

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

August 4, 2025
Writer: Betsy Bechtel

UNITE
FOR
GOOD

Celebrating 103 years of Service

UNITE FOR GOOD 2025-2026

WELCOME: President **BRUCE GEE** opened the meeting and named "Zoomers" and "Roomers" waved back.

CHARLIE WEIDANZ came to ask for guest introductions: **RALPH ADAMS** introduced Dan Barritt, a volunteer at Stevenson House.

KATHY TORGENSEN introduced Elizabeth Wells, the CEO for Foundation for a College Education.



STEVE gave a farewell to us, and said he has been in touch with 3 Rotary Clubs in the Richmond area, and hopes to continue his membership there.



Our best wishes to **STEVE!**

STEVE MADSEN DAY!

PRESIDENT BRUCE called **STEVE MADSEN** to come forward. STEVE is an 18 year member, who is leaving the club to move to Virginia to be close to his daughter and family. He was greeted with bubbles (look closely at the photo) and given local gifts: BRUCE'S pistachios, a Giants jersey, and a hat with **S** for **STEVE** (but really Stanford). He was recognized for his quiet service as Sergeant at Arms, setting up the club room at every meeting when at the Elks Club, ushering at Palo Alto Players and so much more. BRUCE noted that STEVE was mentioned in 500 Pinions 133 times! Good research BRUCE!



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

RANDA HOFFMAN

spoke about the significance of the Rotary wheel where the spokes are important for keeping the wheel round, while the central hub represents Rotary's core values which pulls us all together. She asked us what kind of spoke are we in the club?



LE LEVY MEMORIAL BIKE RIDE & LUNCH

HERSH DAVIS told us about the coming memorial bike ride on September 21st. Meet at 9:45 at Judy's house. The group will bike



up to Rosotti's Alpine Inn, 3915 Alpine Rd., Portola Valley, to enjoy lunch together. Non bikers are welcome to join the group here in friendship and sharing memories of **LE**. Thanks, HERSH!

ROTARY LIFE HACKS

New member **TIM MISNER** demonstrated his life hack on how to cut an onion. He came prepared with a hefty bag to show the best way to handle an onion. A sharp knife made sharp with his knife sharpener, goggles if you slice five onions or more, and a paring knife for peeling off the outer peel. Next he taught us to never cut off the end of the onion as the end holds the onion together while you are slicing. Finally cut across onion and then start dicing. President **BRUCE** thanked **TIM** saying this hack "brought tears to his eyes!"



PROGRAM

DANA TOM introduced today's speaker, Zareen Khan who was interviewed by our member **HENRIETTA BURROUGHS**. Well done, HENRIETTA! Zareen grew up in Karachi, Pakistan in difficult conditions. She met her husband there in middle school.



Her parents encouraged her to attend college where she earned a Bachelor's degree and MBA in Pakistan. When she and her husband came to the United States she earned a Master's degree in economics which led to a 12 year career in the corporate world. She loved the Indian food of her childhood and cooked it for friends which then led to catering, teaching others to cook, and eventually to her highly successful restaurant, **Zareen's** on California Avenue in Palo Alto, which opened in 2014.

She won a Palo Alto Tall Tree Award in 2024 for **Outstanding Business**.

Palo Alto Online wrote, "According to the restaurant's nomination papers, the restaurant is being honored for its contributions to the community, which include delivering free food to first responders and hospital workers during Covid, making its dining room available for use by community groups and providing health care, train passes and bus passes to its employees."

This year, she released a cookbook, **Zareen's Pakistani Kitchen: Recipes from a Well-Fed Childhood**, which furthers her mission of supporting and empowering women. Half of the earnings from cookbook sales will go to eight charities she supports.

Zareen gave 24 copies of the book to Rotary to sell for \$50 each, benefitting our Palo Alto Charities. The first 12 were quickly snapped up, with 12 more to come. Thank you, Zareen, for your generosity to us and so many others.



MEETING ADJOURNED

President BRUCE closed the meeting at 1:30 with thanks to our speaker and to our members for attending. AND, **BRUCE** mentioned that the **September paella party is now September 4th, 5:30**.

On Thursday. Still room if you would like to attend. \$75, supports PA Rotary Charities. Friends welcome. Vegetarian option, also.

MEETING VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: Patty McGuigan, Tim Misner
Welcome Desk: Rebecca Geraldi, Matt Dolan
Hybrid Host: Dana Tom
Pinion Writer: Betsy Bechtel
Pinion Editor: Ginny Lear

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

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| August 11 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting | Herb Ritter, District Governor, 5170 Topic: Plans for 2025-2026 |
| August 18 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting | ERIC JENSEN, leads us in a Hands On, Sleeves Up Project |
| August 25 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting | STEVE EMSLIE, presents 3 NEW MEMBER TALKS |
| September 1st LABOR DAY NO Meeting | Post and Retire Flags on University Avenue |