

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

October 27, 2025  
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UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD

Celebrating 103 years of Service

## UNITE FOR GOOD 2025-2026

President **BRUCE GEE** welcomed us all as a serious President born in "Sacra-tomato".

We enjoyed three others who took the time to dress up for our Halloween meeting!

**JOOP, QUEEN ANNETTE, STANS** and President **TOMATO!**



KRISTINA emphasized that Lisa embodies Rotary's '4-way test' principles—truth, fairness, goodwill, and benefit to all, in her work.

## PRESIDENTS CLUB

**STANS** joined the President's Club to honor **ROB LANCEFIELD**, who recently underwent a 6-hour facial surgery and spent time in Los Altos for rehabilitation. Rob returned home in good spirits and still requires about a month of radiation therapy. Stay strong ROB!

### Correction from last week's Pinion:

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

*Last week, your humble editor had **SHERRI** graduating from SCU Law School because we know she could if she wanted to. In her career she testified many times before Congressional committees on behalf of children's health. Former Cong. ANNA Eshoo always told us she holds SHERRI in highest regard for her years of work, and so do we!*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

President BRUCE announced that the **LOCAL GRANTS COMMITTEE** is open to additional members to support nonprofit organizations in our community. It involves reading all grant applications, and making site visits before deciding which groups are selected and how much money will be given. The committee recently sent notices to 150 nonprofits about their grant process.

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY



**KRISTINA LUGO** offered today's thought, reflecting on community leadership. She shared insights about [Lisa Van Dusen](#). Lisa created a public benefit exhibition that was showcased at Avenidas.

## CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE



**RANDA HOFFMAN** and **JOY OCHE** introduced the newly launched Climate Action Committee, announcing an exciting volunteer opportunity. **GENEVIEVE BLUKAS CALMWELL**, Director of Programs at Acterra, shared details about the organization's

55-year history in environmental advocacy and education.

Genevieve highlighted an upcoming volunteer opportunity: the "Green at Home" tour on Saturday, November 8th. Volunteers are needed to greet tour participants at homes, sign them up, and support the tour hosts. Homes are located throughout the Bay Area, including Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Mountain View, and Sunnyvale.

Contact Genevieve if interested.

[genevieve.lucas-conwell@acterra.org](mailto:genevieve.lucas-conwell@acterra.org)

## THE ROTARY FOUNDATION: POLIO PLUS

**REBECCA GERALDI** spoke about The Rotary Foundation and PolioPlus, which is currently in its second week of its annual giving campaign. This week's focus is PolioPlus, as World Polio Day was just celebrated. Rebecca shared remarkable statistics on global polio eradication efforts.



However, challenges remain. Vaccine hesitancy and gaps in immunization coverage open the door to potential outbreaks, especially in areas where the virus still circulates.

**RALPH ADAMS**, a polio survivor from 1950, took the microphone to share his powerful perspective. RALPH made an extraordinarily generous pledge of \$5,000 to match members' contributions to the Rotary Foundation's PolioPlus campaign. This is a tremendous opportunity, so let's reach the 100% match goal!

## PROGRAM

**JAKE YOO** introduced **PROF. BOB JOSS**, the Philip H. Knight Professor and Dean Emeritus of Stanford Business School. With 25 years of teaching leadership and extensive experience in banking and the U.S. Treasury Department, Prof. Joss brought deep insights on what true leadership entails.



### Key Insights on Leadership:

Prof. Joss drew on leadership scholar John Gardner's definition: leadership is taking responsibility for a group's improvement: —helping it do better, perform better, and act better. It's fundamentally a relationship between leader and group, not a set of personal attributes.



He emphasized the critical difference between management and leadership. Management helps groups cope with complexity through plans and processes, appealing to rational thinking. Leadership helps groups cope with

change through vision, alignment, and motivation—it's more art than science.

On whether leaders are born or made, Prof. Joss noted that while inherited attributes contribute, evidence shows leaders are largely made through experience and reflecting on challenging situations. Leadership cannot be taught traditionally but is learned through responsibility and reflection.

Leadership is highly context-dependent. He illustrated this with Ron Johnson, a Target superstar who successfully led Apple Store's rollout but failed as CEO of J.C. Penney—he was "situationally arrogant," not understanding the unique context before implementing his previous strategies.

Certain leadership responsibilities cannot be delegated: setting direction and serving as a symbol for the group. Prof. Joss shared a personal story about attending a bank teller's funeral in New Zealand. She had been killed during a rare bank robbery. Bob told us how his presence represented 40,000 grieving people throughout the company and was highly appreciated by everyone, illustrating leadership's emotional and symbolic dimensions.

He closed by emphasizing self-awareness and emotional intelligence, reminding Rotarians that "people will forget what you said...they'll never forget how you made them feel."

A video of Bob's talk can be viewed here:

- Leadership Demystified with Robert Joss

## MEETING ADJOURNED

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

## MEETING VOLUNTEERS

**Greeter: Kristina Lugo, Dave Smullin**  
**Welcome Desk: Rebecca Gerald**  
**Hybrid Host: Ben Threlkeld**  
**Pinion Writer: Randa Hoffman**  
**Pinion Editor: Ginny Lear**

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

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