

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

September 15, 2025  
Writer: Eric Jensen

UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD

Celebrating 103 years of Service

## UNITE FOR GOOD 2025-2026A

While Roomers were lunching and mingling, 19 Zoomers were inspired by **ULLRICH SCHWERTSCHLAG** and **JOOP VERBAKEN**, who both performed in July at St. George Cathedral in Ano Syros, Greece. You might see them towering in the back row, [here](#).

At the **10th meeting** of his year as Rotary President, **BRUCE GEE** enthusiastically welcomed everybody to Palo Alto Rotary!

President BRUCE thanked dining staff, Chris, who was serving the club in Noe's place. Continuing the gratitude, President BRUCE remarked that the club is fortunate to have a hybrid format and thanked **BEN THRELKELD** and **DANA TOM** for doing all the work to make that work. Incoming President **CHARLIE WEIDANZ** led the visitor introductions and **JAKE YOO** introduced his wife, Ester, who was participating on Zoom.

**2ND Annual Rotary Charity Pickle Ball Tourney with Palo Alto Pickleball Club, at Mitchell Park, Palo Alto. October 4-5 See Flyer at tend of Pinion for Details!**



## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY



**NINA MOORE** brought the Thought of the Day via ChatGPT (with a nod to technology guru **STEVE EMSLIE**). NINA noted that today is International Democracy Day, reminding us that democracy

is about being heard, not just voting. Democracy relies on trust, active participation, and shared responsibility. President BRUCE emphasized the importance of embracing this thought not just today but every day.

## PRESIDENTS CLUB

**MARK STEVENSON** joined the PC to promote his new book published last month: [Adventure Mindset 22 Principles for Growing and Thriving amidst Chaos & Change](#). MARK highlighted Principle #12 as the Rotarians principle: purpose and meaningful service. **DUANE KALAR** joined to credit Auctioneer **ELIZABETH SANTANA** for raising a lot of money at the Gamble Gardens fundraiser. **NANCY PETERS** joined to celebrate 90 years around the sun at one of her happy places, [Salmon Lake Lodge](#) in the picturesque Sierras, where her granddaughter worked for the summer. **TODD LEWIS** joined in honor of his son's marriage to the love of his life in Truckee. TODD is riding high from this weekend's event

and President BRUCE wasted no time in recommending TODD double his contribution in celebration.

**JAKE YOO** joined in honor of mentor, [Jim Van Horne](#), at his passing. Jim was a mentor to many. JAKE closed with a heartfelt "Thank you Jim!"

## HACK OF THE WEEK

For the forgetful or absentminded, **RALPH ADAMS** brought us [A.I.R. Attention, intention](#), and one other concept that can't be remembered right now...oh yes, "**Retention**"



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Living "Service beyond Self", **BOB MCCOWAN, Tim Gee, DANA TOM**, Nancy Kawakita, **BETSY BECHTEL, GINNY LEAR, MARY ANN GEE, RANDA HOFFMAN, KAREN RHODE, KRISTINA LUGO, and SUZANNE JAIN** all ushered at a weekend showing of Palo Alto Player's performance of "[Gypsy](#)". They all recommend you go see it while you can.

**PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT October 4 - 5, sign up now to volunteer or to play! It will be fun! Flyer with all info at the end of the Pinion.**

## WORLD COMMUNITY SERVICE UPDATE

WORLD COMMUNITY SERVICE (WCS) update: CO-CHAIR **STANS KLEIJNEN** announced that the committee recently awarded \$40,000 in



small cash grants to twelve deserving non-government organizations (non-profits). Applications come from friends and family of the committee with the requirement that the mission fits into the Rotary seven categories of service: promoting peace, fighting disease, providing clean water, sanitation, and hygiene, saving mothers and children, supporting education, and/or growing local economies. Within the committee are the Champions for the non-profits to include **STANS, CO-CHAIR MIKE REYNOLDS, CASH ALAEE, ANNE CRIBBS, KATHY TORGERSON, SUSAN LUTTER, TIM WATSON, ART STAUFFER, MATT DOLAN.**

## PROGRAM

### JAKE YOO

introduced today's speaker via Zoom, [Charlie Enright](#), CEO of [U.S. Sailing](#). US Sailing is the national governing body for the sport of sailing in the United States. Its mission is to provide leadership, integrity, and growth for sailing across the country. The 501(c)(3) oversees a wide range of programs and



### Charlie Enright

American sailor



Source: US Sailing

events designed to ensure a fair and accessible playing field for all sailors, from beginners to experienced competitors. The association is 130 years old, based out of Bristol, Rhode Island,

and has a staff of 40.

