

Palo Alto Rotary Pinion

October 19, 2026
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CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT

Celebrating 104 years of Service

CREATE LASTING IMPACT 2026-2027



PRESIDENT CHARLIE WEIDANZ welcomed our Zoomers and Roomers, a few of whom spent the pre-meeting minutes being recruited by **HERSH DAVIS** to the lawn bowling green near Gamble Garden. Consider yourselves warned: Hersh says it's addictive, and **E.J.**

HONG reports her husband has already earned the beginner's crown.

President-elect ERIC JENSEN welcomed our guests: Laarni von Ruden, guest of **TIM WATSON**; Mayur Gowda, guest of **GARRY LIM**; Nicole Chu Wang and Linda Henigin, guests of **JON GOLDMAN**; Paige Parenti and daughter Sophie, guests of **RENE MORGAN**; and returning guest Helen Mendel, a guest of **ANNE CRIBBS** and a proud member of speaker Ray Purpur's fan club.



tells you, and maybe don't move the dining room chairs yourself, but talk back to it and tell it it's okay to want more. She speaks from experience. Those chairs were for a dinner for 12 that earned rave reviews and, the next morning, a trip to the ER. But the day after that she was volunteering for Neighbors Abroad anyway. Her parting advice: stay idiosyncratic. **CHARLIE** thanked her for always being so upbeat, a fine way to create lasting impact.



PRESIDENTS CLUB

E. J. HONG honored Joy Gee, mother of Past President **BRUCE GEE**, who had recently passed away at the age of 100, describing her life as a well-tended garden whose seeds of love, kindness, and strength grew into the beautiful family Bruce has today.

RENE MORGAN honored her guests Paige Parenti, a college coach and admissions advisor, and her daughter Sophie, a nationally known gymnast headed to the University of Michigan on scholarship.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

SUNNY DYKWEL, introduced by **CHARLIE** as someone who could keep the downtown streetlights on by sheer energy, took on the old adage that age is just a number. Not quite, she said: listen to what the number

KHASHAYAR "CASH" ALAEE offered three recognitions: one for our speaker Ray Purpur; another for the World Community Service work of **STANS KLEIJNEN** and **JOOP VERBAKEN**; and finally, the 5-0 Niners, whom he was off to cheer on right after Rotary.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESIDENT CHARLIE shared an email from John Winston, District 5170 TRF Grants and Senior Technical Advisor, approving the final report on our 2025-26 district grant for the Women's Justice Initiative in Guatemala and calling it one of the best-organized international district grants he has seen. **MIKE REYNOLDS** credited **STANS, JOOP** and every member who gives to the Rotary Foundation. The grant helped Namaste, a longtime club partner, join WJI, pairing its vocational and small-business training with WJI's work on women's rights.

RALPH ADAMS, presenting PRESIDENT CHARLIE with a red "End Polio Now" baseball cap, reminded us that polio is still with us: the virus has turned up in New York City wastewater, and cases in Afghanistan have roughly tripled in a year.



RANDA HOFFMAN previewed a new monthly club newsletter, coming soon to your inbox. CHARLIE noted that Stanford President Jonathan Levin speaks on November 2; guests from other clubs must register, but our members need not.

DANA TOM played the Addams Family theme to plug Palo Alto Players, inviting folks to join the November 1 matinee, or, better yet, the November 5 student matinee that our club helps sponsor, which gives up to 350 young people their first live theater experience. Email Dana if you'd like to help.

REBECCA GERALDI, standing in for BRUCE, noted that we're in our second quarterly ask, for the Rotary Foundation. You can now give from the Donate page on our club website, or

hand a check to Rebecca or Bruce at a meeting. Giving through a donor-advised fund? Make the check out to The Rotary Foundation (tax ID 36-3245072).

PROGRAM

STEVE PLAYER introduced his dear friend **Ray Purpur**, Deputy Director of Athletics at Stanford, who has spent nearly 34 years there overseeing fundraising, student-athlete support, and the building projects reshaping the athletics campus. The day before, Ray had cheered his son through all 10 hours of the Sacramento Ironman!



A self-described traditionalist who loves game day and even the Stanford band, **Ray Purpur** said college athletics is changing faster than at any point in his 39 years, driven by four forces. First--Name, image and likeness (which,

he joked, really stands for "now it's legal") lets athletes earn endorsement money. Second--Revenue sharing, which lets every school pay athletes directly, up to \$22.8 million this year. Third--Conference realignment, which has made geography meaningless, with media value now deciding who plays where. And Fourth--athlete empowerment, through the transfer portal,

which has put most of the control in athletes' hands.

The human side worries him most: 19-year-olds receiving 1099s with no taxes withheld, then facing a tax bill they can't cover. Stanford's answer is to coach for life, with financial literacy and career preparation, since 98.5 percent of student-athletes turn professional . . . in something other than sports. The Stanford model still delivers: 850 varsity athletes in 36 varsity sports, at least one national championship every year for 50 years, and no major NCAA violation since 2014.

In Q&A, **MIKE FOGARTY** asked whether having 36 varsity sports puts Stanford at a fundraising disadvantage, and Ray said the advantage was greater press and more championships, but also acknowledged that with more sports the pie gets split more ways, which does put pressure on fundraising. **JOY OCHE**, whose son hopes to play soccer at Stanford, asked about the biggest recruiting mistake families make, and Ray replied, "choosing the money over the fit." **DUANE KALAR** asked whether Stanford will be ready for a 24-team football playoff, and Ray replied, "We'll be ready!"

CLOSING

President CHARLIE thanked Ray and STEVE, our guests and our volunteers, and adjourned, with Ray graciously staying on to take more questions.

MEETING VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: Kathy Torgersen, Bruce Swenson

Welcome Desk: Rebecca Gerald

Hybrid Hosts: Dana Tom, Sophie Tsang

Pinion Writer: Jack Cabaness

Pinion Editor: Ginny Lear

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

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
November 9 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting	Sunny Dykwel, Garry Lim, Lisa Van Dusen Topic: New Member Talks:
November 16 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting	Daniel Fells, NFL Veteran Topic: Recovering from Adversity