

# Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

April 20, 2026  
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UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD

Celebrating 104 years of Service

## UNITE FOR GOOD 2025-2026



The Rotary Club of Palo Alto convened in person and via Zoom on Monday, April 20, 2026, at the call of President **BRUCE GEE** who said we were “celebrating a celebration” because our annual fundraiser **Crab\*Solutely** had turned out so well. [See a slide show of the event here.](#)

More on that subject infra, and below.... President-Elect **CHARLIE WEIDANZ** welcomed Sunny Dykwel, the guest of **JUDY KLEINBERG**.

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The Opening Thoughts presented by **DAVE SMULLIN** reflected on what **BRUCE** had said at the Crab Feed on Saturday night about Rotary providing an “opportunity to give.” As **DAVE** observed, our club has served our community with “conspicuous leadership....”



Rotarian Bill Alhouse, Jane Gee’s dad and Bruce’s father-in-law, helped develop Palo Alto Square, formed a leading real estate firm, and coached high school students and Stanford teams on the skills and ethics of baseball.... Rotarian Bob Smithwick was a founder of

Foothill College; John Dunn, Tom Fryer and Martha Kanter were Foothill Presidents; and **BRUCE SWENSON** and **BETSY BECHTEL** were Foothill-DeAnza trustees.... Rix Snyder was a Professor of History and Director of Admissions at Stanford. His naval career saw him advise Admiral Nimitz that Bull Halsey should be court-martialed (but Halsey wasn’t).... Bob Brown ran one of the region’s most respected construction firms and completed three terms as Mayor of Portola Valley.... Warren Thoits served, among other worthy causes, Avenidas, the YMCA, Family Service, the Red Cross and the Chamber of Commerce.... **DAVE** added, “It was characteristic of these outstanding people that they didn’t talk much about what they accomplished. They were focused on “Service Above Self.”

## “CRAB\*SOLUTELY!”

President **BRUCE** thanked and recognized the volunteers who made “**Crab\*Solutely**” a sterling success:



Committee Members **REBECCA**, who gave us an overview of the results, **SALLY, ERIC, GINNY**, joined by **BRUCE** himself; world-class auctioneer **ELIZABETH SANTANA**; “Elvis impersonators” – no, Elvis imposters – **EJ HONG** and **ERIC**

**JENSEN**; Bartenders **ERIC, CHARLIE AND JAKE**; AV Wrangler **DANA TOM**....

Our Fund-a-Need recipient, Camp Kaleidoscope, was represented by its spokesman "Ribeye." It's a nonprofit led by Stanford students to support children with a parent who has cancer. Ribeye offered a compelling picture of the difference that help from Rotary will make with its work.... EJ's and ERIC's sincere, determined, vaguely Elvis-like performance left some in the audience saying, "There are just no words to describe it."

## CLUB SURVEY COMING THIS WEEK

President-Elect **CHARLIE WEIDANZ** explained that all members of our club should expect to receive a survey seeking our inputs on the club's policies and operations. Our responses will be appreciated to assist his Board in planning.



## NEW MEMBER INDUCTION

**REBECCA GERALDI** pinch-hitting for **LINNET KWOK**, inducted new member **LISA VANDUSEN**. "We hope you will find



friendship and fulfillment as a new Rotarian...." LISA is a 41-year resident of Palo Alto, and she noted that she had been encouraged to

join Rotary for "about 40" of those years. Her sponsor is **JON GOLDMAN**. Among her latest projects has been a study of our city's hidden public spaces.... She and her husband John Kelly have two sons.

## PROGRAM

Our program for the day was that perennial favorite, New Member Talks, moderated by **STEVE EMSLIE**.

**ANDRES CALZADA**, a native of Stockton and the Central Valley, ANDRES initially moved to Palo Alto in 2014. He's a graduate of UC Berkeley; following work in legal operations and other duties at Google, he traveled to the East Coast to earn his law degree at Georgetown University and worked as a legislative intern for the US Congress.



His love for Palo Alto motivated him to return here. He's an associate with the London-based law firm Freshfields, founded in 1743. Andres and his wife Staci (a development officer for a San Mateo nonprofit) are raising Andy, a four-year-old boy. Outside of work, he reads

history and catches baseballs thrown by his son.



**JENNIE SAVAGE** is in the first generation of her family to have been born in the United States. Her parents came to the US "with stars in their eyes about the promise of America and burning hatred of injustice." They

arrived at UC Berkeley in the days of the Free Speech movement; Jennie's mother tie-dyed their living room couch. Jennie grew up in Montgomery, Alabama, and put herself through the University of Virginia with help from a Pell Grant. Her first job in Washington, DC, was doing research for the Children's Defense Fund. While working on Capitol Hill,

Jennie drafted legislation that protects freedom of access to clinic entrances. In 1995, she moved to California and managed public affairs for Planned Parenthood in fifteen Western states. She joined Adobe "at the right time." Her efforts as the Speech and Debate coach at Palo Alto High School took the program from five students to 120 over the next two decades; over a thousand students came through the program under her leadership. Jennie said she founded the Silicon Valley Urban Debate League because "While genius is equally distributed in our society, opportunity is not." She has "four kids, three grandkids."

In real estate since 2003 and a Rotarian since 2016, **SOPHIE TSANG** joined us after an

honorable and friendly parting from the Palo Alto University Rotary Club (perhaps something about 7:30 a.m. on Fridays). She was born and raised in Taiwan and her favorite childhood toy was Lincoln Logs. She has technical degrees from the National Taiwan University, Ohio State and Northwestern followed by an MBA from Santa Clara and a LEAD certificate from the Stanford Graduate School of Business; she is also a graduate of Leadership Palo Alto. Sophie's sons, now 23 and 25, were both Eagle Scouts. Sophie and her partner Todd have taken up meditation, "now twice a day." She wants to stay strong and healthy, support her kids, and enjoy and excel in her work.



## MEETING VOLUNTEERS

**Greeters:** Jack Cabaness, Kristina Lugo  
**Welcome Desk:** Rebecca Gerald  
**Hybrid Host:** Dana Tom  
**Pinion Writer:** Hal Mickelson  
**Pinion Editor:** Ginny Lear

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

<b>April 27</b> 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting	<b>David Steinberg, Editor,</b> <b>Universal Crossword</b> Topic: The Crossworld
<b>May 4th</b> 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting	<b>Marguerite Gong Hancock,</b> <b>Executive Director</b> <b>Palo Alto Museum</b>
<b>May 11</b> 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting	<b>Tim Chou, Stanford</b> <b>Lecturer, Computer Science</b> Topic: Pediatric Moonshot
<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
<b>May 25</b> <b>NO CLUB</b> <b>MEETING</b>	<b>Memorial Day observed</b> <b>No Club Meeting</b>

## CLOSING

BRUCE thanked the volunteers and our 3 new members who told us more about themselves. The meeting closed at 1:30.