

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

October 5, 2026
Writer: Hal Mickelson

CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT

Celebrating 104 years of Service

CREATE LASTING IMPACT 2026-2027



President **CHARLIE WEIDANZ** welcomed Zoomers and Roomers to a packed agenda for our club's meeting on October 5, 2026. President-elect **ERIC JENSEN** managed introductions. ERIC welcomed visiting Rotarians Herbert Marchetti, Foundation Chair, and Alex Ascher,

Public Image Chair, of the Rotary Club of Querétaro, Mexico.

SOPHIE TSANG brought three guests: Michelle Lau and Michelle Cheng, visiting us from Vancouver and Hong Kong, and Chris Gaines, owner of the Performance Gaines gym just across 101. Chris came to learn about Rotary. Michelle hopes to relocate here and plans to open a World Trade Center in Silicon Valley. SOPHIE just joined Chris's longevity program, so he's the man to talk to about "reelin' in the years."



THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

CHARLIE introduced his friend of 30 years, **MIKE FOGARTY**, a New Haven native, Navy physician who served aboard the USS Enterprise, and retired Kaiser OB-GYN who helped bring a goodly share of the next generation into the world.

MIKE challenged the room to name the author of this 19th-century warning: *"Where justice is denied, where poverty is enforced, where ignorance prevails... neither persons nor property will be safe."* MIKE's giveaway clue was, *"I prayed for freedom for twenty years, but received no answer until I prayed with my legs."* That told us that the author was Frederick Douglass.... CHARLIE admitted he has some reading to do.



PRESIDENTS CLUB

CHARLIE joined his own Club to thank everyone behind last Monday's Michael McFaul event, especially **GINNY LEAR**.... MIKE FOGARTY joined in honor of **BRUCE GEE's** giant pan of paella for his son's wedding celebration (completing a hat trick of roles as greeter, Thought for the Day presenter and President's Club donor).... **LUKE FARLEY** put in a good word for the Palo Alto Police Foundation and its event this Saturday, October 10, from 11 to 2 at the Public Safety Building, which will feature Steve Young and Representative Sam Liccardo; tickets are \$100....

BRUCE joined in honor of his mother, **Joy Gee**, who passed away last week at age 100 after 18 years at Channing House. She lived through an internment camp, worked a modest state job, and put two kids through college debt-free. Her box labeled "When Mom Kicks the Bucket" held a cassette of favorite

songs and a farewell note on a Channing House menu, initially dated September 4, 2023, then crossed out and redated. **LISA VAN DUSEN** and **GLORIA HOM** also honored Joy. GLORIA remembered a wonderful woman and great conversationalist....

LIZ KNISS joined the PC to congratulate Avenidas on an excellent conference for caregivers and her friend **BETSY BECHTEL** who arranged for LIZ and RICK to attend.

VOLUNTEER & SERVICE UPDATES

We need October greeters. Kindly sign up via the link you see under "Announcements" in the weekly "Please join..." email that you see on Sunday afternoons....

CHARLIE thanked **STANS KLEIJNEN, JOOP VERBAKEN** and **ANNE CRIBBS** for staffing our booth at the California Avenue celebration. **GARRY LIM** shared a highlight from the booth experience: A young man stopped to say his Rotary scholarship led him to a job in the City of Palo Alto tree department, which is sending him to Oaxaca in November. Thanks to **REBECCA GERALDI** for making the booth look great....

GINNY recapped the Rotary event that successfully presented Ambassador Mike McFaul in cooperation with the Rotary Club of Los Altos. REBECCA brought in about 25 additional guests from the University club. Your \$5 donations covered the \$500 room fee. GINNY thanked key volunteers **DIANA DIAMOND, BRUCE, CHARLIE, ERIC** and **DANA TOM** and all others who helped with set up and clean up of 175 chairs. DANA had flown in from Greece the night before but rallied early to successfully run the a/v for the talk....

Our club's diligent and effective Program Committee is seeking your feedback regarding our speakers. Here is the survey link: <https://forms.gle/dGFZXpjApbmT5Uvu5> .

