

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

June 23, 2025
Writer: Matt Dolan



Celebrating 103 years of Service

THE MAGIC OF ROTARY 2024-2025

Ringling the bell, PP **BEN THRELKELD** kept us in "In Apple Pie Order" while **REBECCA GERALDI** reveled in the cowboy culture at Rotary International Conference in Calgary, Canada, along with PE **BRUCE GEE**, who greeted our meeting with a live remote report of the excitement in Calgary.



Visitors and Guests: Our visiting Rotarians and guests were welcomed by BEN. Club member **HAL MICKELSON** introduced his family member Casey Starestka. Visitors Gayle Brugler and Casey Nosky were introduced by **JACKIE WHEELER** and **JENN TORAI** introduced her visitor Cena, who is one of our vocational scholarship recipients.

Visiting Rotarian Jamir Ousmen from Princes Town, Trinidad joined our meeting while visiting family in Palo Alto.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Presenting thoughts about thoughts, **KANIKA SABHARWAL** shared: if we feed doubts and worries that is what grows. If we feed hope,



joy and love that is what we grow. Our thoughts guide us and we should nurture our thoughts with care and purpose.

PRESIDENTS CLUB

Joining the Presidents Club, **ROB LANCEFIELD** recognized his sixty-six year wedding anniversary and wisely recommended "listen to your wife." **BRUCE SWENSON** recognized his upcoming wedding anniversary of 58 year and shared an update on **RENE MORGAN** who experienced a recent fall but is doing well. **CASH ALAEE**, who came to this country in 1983 joined in tribute to promoting a peaceful world. **RALPH ADAMS** contributed to show his support for protecting personal liberty. **DUANE KALAR**, in recognition of our guest speaker, Joe Simitian and family and their forty year connection contributed \$1,000 to the Endowment Fund. **LEANNAH HUNT**, who worked with Joe Simitian as a real estate champion recognized their positive working relationship joined the Presidents Club. **TRISH BUBENIK** gave tribute to Joe Simitian and recognized his attendance at her 50th wedding anniversary.

DEBUNKING TIME: JUNE 30th, 5:30 pm

Hurry and make your reservations for President **REBECCA GERALDI Debunking** on Monday, June 30th, at the home of **BRUCE** and **JANE GEE**.

Request for volunteers who attend to support the debunking event: Sunday, June

29th at 3:00pm to set up tables. Monday, June 30th at 4:00pm for the party set up and a request that attendees stay after the debunking as a clean-up crew, including taking down tables.

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

JULY 4TH FLAGS ON UNIVERSITY AVENUE

Please SHOW UP to set up and take down flags on University Ave. July 4th - it's fun!

- 8:00 am: Meet at corner of Cowper St. and University Ave. to put up flags. Afterwards, 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. Afterwards, socialize with fellow volunteers over drinks at a local establishment
- Co-sponsored with the Palo Alto University Rotary Club

ENDOWMENT FUND

DANA TOM presented a few key points for our club's endowment fund. Currently, the fund has \$1.3 million in assets and annually distributes five percent of the funds to be used for local grants, international grants, vocational scholarships and youth services. Growing the endowment is critical for continued funding of our priority programs. Donations to the endowment fund can be made in cash, stocks, RMD or bequest.

PROGRAM

Our highly regarded speaker, Joe Simitian was introduced by **JACKIE WHEELER**. Joe has a long resume of public service in Palo Alto, Santa Clara County and the State of California. His presentation was:

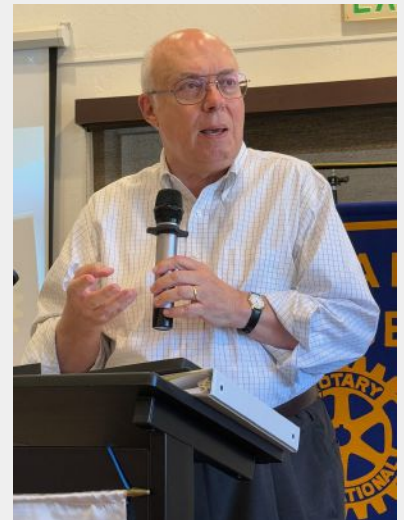


"What's Happening in America and Why?"

Joe shared observations that economic prosperity over the past 50 years has favored the top 10% at a rate four times faster than the remaining 90%. Immigrant growth has statistically grown at five times the rate over this same period.

The Democratic Party traditionally was aligned with the working class, blue collar and union members who have disconnected from this constituency. The Republican Party has transformed with Donald Trump and while it has not made good on its promises it is at least speaking to their concerns.

His view is that the Democratic Party has provided progressive overreach regarding social topics while ignoring the fact that the average person is most concerned about financial stability. The Democrats need to confront hard truths and begin to reconnect with their constituency. Acknowledging he was quoting himself from several years ago he shared "without workers having a livable wage there is no hope for common ground."



He closed by acknowledging that so many of our fellow Rotarians were integral to his long career of public service and expressed his gratitude for the confidence and support of so many.

CLOSING REMARKS



Completing his stand in duties BEN THRELKELD closed our meeting with thanks and applause for **KATIE SEEDMAN** who has taken our lunch

money for at least ten years and will be turning it over to others sometime before school starts for her grandchild! **KATIE** will continue as an active member of our club!

TODAY'S VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: **Len Ely, Kanika Sabharwal**

Welcome Desk: **Katie Seedman**

A/V: **Dana Tom**

Microphones: **Jack Cabaness**

Pinion Writer: **Matt Dolan**

Pinion Editor: **Ginny Lear**

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>June 30 5:30-7:30 pm DEBUNKING PARTY! No Club Meeting</p> | <p>President Rebecca's final day on the job! <i>Come to the home of Bruce & Jane Gee as we celebrate her year!</i> \$40 per person: sign up NOW!</p> |
| <p>JULY 4th FLAGS on University Avenue</p> | <p>8 am. Cowper and University 5 pm High and University Traditional posting and retiring of American Flags, with Palo Alto University Rotary Club</p> |
| <p>July 7 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting</p> | <p>President BRUCE GEE and his Board begin the 2025-2026 Rotary year with the annual Club Assembly. <i>Who are our new leaders?</i></p> |
| <p>July 14 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting</p> | <p>Speaker from FBI in Palo Alto Economic Espionage</p> |



Cena, in striped sweater and necktie, one of our scholarship recipients, attending Cañada College's Fashion Design Program, with members of the Scholarship Committee!