

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

September 9, 2025
Writer: Jack Cabaness

UNITE
FOR
GOOD

Celebrating 103 years of Service

UNITE FOR GOOD 2025-2026A

After the Roomers and Zoomers exchanged greetings, PRESIDENT **BRUCE GEE**

acknowledged **NOE AGUILAR**, a Baylands food server who has been a fixture at Monday lunches ever since the club first started meeting at Baylands. NOE plans to return to his native Guatemala, and our new server will be **Chris**. President Bruce also introduced Sophia Tsang, who was visiting from the Palo Alto University Club. **ANNE CRIBBS** introduced Theodore Simpson, a new guest.



entire route of the 1769 Portola Expedition, a story which is told in his recent book *Alta California: From San Diego to San Francisco, A Journey on Foot to Rediscover the Golden State*.

PRESIDENTS CLUB

KAREN RHODE gave in honor of **ERIC JENSEN** for doing 2 hours of handyman work which he offered as a live auction prize, and she bought. He won't give out his number so no one can call him. "He does excellent work", said KAREN.

PATTY MCGUIGAN gave in order to challenge President Bruce to read another book, which happened to be one she has written and newly published: *Scraps Build a Pile: Forging a Path in Silicon Valley Real Estate*, in which she recounts her experience as a woman building her real estate business. Her book launch is September 18th at The Woman's Club of Palo Alto. No charge, with snacks and beverages. RSVP to patty.mcguigan@nrmk.com

LIZ KNISS gave in honor of **KATHY TORGERSEN'S** September 9th

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY



LEANNAH HUNT talked about the importance of goals, and how a goal without a plan was simply a wish. She also said that discipline was the bridge between goals and accomplishments. She then described how Nick Neely followed through on his goal of hiking the



milestone birthday. **KATHY** noted that she and **GINNY LEAR** were born on the same day and year. The Club quickly learned that **ELIZABETH SANTANA** has a



September 8th birthday - TODAY! It was soon a club songfest!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUZANNE JAIN reminded Club members to sign up to volunteer for the Pickle Ball Event in Mitchell Park on October 4 – 5. See the flyer at the end of the Pinion.

LINNET KWOK announced that additional volunteers are still needed for the Pickle Ball tournament on October 4 – 5.



LINNET KWOK announced that the **SPEED OVER SERVICE** Rotary Half Iron Man team of **LINNET, BEN THRELKELD and JON**

STOUMAN had completed their race in 7 hours and 19 minutes in Santa Cruz just the day before.

PINION WRITERS SHUFFLE!

GINNY LEAR shared that after her earlier announcement four people have volunteered to become Pinion writers. **JACK CABANESS** was writing his first Pinion for this meeting. **RANDA HOFFMAN, KRISTINA LUGO,** and **KANIKA SABARWAL** also signed up.

Retiring Pinion writers are: **TRISH BUBENIK, MATT DOLAN, DUANE KALAR, GEOFF ZIMAN.** All great contributors!

Continuing writers are: **BETSY BECHTEL, STEVE EMSLIE, ERIC JENSEN, HAL MICKELSON, SALLY TOMLINSON**

PROGRAM : NEW MEMBER TALKS

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

SUZANNE JAIN recounted how she was born in a three-bedroom Eichler in Palo Alto, but grew up near the Purdue University campus in Lafayette, Indiana. She then returned to Palo Alto to study at Stanford, then worked at Hewlett-Packard, and then went back east to get a MBA from Harvard Business School. Her next job at CISCO was the “job of a lifetime” and was also where she met her husband. She shared that her lifelong passion was riding horses and how her daughters Sabrina and Sofia share her passion for horses, while son Derek plays tennis. In recent years she has served on several boards, and her family became somewhat famous for making great Christmas cards each year. She later told how her current passion is working on their lake house in Wisconsin. Finally, she described how the current chapter of her life is being an empty nester (sort of, her son is a current Stanford undergrad). But her two daughters have definitely left the nest: her oldest daughter works at Amazon and her youngest daughter (middle child) is studying at the London School of Economics.



