

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

October 20, 2025
Writer: Kristina Lugo



Celebrating 103 years of Service

UNITE FOR GOOD 2025-2026



President **BRUCE GEE** rang the bell to convene today's meeting. With a large turnout on Zoom, Bruce noted the wonderful energy in the room and shared how much he loves the fellowship that happens before and after our meetings. Roomers and Zoomers greet each other.

CHARLIE WEIDANZ welcomed our visiting Rotarians. Sophie Tsang from Palo Alto University Rotary joined us once again, and Bruce joked that with her frequent attendance, we may need to get her a purple badge in her honor! We also welcomed Neysa Fligor, visiting from the Los Altos Rotary Club. Neysa said she is currently running for County Tax Assessor.

CHARLIE called on guest Nancy Coupal, owner of Coupa Café, who shared that she hopes to join Rotary at some point in the future. In the meantime, she expressed her appreciation for the work Rotary does and her intention to continue supporting our efforts as she is able.

BRUCE also thanked Soshana Shur, daughter of **GEOFF ZIMAN**, and friend of Palo Alto Rotary, for joining today on Zoom.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

E. J. HONG offered today's Thought by reflecting on our speaker, Bill Guttentag, and his newest movie "Rulebreakers". She shared that while the film focuses on empowering women, it's ultimately about continuing to challenge those who stand in the way of humanity and fighting for what's right. The world may not be perfect, but it's important to continue striving for the good — and that, she reminded us, is exactly what Rotary stands for. E. J. says "Humanity is still worth fighting for."



PRESIDENTS CLUB

BRUCE GEE started us off in honor of his grandchild's first birthday and his mother's 100th birthday birthday-same day, 99 years apart!

JAKE YOO joined to highlight the need for a home stay for a 14 year old German student for next year, for a semester. Please contact JAKE if you know anyone interested and able to be a host for a year. JAKE has a letter from, and further details on the student.

JACKIE WHEELER is supporting the President's Club in honor of Neyra Fligor's run for County Tax Assessor.

REBECCA GERALDI joined in recognition of her first Rotary International Service Trip to

Oaxaca, Mexico and for the kickoff of this quarter's fundraising efforts for The Rotary Foundation.

LEN ELY highlights that his wife has put up with him for 33 years!

DUANE KALAR joins to highlight the young men who were happy to share their mid-night hike up Half Dome to watch the sun rise, reflecting that he did the same 35 years ago. He also thanks the Yosemite park service for staying and working even though they're not getting paid due to the shutdown.

RENE MORGAN highlights great sports happenings over the weekend, especially Shohei Ohtani's outstanding performance this weekend striking out 10 batters and hitting three home runs!

SHERRI SAGER joins in celebration of her 50th Santa Clara University Law School reunion and in honor of her two nieces. One a new mother to a baby boy, and the other a newly appointed 911 dispatcher.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/WE CARE for Members

JULIE JEROME announces that **MATT DOLAN** had surgery two weeks ago and is feeling positive about recovery. A card was passed to share that he is in our thoughts.

LINNET KWOK shared the success of the two-day Pickleball fundraiser. The event brought a net of \$10,400+ to benefit our club's Loca, Charities Grant Fund. \$7000 of this was from registrations. Linnet highlighted that three members of the pickleball club made generous donations to the Club.

CLUB SOCIAL NEWS: CALENDAR POSTS

BRUCE GEE reported for **GREG HOOD**, in his absence, regarding the next TGIF Social, November 7th, at the new Public Safety building. Thanks to **ERIC JENSEN** for arranging! **GREG** also reports that the Holiday Party will be on December 11th at **PATTY MCGUIGAN'S VERY HOLIDAY HOUSE!** **PATTY** shared that there will be carolers again. She highlights that **MATT DOLAN** will hopefully be feeling good enough to help decorate and Chef Julien will be provided the

food for the evening. Hours of the party are 5:00-7:30.

