

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

March 9, 2026

Writer: Sally Tomlinson



Celebrating 104 years of Service

UNITE FOR GOOD 2025-2026



President **BRUCE GEE** convened the meeting, claiming to be having fun despite his query about how many days he has left at the podium.

CHARLIE WEIDANZ welcomed visiting Rotarians. Richard Schoelerman and our speaker Ken Graham hail from the PA University Club. JP

Sahi, CEO of RotaCare Bay Area, is a member of the Rotary Club of Morgan Hill. **KANIKA SABHARWAL** introduced her guest Andres, a graduate of Leadership Palo Alto who is visiting us for the 5th time. **STEVE EMSLIE** introduced his friend Tony Klein. **JON GOLDMAN** introduced Nancy Coupal, of Coupa Café, attending via Zoom.



celebration at **Chef Chu's Restaurant**.

BRUCE thanked **GLORIA HOM** and Social Chair **GREG HOOD** for the Chinese New Year

It was a superb meal and an excellent way to usher in the Year of the Fire Horse.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

PATTY MCGUIGAN, who thought she was going to be a greeter today, shared a quote from Mary Oliver. "Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?"



PRESIDENTS CLUB

With all that is going on in the world, **MARK STEVENSON** joined the President's Club in the spirit of "think globally, act locally." **REBECCA GERALDI** joined in honor of **CHARLIE WEIDANZ**, our President-Elect. She and Charlie attended a conference last weekend for incoming Rotary officers. **BRUCE GEE** joined to honor **LEE PFAB** who just received that Tall Tree Award. And he also honored our club as a whole, because many of our members have received the Tall Tree Award as well as the Lifetimes of Achievement Awards.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rotary AI Hacks: **RANDA HOFFMAN** described how she does the Pinion. She uses her phone app to record the meeting, takes the transcription and puts it in Claude. She prompts Claude with 3 recent



Pinions and asks Claude to write a summary of the new meeting in the same tone and style as the previous Pinions. Then she edits the result. This Pinion writer admired Randa's work last week, but didn't get it together fast enough to do all that labor-saving fancy stuff!

CHARLIE WEIDANZ talked about the Rotary President-Elect Leadership Seminar that he



and REBECCA, as an Assistant Governor, attended last weekend. The theme for next year will be to **"Create Lasting Impact"** and CHARLIE was inspired to think about how we take the resources in our club to create a lasting impact.

When they discussed membership, he asked himself how do we create a lasting impact on our members? And regarding speakers, can we get our speakers to incorporate into their presentations the perspective of how they create a lasting impact in what they do?

CASH ALAEE showed a video about a global grant that was just approved. The Children of the Forest Foundation serves children in Thailand who are stateless. This grant was supported by our contributions to the Rotary Foundation. When you give to the Rotary Foundation as a member of our club, the Rotary Foundation matches our contribution to a global grant such as this one. The World Community Services committee reviews potential projects and helps submit proposals in collaboration with other clubs.



BRUCE wrapped up a few final announcements. There is a meeting of the club's Board on Wednesday at 8 am via Zoom, open to anyone. The fundraiser kick-off will be next week. Next week's speaker will be Christina Passariello, CNBC Bureau Chief.

"CRABSOLUTELY!" ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

BRUCE noted that the annual Rotary fundraiser will be **April 18th at Mitchell Park**. Next week we will bring more focus! 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](#).

PROGRAM

GINNY LEAR introduced our speaker, **Kenneth Graham**, a 52-year Rotarian and healthcare executive who has received commendations for his service in our community. He has served on the Board of RotaCare free clinics since 1990. Ken's most recent staff position was as CEO of MayView Community Health Centers. He came to give us an update on the RotaCare free clinic.



Five clubs have collaborated on RotaCare since 1990, serving East Palo Alto. In 1994, when EPA was declared the murder capital of the world, all the other medical services left and the RotaCare clinic on Saturday mornings was all that there was for that community.

Then the Ravenswood Family Health Center opened in 2000, meeting needs 5 days a week. So the RotaCare moved to Mountain View where eventually Mayview Clinic seemed to fill the needs of that community. So there are no more Rotary clinics in East Palo Alto or in Mountain View. But a recent study found that many families and individuals in Mt. View and Sunnyvale are not being served by existing programs, so there is a new RotaCare free clinic starting in Sunnyvale. Palo Alto Rotary is again a co-sponsor.

In the room with us were JP Sahi, head of RotaCare Free Clinics in the Bay Area; **ULLRICH SCHWERTSCHLAG** who is on the advisory council; Richard Schoelerman who was part of original project; and **DIANA DIAMOND** attending online.

This year the free clinic service is provided in a mobile clinic, donated by San Jose Rotary Club, and operated by Catholic Charities.. The clinic has two exam rooms and offers various services. It will be located in the Columbia Park area of Sunnyvale on Tuesdays 4-8pm in a collaboration led by Rotarians. On Monday there is a mobile dental van in the same spot, and Mayview also has a clinic nearby.

RotaCare is an all-volunteer operation and they are looking for volunteers who can bring skills in marketing and fundraising, or who understand the social determinants of health. Advisory council meetings are after work, and you will be volunteering with other Rotarians.

JP Sahi spoke briefly to emphasize the need for this service, as RotaCare Bay Area saw an increase in patients last year.

DIANA DIAMOND, who was deeply involved in the first RotaCare free clinic in East Palo Alto back in 1989-90's commended Ken on everything he has done over the years.



BRUCE presented Ken with a check for \$2500 as our first payment in support of the RotaCare Free Clinic located in Sunnyvale. This will be an annual addition to our budget.

MEETING ADJOURNED

President BRUCE closed the meeting, with warm thanks to everyone, especially today's speakers and our volunteers.

MEETING VOLUNTEERS

Greeter: Kanika Sabharwal, Duane Karlar

Welcome Desk: Rebecca Geraldi

Hybrid Host: Ben Threlkeld

Pinion Writer: Sally Tomlinson

Pinion Editor: Ginny Lear



A sparkling evening at Chef Chu's

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

<p>March 16 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting</p>	<p>Christina Passariello, CNBC Bureau Chief Topic; AI: From a Journalist Perspective</p>
<p>March 23 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting</p>	<p>Jon Osaki, filmmaker and E.D. of the Japanese Community Youth Council in SF Topic: Alternative Facts: The Lies of Executive Order 9066</p>
<p>March 30 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting</p>	<p>Vicki Veenker, Mayor of Palo Alto Topic: Goals and Challenges for 2026</p>
<p>April 6 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting</p>	<p>Rotary Community Grants Recipients</p>
<p>April 13 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting</p>	<p>Mark Jacobson, Stanford Prof of Civil & Environmental Engineering Still No Miracles Needed: How Today's Technology Can Save Our Climate and Clean Our Air</p>
<p>April 18 5:30-8:30 pm Mitchell Park</p>	<p>Annual Crabfest and Pasta Fundraiser Proceeds benefit Local Charities and Community College Scholarships</p>