

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

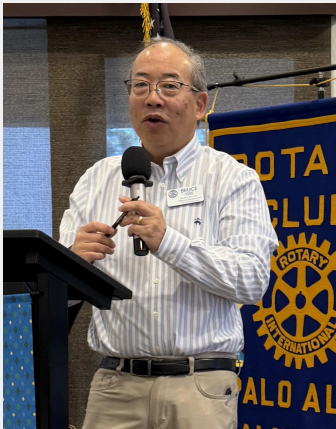
February 23, 2026  
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UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD

Celebrating 104 years of Service

## UNITE FOR GOOD 2025-2026

## THOUGHT OF THE DAY



President **BRUCE GEE** offered that the reason for the late start to the meeting will be shared later on but said that today was going to be interesting, and appreciates our flexible group!

**A Special Date 2/23/26:** In 1905, 121 years ago today, the first meeting was

held of what they named "Rotary". Four businessmen, led by Paul Harris, formed a group. People with different backgrounds decided they could learn a lot, gain perspectives, and do public service. Happy Birthday Rotary!!

Zoomers/roomers, lots of zoomers, great conversations before the meeting-we could see how actively they were engaging.

East Palo Alto visiting Rotarian past president **Elizabeth Jackson**, was introduced. They are hosting a student speech contest on 3/6 at 5:00. It's at Eastside Prep. 8 students expected. BRUCE presented our newest club flag to Elizabeth



**Jennie Savage**, BRUCE'S guest, was welcomed on Zoom.

**YUDY DENG** told us about the year of the Fire Horse: it brings energy, and forward movement which is very Palo Alto. The City of Palo Alto has many



activities at Mitchell Park, lantern festivals, heritage festivals. Beautiful that people join up for their children. Everyone is welcome!

## PRESIDENTS CLUB

**MIKE REYNOLDS** co-chair of the World Community Service group, many rotary members from the past, many doing it now. This Committee is one of our "Best kept secrets". STANS is the co-leader- we have speakers that show up, ways to see what's happening around the world that we're all a part of. WCS group does an amazing job, echoed President BRUCE. Much great work is happening around the world.

**JACK CABANESS** joined saying today is his & Emma's anniversary, 18 years. He was hoping that she could join him here today, but will in the future.

## CHINESE NEW YEAR DINNER MARCH 5th

Tickets are now on sale on our website for our **Chinese New Year Banquet at Chef Chu's** Thursday evening, March 5, 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. GLORIA HOM and GREG HOOD are organizing it. Friends welcome! [Reserve your spot here.](#)

## AI AND ROTARY

**DUANE KALAR** was invited to speak about his decision to learn to use AI, as he prepared his recent talk to us about California Water.

The first thing he learned was about the Salton Sea, one of our larger lakes. In 1902 engineers wanted to get water to LA. DUANE learned how it was created by diverting water from the Colorado River.

Tulare used to be one of the largest lakes and now is almost gone

DUANE told us how Gemini will give you almost anything you ask for.

After speaking to us, DUANE has been asked to do this presentation at two other organizations, giving credit to all he learned on AI.

DUANE'S message to older members (gray hairs) "Don't be afraid of it."



## PROGRAM

Due to a miscommunication, the originally scheduled speaker on bats did not attend.

Instead, **TIM WATSON** spoke about the Rotary Club's Endowment Fund.

The Rotary endowment currently stands at approximately \$1.5 million. This permanent

charitable fund was built through generous donations with the intention that the principal remains intact while a portion is distributed annually to support Rotary's mission. Each year, approximately 5 percent of the endowment—about \$75,000—is distributed, to fund grants serving both local and international communities. These grants represent nearly one-third of Rotary's total charitable giving, making the endowment one of the most important and reliable sources of Rotary's impact.



## "CRABSOLUTELY!" ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

BRUCE noted that the annual Rotary fundraiser will be **April 18th at Mitchell Park**. Silent Auction items are requested by **SALLY TOMLINSON**.

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](#).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRUCE recognized **MIKE MCMAHON** for his many years of service as the club's tax preparer, noting that he has now retired from this role. MIKE was also recognized as an Olympic rower in the 1960 Summer Olympics.



The strength of the endowment depends on continued growth.

If Rotary hopes to expand its charitable reach and respond to emerging needs, growing the endowment will be essential. One of the most effective ways to do this is through planned giving.

Planned giving allows members and supporters to make lasting contributions without impacting their current financial security. For example, individuals can name Rotary as a beneficiary of a retirement account, such as an IRA. This can be a highly tax-efficient strategy, as retirement assets often face taxation when passed to heirs but can pass tax-free to charitable organizations. Planned giving becomes part of thoughtful estate planning while also creating a meaningful legacy.

These gifts are not about today alone, they ensure that future Rotarians will have the resources needed to continue serving their communities and responding to new challenges. Fundraising efforts to grow the endowment will begin in May.



**SALLY TOMLINSON** expressed her apologies on behalf of the originally scheduled speaker, noting her longtime involvement as chair of the speaker committee and that it's unfortunate this happened.

Past President **JACK WOODSON** shared a personal Rotary memory, recalling that during his first Rotary meeting in 1979–1980, the scheduled speaker did not show up. Having just returned from Rotary International in Rome, the experience reinforced an important lesson: even when things do not go as planned, Rotary's strength lies in its people, relationships, and stuff happens!

**BRUCE** encouraged members to use the remaining time to visit with one another and strengthen Rotary's fellowship.

## MEETING ADJOURNED

**President BRUCE** closed the meeting, thanking everyone and especially today's club volunteers.

## MEETING VOLUNTEERS

**Greeter: Garry Lim**

**Welcome Desk: Rebecca Gerald**

**Hybrid Host: Ben Threlkeld**

**Pinion Writer: Kristina Lugo**

**Pinion Editor: Ginny Lear**

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

<p><b>March 2</b> 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting</p>	<p><b>Hon. Yong-ho Tae</b> <b>A former N. Korean diplomat. In 2016, he went to S. Korea to stay.</b> Topic: North Korea</p>
<p><b>March 5</b> <b>5:30-8:00 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Chinese New Year's banquet, Chef Chu's Restaurant</b> Tickets available online Friends welcome!</p>
<p><b>March 9</b> 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting</p>	<p><b>Ken Graham, Chair Advisory Committee for RotaCare Free Clinic</b> Topic: Update on Clinic Reboot</p>
<p><b>March 16</b> 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting</p>	<p><b>Details Coming Soon!</b></p>
<p><b>March 23</b> 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting</p>	<p><b>Jon Osaki, filmmaker and ED of JCYC</b> Topic: Alternative Facts: The Lies of Executive Order 9066</p>
<p><b>March 23</b> 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting</p>	<p><b>Vicki Veenker, Mayor of Palo Alto</b> Topic: Goals and Challenges for 2026</p>