

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

August 25, 2025  
Writer: Geoff Ziman

UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD

Celebrating 103 years of Service

## UNITE FOR GOOD 2025-2026

After the usual Roomers – Zoomers greetings opener, President **BRUCE** had **CHARLIE WEINDANZ** introduce three Rotary visitors. They were Sveinn Magnusson from the Reykjavik, Iceland Rotary Club as well as Mike Schwartz and Sophie Tsang from the Palo Alto University (AKA “Other”) Rotary Club. Great to have you all visit!

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

**STEVE EMSLIE** reminded us of the importance of our National Parks and how the 63 of them are a special treasure for all people for all time.



## PRESIDENTS CLUB

**CASH ALAEE** gave to acknowledge the good work of the Board, his missed meetings and to announce that he would be going away for a while to Turkey. **JUDY KLEINBERG** gave to honor her 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and her oldest grandchild, Larry making record time in a summer camp lake swim. Not to be outdone, **JACK WOODSON** gave because he and his wife Jolaine were celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. **REBECCA GERALDI** gave to honor **DANA TOM**'s birthday and the success of her two graduate children in finding jobs. **AMY YANG** also gave to honor the birthday of **DANA TOM**. **BEN THRELKELD** joined to tell us about the “Service Above Speed” half triathlon team that consists of

himself (Bike), **LINNET KWOK** (Swim) and **JON STOUMEN** (Run),

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**JULIE JEROME** announced that a get-well card was being circulated for **MATT DOLAN** who is recovering from a lung problem. A slide photograph was shown of street chalk art at the Palo Alto Arts Festival last weekend that featured art work from an artist our club supported.

Members were reminded of the **LE LEVY** Memorial Bike Ride taking place on September 21st at 9:45 and for the Paella Party on September 4. The next **TGIF** Party will take place at Terry and **MIKE McMAHON**'s home on Friday, September 26 at 5:30 PM. The presence of SF resident and our Honorary Member **MIKE COUCH** on Zoom today was noted.

Members are warmly invited to join the patriotic crew that will be putting up flags on University Avenue on **Labor Day**. Meet at 8 AM at the corner of University and Webster and/or at 5 PM at the corner of University and Emerson.

**LINNET KWOK** encouraged members to sign up for the next Club Pickle Ball Event scheduled for October 4 – 5. This will be our second annual fund raising/Rotary awareness fun event. Stay tuned for more details.

**GINNY LEAR** made a strong request for additional members to step forward to join the dedicated group writing the weekly Pinions which are so important in providing a record of the club activities. Turns for being a writer usually occur at about 8 week intervals. Only summaries, not transcripts of the speakers'

talks are needed. Contact Ginny if you think you could help with this vital club activity.

## BLUE BADGE PRESENTATION

**LINNET KWOK** explained the requirements to become a blue badge member before



President **BRUCE GEE** presented a blue badge to **RENE MORGAN**. Rene is the widow of former esteemed member **DON MORGAN** and she expressed her pleasure at becoming an established club member. Her sponsor was **BRUCE SWENSON**.

## PROGRAM : NEW MEMBER TALKS

**STEVE EMSLIE** introduced the three new members giving their talks today.

First up was **KATHY TORGERSEN** who had been proposed by **LEE LIPPERT** and **DANA TOM**. She started her presentation with photos of the dangerous journey undertaken 900 miles into Ukraine to deliver comfort items to front line troops. This is a current special interest. She was born in the German community in Chicago



where she got involved in political activity at an early age. This has led to a career in assisting in political campaigns. Among others, she has been involved in helping Anna Eschoo and Joe Simitian obtain their positions. Her feats in triathlons have included the Hawaiian Ironman and the Donna Trail. Kathy's father was instrumental in the adoption of the national "Bike Lane" sign. Her final admonition was "If you have an idea, run with it."

**KANIKA SABHARWAL** took us through her journey from her roots in New Delhi, India to Silicon Valley.

With an MBA degree she started work with leaders, diplomats and business tycoons. Then her marriage brought her to the United States. A change in the H4- spouse visa laws eventually allowed her to take on paid work and



facilitated a move to California. From volunteering work in the community she began to feel at home. Now she serves as a senior VP at Heritage Bank and is on the boards of local nonprofits. Her mantra these days is "Home isn't where you are born – it is where you choose to serve."

**AMY YANG** grew up in a rural area of Southern China – Jiangxa Province. She went to college in Shanghai. She came to the United States for graduate school at Oregon State in 1995. The last 16 years she has been in Palo Alto.



Her three children were born in the United States. One of her two adult sons works as a software engineer at Equinex, the other is in marketing. Currently, she works at a small company as head of finance. She co-founded the Palo Alto Chinese Parent's Club in 2017 as well as being a long time Palo Alto High School volunteer. She is also on the board of the Media Art Center there. Her other interests are reading, hiking and being in a travelling women's choir. An additional special interest is in Qigong. This is a Chinese system of coordinated body posture, breathing and meditation for health, spirituality and martial arts which she demonstrated to the members.

## MEETING ADJOURNED

**President BRUCE** closed the meeting at 1:30 with appreciation for our three very talented and interesting new members!



## MEETING VOLUNTEERS

**Greeters: Charlie Weidanz, Kanika Sabharwal**

**Welcome Desk: Rebecca Gerald**

**Hybrid Host: Ben Threlkeld**

**Microphone: Mike Fogarty**

**Pinion Writer: Geoff Ziman**

**Pinion Editor: Ginny Lear**

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

September 1st <b>LABOR DAY</b> <b>NO Meeting</b>	<b>Post and Retire Flags on University Avenue</b> 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.
September 4 5:30 PM	<b>Palo Alto Rotary Charities Paella Dinner</b> Tickets are still available - \$75/person at meetings or <a href="https://square.link/u/Ylixspf">https://square.link/u/Ylixspf</a>
September 8 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	<b>STEVE EMSLIE, presents</b> 3 NEW MEMBER TALKS Randa Hoffman, Suzanne Jain, Kristina Lugo
September 15 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	<b>Charlie Enright, CEO of US Sailing</b> Topic; My Personal Journey to US Sailing
September 21 9:45 am Bike Ride 11:15 meet for Visits & Lunch	<b>Le Levy Memorial Ride</b> Bicycle ride in honor Le Levy. Meet at his house at 9:45 AM. NonBikers can meet the gang at Rosotti's Alpine Inn around 11:15
September 26 5:30-7:30 pm TGIF	<b>TGIF: Home of Mike &amp; Terry McMahon, Palo Alto</b> Please bring a beverage to share
September 29 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	<b>Sumbul Ali-Karamali, author of The Muslim Next Door &amp; more</b> Topic: Understanding Your Muslim Neighbors: Chai, Star Trek, and Fasting for Ramadan