

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

August 10, 2026
Writer: Kristina Lugo

CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT

Celebrating 104 years of Service

CREATE LASTING IMPACT 2026-2027

President **CHARLIE WEIDANZ** called the meeting to order and invited the roomers and zoomers to say hello to each other.



University Rotary Club; Sangita Seshadri, Lt. Governor from Saratoga Rotary Club, here to support District Governor, Dr. Geeta Kadambi; and Mauri Okamoto-Kearney from Rotary Club of Cupertino, District International Service Chair.

Guests were also welcomed: Ellyn Segal, an infectious disease researcher who ran biosafety and biosecurity at Stanford for 36 years, here to check out Rotary; Celine Wang, a former San Jose Rotary member interested in rejoining; Annette King, founder of a nonprofit focused on impact storytelling and short-form documentary video Slicer Films;



ERIC JENSEN introduced our visiting **Rotarians:** Justin Wang from the Palo Alto



and Nancy Coupal, a frequent guest who has submitted her application to become a new member.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY



ANDRES CALZADA gave the Thought of something free that lasts forever: Kindness. He shared the story of dropping his wallet in a parking lot after grocery shopping, a man running across the lot in the rain, wearing sandals, to hand it back to him. Ten seconds, no

reason needed-the man made ANDRES'S day his priority. Kindness doesn't need to be clever or recognized; it just needs to happen, and it costs the giver almost nothing. For the person receiving it, it can last a lifetime. This week, be the person who runs in the rain for someone. **CHARLIE** noted this ties directly into the club's theme this year: Creating Lasting Impact.

PRESIDENTS CLUB

ERIC JENSEN said he was joining President's Club after enjoying a visit from his granddaughter, in town for a week from Texas.

MIKE REYNOLDS joined President's Club noting his appreciation for his co-chair on the WCS committee, Stanz and her side-kick Joop, who are stepping up while he travels, ahead of small grants kicking off next week which is a heavy load for the committee.

YUDI DENG joined President's Club recognizing the Professional Firefighters officially endorsed Measure J -supporting the Cubberley remodel and redesign.

BLUE BADGE PRESENTATION

KRISTINA LUGO and **DG GEETA** presented



SOPHIE TSANG with her Blue Badge, recognizing that she completed all six required activities plus six activities of her choice. Sponsor DANA TOM (not present) was thanked for his commitment for sponsoring new members.

PROGRAM

CHARLIE introduced **District Governor Geeta Kadambi, PhD**, scientist and patent agent, founder and CEO of a patent law firm, former NASA scientist, and Charter President of the Rotary Club of Fremont Bridge. She previously served as Assistant District Governor and District International Service Chair, and is the recipient of the District 5170 Rotarian of the Year award (2023).

GEETA introduced her district team: our own **RALPH ADAMS**, District Polio Chair; Mauri, World Community Service/International Chair; Sangita, supporting the district; and **REBECCA GERALDI** Assistant Governor.

GEETA'S theme for the year: Inspired, Collaborative, tying into Rotary International's "Creating Lasting Impact."

"Just as spices come together to make a tasty dish, Rotarians come together to serve humanity and make the world a better place."

Membership — generating new member leads, collaborating with outside organizations, following up quickly once leads come in.

Interact parent night — inviting parents of Interactors to learn how the club supports their kids, as a pathway to future membership.

Youth "journalist squad" — inviting young social-media-savvy Interactors to help promote club events and interview members.

RYLA — currently underutilized (145 of 250 spots filled); encouraged clubs to spread the word.

Rotary Collaborative Impact Summit

Sept 19 —9-5, McHenry Convention Center, 150 W. San Carlos St. San Jose



CLOSING

President CHARLIE thanked our speaker, giving her one of our special club banners. He thanked our volunteers, and our members for attending.

MEETING VOLUNTEERS

Greeter: Andres Calzada, Eric Jensen

Welcome Desk: Rebecca Gerald

Hybrid Host: Ben Threlkeld

Microphone: Sophie Tsang

Pinion Writer: Kristina Lugo

Pinion Editor: Ginny Lear

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

August 17 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting	5th District Supervisor Margaret Abe-Koga Topic: Outreach and Engagement
August 24 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting	Georgia Faroq, ED, Thrive Alliance for Nonprofits Topic: The Pulse of Nonprofits in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties
August 31 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting	Eric Jensen, Hands on Service Project
September 7 Club Dark for Labor Day	No Meeting, Labor Day Post Flags on University Avenue
September 14 Club Dark for Labor Day	Sofia Pablo-Hoshino, Community Engagement Manager Topic: Hidden Villa, Los Alto Hills
September 21 Club Dark for Labor Day	Annamarie Lusardi, Prof of Finance Topic: Financial Literacy for the Student Athletes, Struggling Families and more
September 28 Monday <u>Special Rotary Event</u> 12-1:30 pm <u>Mitchell Park</u>	Former U.S. Ambassador to Russia Michael McFaul Insights on International Topics A shared event with Los Altos Rotary Club <i>Registration required</i>