Palo Alto RotaryPinion

November 9, 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 to a happy Rotary Monday, with an especially big crowd of 24 Rotarians online! We hope to see most of them next Monday in *"The Room Where it Happens".*

President-Elect **ERIC JENSEN** handled guest introductions, welcoming back Mayur Gowda, guest of **GARRY LIM**.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY



YUDY DENG joined us from Los Cabos, where she is resting after her first campaign for Palo Alto City Council. The result wasn't what she hoped for, but she said the experience taught her a great deal. She thought of her mother, a businesswoman who refused to give up through hard times because her employees depended on her, and of her own path as an immigrant who never imagined running for office. Courage, she said, isn't being fearless; it's being terrified and going for it anyway. YUDY thanked the club for its support and remains committed to serving our community. ERIC thanked her for a passion and compassion that embody Create Lasting Impact.

PRESIDENTS CLUB

RANDA HOFFMAN celebrated passing the Certified Financial Planner exam after 13 months of nights and weekends, plus the first issue of our new newsletter, The Spoke; send her photos and news for December. ERIC honored our veterans ahead of Veterans Day: **RALPH ADAMS, MIKE MCMAHON, BILL FOGARTY.** RALPH added reflections on civilian control of the military and the importance of having the country behind any war.

DUANE KALAR urged everyone to catch the ginkgos and liquidambars at their peak before this weekend's storm.



TIM WATSON cheered Menlo-Atherton's girls' flag football team, his daughter's team, for winning the CCS title on a last-second goal-line interception.

JENNIE SAVAGE shared that her husband found an End Polio Now sticker on a tea house door deep in Nepal's Langtang Valley.

LIZ KNISS admitted she couldn't turn off the TV on election night.

SUNNY DYKWEL covered three bases at once: her veteran father, her ginkgo trees, and Rotary's role in ending polio. (additional information added here) Rotary's global campaign to eradicate polio officially began on 9/29/1979 through a partnership with the Philippine Ministry of Health to immunize about 6 million children. The RI President administered the first drops. With success there, in 1988, PolioPlus began and Rotary has since reduced global polio cases by 99.9%. Working on that final .1%

VOLUNTEER & SERVICE UPDATES



ANNETTE GLANCKOPF reminded us to rake the leaves off our storm drains, then announced that the Rotary Youth Speech Contest is back, co-chaired with **JENNIE SAVAGE** and the Palo Alto University Rotary Club. The topic is Service Above Self, and the contest is January 20 in the City Council Chambers. JENNIE has already recruited three students; think of a high schooler you know, and let ANNETTE or JENNIE know if you'd like to be a judge, timer, or teller.



DANA TOM thanked our ushers for two Palo Alto Players performances of "The Addams Family", including a student matinee covered by **DANA & NANCY TOM, GINNY LEAR, KAREN ROHDE, and HERSH DAVIS.** Spooky!

STANS KLEIJNEN and MIKE REYNOLDS reported that World Community Service funded 11 of 12 small-grant applications from its $40,000 budget. Highlights include girls' reading skills in Guatemala, homes for elderly Ukrainians championed by KATHY TORGERSEN, a Mumbai school for children who fall through the cracks, Olympic values for Panama schoolchildren championed by ANNE CRIBBS, 3,500 free eye exams, and a grant to Save the Orphans in honor of our dear friend the late Matt Dolan. Talk to STANS or MIKE if you'd like to join this fun committee.



ERIC reminded us that Wednesday's Veterans Day flags on University Avenue, at 8 am and 5 pm, is our last of the year.

PROGRAM

STEVE EMSLIE introduced what he called the most popular program of the Rotary year: New Member Talks.

GARRY LIM claimed to hate public speaking, then charmed the room. When he and his wife Suzanne moved to Palo Alto, their welcome family was **DANA and Nancy TOM**. Nancy promptly volunteered him as an AYSO coach.



GARRY'S pre-dental plans ended when a beaker of ether met a Bunsen burner and singed off half his hair, so he switched to economics, earned his MBA at Santa Clara, and built a finance career at Citibank, HP, and Omnicell. **BRUCE GEE**, who had married GARRY's college neighbor Jane Alhouse, brought him to Rotary and signed him up as our Scouts representative before he even joined. His takeaway: you don't have to do anything extraordinary to make a difference; sometimes you just show up and lend a hand.

LISA VAN DUSEN walked us through her toolkit for building community, gathered along a happily nonlinear path from a dirt road outside Detroit to Washington, D.C., Brown, and finally Palo Alto, with a night in a Guatemalan outhouse and another with a rattlesnake along the way. Cable Co-op brought her here, **BILL JOHNSON** recruited her to a 19-year run that included leading Palo Alto Online, and Leadership Palo Alto and the Palo Alto Community Fund followed. Her MFA project, Public Benefit, became a public art grant this summer with STEVE and **JON GOLDMAN** at her side. BILL first tried to recruit her to Rotary in the early '90s. It only took 35 years.



SUNNY DYKWEL skipped the slides for pure storytelling. She immigrated at 17 from Manila to Salinas; she believes her family had to leave the Philippines abruptly after her father, a union leader at Clark Air Base, refused a request from the dictatorship. At 18, working for a school superintendent in Spreckels, she rode the school buses to find out why farmworkers' children were missing class, then used her Spanish to persuade their parents to keep them in school. After earning her degree at San Jose State while working full time and a career in Silicon Valley, she turned to real estate, where she has thrived for 30 years.





CHARLIE presented each speaker with a club thank you coffee mug.

CLOSING

President CHARLIE thanked our new members for three stories that made it easy to get to know them, and thanked everyone who came out and those who Zoomed in.

MEETING VOLUNTEERS

Greeters: Luke Farley, Duane Kalar
Welcome Desk: Rebecca Geraldi
Hybrid Host: Dana Tom
Pinion Writer: Randa Hoffman
Pinion Editor: Ginny Lear

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & EVENTS

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 **Final club meeting of 2026**	**William Durham, Professor of Human Biology emeritus, Stanford University** