Palo Alto RotaryPinion

November 2, 2026
Writer: Kanika Sabharwal

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

Celebrating 104 years of Service

CREATE LASTING IMPACT 2026-2027



President **CHARLIE WEIDANZ** opened the meeting and welcomed "Zoomers" and "Roomers".

Past President **REBECCA GERALDI** welcomed the visiting Rotarians and guests. Because of unusually large attendance, visiting Rotarians and guests were introduced as groups rather than individually. The guests and visiting Rotarians came from clubs including San Jose, Palo Alto University, Mountain View, Saratoga, Los Altos and Fremont.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY



District Governor Geeta Kadambi highlighted Rotary District 5170's growth and impact, noting a net gain of 89 members in the first quarter and encouraging clubs to focus on member engagement and retention. She praised the success of the district's inaugural summit, which strengthened collaboration among Rotary clubs, nonprofits, and community partners. She also recognized the district's environmental efforts, including tree-planting grants awarded to five clubs, and encouraged volunteer participation in future projects. Looking ahead to the Epic Day of Service on May 16, she called on clubs to organize service projects, particularly in support of RotaCare clinics, with volunteer physicians from Stanford and the Association of Physicians of Indian Origin. Governor Kadambi emphasized the importance of building partnerships with like-minded organizations to expand Rotary's community impact and foster long-term relationships.

PRESIDENTS CLUB

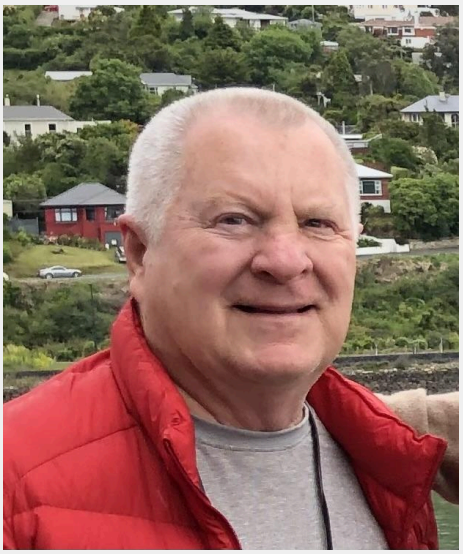


ROGER SMITH made a $1,000 Presidents Club contribution in recognition of Stanford University's President Jon Levin, for making an outstanding hiring decision by bringing Andrew Luck into the role of Cardinal general manager.

Past President **BRUCE GEE** joined to recognize the importance of nonprofit leadership and community service. Two nonprofit leaders attending today were specifically recognized: Marguerite Hancock from Palo Alto Museum and Julie McKinnon, the new president and CEO of Embarcadero Media Foundation.

PASSING OF OUR ROTARIAN

PETER SHAMBORA, a longtime Rotary member and respected friend of the club, passed away after several years of health challenges. He was surrounded by his family and his wife, Christine Shambora, at the end of his life. The club collected messages of sympathy in a card for the family, and members have been asked to respect Christine's wish for privacy at this time.



A lifelong resident of Palo Alto, Peter graduated from local schools before earning a bachelor's degree from San Jose State University and a master's degree from USC. He served approximately ten years as a U.S. Navy naval aviation officer and later built a career in the technology industry, working with several startups focused primarily on computer storage.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Peter was known for his love of travel, hiking, snow sports, community service, and outreach. He was remembered as a dedicated Rotarian, an engaged community member, and a kind, generous person whose impact extended well beyond the club. Members were encouraged to keep PETER, Christine, and their family in their thoughts during this difficult time.

PROGRAM: A conversation

Stanford President **Jonathan Levin** joined **BRUCE GEE,** serving as moderator for Rotary, for a wide-ranging discussion on higher education, innovation, healthcare, AI, free expression, and Stanford's future.

A Stanford alumnus, former faculty member, and now president, President Levin reflected on his journey from student to university leader. He described his role as an opportunity to serve an institution he deeply values.

Key Takeaways

Stanford & Silicon Valley: Stanford has played a central role in the development of Silicon Valley through research, entrepreneurship, and industry partnerships. Levin emphasized that Stanford's success is closely tied to the strength of the Bay Area community.

Healthcare & Research: Stanford Healthcare has evolved into a world-class clinical and research institution, integrating patient care, medical education, and breakthrough scientific research.

Federal Research Funding: Levin highlighted the importance of the long-standing partnership between universities, government, and industry in driving innovation, economic growth, and medical advances. He stressed the need for long-term thinking despite current political and funding pressures.

Free Expression & Campus Culture: Stanford seeks to balance free speech, student safety, and uninterrupted academic operations. Levin emphasized fostering intellectual curiosity, open dialogue and respectful engagement across differing viewpoints.



Residential Education: In an increasingly digital world, Levin believes the value of in-person learning, mentorship, community, and relationship-building is growing, not diminishing.

Artificial Intelligence: AI will significantly reshape research, teaching, and learning. Stanford is investing heavily in AI while continuing to strengthen education in the humanities, ethics, and civic engagement.
Technology & Human Values: While entrepreneurship and innovation are part of Stanford's culture, Levin stressed the importance of helping students explore broader questions about citizenship, purpose, and how technology should serve society.

Stanford Next: Stanford's 20-year campus plan includes investments in research facilities, sustainability initiatives, housing, and community partnerships, with a focus on responsible growth and regional collaboration.

Legacy: Levin hopes to leave Stanford stronger than he found it by advancing research, educating future leaders, promoting responsible innovation, preserving free inquiry, and strengthening ties with the surrounding community.

CLOSING

The meeting concluded with Rotary recognizing President Levin for his leadership and service, and Levin expressing appreciation for Rotary's contributions to community building and global initiatives such as polio eradication. President CHARLIE gave the President a Rotary banner with The Four Way Test.

MEETING VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: Kristina Lugo, Gloria Hom
Welcome Desk: Rebecca Geraldi
Hybrid Host: Dana Tom
Pinion Writer: Kanika Sabharwal
Pinion Editor: Ginny Lear

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

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**
November 23 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting	**TBD**
November 30 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting	**James Horsman, Senior Manager, Public Policy, San Jose Chamber of Commerce** Topic: AI Literacy, how it works and how it will make our work more efficient
December 7 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting	**Gunn High School Choir**
December 14 12:15 - 1:30 PM Club Meeting	**Final meeting of 2026**