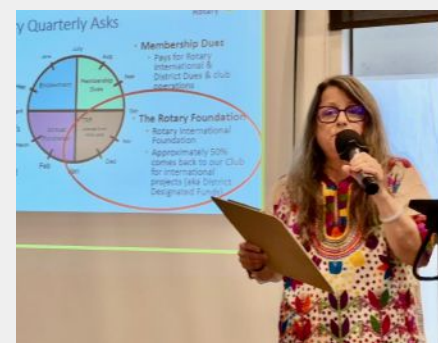
SERVICE AND THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

Wearing a beautifully embroidered blouse from Oaxaca, **REBECCA GERALDI** highlighted her first international service project, sharing that 25 Rotarians from four Bay Area Rotary districts traveled to Oaxaca, Mexico, to collaborate with eight local Rotary clubs. Together, they upgraded a school in a small village, part of a larger Rotary International effort that will also fund a new school featuring a café and bakery, creating both employment opportunities and a boost to local tourism.



Rotarians, students, and families worked side by side painting, repairing, and enhancing the campus, including adding a tribute to Rotary founder Paul Percy Harris on the school grounds.

Rebecca noted that while the project required plenty of hard work, it was deeply rewarding, especially witnessing older adults receive and be fitted for new wheelchairs after the school work concluded. The team also enjoyed local experiences, such as mezcal and chocolate tastings, celebrating the culture and community-building of the trip.



REBECCA also announced the kickoff of The Rotary Foundation Giving Season. She reminded members that 50% of the

club's invested donations are returned to support local initiatives. This year's theme, "Doing Good in the World," reflects Rotary's ongoing commitment to global and community impact. More details will follow, but members are encouraged to plan a gift to The Rotary Foundation in the coming weeks

PROGRAM



E.J. HONG introduced our guest speaker, **BILL GUTTENTAG**, highlighting his many accolades as a two time Oscar award-winning filmmaker and storyteller. Bill shared insights from his work and spoke on the theme "Moving the Needle,"

exploring how socially and politically centered films can drive awareness, shift perspectives, and inspire meaningful behavioral change. Bill emphasized that the global market is truly the market-noting that U.S. movies represent only a fraction of the films made and watched around the world. He shared that people spend an average of 12.5 hours each day engaging with media, with 84% of that time devoted to video, and that YouTube now plays a large role in shaping global media consumption.

He illustrated his message through powerful examples of socially meaningful films, including *Bambi*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Philadelphia*, *Schindler's List*, and *Spotlight*, all of which helped shift public attitudes and inspire dialogue on critical issues. Bill also demonstrated his teaching through a series of video clips and film snippets. Highlights included a French women's soccer promotion, which cleverly revealed how underrated women's sports remain; a moving segment

from his newest film, "**Rule Breakers**", showcasing courageous young women fighting for equality and inspiring men to be part of the change; and a haunting scene from his film "Nanking", depicting the Nanking Massacre through the eyes of journalists who bore witness to those atrocities.



Bill reminded us of the immense power and influence of media, from movies and television to podcasts, and how even lighthearted works like "Sideways" can spark real-world behavior (in that case, a sudden rise in Pinot Noir sales!). He closed his presentation with a powerful quote "Nothing ever happens unless you dream it."

"**Rule Breakers**" can be seen on Google, Amazon, YouTube, Apple TV, or Fandango.

Also, here's the ad that Bill showed during his talk about the France Women's National Football Team by Orange.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_wLVRYHIS4

MEETING ADJOURNED

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

MEETING VOLUNTEERS

Greeter: Kristina Lugo
Welcome Desk: Rebecca Gerald
Hybrid Host: Ben Threlkeld
Pinion Writer: Kristina Lugo
Pinion Editor: Ginny Lear

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

<p>October 27 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting</p>	<p>Bob Joss, The Philip H. Knight Professor and Dean, Emeritus, Stanford Business School Topic: Leadership</p>
<p>November 3 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting</p>	<p>Long Term Member Talks: EJ Hong, Len Ely, Mark Stevenson</p>
<p>November 7 TGIF. Time to be announced</p>	<p>TGIF at new Palo Alto Police Building on Birch Street</p>
<p>November 10 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting</p>	<p>Barb Mackraz, founder and ED of Oliveseed World Community Service</p>
<p>November 17 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting</p>	<p>Judy Kramer, Nature Photographer "Winter in Alaska, Glaciers and Northern Lights"</p>
<p>November 24 12:15-1:30pm Club Meeting</p>	<p>Colin Schmidt and Bay Area Sports. Impact of Soccer: June/July 2026, World Cup matches in SF Bay Area</p>
<p>December 11th Club Holiday Party 5-7:30 pm SAVE THE DATE!</p>	<p>PATTY McGUIGAN'S Festive Holiday Home Details to come soon</p>