

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

June 15, 2026
Writer: Jack Cabaness

UNITE
FOR
GOOD

Celebrating 104 years of Service

UNITE FOR GOOD 2025-2026

Due to the absence of the bell, **PRESIDENT BRUCE GEE** began the meeting with a verbal "Ding" at 12:30 p.m. After the Roomers and Zoomers exchanged greetings, President Bruce noted that



PRESIDENT-ELECT CHARLIE WEIDANZ, REBECCA GERALDI, GLORIA HOM, and LINNET KWOK are all attending the 2026 Rotary International Convention in Taipei, Taiwan. President Bruce introduced visiting Rotarian Runitin Shah from Coimbatore, India, who is here visiting his daughter in Palo Alto.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

RENE MORGAN offered reflections around the nation's upcoming 250th birthday on July 4. She shared two poignant memories that reflected an enduring love for our country that transcended our



physical borders. The first was that she was in Paris on November 22, 1963, and that night when she gathered with the crowd at Notre Dame she was struck by the outpouring of grief among the French following the assassination of JFK.

The second was that she gathered with hundreds of others at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. on the evening of September 11, 2001.

Rene concluded by saying that she found it remarkable, that even with all of the limitations of the framers, who were exclusively white males who owned property, they nevertheless envisioned the remarkable freedoms and guarantees we enjoy today, such as separation of powers, due process, equality, religious freedom, and freedom of the press.

TGIF June 19th, 5:30-7:00 PM - COME!

Don't miss our **final TGIF social of the 2025-26 year on Friday, June 19th**, to be held at **TIM & Maya MISNER's** home in Palo Alto.

Time: 5:30 to 7:30.

Check your email for Tim's Address!

Just bring yourself and a guest.

All refreshments provided

BRUCE'S DEBUNKING

RANDA HOFFMAN reminded us that Monday, June 29th, is **BRUCE'S DEBUNKING** celebration **"It's going to be hilarious!"**



Tickets: <https://palalrotary.square.site/>
Address: Michael's @ Shoreline
2960 N Shoreline Blvd, Mtn. View
Time: 5:30 - 7:30

PRESIDENTS CLUB

E. J. HONG gave in honor of her daughter Natalie Hong, who had just graduated from a joint Ph.D-M.D. program at Case Western Reserve. E. J. noted that her daughter is now officially a "doctor doctor."

JUDY KLEINBERG gave in honor of her daughter-in-law Eugenie Lam, who was recently named Google's global Director of Verticals for Media, Entertainment, and Sports, which also means that her son and daughter-in-law will be returning to live in the area after having lived abroad for twenty years.

JOHN ST. CLAIR III gave in honor of his wife on the occasion of their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary.

JOHN was later presented with his **Blue Badge** by **BRUCE** who noted that John's sponsor had been now former member Tom DeBois.



ANNOUNCEMENTS & ENDOWMENT

ERIC JENSEN talked about the recent Palo Alto Insider Crime Bus Tour, which he had recently led. **RANDA HOFFMAN** said that the tour had been "amazing" and "juicy," but also "depressing," given the tragic nature of many of the crimes.



DANA TOM gave an update on the \$25,000 Endowment Challenge Grant. **PATTY MCGUIGAN, BRUCE SWENSON, DUANE KALAR, KATHY TORGERSEN, and DANA** have committed \$25,000 to match others' gift to the Palo Alto Rotary Endowment Fund, dollar for dollar. So far, \$16,000 of the \$25,000 match has been unlocked. The challenge expires on June 30, the final day of President Bruce's Presidency.



PROGRAM

JAKE YOO introduced Mark Clifford, the President of the Committee for Freedom in Hong Kong Foundation and the author of *The Troublemaker: How Jimmy Lai Became a Billionaire, Hong Kong's Greatest Dissident, and China's Most Feared Critic*.

Mark Clifford presented on Jimmy Lai, a Hong Kong billionaire and political dissident currently serving a 20-year sentence on spurious charges. He traced Jimmy's life from



his difficult childhood escape to Hong Kong at age 12 to his successful business career founding Giordano retail stores and media companies like Next Magazine and Apple Daily. Mark highlighted how Jimmy's

media outlets played a crucial role in catalyzing Hong Kong's pro-democracy

movements, including the 2003 protests and 2014 Umbrella Movement, before his eventual arrest and imprisonment in 2020. The presentation concluded by emphasizing the importance of supporting Hong Kong's political prisoners and defending the city's freedoms as it stands on the "precipice between a totalitarian system and a democratic one." In the question and answer period that followed, Mark shared concerns about Jimmy Lai's deteriorating health due to solitary confinement and being imprisoned without adequate air conditioning.

CLOSING

President BRUCE adjourned the meeting at 1:33 p.m. by verbally saying "Ding."

MEETING VOLUNTEERS

Greeter: Rene Morgan

Welcome Desk: Eric Jensen

Hybrid Host: Dana Tom

Pinion Writer: Jack Cabaness

Pinion Editor: Ginny Lear

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

June 19 TGIF Social 5:30-7:30 pm	Home of TIM MISNER, Palo Alto Refreshments provided
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 NO lunch Meeting	Michaels @ Shoreline Restaurant 2960 N Shoreline Blvd, Mtn. View Time: 5:30 - 7:30 Free Parking
July 6 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting	Speaker: 5th District Supervisor Margaret Abe-Koga