

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

April 27, 2026
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UNITE
FOR
GOOD

Celebrating 104 years of Service

UNITE FOR GOOD 2025-2026

BRUCE GEE

called the meeting to order at 12:30. BEN THRELKELD introduced his guest and speaker, David Steinberg.

GEOFF ZIMAN

introduced his daughter Jill Simon.

KAREN ROHDE

brought her friend Lisa Knox (hiking buddies),

and our Guest speaker introduced his mother and girlfriend. Guests Lisa Knox and Jill Simon share a love of crossword puzzles given the day's program. BRUCE also announced that GEOFF is passing his long-held Scouting liaison role for our club to former Eagle Scout **GARRY LIM**.



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

LIZ KNISS, soldiering through a sinus infection with the poise of a true Rotarian, offered a reflection on trees and their quiet importance as anchors for observing the



world around us. Trees, she reminded us, have always been a refuge for hammock-swinging contemplation, and for a kind of childhood freedom that once had kids climbing branches without a second thought. That era, LIZ noted with a smile, is now considered "way too dangerous." New member **JENNIE SAVAGE** capped the moment beautifully, reciting the opening line of Joyce Kilmer's "Trees": I think I shall never see A poem as lovely as a tree. Liz left us with a gentle assignment: find a tree, admire it, hug it, and think about what it quietly gives.

PRESIDENTS CLUB

After a couple of week's off, we had several Rotarian's join the Club. **KANIKA SABHARWAL** shared that Heritage Bank has officially become Citizen's Business Bank and is glad to continue its support of Rotary. **PATTY MCGUIGAN** thanked everyone for the get well card. She may not be at her best right now, but she's still making everyone laugh! And **RICHARD KELLER** celebrated a milestone with a graduating high schooler and a poetic image of the Winter Lodge.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A few things to keep on your radar: the **Rotary board survey is due May 8** — The incoming board wants to hear from each of you, so please complete.

President Elect CHARLIE said the



survey will be resent this week. Check your inbox!

The Crabsolutely fundraiser payments are humming along at 43.6% collected, so if you got an invoice, now's the time.

Rotarians are volunteering at the Palo Alto Players performance for students this Thursday morning, and again next Sunday for a regular performance, all great Rotary community service.

IRIS KOROL shared news from Anne Dolan, Matt Dolan's widow. Matt had established Lizzy's Got Wings in honor of their daughter Lizzy, who lived with cystic fibrosis and dreamed of skydiving — a dream Matt made happen. The foundation supports the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. See link to get them to their goal of raising \$13,000.



<https://passion.cff.org/lizzy-got-wings-2026>
Next week, Marguerite Gong Hancock joins us to update the club on the Palo Alto Museum.

PROGRAM

BEN introduced guest speaker **DAVID STEINBERG**, professional crossword constructor, editor of the Universal Crossword, tournament competitor, and psychology degree holder (which may explain a lot about puzzle-makers).

David gave us a thoroughly entertaining look at the world behind the black-and-white grid. With almost 500 published puzzles under his belt since age 14, David came bearing tips: memorize your crossworse (OREO and ERIE aren't



going anywhere, thanks to their vowel-to-consonant ratio), don't reflexively start at 1-Across, solve in sections, and above all-solve more.

For those looking to graduate to harder fare, David's difficulty ladder runs from the NYT Midi up through the Washington Post Sunday, with the American Values Club crossword for the truly brave.

Thinking about constructing your own? Have an original idea, lean into wordplay, and prepare to compete with 1,280 other constructors for David's editorial attention at the Universal Crossword. The Q&A was lively — touching on AI's role in puzzle development, the shifting demographics of the constructor world, and the philosophical question of whether puzzle "tricks" are clever or just cruel. **JUDY KLEINBERG** has opinions on this! David shared his Wordle strategy (spoiler: no fixed opening word). Find David's puzzles and other word games at gocomics.com or anywhere the Universal Crossword puzzle appears.

BRUCE thanked David, giving him a banner with Rotary's Four-Way Test



CLOSING

BRUCE thanked the volunteers and our attendees. The meeting closed at 1:30.

MEETING VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: Sophie Tsang, Garry Lim
Welcome Desk: Rebecca Gerald
Hybrid Host: Dana Tom
Microphones: Andres Calzada
Pinion Writer: Kristina Lugo
Pinion Editor: Ginny Lear

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

May 4th 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting	Marguerite Gong Hancock, Executive Director Palo Alto Museum
May 11 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting	Tim Chou, Stanford Lecturer, Computer Science Topic: Pediatric Moonshot
May 18 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting	ANDREW LUCK, GM Stanford Cardinal Football Topic: Stanford Football 2026
May 25 NO CLUB MEETING	Memorial Day observed No Club Meeting
May 25 U.S. FLAGS ON UNIVERSITY AVE. PROJECT	Memorial Day of Service FLags up at 8 a.m. Flags down at 5 p.m. Details to follow soon