

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

January 19, 2026
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UNITE
FOR
GOOD

Celebrating 104 years of Service

UNITE FOR GOOD 2025-2026

President **BRUCE GEE** started the meeting a bit late because the parking lot was full of MLK, Jr. Day golfers.

IT'S BIG! **BEN THRELKELD** is managing a new A/V system that connects to a huge digital screen. No more projector needed. He asked for patience, but the meeting went seamlessly. Aren't we fortunate to have **BEN** and **DANA TOM** to help us hear and see all that we need to hear and see?

A GOLD BADGE IS IN THE MAKING! **CHARLIE WEIDANZ** invited members to introduce guests, and **GEOFF ZIMAN** introduced daughter Shoshana, who is such a frequent and welcome guest that President Bruce promised to make her a Gold Badge.



15 and graduated at 19, was a fan of Star Trek, and played pool. His famous "I have a dream" speech was delivered without notes in response to a shout from the gospel singer Mahalia Jackson who was in the crowd and called out "tell them about your dream!" Judy drew parallels from King's time to our time now, and implored us to apply the 4-way test to our current political scene, as did Martin Luther King. Is it the Truth? Is it Fair to all concerned? Will it build Goodwill and Better Friendship? Will it be Beneficial to all concerned?



PRESIDENTS CLUB

A CHINA TOUR FOR WOMEN: **GLORIA HOM** will lead a women's tour to China April 20-29th, visiting six cities. This will be a great tour following the gardens of China at the perfect time of year to see them. She has all the hotels booked and all the meals selected. The tour includes everything except airfare. A single room is \$3000/person, double occupancy is \$2500/person.

ROTARIANS EMBODY THE SPIRIT OF MLK: **JOY OCHE** was born after MLK died, but she has experienced much of his spirit in the help she has received from people in this club. She has been going through difficult times, and she mentioned specifically the support she

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

APPLY THE 4-WAY TEST IN HONOR OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR: **JUDY KLEINBERG** brought us the thought for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. She shared some unknown facts about his life: he skipped two grades in high school, started college at age

has received from **REBECCA GERALDI, EJ HONG, and JUDY KLEINBERG.**

SUPPORT BUDDING SCIENTISTS: JOY also invites everyone to the Greene Scholars annual Science Fair this Saturday, January 25, 8 am – 1 pm, at Bellarmine College Preparatory School Aux Gym, 780 Stockton Avenue, San Jose. Greene Scholars helps youth of African ancestry in San Francisco Bay Area communities successfully pursue higher education in science, technology, engineering and/or math (STEM).



ANNOUNCEMENTS

USHER FOR PALO ALTO PLAYERS: Bruce announced on behalf of DANA TOM that we need three volunteer ushers for the Feb 1, 12:45-4:45 pm performance of the Da Vinci Code by the Palo Alto Players. Please contact Dana to sign up.

PALO ALTO ROTARY SUPPORTS THE PALO ALTO MUSEUM: The Palo Alto Museum (no longer called the PA History Museum) is going to open this spring. It will focus on the role of Palo Alto in the past, present, and future, with changing exhibits that will bring to light various aspects of Palo Alto's impact. Following much research and conversation, our Rotary Club Board has decided to make a gift of \$50,000 to the museum, making us a Founding supporter of the museum, and our name will be listed as such on the donor wall. We will also be sponsors of the first exhibit on Sustainability.

SAVE THE DATE: March 5, 6:00 pm for a spectacular Chinese New Year's Dinner at Chef Chu's. \$100/person - you will be able to sign up soon.

HOW FAR? Yesterday BRUCE walked 8 miles without leaving his home, moving things from one place to another in preparation for a remodel!

JOY OCHE highlighted the Climate Action Committee attendance at the Los Altos Climate Action Summit. There were over 100 people in attendance. Groups in our area are doing various projects, from pollinator gardens to green fairs, and the collection of lithium ion batteries is still important. Contact Joy or RANDA HOFFMAN to be part of our club's Climate Action Committee.

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER APRIL 18: Save the date and don't miss your chance to Cruise around the Peloponnese in luxury. **GINNY LEAR** described a featured auction item, a **UNESCO Treasurers of Ancient Greece cruise from September 17-26, 2026**, around the Peloponnese past Delphi and back to Athens. Detailed flyers were on the tables. The starting bid is \$5600/person (list price is \$14,000/person) for the **private luxury yacht, the 50-cabin Emerald Azzurra**. People are cruising more and we are very fortunate to get this one cabin for our auction through our long relationship with Steve Ridgway of Criterion Travel. Plan your September so you can grab this opportunity!

Includes, one hotel night in Athens for sightseeing followed by a 7-night cruise circumnavigating Greece's Peloponnese Peninsula featuring stops at the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Mycenae, Epidaurus, Mystras, Olympia, and Delphi. Lecture focus is archaeology and history. A special event will be a visit to Nestor's Palace at Pylos, where the Archaeological Institute of America Tours lecturers on this trip have done extensive archaeological work in this area.

PROGRAM



In honor of Martin Luther King, Jr Day, today's program was a hands-on service project to benefit WeHope. **ERIC JENSEN** described the assembly project, which was to compile cold weather kits with gloves, hats, scarves, tarp and other supplies for

WeHope. WeHope manages a number of homeless shelters, and these supplies will be especially important for newly homeless. Eric headed from the meeting to WeHope to deliver the kits.

MEETING ADJOURNED

President BRUCE closed the business meeting at 1:00 and we filled kits with supplies for cold weather and hygiene specific for men and women.

MEETING VOLUNTEERS

Greeter: Mike Fogarty
Welcome Desk: Rebecca Gerald
Hybrid Host: Ben Threlkeld
Microphone: Eric Jensen
Pinion Writer: Sally Tomlinson
Pinion Editor: Ginny Lear



UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

January 26 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting	DUANE KALAR: The California Water System
February 2 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting	Rachelle Campbell, Program Director, Radiologic Technology, Foothill College: Topic: The Foothill Program and Our Vocational Scholarships
February 9 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting	Brian Fletcher, Stanford Law School Professor The Supreme Court's Emergency Docket

