

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

August 17, 2026
Writer: Betsy Bechtel

CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT

Celebrating 104 years of Service

CREATE LASTING IMPACT 2026-2027

President **CHARLIE WEIDANZ** opened the meeting recognizing by name the many Zoomers who waved to the Roomers who waved back.

President Elect **ERIC JENSEN** introduced Visiting Rotarians Madhu Prakash and her husband, Sudhanshu Praksh from the state of Bihar in India. They brought information about a Rotary grant request.



Also introduced were Kevin Lu from the TaiPei Rotary, and Xu, hosted by **ROGER SMITH**. Annette King and Luke Farley, hosted by **KRISTINA LUGO**. Also in attendance was JP Renaud, Executive Director of Canopy, who is a past speaker to our club.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

LINNET KWOK described a time when she had a bike accident in Shanghai and two people she had met briefly at a pre-race event took care of calling an ambulance, getting her to the hospital, staying with her and taking care of her bicycle and only asked her to pay it forward. She spoke of their kindness and how it matched the Rotary goal this year to **Create a Lasting Impact!**



PRESIDENTS CLUB

ED SHIKADA joined the President's Club to announce that today is move in day for staff to move into the new Public Safety building in Palo Alto.

BRUCE GEE joined the President's Club in

honor of **BEN THRELKELD** who brought the speaker David Steinberg, a crossword puzzle editor. David inspired BRUCE to create a word App called **Stitch**. It is free and can be opened in [Apple App Store](#) or on an Android



phone or your computer you can open it at www.play-stitch.app

WORLD COMMUNITY SERVICE update

Co-Chair **STANS KLEIJNEN** of WCS announced that the World Community Service committee is reviewing small grants that have ranged from \$2000 to \$5000 in the past. Thanks to successful Rotary fundraising, the WCS committee has \$40,000 to grant to international non-profits. Short applications may be submitted now if Rotarians have grants to suggest.



The application deadline is September 18th. Palo Alto Rotary members are welcome to attend the WCS meetings, the next meeting is August 27th.

PROGRAM

GINNY LEAR introduced Santa Clara County Supervisor, **Margaret Abe-Koga**, our speaker, who was elected to this office in November, 2024. She represents District 5 representing 393,000 residents from 9 of the 15 cities in Santa Clara County. Prior to serving on the Board of Supervisors. Margaret has served on the Mountain View City Council, serving twice as Mayor. She is a member of Mountain View Rotary. She earned a bachelor's degree in government from Harvard University. She has worked and served in a career in government in a variety of roles, intern, staff and elected official. Earlier she earned a third degree in Kendo, the martial art of Japanese fencing. She was part of the National Kendo Championship Women's Team in 2002. A woman of many talents.

The county serves residents in many ways: public health, social services, public defender, public safety, county parks among many. The County operates four hospitals which is half of the

County budget. The County is the social safety net for residents in the County. Recent cuts to Medicaid have been devastating to the County particularly for health care and the food nutrition



program, SNAP. The State provided some additional funding as well as Measure A which passed last year and provided additional funding. Nevertheless, many "surgical" cuts were needed. However, 5 billion dollars may need to be cut in the next 5 years.

Thanks to partnerships with cities, such as Palo Alto, teen mental health programs and other mental health services were able to be retained. In addition, the County is opening 15 primary care health locations, including one in Palo Alto on Middlefield Road. A priority of Margaret's is affordable housing. She spoke of the recent opening of Mitchell Park Place, which provides housing for adults with development disabilities. This was with the partnership of the County, Eden housing, Ability Path and the City of Palo Alto. Margaret also spoke about the work the county is doing to promote fire safety with collaboration with cities in the hillside areas.

The Supervisors's talk brought a big turnout of members, both on zoom and in the room;

Thank you for coming, Supervisor.

CLOSING

President CHARLIE thanked our speaker, giving her a Rotary logo cup. He thanked our volunteers, and our members for attending.

MEETING VOLUNTEERS

Greeter: Anne Cribbs, Yudy Deng

Welcome Desk: Rebecca Gerald

Hybrid Host: Ben Threlkeld

Pinion Writer: Betsy Bechtel

Pinion Editor: Ginny Lear

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

August 24 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting	Georgia Farooq, ED, Thrive Alliance for Nonprofits Topic: The Pulse of Nonprofits in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties
August 28 5:30-7:00 PM Yudy Deng's House	TGIF social of Mahjong & Margaritas!
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 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting	Sofia Pablo-Hoshino, Community Engagement Manager Topic: Hidden Villa, Los Alto Hills
September 21 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting	Annamarie Lusardi, Prof of Finance, Stanford University 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>