

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

May 11, 2026

Writer: Sally Tomlinson

UNITE
FOR
GOOD

Celebrating 104 years of Service

UNITE FOR GOOD 2025-2026

President BRUCE GEE was absent today, celebrating a happy occasion: the imminent arrival of a new grandchild, with the baby expected tomorrow. President-Elect **CHARLIE WEIDANZ** stepped in to preside. There were no visiting Rotarians or guests at the start of the meeting, though guest Sunny Dykwel arrived later and was introduced.



happen when good people come together with humility, trust, and a shared purpose. Together, we don't just solve problems. Together, we make the impossible possible." CHARLIE thanked Soheila and noted that in twelve years of knowing her, he has always admired exactly the qualities she described.

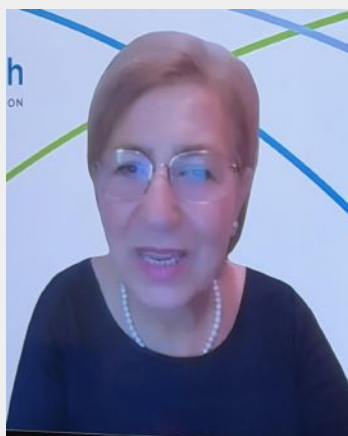
PRESIDENTS CLUB

SALLY TOMLINSON joined the President's Club to share the unveiling of her post-Mohs nose - slightly crooked, a little purple, and looking as though it is fresh from a boxing ring! It makes her feel tough. She invited the curious to come take a closer look, explaining that **ULLRICH SCHWERTSCHLAG** did so and declared that she no longer has a French nose. So that part of her ancestry is erased and she is left with a generic post-Mohs nose that she wears with pride.



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

SOHEILA MOZAYAN offered a reflection on collaboration. She described years of working alongside families, community leaders, volunteers, board members, and colleagues who share a deep commitment to making life better for others. Her central message was that no one creates lasting change alone. One person may have a vision, another brings experience, someone else opens a door or simply believes when others don't. "Never underestimate what can



CASH ALAEE joined to recognize the committee for the fundraiser, which he missed due to a trip to Thailand to visit Rotary partners in Bangkok and Samoa. He reported that spirits are well there, though the broader economic effects of the war are being felt. He brought warm regards from the club's

partners for our support of the global and small grants.

PALO ALTO ROTARY ENDOWMENT FUND

PATTY MCGUIGAN and **KATHY TORGERSEN** breezed onto the "stage" dressed all in black with hats and capes, representing the **Spirits of Endowment Present and Future.**



Their key message: the endowment has grown but we want it to grow more. KATHY said it is currently at \$1.5 million (increased from \$1.3million at the time of printing the brochures), and this year it will contribute \$62,000 toward the club's total charitable giving of \$198,000. Anyone who makes a contribution today receives a pack of Doublemint gum. In her typically colorful way, PATTY described the benefits of making a charitable contribution from your IRA, and noted that **TIM WATSON** would be available at the back table today and next week to answer questions about giving through an IRA, will, or trust.

PRESIDENT BRUCE'S DEBUNKING 6/29

Past President REBECCA GERALDI announced that planning is underway for **President BRUCE GEE's** debunking party, officially titled "**Bruce's Final Debug,**" to be held Monday, June 29th at Michael's at Shoreline.



There is no regular Rotary meeting that day. The evening will include wine and appetizers, dinner, dessert, and a celebration of Bruce's presidency and a welcome for incoming President-Elect CHARLIE. Registration and menu selection details will be in the Pinion next week: look for the link.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JULIE JEROME noted that **NANCY PETER's** husband, Eugene, has passed away. A card is circulating for our signatures and will be sent.

The Board meeting is Wednesday, May 14th, on Zoom, open to all members. Next week's speaker will be Andrew Luck, General Manager of Stanford Football.

EPIC DAY OF SERVICE MAY 16th

ERIC JENSEN donned Kathy's black hat to come up front and tell us about the Epic Day of Service this Saturday at West Valley Community College in Saratoga between 7:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. in two-hour shifts. Volunteers will help package 25,000 nutritious meals for communities facing food insecurity, alongside students, faculty, and fellow Rotarians.



Registration required here: bit.ly/wvcepic2026 Recommend selecting the 9am shift.

