

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

October 13, 2025
Writer: Hal Mickelson



Celebrating 103 years of Service

UNITE FOR GOOD 2025-2026



Roomers and Zoomers alike had an opportunity for informal fellowship before President **BRUCE GEE** rang the big bell and convened the October 13, 2025, meeting of the Rotary Club of Palo Alto.... Bruce reported that Immediate Past President **REBECCA**

GERALDI was busy in Oaxaca delivering wheelchairs on a Rotary service expedition....

CHARLIE WEIDANZ invited introductions from two visiting Rotarians, Pete Dailey, a member of Los Altos Rotary as well as Mayor of that neighborly city, and Chieko Nishio, a repeat visitor from Osaka South East....

GEOFF ZIMAN'S daughter Shoshana Shur was a guest in connection with a President's Club announcement from Geoff.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

ERIC JENSEN, also the meeting's Doorkeeper and Registrar, had a Thought for the Day from Nelson Mandela's autobiography, Long Walk to Freedom: "I am fundamentally an optimist. Part of being optimistic is keeping



one's head pointed toward the sun, one's feet moving forward. There were many dark moments when my faith in humanity was tested, but I would not and could not give myself up to despair. That way lies defeat and death."

PRESIDENTS CLUB

GEOFF ZIMAN explained that his daughter Shoshana was in town to help Geoff and his wife Ann celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary, for which he genially joined the President's Club to mark this exceptional milestone.

A story behind the story: When Geoff met Ann's father to seek his blessing for the marriage, the two men talked a bit about their



backgrounds, and they ascertained that Ann's father and Geoff's mother had both been students at Cambridge University in 1919 – and then Ann's father remembered that he had not only met Geoff's mother but had danced with her.

BLUE BADGE PRESENTATION

A Blue Badge was presented to **JON GOLDMAN**, with recognition for the support provided by **LIZ KNISS** as his sponsor.



ANNOUNCEMENTS/WE CARE for Members

JULIE JEROME circulated a greeting that expressed our best wishes for **ROB LANCEFIELD**, in rehabilitation at The Terraces.... Social Chair **GREG HOOD** called on members to consider hosting a TGIF event in the coming months.... Our speaker next week will be Bill Guttentag, twice an Oscar-winning director, with the story of Rule Breakers, the Afghan Girls' Robotics Team.

PROGRAM



BETSY BECHTEL introduced the afternoon's speaker, **Dr. Marshall Burke**, Associate Professor of Environmental and Social Science at Stanford's Doerr School of Sustainability as well as Senior Fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute

and the Woods Institute for the Environment. His topic: "Surviving and Thriving in a Changing Climate."

Dr. Burke began with two fundamental points: Yes, the world's climate is changing, and yes, it's because of us. He presented impressive information about the ambitious research and measurements that in his view establish those points beyond any doubt.... Global temperatures, flat in the 1920's and 30's, increased markedly over the most recent 70 years: On average, they've risen 1.5 degrees C and 3 degrees F. Warm air holds more moisture, so it now rains harder on rainy days even if total precipitation is not changing.... Cherry trees in Japan are blossoming two weeks earlier in the year than they did 1,000 years ago.

Ice cores from glaciers provide data about carbon dioxide in the atmosphere over millions of years in the past, and it's evident that our use of fossil fuels is pumping out CO2.... In the earliest centuries of industrialization, most CO2 came from Europe and the US, but China is now the world's largest emitter, and its emissions are

growing.... Per capita carbon dioxide emissions from the US are "not even close" to per capita numbers for Singapore and the Gulf states. We have reduced but not eliminated our



contributions to climate change in California and elsewhere in the US.... A century of wildfire suppression has resulted in the accumulation of fuels for fire in our forests.... Wildfires are not really "caused by" global warming, but climate change means wildfires

are more severe and more frequent; the heaviest impact on humans has come from breathing in smoke.



MEETING ADJOURNED

President **BRUCE** thanked Marshall for his great information, and all of our members for their attendance and attention today.

MEETING VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: Dave Smullin, Sally Tomlinson
Welcome Desk: Eric Jensen
Hybrid Host: Ben Threlkeld
Pinion Writer: Hal Mickelson
Pinion Editor: Ginny Lear

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

October 20 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Bill Guttentag, Stanford GSB and film and TV writer-director Topic: The Intersection of Art, Commerce, & Tech in Entertainment
October 27 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Bob Joss, The Philip H. Knight Professor and Dean, Emeritus, Stanford Business School Topic: Leadership
November 3 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Long Term Member Talks: EJ Hong, Len Ely, Mark Stevenson
November 10 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting	Barb Mackraz, founder and ED of Oliveseed World Community Service