

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

June 16, 2025

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*Celebrating 103 years of Service*

## THE MAGIC OF ROTARY 2024-2025

**REBECCA GERALDI** opened the meeting by announcing that this would be her last as President so there were several tributes made to her during the gathering. Incoming President **BRUCE GEE** introduced the numerous visitors. First, with three guests was **ULLRICH SCHWERTSCHLAG**, with Sean Jian, Miro Diakovic and Dr. Studlick Kechsagar, a former Cincinnati Rotarian. Introductions continued with a delegation from the Palo Alto University Rotary Club comprising President Leif Ericson, Richard Schoeleman, Jo Royle, Song Wang and Don Mackenzie who were there to discover the secrets of our hybrid (virtual) meeting arrangements. Also present were visiting Rotarian Christa von Hillerbrandt-Anfrade from Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, **DIANA DIAMOND's** son Scott as well as **STEVE EMSLIE** introducing former member BERN BEECHAM and Cheryl Lathrop.

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

This was presented by **YUDY DENG** who spoke of meaningful personal transformations, finding strengths in the community and support as she stepped into her truth. She said we are here to build each other up and if you ever think you're too small to make a difference...remember: even a mosquito can keep a CEO awake all night.



## PRESIDENTS CLUB

Many members stepped forward to honor the memory of esteemed club member **LE LEVY** who passed away recently. Others also wanted to honor REBECCA for her service to the club in this past year. Doing so were **RALPH ADAMS, TRISH BUBENIK, BRIAN STEEN, ANNETTE GLANCKOPF, LEANNA HUNT, DANA TOM, HENRIETTA BURROUGHS. LIZ KNISS** had previous club presidents stand to honor REBECCA. Later in the meeting everyone also stood in REBECCA's honor after **BRUCE GEE** presented her with a glass globe with engraved plaque thanking her for "**Caring, Joyful Leadership**" and a shower of colored confetti. Other members joining the President's Club were **RENE MORGAN** to honor **BRUCE SWENSON** and **KATHY TORGENSEN**, (along with Barb Swenson and one other), for a special trip they are on now taking 3 cars from Germany to Ukraine, **ROGER SMITH** for promotion of Palo Alto Good News and **TOM GRACON** for several important family graduations.

## DEBUNKING TIME: JUNE 30th, 5:30 pm

Members were reminded by **BRUCE GEE** that there would not be a regular meeting on Monday, June 30 but instead there would be a "**PEACE, LOVE, REBECCA**" themed party at the backyard of his home from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM. The ticket price is \$40.00 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!

## THANK YOU & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following members did their community service duty ushering at a recent performance of "Sweat": **STEVE MADSEN, ERIC JENSEN, JON GOLDMAN, JACKIE WHEELER** and **Casey, BETSY BECHTEL, DANA TOM** and **Nancy Kawakita**.

Later in the meeting **ERIC JENSEN** reminded members that he and **TRISH BUBENIK** were looking for members to sign up to present Thoughts for the Day at future meetings. **STEVE EMSLIE** is also looking for sign-ups for meeting greeters.

## PROGRAM

**ULLRICH SCHWERTSCHLAG** briefly introduced our speaker Dr. Jonathan Chen, Director for Medical Education in Artificial Intelligence at Stanford University. His topic was the place of AI in Medicine and he made a



very lively and provocative presentation. By way of introduction, Dr Chen briefly treated us to a brief magic performance. He compared the computer strengths of memory, calculation, search, prediction, consistency and being scalable with the human strengths

of physicality, communication, empathy, management, interpretation and reasoning. The first point he then made was that AI was remarkably good at diagnostics and that it could easily pass conventional medical examinations. The second point he emphasized was that AI's abilities in the medical field were improving at an astonishing rate. This led to the key question of what does this mean for the role of doctors. He pointed out that although AI can generate conventional forms of empathy, it sometimes makes obvious errors and promotes false facts. The important conclusion is that

doctors have superior judgment, the

important ability to negotiate and can accept responsibility. Dr. Chen concluded with this thought, *"although AI is not going to replace doctors, those that learn how to use AI are likely to replace those who do not."*



## CLOSING REMARKS

With many thanks to Dr. Chen, **REBECCA** closed the meeting at 1:30 to more confetti!





## TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: **Julie Jerome**  
 Welcome Desk: **Katie Seedman**  
 A/V: **Dana Tom**  
 Microphones: **Randa Hoffman**  
 Pinion Writer: **Geoff Ziman**  
 Pinion Editor: **Ginny Lear**

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

June 23 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	<b>Joe Simitian, Public Servant</b> <i>Reflections on a Career of Public Service</i>
June 30 5:30-7:30 pm <b>DEBUNKING PARTY!</b> No Club Meeting	<b>President Rebecca's final day on the job!</b> <i>Come to the home of Bruce &amp; Jane Gee as we celebrate her year!</i> <b>\$40 per person: sign up NOW!</b>
July 7 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	<b>President BRUCE GEE</b> and his Board begin the 2025-2026 Rotary year with the annual <b>Club Assembly.</b> <i>Who are our new leaders?</i>



**CLEAN UP ON AISLE 5!** Taking Bruce back to his days as the son of a grocery store owner. **Thank you Bruce, Rebecca and Joy!**