KRISTINA LUGO grew up in Poughkeepsie, New York and during those years she was deeply influenced by her father’s Greek family traditions and by her mother’s roots in the dairy farm culture in upstate New York. She counts it a blessing that she grew up in an intergenerational and multicultural home. Her great aunt lived in their home while she was growing up, and her passion is “supporting older adults



and their family caregivers.” She also said that “aging is a privilege” and “It’s my privilege to make it a tiny bit easier.” Fittingly, Kristina works at Avenidas, which is dedicated to “re-inventing aging.” Kristina then shared a top 8 list about herself: One: she always says yes, which is how she became a Pinion writer! Two: she loves hiking. Three: she loves searching for sea glass. Four: loves reading. Five: avid volunteer. Six: loves playing cards with her family. Seven: as an introvert, she values solo time. And Eight: time for wine.

RANDA HOFFMAN, pronounced RAN-dah, not RHON-duh, is an entrepreneur and the current owner of Radiant Wealth Planning and Radiant Tax Services, and entrepreneurship runs in her family. She was born in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, grew up in Amman, Jordan, and moved to the United States at the age of

seventeen. So, why doesn’t she speak English with an accent? Because she was raised speaking English as her first language, and Arabic is actually her second language. Randa also shared poignantly about difficult aspects of her childhood. How did she end up in Palo Alto? She lived in Bellevue, Washington and Newport Beach, California, but she didn’t like it in those places. She then took on some housesitting and pet sitting gigs, and house sat for six weeks at a home in Palo Alto and fell in love with it here. She finally settled here in September 2024. She concluded by sharing the quote: “The power of Rotary can expand an idea” and showing a picture of her pup Rosie.

STEVE EMSLIE concluded by musing that the New Member Talks are by far the most popular program!



MEETING ADJOURNED

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

MEETING VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: Betsy Bechtel, Dana Tom
Welcome Desk: Rebecca Gerald
Hybrid Host: Dana Tom
Pinion Writer: Jack Cabaness
Pinion Editor: Ginny Lear

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

September 15 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Charlie Enright, CEO of US Sailing Topic; My Personal Journey to US Sailing
September 21 9:45 am Bike Ride 11:15 meet for Visits & Lunch	Le Levy Memorial Ride Bicycle ride in honor of LELAND LEVY.. Meet at his & Judy’s 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	TGIF: Home of Mike & Terry McMahon, Palo Alto Please bring a beverage to share
September 29 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Sumbul Ali-Karamali, author of The Muslim Next Door & more Topic: Understanding Your Muslim Neighbors: Chai, Star Trek, and Fasting for Ramadan
October 4-5 Mitchell Park, PA	PA Rotary + PA Pickleball Club Tournament





Rotary
Club of Palo Alto

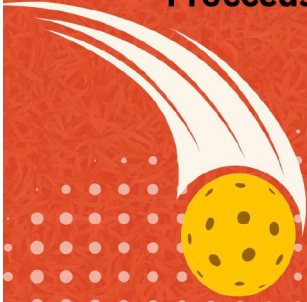


FROM COURT TO COMMUNITY

PALO ALTO ROTARY'S SECOND PICKLEBALL FUNDRAISER TOURNAMENT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PALO ALTO PICKLEBALL CLUB

Proceeds will go to the Rotary Annual Charity Fund to support local needs

REGISTER NOW
OCT 4-OCT 5, 2025
8:00AM - 6:00PM



Mitchell Park
600 E Meadow Dr.
Palo Alto, CA

Register and
more
information
Scan Below



Pricing Per Person

\$65	Through August 31
\$80	Through September 15
\$95	Through October 4
\$15	For each additional event

<https://tinyurl.com/PaloAltoRotaryPB2025>

TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS

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