

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

December 8, 2025
Writer: Kanika Sabharwal

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 thanked members who did the same!



President Elect **CHARLIE WEIDANZ** invited introductions of visitors and guests. **President BRUCE** Introduced Garry

Lim, making his third visit. Visiting Rotarian Sophie Tsang, a member of the Palo Alto University Rotary Club, introduced herself.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

RENE MORGAN presented reflections on the importance of empathy, drawing from literature (e.g., 'To Kill a Mockingbird,' 'The Great Gatsby', and Mary LaCamp's poem 'Judge Softly'). She emphasized on understanding others' perspectives before passing judgement.



HOLIDAY PARTY: THIS THURSDAY!

COME! PATTY MCGUIGAN's Home, 5-7:30
Enjoy Friendship, Food and Beverages. Hosted by the Club.
Hear the visiting Carolers sing at 6:15.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Reminder to make year-end tax deductible donations.
- **RALPH ADAMS** was recognized for a generous \$5,000 donation to Polio Plus. He challenged other members to match it.



STEVE EMSLIE

shared that Peninsula Healthcare Connection is taking over the Palo Alto food closet at All Saints Church, and more volunteer support is needed for food sorting and distribution.

Members are encouraged to sign up for volunteer shifts. Please email **BRUCE GEE** if interested.



PRESIDENTS CLUB

SALLY TOMLINSON joined the Presidents Club, expressing gratitude for all Board of Director nominees and ongoing club leadership.

CLIMATE COMMITTEE INITIATIVES

RANDA HOFFMAN

distributed a short survey to gauge club interest in various climate initiatives. She also announced the District Climate Action Summit happening on January 10th, at Los Altos Community Center, 97 Hillview Ave, just off San Antonio Road. The Club will cover \$30 registration fees for members who wish to attend.



Palo Alto Rotary Endowment Board Trustees:

Julie Jerome
Larry Klein
Patty McGuigan
Bruce Swenson
Dana Tom
Kathy Torgersen
Tim Watson

Ex-Officio

Charlie Weidanz (President)
Eric Jensen (Pres- Elect)

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ANNUAL CLUB ELECTIONS



CHARLIE introduced the board ballot for 2026 – 2027 and the Endowment Board of Trustees slate.

Members voted on-site, results were announced at the end of the meeting:

President: Charlie Weidanz

President Elect: Eric Jensen

Immediate Past President: Bruce Gee

Club Secretary: Randa Hoffman

Club Treasurer: Anne Cribbs

Directors- 1 year term (may serve 3x)

Kristina Lugo

Mary Ann Gee

Yudy Deng

Jackie Wheeler

Joy Oche

Ullrich Schwertschlag

Pam Krudop

PROGRAM - Long Time Member Talks

RICHARD KELLER has been a Rotary member for 11 years. He shared about his passion for sailing. He enjoys racing on San Francisco Bay. His family is involved in the Winter Ice skating at the Winter Lodge in Palo Alto, and he enjoys



skiing and ice skating. He is a car enthusiast with a classic Jaguar and a modern Tesla. Richard talked about his career as an electrical design engineer working on power supplies for printers and computers, specialized semiconductors for power supplies. He did consulting work in Silicon valley for 20 years. Richard holds a Master Mariner certificate and teaches sailing classes, including nighttime sailing on San Francisco Bay. He is active in local clubs including Rotary, Oakland Yacht Club, and Elks Club.



MIKE BAIRD has been a Rotary member for 14 years. He shared about him being a CPA for 40 years and recently transitioning to financial advisory practice. He also honored his late stepfather, who was a 55 year Rotarian and

two time club president. Mike was raised in Vero Beach, Florida with a strong connection to the water – sailing and surfing in youth. He grew up near the site of the Mel Fisher treasure find (the Atocha Shipwreck). He emphasized lessons from his high school football coach, Billy, especially the importance of “perfect practice makes one perfect”. He also shared about his humble beginnings working in a beachfront restaurant and his educational path.

JIM SUTHERLAND

shared about his family history of military officers and Naval academy graduates. Initially, he planned a Navy career, but nearsightedness led him to engineering. He developed a passion for electronics starting with a crystal radio as a child. He attended Stanford University for electrical engineering. His early career was designing electronics for spy satellites and nuclear missile systems. Jim later continued his education with an MBA focusing on management and marketing. He worked on varied projects including computer display systems, digital computers cryptography for car keyless entry, and data compression for disk memories. He also worked in Germany for four years since he really liked Europe. Jim is a family man with four children, two stepchildren and several grandchildren. He enjoys boating, family activities, and contributing to the community through Rotary and other clubs.



MEETING VOLUNTEERS

- Greeter: Tim Misner**
- Welcome Desk: Rebecca Gerald**
- Hybrid Host: Dana Tom**
- Microphone: Annette Glanckopf**
- Pinion Writer: Kanika Sabharwal**
- Pinion Editor: Ginny Lear**

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

December 11 5:00-7:30 pm Holiday Party Come!	Holiday Party! Festive Home of Patty McGuigan 1530 Waverley St. Palo Alto, Hosted by the Rotary Club
December 15 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting	Palo Alto Public Safety Professionals Keeping the public safe during the Holidays
December 22 No Club Meeting	Happy Holidays!
December 29 No Club Meeting	Happy New Year!
January 5 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting	Samantha Engelage, Project Manager, Horizontal Levee Project Palo Alto’s Horizontal Levee Project: Using Nature to Shape and Protect the Environment
January 12 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting	Olga Shpak, of Assist Ukraine
January 19 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting	ERIC JENSEN, Hands On, Sleeves Up! At Meeting. Building Hygiene Kits for Samaritan House

MEETING ADJOURNED

President BRUCE closed the meeting at 1:30 with congratulations to our 2026-27 Board of Directors and appreciation for our three members who shared some of their life stories with us all.