to her this year. **KAREN** was the club Secretary this year, and **SALLY** has been our Program Chair for 11 years!!



They cannot be at the June 30th party.

JAKE YOO will become the Program Chair on July 1st.



PROGRAM

DANA TOM introduced **Roland Greene**, Stanford Professor of English and Comparative Literature, speaking on "*Shakespeare: Young, Old and in the Middle*"

Did you ever wonder how Shakespeare speaks to us at every stage? Stanford Professor Roland Greene took us on a lively tour through "Shakespeare--Young, Old and Out in the Middle." Whether you are building Romeo,

a worldly Lear, or somewhere in between, this talk brought wisdom, and a fresh look at the Bard.

Professor Roland Greene's talk today was an abbreviated version of his talk last year at Stanford's Reunion. "While Taylor Swift's eras are defined by her albums,



William Shakespeare's eras are defined by his writing style. Scholars of music and literature often speak of "Ite style," but William Shakespeare had distinctive styles in each stage of his career (he retired around the age of 50 and died at 52, elderly for his time.)

Professor Roland Greene led us in exploring the perspectives of his middle and old age as compared to how we now conceive these stages of life.

His research and teaching are concerned with the early modern literature of England, Latin Europe, and the translation world, and with poetry and "poetics" from the Renaissance to the present.

Professor Greene's most recent book is *Five Words: Critical Semantics in the Age of Shakespeare and Cervantes*, which proposes an understanding of early culture through modern...the changes embodied in five words or concepts over the sixteenth century: in English, blood, invention, language, resistance, and world--and their counterparts in French, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese.

CLOSING REMARKS

With many thanks to Professor Greene for his wisdom and his time, **REBECCA** closed the meeting at 1:30.

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: **Yudy Deng, Elizabeth Santana**

Welcome Desk: **Katie Seedman**

A/V: **Ben Threlkeld**

Microphones: **Randa Hoffman**

Pinion Writer: **Trish Bubenik**

Pinion Editor: **Ginny Lear**

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

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| 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! <i>Come to the home of Bruce & Jane Gee as we celebrate her year!</i> <i>\$40 per person: sign up coming</i> |
| July 7 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting | President BRUCE GEE and his Board begin the 2025-2026 Rotary year with the annual Club Assembly. <i>Who are our new leaders?</i> |