

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

August 24, 2026
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CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT

Celebrating 104 years of Service

CREATE LASTING IMPACT 2026-2027



PRESIDENT **CHARLIE WEIDANZ** asked the Roomers and Zoomers to wave to each other, and then PRESIDENT-ELECT **ERIC JENSEN** "welcomed to our airline" a myriad of visiting Rotarians and guests, which included Anu Ramamasty, visiting

from the Palo Alto University Club; and guests Patricia Shur (who was with her father **GEOFF ZIMAN**), Luke Farley, Staci Calzada (with **ANDRES CALZADA**), Annette Kiry and Jared Blitz (both with **KRISTINA LUGO**), Victoria Flores, and finally, Kojo Pierce and Paul Gibson (both visiting on Zoom).



shared an experience, at the age of 16, of working for a very demanding boss named Ms. Mumford. She was extremely meticulous, essentially outlawed talking in the workplace, and she had a very exacting procedure for counting back change to customers. One day John deviated slightly from Ms. Mumford's procedure for counting change, and Ms. Mumford hovered over John, breathing down his neck. But she seemed to realize that John's method of counting back change backwards worked just as well as her preferred method of counting forward. Later, Ms. Mumford fired John from the satellite office and then immediately rehired him for the main office. John said that the lasting lesson for him was that hard work and creativity actually do pay off.



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

PRESIDENT-ELECT ERIC introduced **JOHN ST. CLAIR III**, noting that JOHN had "rolled into San José in 1977 on an express bus with limited funds and a lot of determination" and now, five decades later, he's one of Palo Alto's most trusted Real Estate advisors. JOHN

CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESIDENT-ELECT ERIC transitioned into Club Updates, saying that each of the day's updates would demonstrate this year's theme of "Creating Lasting Impact."

ANDRES CALZADA introduced the club's new **monthly podcast** —**Build. Serve. Repeat.**



Lasting impact, service and entrepreneurship across Silicon Valley, one conversation at a time. ANDRES then played a short clip of the first episode, which includes an interview of **GLORIA HOM**.

BRUCE GEE shared that he had received an email from the President of Rotary International, Francesco Arrizo, informing us that our club had received the Club Excellence Award, which is the most significant award a Rotary Club can achieve!

BRUCE then shared that **GEOFF ZIMAN** has been the longtime liaison from our Rotary



Club to Scouting America Troop 50. He is now retiring and passing on that responsibility to **GARRY LIM**.

TGIF: CHARLIE reminded everyone of the TGIF this Friday, August 28,, Yudy Dang's home. "Mahjong and Margaritas"

PRESIDENTS CLUB

DANA TOM gave in honor of his younger son's 30th birthday and his older son's recent engagement to be married.

ERIC JENSEN gave in honor of "**SKIP**", a.k.a. GEOFF ZIMAN, who was one of the assistant scoutmasters and active parents in Troop 50, which ERIC joined as a boy scout fifty-one years ago. ERIC shared how "Skip" had immediately helped him feel at ease.

JACKIE WHEELER gave in honor of her first great-grandchild, Benjamin Ralph Smith, who was born on August 14.

KATHY TORGENSEN gave for Ukrainian Independence Day, today, August 24.

PROGRAM

SALLY TOMLINSON introduced our speaker, **Georgia D. Farooq**, who is the CEO of Thrive Alliance. Georgia's

topic was "Nonprofit Resilience in our Region." She shared how San Mateo and Santa Clara County nonprofits are facing rising demand, worsening financial conditions, low staff morale and burnout, and increasing pressure from

federal policy changes. These pressures are creating uncertainty, funding instability, and increased demand all at once. Nevertheless, she believes that nonprofits are "resilient"--that they are adapting and collaborating with each other, but she also warned that the strain is increasing and underscored the necessity of additional support. She stated that nonprofits need flexible, multi-year funding and stable policy environments so that nonprofits can stay focused on their core mission without worrying about the need to manage constant disruption.



In response to a question about declines in local giving, Georgia acknowledged that many people prefer to give to their college alma maters or to global organizations.

To a question about the most pressing needs at the moment, Georgia noted that food assistance lines have skyrocketed. In a response to a question about the biggest drivers of nonprofit staff burnafford housing in our area and must commute long distances.

CLOSING

President CHARLIE presented Georgia with our club banner, thanked the volunteers, and adjourned the meeting.

MEETING VOLUNTEERS

Greeter: Leannah Hunt, Nina Moore
Welcome Desk: Rebecca Gerald
Hybrid Host: Dana Tom, Soophie Tsang
Pinion Writer: Jack Cabaness
Pinion Editor: Ginny Lear

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

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 ServiceProject
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 Altos 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 Special Rotary Event 12-1:30 pm Mitchell Park <u>600 E. Meadow Drive Palo Alto</u>	Former U.S. Ambassador to Russia Michael McFaul Insights on International Topics A shared event with Los Altos Rotary Club Registration required https://square.link/u/h3AL61F2

