# Palo Alto RotaryPinion

December 1, 2025
*Writer: Betsy Bechtel*

UNITE FOR GOOD

*Celebrating 103 years of Service*

## UNITE FOR GOOD 2025-2026A

President **BRUCE GEE** opened the meeting and welcomed "Zoomers" and "Roomers". He wore a **festive sweater** and encouraged members to do so as well.

President Elect **CHARLIE WEIDANZ** asked Rotarians to introduce their guests.
**HAL MICKELSON** introduced Mary Gillis and Bob Supes.
**MARY ANN GEE** introduced Bruce's guest, visiting for a second time , Garry Lim.
**DICK MANSFIELD**, a 26 year member who attends via Zoom, introduced his wife, Ellie.
**DUANE KALAR** introduced his wife, Ann,with whom he has been married 64 years.
**BOB MCCOWAN**, honorary member, attended.
**ULLRICH SWERTSCHLAG** introduced his guest, Asra Hussain, Director of Programs for the Foundation for College Education.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**BRUCE GEE** announced that **ROB LANCEFIELD** will get daily radiation for 3 weeks as preventative care and will miss some meetings. Send Rob & Rita a card of holiday cheer!

BRUCE also announced that **Elections** for Rotary Board members and Endowment Board members will be held next week at the meeting. Only those attending in person may vote.

**JOY OCHE** announced that she and **RANDA HOFFMAN** will have more information next week about the 2nd Annual District wide Climate Action Summit being hosted by the Los Altos Rotary Club on Saturday, January 10, 2026.There will be much to learn.

## PRESIDENTS CLUB

**DANA TOM** and his wife Nancy have been taking a cardio dance class at Lucie Stern and will perform with their class three times this weekend: at the Palo Alto Tree Lighting ceremony this Friday at 6:00 p.m. at Lytton Plaza on University Avenue, and on California Avenue Saturday at 1:00 and 2:00 where with one song DANA can show his inner John Travolta.

## PROGRAM

**E.J. HONG** introduced **Bill Liberatore**, the TheatreWorks Music Director and Director of the Gunn High School Choir. Bill welcomed the 40 members of the choir, resplendent in black tie for the boys and the girls in long black dresses with a white cowl. Bill also introduced his teaching partner, Angelina Fitzhugh, who conducted the choir. The holiday program,

beautifully sung by the choir and accompanied by Bill on keyboard, included familiar songs as well as lesser known ones: *Deck the Halls, Jingle Bells, Silver Bells,* a merged *White Christmas with Blue Christmas*, *I Wonder as I Wander* with a beautiful solo from a senior girl, 5 boys singing solos from *The Elf Next Door* composed by Gunn teacher David Deggeller. The choir received two standing ovations. Palo Alto Rotary contributes $2,600 to the Gunn Choir which is used for scholarships for the members who need help to go to the international choir performance, this year in Costa Rica.

## MEETING ADJOURNED

**President BRUCE** closed the meeting at 1:30 with appreciation for our wonderful student choir and their dedicated directors, putting us all in a holiday mood on December 1st!

## MEETING VOLUNTEERS

**Greeters: Kristina Lugo**
**Welcome Desk: Rebecca Geraldi**
**Hybrid Host: Dana Tom**
**Pinion Writer: Betsy Bechtel**
**Pinion Editor: Ginny Lear**

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

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| **December 8**<br>12:15 - 1:30 PM<br>Club Meeting | **Long-Term Members Talk**<br>Jon Stoumen, Jim Sutherland, Mike Baird |
| **December 11**<br>5:00-7:30 pm<br>Holiday Party<br>Come! | **Holiday Party! Festive**<br>**Home of Patty McGuigan**<br>**1530 Waverley St.**<br>**Palo Alto,**<br>Hosted by the Rotary Club |
| **December 15**<br>12:15 - 1:30 PM<br>Club Meeting | **Palo Alto Public Safety Professionals**<br>Keeping the public safe during the Holidays |
| **December 22**<br>No Club Meeting | **Happy Holidays!** |
| **December 29**<br>No Club Meeting | **Happy New Year!** |

**At Stanford Shopping Center: the Ginko Trees are beautiful in the afternoon sun**