Charlie's talk was titled "**Charting a New Course of US Sailing**" which spoke to making strategic changes to the sport to include improving core programs and services, getting back into the Olympic ecosystems, leveraging technology both in the boat and in administration of the association, and growing financial sustainability by leaning on the philanthropic community. Charlie remarked US Sailing, today, is not as competitive as it has been in the past. When Los Angeles hosted the Olympic games in 1984, US Sailing medaled no less than silver in 7 different categories.

For the upcoming Olympics in Los Angeles in 2028, kites and windsurfers will compete in Long Beach while traditional boats, including catamarans, will compete in San Pedro. Crews are out on the world circuit preparing for those games. For the upcoming Olympics, races will be shortened and concise for television viewing.

Q&A:

Q: **JUDY KLEINBERG** asked about wind technology and drones:

A: Cap Gemini can report to sailors the conditions and captures the information for projecting on the screen. Drones are a big part of coaching.

Q: **KAREN RHODE** asked about gender differentiating in the Olympics?

A: Men and women can compete in many of the same events. Some sailing categories will be gendered.

Q: **HENRIETTA BURROUGHS** asked if there will be self-sailing boats (like self-driving cars)?

A: Probably, but not right now. There are some aspects that can be automated, even today, but 90% of sailing is balancing the power of the wind with the water, which is a challenge to automate.

Q: **CHARLIE WEIDANZ** asked for the status of youth sailing today.

A: The US has done very well in youth sailing but internationally it is not where it needs to be. Young sailors are not medaling in the Olympics and that can be discouraging for today's youth. The current ecosystem has not provided an effective path from youth sailing to adult sailing that considers the long and slow learning curve and the kids desire for

immediate gratification (phrased as opportunity cost).

For more questions, email [charlieenright@ussailing.org](mailto:charlieenright@ussailing.org)

## MEETING ADJOURNED

**President BRUCE** closed the meeting at 1:30 with appreciation to all for their attendance and to our excellent speaker. Thank you!

## MEETING VOLUNTEERS

**Greeters: Elizabeth Santana, Dave Smullin**

**Welcome Desk: Rebecca Gerald**

**Hybrid Host: Ben Threlkeld**

**Microphone: Jack Cabaness**

**Pinion Writer: Eric Jensen**

**Pinion Editor: Ginny Lear**

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

September 21 9:45 am Bike Ride 11:15 meet for Visits & Lunch	<b>Le Levy Memorial Ride</b> 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 22 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	<b>Agustin Fuentes, Princeton Professor of Anthropology</b> Topic: Sex is a Spectrum: The Biological Limits of the Binary
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
October 4-5 Mitchell Park, PA	<b>PA Rotary + PA Pickleball Club Tournament</b>
October 6 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	<b>3 New Members Talk: YUDY DENG, MIKE GULLARD, TIM MISNER</b>



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	<i>Through August 31</i>
\$80	<i>Through September 15</i>
\$95	<i>Through October 4</i>
\$15	<i>For each additional event</i>