ANNUAL ROTARY FOUNDATION DRIVE

BRUCE GEE, as immediate Past President, made a gentle pitch for the Rotary Foundation, which funds the international humanitarian work of Rotary International,

including polio eradication. A portion of the money raised from members of our club is returned to us for our own international projects. Giving can be as painless as making a qualified charitable distribution from your retirement funds. There's Paul Harris recognition for each multiple of \$1,000 contributed and a fairly new Paul Harris Society recognition for those giving \$1,000 each year....



ROTARY IN MEXICO

OUR VISITORS FROM ROTARY IN MEXICO, Herbert and Alex, shared that their 80-year-old Querétaro club supports a home for 150 orphans and a center for children with brain injuries.

Querétaro, two and a half hours from Mexico City, is a fast-growing tech hub with its own wine region. They exchanged club flags with Charlie and invited us to visit. **EJ HONG** will be there in January!



PROGRAM

DIANA DIAMOND introduced **Dr. Chris Witzell** of the League of Women Voters, who holds sociology degrees from Stanford and UConn. Dr. Witzell presented a balanced analysis of the trickiest measures on our November ballot, Propositions 40, 41 and 42.... Chris explained that the League's educational



arm is strictly nonpartisan. She recommended that voters obtain reliable information from the LWV's statewide website, the Legislative Analyst's Office, Ballotpedia, CalMatters and the Secretary of State's Power Search, which shows who funds each side.... She noted that Rotary's Four Way Test can be helpful in evaluating ballot propositions and the oceans of arguments made for and against them: Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned?

Proposition 40 would impose a one-time 5% tax on the wealth, not the income, of individuals and trusts holding more than \$1 billion. The measure has been put forward by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) and UHW (United Healthcare Workers), who contend that such a one-time infusion of funds is necessary to deal with the withdrawal of federal funds and a potential \$30 billion Medi-Cal shortfall. Opponents say Prop 40 it is poorly designed, may be unconstitutional, and could drive wealthy taxpayers out of the state; they contend that if even a handful of billionaires move their companies out of California, the result could be the loss of up to 90,000 jobs....

Propositions 41 and 42 were written to neutralize Prop 40. If all three pass, Prop 40 must outpoll the others to take effect.... Prop 41 would require ongoing audits of programs relating to new taxes and would prohibit new taxes that are exempt from spending limits; it's supported by the state's association of CPA's.... Prop 42 would prohibit new taxes on personal financial assets and other personal property; opponents say it's directed to a non-existent problem....

In Q&A, DIANA raised the risk of billionaires taking jobs with them, while others noted that California still leads the nation in billionaires.

JUDY KLEINBERG helped to answer **HENRIETTA BURROUGH'S** question that billionaire status would be locked in as of December 31.... Asked how anyone would value jewelry or car collections, Chris answered crisply, "With effort." Her one individual and personal opinion: "The devil's in the details."

And her practical tip: **"Vote early."**

CLOSING

President CHARLIE presented Dr. Witzell with a club mug. He thanked our visitors and every volunteer who made a full meeting run smoothly.

MEETING VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: Mike Fogarty, Luke Farley

Welcome Desk: Rebecca Gerald

Hybrid Hosts: Sophie Tsang, Dana Tom

Microphone: Garry Lim

Pinion Writer: Hal Mickelson

Pinion Editor: Ginny Lear

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

October 12 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting	Candidates Forum: Palo Alto City Council Moderator, Gennady Sheyner, Palo Alto Weekly
October 19 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting	Ray Purpur, Deputy Director of Athletics - Capital Projects The Game is Changing: What's Happening in College Athletics - and Why Stanford Matters
October 26 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting	Daniel H. Wilson, Author <i>"Hole in the Sky"</i> and the Role of Science and Science Fiction in Understanding our World
November 2 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting	Jonathan Levin, President, Stanford University A Fireside Chat with the President Hosted by our own Bruce Gee