

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

January 26 2026
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UNITE
FOR
GOOD

Celebrating 104 years of Service

UNITE FOR GOOD 2025-2026

WELCOME: President **BRUCE GEE** opened the meeting and welcomed "Zoomers" and "Roomers". Bruce asked how many members always sat in the back of the classroom and encouraged members to mix up where they sat and not always sit in the same place. Bruce also reminded us that Rotary's motto this year is United For Good. That and the 4 way test can help us through these challenging times. He also asked members to share any Ai tips. There were no guests or visiting Rotarians.



had lunch with JOY recently and joined the President's Club in her honor. JOY is exploring her next career. E.J. encouraged members to help [JOY circulate her resume](#). She is a chemical engineer with a Master's degree in Environmental Engineering.

PRESIDENTS CLUB

LIZ KNISS joined the President's Club in recognition of **KATHY TORGENSEN** and the front page article in the Palo Alto Weekly about KATHY'S support and effort to help the non-profit, Assist Ukraine. **PATTY MCGUIGAN, BRUCE SWENSON** and **BETSY BECHTEL** were also recognized for helping with events this past week.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRUCE announced that the annual Rotary fundraiser will be **April 18th at Mitchell Park**. A live auction item there will be a [cruise by luxury yacht highlighting the UNESCO Treasures of Ancient Greece, circumnavigating the Peloponnese, September 17-26, 2026](#).

Plus **E. J. HONG** will again pay for all of the crab. Thank you, E.J.

A Chinese New Year's dinner will be held at **Chef Chu's on Thursday, March 5th** and will cost \$100 per person. **GLORIA HOM** and **GREG HOOD** are organizing it.

DANA TOM said that the Palo Alto Players has a full crew of 11 Rotarians to usher at the final performance of "The DaVinci Code", February 1st.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

E.J. HONG'S thought for the day was to recognize **JOY OCHE** who is navigating challenges. She inspired E.J. to be a better person and to keep faith in humanity. E.J.



BBLUE BADGE RECOGNITION

LINNET KWOK welcomed three members who have earned their blue badges, while their sponsors cheered them on: **YUDY DENG and JUDY KLEINBERG, ED SHIKADA and LIZ KNISS, and GREG HOOD and ANNETTE GLANCKOPF.** Ceremonial Blue Badges (actually white with blue letters) were presented to these three.



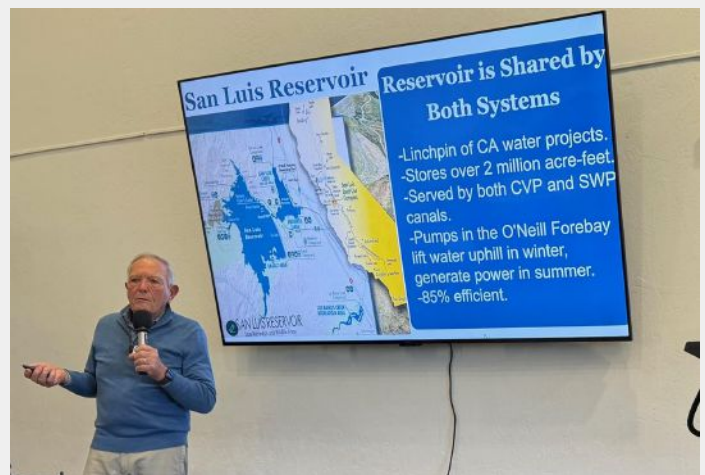
PROGRAM

BRUCE GEE introduced today's speaker, **DUANE KALAR**, Palo Alto Rotary member for 55 years speaking about the California Water System. Duane said he is a third generation Californian. His first grandparents came to



California in the 1880s and settled in the Salinas valley of Palo Robles raising grain and running a dairy and making cheese. Seven years of drought in the area meant losing everything. His other grandfather worked for 30 years as a ditch tender diverting water from the Kings River to Tulare lake and to canals. Five disastrous floods occurred during his years working. Duane's father was a cotton farmer on the Kings River. Duane grew up looking up at snow capped Mt. Whitney and fishing for salmon in nearby rivers. What a background he has.

He reviewed the history of water and water projects in California where there is a great mismatch. 2/3rds of the rain falls in the northern 1/3rd of the state and 2/3rds of the people live in the south. In the center of California there are two valleys, with two major rivers, the Sacramento and the San Joaquin, both flowing into the Delta in the center of California. Most of the rain falls in winter and spring and during wet years everybody needs flood control. San Francisco took water from a national park, Yosemite, and built the Hetch Hetchy dam, providing water to San Francisco and Palo Alto. Los Angeles obtained



water rights for all the water flowing from the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada Mountains and also tapped into the Colorado River. In 1902 water from the Colorado overflowed causing the Salton Sea, a remnant which still exists.

Tulare Lake was once the largest lake west of the Mississippi. Water was diverted and pumped out. Now it is a little pond. In the 1920s there was a need for flood control and electricity. The state attempted to sell bonds to fund the project without success to build two major dams. In 1937 the Bureau of Reclamation took over, building the Central Valley Project. Shasta dam and Millerton Lake dam for flood control and the Delta Mendota canal diverting water to Bakersfield were built. The State Water Project was built in 1960 to 1970 with many dams and reservoirs: the Feather river dam, the Oroville dam, the tallest dam in America, earthen filled 770 feet, the San Luis Reservoir, on highway 152 and the California aqueduct going all the way to San Diego. To get the water to Los Angeles, the largest single water lift in the world was built using electricity to move 2 million gallons of water a minute over the Tehachapis near Tejon pass. Duane summarized by saying that water is serving 40 million people in California and where we grow 1/3 of America's produce. There will continue to be challenges with droughts, floods and growth. Various innovations will be needed to keep pace. Just in Palo Alto, Palo Alto's water treatment plant is being upgraded to be tertiary treating the water , clean enough for drinking.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

<p>February 2 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting</p>	<p>Rachelle Campbell, Program Director, Radiologic Technology, Foothill College: Topic: The Foothill Program and Our Vocational Scholarships</p>
<p>February 9 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting</p>	<p>Brian Fletcher, Stanford Law School Professor The Supreme Court's Emergency Docket</p>

MEETING ADJOURNED

President BRUCE closed the meeting, thanking DUANE very much for his most informative talk.

MEETING VOLUNTEERS

Greeter: Suzanne Jain, Randa Hoffman
Welcome Desk: Rebecca Gerald
Hybrid Host: Dana Tom
Microphone: Eric Jensen
Pinion Writer: Betsy Bechtel
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