<https://tinyurl.com/PaloAltoRotaryPB2025>

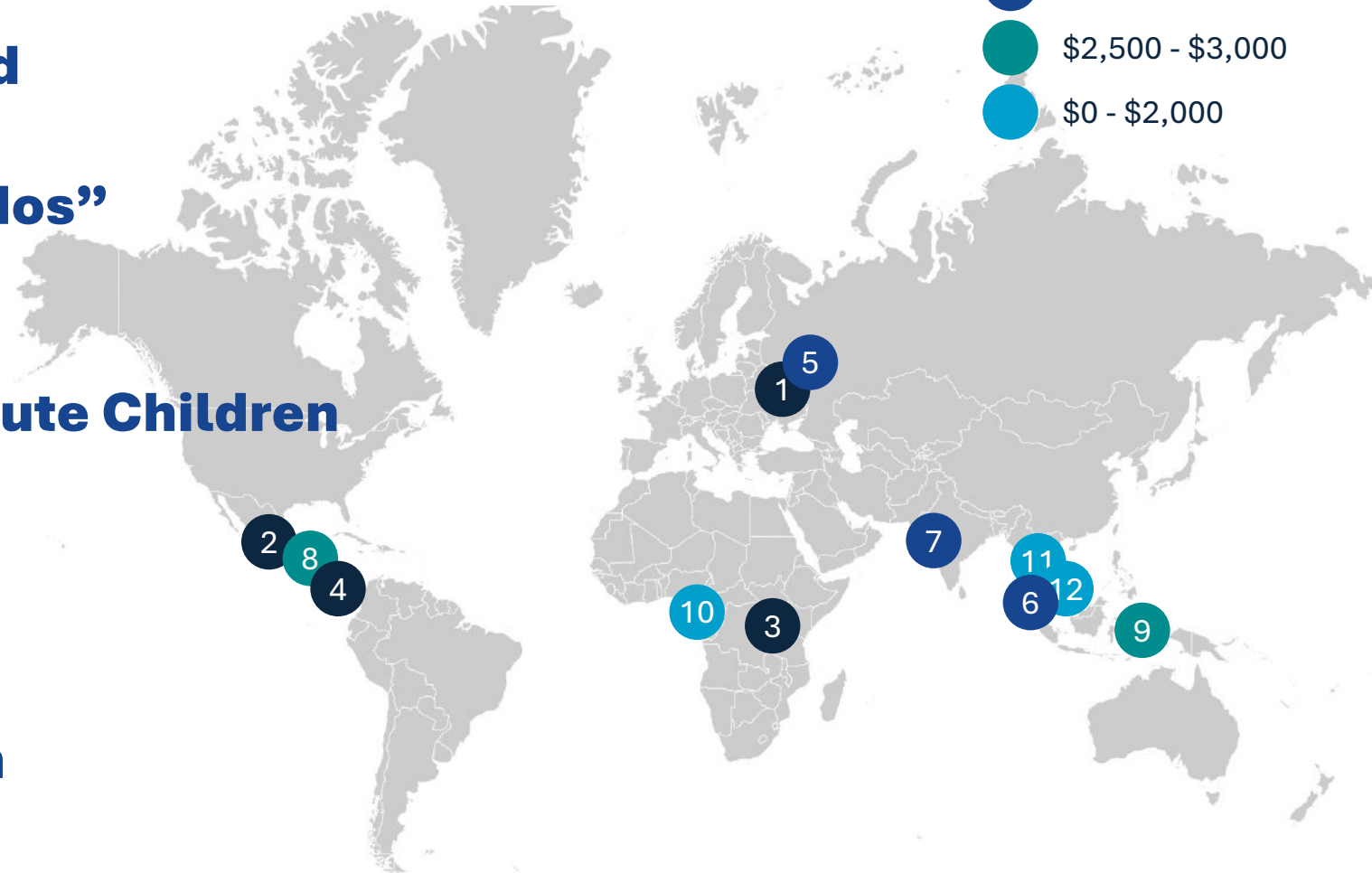
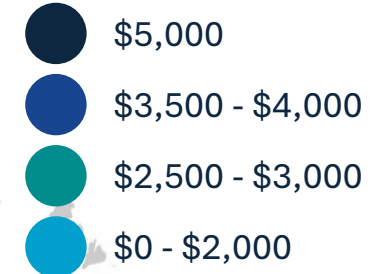
## **TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS**

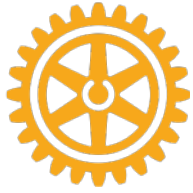
Ayla Bell | Jory Bell  
[td@paloaltopickleballclub.org](mailto:td@paloaltopickleballclub.org)



# WCS small grants approved for 2025-2026

- 1 **Assist Ukraine**
- 2 **Mayan Mothers' Food Fund**
- 3 **Oliveseed Foundation**
- 4 **OLYPAN - "Heroes Olvidados"**
- 5 **Save the Orphans**
- 6 **Support4Autism**
- 7 **Welfare Society for Destitute Children**
- 8 **Child Aid**
- 9 **Peduli Learning Center**
- 10 **Ape Action Africa**
- 11 **EcoThailand Foundation**
- 12 **Peace Culture Foundation**





## Peduli Learning Center

Bali, Indonesia



\$3,000

Peduli is dedicated to empowering underprivileged children through education. By renovating the school building and adding a sports/recreational area for the students, the educational and community services will be improved.