Eric suggested that our club members take the 9:00 a.m. shift and he will organize a carpool for those interested. Let Eric know.

PROGRAM

JAKE YOO introduced our speaker, **Timothy Chou**, a technologist, educator, and entrepreneur who served as Oracle's first president of cloud computing and taught at

Stanford University for over four decades. He came out of retirement to found a venture called Pediatric Moonshot, focused on real-time, privacy-preserving AI applications to bring specialized healthcare to children at hospitals that lack pediatric specialists.

Tim described how he came to this work. After retiring and returning to Stanford to teach, he was befriended by Anthony Chang, a pediatric cardiologist with an MD, MPH, and MBA who is chief of pediatric cardiology at Children's



Hospital in Orange County. Anthony became a student in Tim's cloud computing class, and Tim began learning about healthcare. He was struck by the gap between what technology could do and what pediatric medicine had available.

The problem Tim set out to solve is one of geography and expertise. There are only 3,000 pediatric cardiologists in the United States; 86 percent of rural counties have none. India has 300. Rwanda has one. The story that crystallized this for Tim was a girl in Myanmar whose physician was trying to share an ultrasound image with Anthony for a remote consultation. They couldn't figure out how to transmit the image. She later died on the operating table, but when Anthony saw the image weeks later, he knew that he would have been able to tell them exactly what to do. Tim saw a technical problem that would be simple to solve.

To protect patient privacy and data sovereignty laws, Pediatric Moonshot does not move data offsite, but instead moves compute to where the data already lives, inside the firewall at the hospital or clinic.

The project creates for each patient a digital twin, which is a large language model trained

on everything in a patient's electronic medical record. This enables the system to ask and answer clinical questions about that patient without requiring the patient to be present. Doing so, the system can screen for specific diseases. Based on the answers from the digital twin records, the AI might make a note in the record recommending additional tests, or alerting to the likelihood of disease and informing local physicians of the known treatment approaches. The system does not override a physician.

The next phase requires roughly \$50 million. Tim and his colleagues have created Pediatric Moonshot as a 501(c)(3), and Tim described an approach to funding that breaks that amount into smaller chunks.

Typical of the Palo Alto Rotary, members had plenty of questions. He acknowledged that this approach can be used for adult diseases as well, and they have a project underway to apply it to multiple sclerosis, but his focus is on pediatrics because those children are underserved by specialists and they have long lives ahead of them. He pointed out that another value of AI is that it can keep track of all 176 pediatric kidney diseases, which would be hard for a human physician to do even if that was their specialty. One of the biggest hurdles is getting local hospitals to adopt the system, and that just takes time and exposure. As for funding, there is no money in this except for Pharma or insurance companies. He is approaching pharma with the idea that this will be a way for them to identify who would benefit from their drugs that treat orphan diseases, as well as where are the patients who might be suitable for a clinical trial of an orphan disease treatment.

Tim closed with the thought he used to end his Stanford class, from the bible: "To those whom much is given, much is expected." He said he recited that line to students for years before asking himself what it meant for him personally. The answer became Pediatric Moonshot. CHARLIE thanked him on behalf of the club, noting that Rotary's theme this year is "Unite for Good," and that Tim's work exemplifies exactly that.

CLOSING

CHARLIE thanked our speaker and our members.

REMINDERS: contribute to the Endowment (TIM is at the back table),
Sign up for Epic Day of Service this Saturday at West Valley Community College.

MEETING VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: Rick Block, Patty McGuigan

Welcome Desk: Rebecca Gerald

Hybrid Host: Ben Threlkeld

Microphone: Karen Rohde

Pinion Writer: Sally Tomlinson

Pinion Editor: Ginny Lear

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

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
June 1 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting	Theo Baker, Senior at Stanford, Journalist and Author of <i>How to Rule the World: An Education in Power at Stanford University</i>
June 8 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting	TBA
June 15 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting	Mark Clifford, President, Committee for Freedom in Hong Kong Foundation Topic: <i>Jimmy Lai and the End of Hong Kong Freedom</i>
June 22 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting	Jim Bender, Author Topic: Boats Building Bridges: Connecting Cultures Through Craft and the Sea
June 29 President Bruce's Debunking 5:30-7:30 pm NO Club Meeting	Michaels @ Shoreline Restaurant Details to follow SAVE THE DATE!