

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

April 13, 2026  
Writer: Steve Emslie



Celebrating 104 years of Service

## UNITE FOR GOOD 2025-2026

President **BRUCE GEE** called the meeting to order at 12:30 and welcomed attendees and zoomers. BRUCE, clad in his tropical garb, reminded the club of our annual fundraiser this Saturday and encouraged attendees to dress in beach attire.



President BRUCE reported on his recent attendance at the Rotary district conference and overheard how the other clubs admired the fundraising prowess of our annual gala.

**President-Elect CHARLIE WEIDANZ** introduced Rotarians and their guests: **JUDY KLEINBERG** had two guests: Sunny Dykwel, local real estate broker and Dr. Ajay Singhal from the Rotary Club of Manipal, India, now living in Los Altos.

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY



**SALLY TOMLINSON** presented a poem by the acclaimed poet, Billy Collins entitled *Cough Drop*, a verse reminding us of the importance of the unexpected people in our lives who act when we most need them. The poem is

set at a horse racing track and is a metaphor for the intrepid first responders silently serving us and present when they are most needed.

## DISTRICT LEARNING ASSEMBLY

P-E **CHARLIE** then reported on the recent Rotary confab held at Ohlone College in Fremont. Topics covered included strategic planning, public image, and RI Foundation fundraising. Charlie will share more details over the next weeks as appropriate. Dana Tom attended and impressed the assembly with his stellar audio visual acumen.



## "CRABSOLUTELY!" April 18, 5:30-8:30 PM

Accompanied by President BRUCE, SALLY thanked our generous silent and live auction donors and sponsors who have nearly underwritten the cost of the gala. Live auction items will happen at 8 pm on Saturday, the night of the fundraiser.

**FEATURED:**  
**LIVE AUCTION:**  
**CRUISE**  
**INFORMATION:**



there will be a [UNESCO Treasures of Ancient Greece, circumnavigating the Peloponnese](#). Check it out!!

## SERVICE PROJECT

**DANA TOM** announced that the upcoming service project, ushering at the Palo Alto Players performance of "Frozen", has two more openings. The performance is on Sunday, May 3, 2026 at Lucie Stern. Any one interested should contact **ELIZABETH**



**SANTANA** as soon as possible. ELIZABETH gave a brief synopsis of the musical and also noted that it is the first production in our local area. She reminded that the performance is highly produced and suitable for all ages. Tickets are selling fast.

## PROGRAM



**DANA TOM** introduced today's speaker, **Mark Jacobson** who will address the climate change crisis. Mr. Jacobson is the author of many books on the subject of climate change, his most recent being Still No Miracles Needed: How Today's Technology Can

Save Our Climate and Clean Our Air. Mr. Jacobson is a Stanford professor since 1994; a TED Talk presenter, expert witness in the landmark Held v. Montana lawsuit and a guest on the David Letterman Show.

Mr. Jacobson began his talk by educating us on the current state of energy production and its impact on the environment. Worldwide, fossil fuels are currently responsible for 7.4 million deaths and cost 30 trillion dollars annually. He emphasized that existing

technological solutions implemented without regard to social or political forces can significantly reduce energy production's impact on the planet's climate. On the flip side, he cautioned that fossil fuel production continuing unchecked will lead to social instability and political chaos. Drastic problems require immediate solutions.

Mr. Jacobson stated the solution is simple: electrify as much of our energy with renewables: Wind, Water and Solar (WWS). He reviewed the sources of major energy demands: transportation, building heating and cooling and industry. He detailed when WWS renewables could replace fossil fuels in each category. Long haul transportation would benefit from fuel cell technology, buildings and industry could replace gas and coal burning with more efficient heat pumps powered by solar and hydroelectric sources.

He addressed electrical storage issues by reminding us that dams serving hydroelectric generators are a huge source of stored power that can be accessed almost instantaneously. Hot and cold storage tanks, such as those used to power Stanford's green heating and cooling systems could be widely deployed to store heat for winter use and cold air for summer cooling. He also described "fire bricks" currently in use that can fuel high temperature industrial furnaces used to melt metals.



Worldwide transition to WWS is already occurring. A survey of 150 countries indicates that at current growth, can reduce demand for fossil fuels by more than half in 2050. In addition to the direct savings through use of green power, savings also accrue because of

the reduction in the energy used to mine and transport fossil fuels which are significant.

Skeptics often ask if a WWS grid will be as stable as the current fossil base grid. Many wrongly assume that green energy is more costly and will disrupt the public's access to affordable energy. Jacobson showed California's impact on rising green energy. Statistics show that rising green energy can meet the rising demand without significant cost increases. When the reduced health impacts and cost, green energy pays for itself in a matter of less than 6 years. The bottom line is that renewable energy is not more costly; the more green energy produced the lower the unit cost.

China is on pace to become 100% renewable energy dependent by 2051. On the other hand, the US, at its current production rate, would not be 100% renewable until 2151. California is currently banking WWS on many days of the year and has many renewable projects in the pipeline to reach 100% renewable by 2050

Renewable energy critics also tout that significant land is necessary for wind and solar energy production. Of course ocean wind generation uses no land but on shore generation will account for less than 1% of the US land. Most dams in this country are not used for energy production and could be removed or converted to hydro also reducing the need for a larger footprint. s

Mr. Jacobson showed a chart of 63 countries who currently produce 50% or greater green energy. In the US Montana and South Dakota are over 100% green energy users. California is at over 50% renewables and is 14th highest among the 50 states.

for after the regular meeting which BRUCE closed at 1:30.

### MEETING VOLUNTEERS

**Greeters:** Iris Korol, Nancy Peters  
**Welcome Desk:** Rebecca Gerald  
**Hybrid Host:** Ben Threlkeld  
**Pinion Writer:** Steve Emslie  
**Pinion Editor:** Ginny Lear

### UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

<b>April 18</b> 5:30-8:30 pm Mitchell Park	<b>Annual Crabfest and Pasta Fundraiser</b> Proceeds benefit Local Charities and Community College Scholarships
<b>April 20</b> 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting	<b>3 New Member Talks:</b> ANDRES CALZADA, JENNIE SAVAGE and SOPHIE TSANG.
<b>April 27</b> 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting	<b>David Steinberg, New York Times</b> <b>Crossword Puzzle Editor</b>
<b>May Fourth</b> 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting	<b>Marguerite Gong Hancock, Executive Director</b> <b>Palo Alto Museum</b>
<b>May 11</b> 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting	<b>Coming Soon!</b>
<b>May 18</b> 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting	<b>ANDREW LUCK, GM</b> <b>Stanford Cardinal Football</b> Topic: Stanford Football 2026

### CLOSING REMARKS

**BRUCE** announced that next week's program will be New Member Talks from **ANDRES CALZADA, JENNIE SAVAGE** and **SOPHIE TSANG.**

BRUCE thanked the volunteers and our speaker and asked that questions be reserved