Champion  
**Cash Alae**

## EcoThailand Foundation

Koh Phangan, Thailand



\$2,000

EcoThailand empowers communities and supports environmental sustainability. Eco Thailand runs workshops, in partnership with Raitiaviset Organic Farm, to educate local Thai adults, local school children and foreign tourists in sustainability, food security, circular economics and biodiversity.



Champion  
**Cash Alae**

## Peace Culture Foundation

Chiang Mai, Thailand

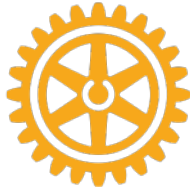


\$1,000

The Peace Culture Foundation addresses the dangers of online grooming within Thailand's youth community via Workshops aimed at prevention and early intervention.



Champion  
**Cash Alae**



# WCS small grants approved for 2025-2026

## OLYPAN - “Heroes Olvidados”

Panama City, Panama



\$5,000

OLYPAN is the national association of Olympic athletes of Panama (one of 108 national associations). This project is effectively a startup to create workshops, given by alumni Olympians, to educate school kids in underprivileged neighborhoods, on the Olympic values. This program is being duplicated by other national Olympic associations.



Champion

**Anne Cribbs**



## Assist Ukraine

Ukraine



\$5,000

Assist Ukraine delivers life-saving medical supplies and communication equipment (electronic warfare) to the soldiers along the frontlines. High capacity power stations and power banks ensure a continuous, silent source of power.



Champion

**Kathy Torgersen**



## Support4Autism

Samui-Phangan, Thailand



\$3,500

The Learning Centre for Magical Autistical Children supports the autistic children in the community as well as improves the facilities and the courses, classes and enrichment programs, incl. art classes, Yoga and a weekly swimming session.



Champion

**Cash Alae**

## Ape Action Africa

Mefou Park, Cameroon



\$500

Ape Action Africa will administer a micro loan program, set up as a Community Reserve Fund, for 25 villages adjacent to the Mefou Park. Local women will be selected to participate to help develop selling their agricultural products.



Champion

**Susan Lutter**

## Child Aid

Quiche, Guatemala



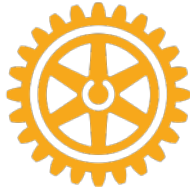
\$2,500

Child Aid works in Guatemala to lift Mayan children out of intergenerational poverty using quality primary education as the lever. The multi-year program of teacher training provides school-wide workshops, coaching, book clubs and bilingual learning.



Champion

**Tim Watson**



# WCS small grants approved for 2025-2026



## Mayan Mothers' Food Fund

Santa Cruz la Laguna, Guatemala



\$5,000

The Mayan Mothers' Food Fund donates weekly healthy food and periodic medical assistance to local elders in need. Beyond food, the program improves lives through health and comfort by facilitating cataract surgeries, stabilizing blood pressure, distributing mattresses, blankets and beds.



Champion  
**Art Stauffer**



## Welfare Society for Destitute Children

Mumbai, India



\$4,000

The Society educates children irrespective of caste, creed and community. The program focuses on promoting employment, education, personal development and volunteering for grades 9-12. In Grade 9 many students drop out because there is no longer government support, but they still lack the necessary job skills.



Champion

**Stans Kleijnen**

## Save the Orphans

Moldova



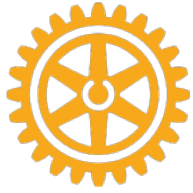
\$3,500

Save the Orphans is dedicated to improving the lives of social orphans and impoverished youth and families. It includes on-site visits to orphanages and schools to spread awareness of the dangers of sex trafficking. They also focus on computer programming and robotics training programs.



Champion

**Matt Dolan**



# WCS small grants approved for 2025-2026

## Oliveseed Foundation

Maasai Mara, Kenya



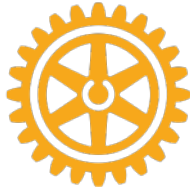
\$5,000

Oliveseed's mission is to uplift disadvantaged rural communities through literacy and educational enrichment. This year the focus is on economic empowerment of women and educating girls through a newly established Women's Work Center where local women create sanitary kits to keep teen girls in school.



Champion  
**Barb Mackraz (Los Altos RC)**  
**Stans Kleijnen**





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