

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

February 2, 2026
Writer: Steve Emslie

UNITE
FOR
GOOD

Celebrating 104 years of Service

UNITE FOR GOOD 2025-2026

WELCOME: President **BRUCE GEE** called the meeting to order at 12:30 and welcomed attendees and zoomers; he acknowledged today is Groundhog Day. Also he asked **JUDY KLEINBERG** to tell the group that Martin Luther King's "I have a Dream" speech was prompted by Mahalia Jackson. King then ad libbed the speech. President Bruce also pointed out the article taken from "Rotary" magazine which featured our club's service. He also thanked the Speaker Committee and Chair **JAKE YOO** for the hard work they do to arrange our great speakers.

CHARLIE WEIDANZ introduced Visiting Rotarians: Dr. Rakesh Saxena and Indira Saxena visiting from Michigan. Charlie called on Members to introduce their guests: starting



with himself, Charlie Weidanz' guests Grace and Annamae Taubeneck; **KANIKA SABHARWAL'S** guest, Andres Calazada; **ULLRICH SCHWERTSCHLAG'S** guest Tom Marshburn; **DANA TOM'S** guest Theodore Timpson; and **MIKE REYNOLDS'** guest Annette King.

THOUGHT OF THE DAY

DIANA DIAMOND asked what international countries may think of the United States' current political divide especially given the events unfolding in Minneapolis. She proposed that the current situation is no longer partisan, meaning that both political camps have a stake in ensuring adherence to the rule of law. She ended by stressing the need to reach out to each other because the current situation promotes isolation and loneliness. We must support each other and this support is provided by our club.

CHINESE NEW YEAR DINNER MARCH 5th

A return of our fabulous Chinese New Year's dinner at **Chef Chu's Restaurant** is Thursday, March 5th, 6:00pm, \$100 per person. **GLORIA HOM** and **GREG HOOD** are organizing it. Friends welcome! [Reserve your spot here.](#)

"CRABSOLUTELY!" ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

BRUCE announced that the annual Rotary fundraiser will be **April 18th at Mitchell Park**. Details to follow, Save the Date! 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.](#)

RED AND BLUE BADGE RECOGNITIONS

LINNET KWOK, Membership Chair introduced new member **GARRY LIM**. She reminded the group of the Rotary mission and welcomed Garry to the club.



Next Linnet introduced our club's newest Blue Badge Member, **RANDA HOFFMAN**.

Linnet reminded the club of the Blue Badge requirements including attending a District event, Board meeting and doing their New Member Talk.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Environmental Committee

Randa Hoffman announced the upcoming tree planting hands on project on Saturday February 14, 2026. The project will be supervised by Canopy Palo Alto and in conjunction with the Mountain View Rotary Club. The hours are 9am to noon at a location yet to be determined in Mountain View. [Sign up here.](#)

Ushers for Palo Alto Players

President Bruce showed a photograph of yesterday's volunteers who ushered for the Palo Alto Players performance. President Bruce

reminded members that we provide an annual grant to the Players to bring a theatre full of

local students to see one play or musical selected for youth who may not have seen live theatre.



Rotary District 5170

President Bruce gave a summary of the recent District Conference where incoming Rotary International President Elect-elect Larry Lunsford was in attendance. Due to **REBECCA**

GERALDI'S quick thinking, our club was able to get a photo with Larry who indicated he was impressed by our club's district conference attendance by four current, past and future Presidents.



PROGRAM

DANA TOM introduced today's speaker, **Rachelle Campbell** whose program at Foothill



College is a recipient of Rotary grant support. Dana summarized the club's financial assistance provided students in Ms Campbell radiology program. Dana also related our club's long association with Foothill College which was founded by late club member Dr. Bob Smithwick. The club's grants to Foothill College students is named in honor of Bob Smithwick.

The program entitled: "Imaging: the Eyes of Medicine" a slide deck presented by Ms. Campbell, provided an overview of the imaging and radiology certification program at Foothill. Slides showed students engaged in lab work at various site in the Bay Area,

The Foothill's radiology program is intensely competitive and involves an application and lottery selection process. She also summarized the rigorous prerequisites needed to enter the two year Associates Degree program. She also reviewed the two year curriculum which involved class work and actual lab experience at area hospitals and clinics. She also reviewed the demographic composition of the current student class highlights of which are a majority of women, Latino(a) majority and many first generation college attendees

Ms. Campbell turned to the financial needs of her students. Many entering students must give up paying jobs since it is very difficult to continue to work while in the program Many students need help with living expenses and transportation, many live 10 miles or more from campus.

The presentation now included actual images of remarkable x-rays, CT's and MRI scans. She also highlighted the great medical advances in cardiac imaging happening in the Cath Lab which is much less invasive than in the past.

She ended by thanking the club for its support of the students. There is a tremendous shortage of imaging technicians and the club's support ensures Foothill can produce well trained persons contributing to the high quality health care in our area.

Questions:

HENRIETTA BURROUGHS asked about the ethical issues taught in the program. Campbell gave an overview of the examples students are provided to prepare them for real world dilemmas the are likely to encounter over the course of their careers'

In response to a question by **RICK BLOCK**, Ms. Campbell stated that there is a shortage of technicians resulting in stressful working conditions. The solution would be for the State to require all hospitals and clinics to provide teaching spots to add students in the industry.

She also addressed **BETSY BECHTEL'S** question regarding class size and graduation rates. Classes range from 22 to 32 and graduation rates are very high. All graduates find employment immediately.

In response to a question about students who may attain four year degrees, she stated that because of the prerequisites to get into the program many end up with four year degrees and some attain advanced degrees.

In response to **JUDY KLEINBERG**, Ms. Campbell addressed the impact of AI on the industry. There is no impact on the actual imaging but a significant impact on the interpretation of the images produced.

Rachelle Campbell email:
campbellrachelle@fhda.edu

MEETING ADJOURNED

President BRUCE closed the meeting, thanking our speaker as well as today's club volunteers. He especially welcomed back **STEVE PLAYER, ANDREW PIERCE** and **PAM KRUDOP**.

MEETING VOLUNTEERS

Greeter: Richard Keller, Mike Fogarty
Welcome Desk: Rebecca Gerald
Hybrid Host: Ben Threlkeld
Microphone: Simon Pennington
Pinion Writer: Steve Emslie
Pinion Editor: Ginny Lear

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

February 9 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting	Brian Fletcher, Stanford Law School Professor The Supreme Court's Emergency Docket
February 16 NO Club Meeting	PRESIDENTS DAY NO MEETING
February 23 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting	Matt Sharp Chaney, Wildlife Ecologist, MSROD Topic: Bay Area Bats Demystified