

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

October 6, 2025  
Writer: Kanika Sabharwal

UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD

Celebrating 103 years of Service

## UNITE FOR GOOD 2025-2026A

President **BRUCE** welcomed attendees described the role of club president as a mix between an MC and air traffic controller. After the usual Roomers – Zoomers greetings,

**CHARLIE WEIDANZ** introduced three Rotary Visitors. They were Michelle Zhang from San Jose Rotary Club, Yi Zhang who sponsored the Pickleball Tournament last weekend and Ayla Bell from Palo Alto Pickleball Club. Thank you for joining us!



- **RANDA HOFFMAN** joined to promote 'Coffee with Rotarians' as a valuable networking activity.

## BLUE BADGE CEREMONY

**KRISTINA LUGO** (Sponsored by **STEVE PLAYER**) and **KATHY TORGENSEN** (Sponsored by **DANA TOM**) graduated to the Blue Badge. **LINNET KWOK** explained the requirements for becoming Blue Badge



## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

**CHARLIE WEIDANZ** reflected on Rotarians efforts to make the recent Pickleball Tournament a success. He delivered 'Do Good Anyway,' emphasizing the importance of kindness, honesty, perseverance, and community service despite challenges.

member. She thanked Steve and Dana for their mentorship and expressed appreciation for Kristina and Kathy's dedication towards Rotary.

## PRESIDENTS CLUB

- **DANA TOM** highlighted the value of vocational service and shared success from leading a new district-level leadership training series.
- **ANNE CRIBBS** joined President's Club to honor volunteers who contributed to the recent Pickleball Tournament's success with a special shout to Ayla Bell.

## PICKLE BALL 2.0

Event co-leads (**ANNE CRIBBS, LINNET KWOK & JOY OCHE**) and volunteers were recognized for organizing a successful and well-attended



pickleball tournament at Mitchell Park. Also, Palo Alto Pickle Ball Club was mentioned as one of the crown jewels of Palo Alto. Ayla Bell from Palo Alto Pickleball Club shared that over 3,321 unique person-to-person connections were estimated on Saturday, and over 4,371 on Sunday. The event promoted Rotary's values, built community, and raised \$8,022 in gross proceeds from tournament fees.

Ayla emphasized on elements of building a successful community: connection, participation and a shared purpose. She talked about the growing youth program, with plans to double youth memberships, aided by city-supported court access. Palo Alto Pickleball Club now has nearly 1,300 members, with 760 Palo Alto residents.



LINNET thanked Anne Cribbs for the great idea of community building through pickleball tournaments.

## CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMUNITY

Once again, **GREG HOOD** thanked Terry and **MIKE MCMAHON** for hosting last month's TGIF. **GREG** is seeking a host for October's TGIF social event.

## PROGRAM NEW MEMBER TALKS

**STEVE EMSLIE** invited three new members: **YUDY DENG, MIKE GULLARD and TIM MISNER** to share their stories for new member talks.

**YUDY DENG** talked about her journey from being born in Hunan, China and



later living in Shanghai, Hong Kong, England, Bellevue (WA), and now in Palo Alto. She shared about her experiences in civic engagement, her role in various community organizations, and her commitment to connecting diverse communities. She highlighted her work with the Society of Hearts Delight, her involvement with the Rotary Club, and her efforts in promoting arts, culture, and sports. Palo also discussed her plans to build a Chinese community center in the South Bay and her goal to bring together Chinese heritage and local community diversity through community centers. In addition, Yudy advocates for youth mental health and LGBTQ+ community.

**MIKE GULLARD** shared about growing up in Montana and then graduating at Stanford. He worked with Vista for minority economic development and later did management consulting for minority businesses. However, he always felt that his work in consulting wasn't quantifiable where he could see direct



results. This made him join Intel which went public in the same year. After Intel, Mike worked in small tech companies and then became a venture capitalist. He spent 20 years in the venture capital world and sat on many Boards. Mike also talked about his involvement with organizations like the Boys and Girls Club, Menlo College, and most recently with Peninsula Volunteers. He emphasized the importance of making consistent efforts to improve the world, like the Rotary Club's mission.

Mike also promoted his wife's new book: [Lake Crescent and Other Spirits by Pamela Gullard, that is now available on amazon.](#)

**TIM MISNER** shared his family history in Denmark and the US. He experienced multicultural upbringing and challenges. His mother had to put in a lot of energy while raising Tim's autistic brother. Tim's dad was a gifted mathematician and physicist while his mom



was gifted in terms of art & culture and social engagement. Tim got his mathematics degree from Yale. He talked about his lifelong engagement with sports (sailing, soccer coaching). He shared about his career at Sun Microsystems, Oracle, startup and work on graphics and email systems. Tim is married to Maya who studied at IIT Madras in India. They have three children who have now graduated and are all living in Brooklyn. He also talked about the time when they lived in India for about 18 months with infant twins. He described the culture of India as warm and emphasized how helpful was child-rearing support there. Reflecting at his journey so far, Tim highlighted the value of building friendships and the importance of caregivers.

### MEETING ADJOURNED

President **BRUCE** thanked the three members for their talks, and all of our members for their attendance and attention today. .

### MEETING VOLUNTEERS

- Greeters: Tim Misner, Duane Kalar**
- Welcome Desk: Rebecca Gerald**
- Hybrid Host: Dana Tom**
- Microphone: Charlie Weidanz**
- Pinion Writer: Kanika Sabharwal**
- Pinion Editor: Ginny Lear**

### UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS

October 13 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	<b>Marshall Burke, Associate Prof in the Doerr School of Sustainability</b> Topic: Climate Change, Is it Real and What to do about it.
October 20 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	<b>Bill Guttentag, Stanford GSB and film and TV writer-director</b> Topic: The Intersection of Art, Commerce, & Tech in Entertainment
October 27 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	<b>Bob Joss, The Philip H. Knight Professor and Dean, Emeritus, Stanford Business School</b> Topic: Leadership