

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

July 14, 2025
Writer: Hal Mickelson

UNITE
FOR
GOOD

Celebrating 103 years of Service

UNITE FOR GOOD 2025-2026

Looking as if he had been in command for years, **BRUCE GEE**, recently ensconced as President of the Rotary Club of Palo Alto, called us to order at 12:30 Monday, July 14.



President-elect **CHARLIE WEIDANZ** asked for visiting

Rotarians and guests.

ANNE CRIBBS introduced Michael Kau, an officer with PA Police Dept.

IRIS KOROL introduced Ken Dueker, PAPD Office of Emergency Services

President BRUCE introduced Assistant Police Chief Jim Reifschneider. Welcome ALL!

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY



KRISTINA LUGO shared this thought: There's much pleasure to be had in coming together as neighbors, in the easy way citizens of European cities do as they stroll past each other and nod in their Sunday promenades.

Building friendships and unity doesn't need to be a chore; it can start as we enjoy the sight of familiar faces....

PRESIDENTS CLUB

JOAN PLASTIRAS joined the Club with a report that her home "nearly burned down"; it was good that four fire trucks arrived, but great that so many local Rotarians pitched to assist with recovery.... **TODD LEWIS** saluted **Bruce and Jane Gee** for the bountiful bash that they organized to celebrate their daughter's wedding.... Bruce himself had some proud words to say

JACK WOODSON joined the Club three times for "the great job **REBECCA GERALDI** did last year," in gratitude for his successful knee replacement, and to recognize that he and **ROB LANCEFIELD** are verifiably tenth cousins, with a common ancestor who was doing business in 1619.... **GEOFF ZIMAN's** daughter Shoshana Shur made a PC donation to honor her father's celebration of a milestone birthday....

CLUB NEWS AND UPDATES

President BRUCE announced members can now pay for the Presidents Club donations before we leave the meeting using the tap and pay.

Club dues can also be paid on site. The current dues are now being accepted. Cash payments are now a thing of the past – to avoid the need to make cash deposits.

Rotary logo pins were brought by **BRUCE** from Calgary for every member. Very Nice!

PROGRAM



GLORIA HOM
kindly
introduced our

speaker who was a representative of the Counterintelligence Branch of the Federal Bureau of Investigation who is assigned to the FBI's San Francisco Division in its Palo Alto office. He asked that we respect the sensitivity of his work by omitting his name from this report. His focus was the role of Counterintelligence in confronting Economic Espionage.

The FBI is the government's lead agency in dealing with all aspects of Counterintelligence: Protecting the secrets of all US intelligence agencies from external attack; guarding the nation's infrastructure; defending against foreign intelligence agents; and protecting America against weapons of mass destruction.

"Economic espionage" can be defined as the state-sponsored theft of trade secrets. By far the most active country for this form of espionage is the People's Republic of China, which has declared "very publicly" what kind of information it wants to obtain. It can act in any of several ways: By recruiting ordinary American businesspeople; through investments in US companies by Chinese-owned entities, often firms owned by the army or other units of government; through trained intelligence operatives; and via "talent plans," whereby Beijing invests in the career of an individual who agrees to

bring home information as part of his or her career.

Legally, trade secrets can be any form of confidential information that its owner takes reasonably diligent steps to protect. They can be stolen in emails sent from within a company to private external accounts; by external devices like plug-in drives; or by hacking and "spearfishing" (a phishing attack that's engineered for a specific individual). They can be passed along at professional conferences, during visits from overseas delegations, or in the course of foreign travel, even brief stops in Canada or Mexico.... Defensive strategies now include digital loss protection software, careful management of travel, and "following the money," which might mean observing that an employee has acquired an unusually expensive car, boat or vacation home.

In Q&A: An employee's motivation to become a spy can include not only financial incentives but a feeling that his or her work is not appreciated.... The Trump Administration has appointed a new FBI Director and Deputy Director in Washington, but has not made significant changes in the San Francisco Division....

MEETING

MEETING ADJOURNED

President BRUCE closed the meeting with thanks to our speaker for the work he does.

MEETING VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: Thank you to the two Greeters!
Welcome Desk: Rebecca Gerald
A/V: Ben Threlkeld
Pinion Writer: Hal Mickelson
Pinion Editor: Ginny Lear

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

July 21 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Ken Yeager Prof. of Political Science, Cal State San Jose <i>Topic: Gay Rights and Run, Baby, Run</i>
July 28 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	David Mariani, Mariani Investments <i>Topic: The Imperiled Honeybee and the Emergence of the Bee Bank</i>
August 4 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Zareen Khan, author and restaurateur, in conversation with our own Henrietta Burrough
August 11 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Herb Ritter, District Governor, 5170 Topic: Plans for 2025-2026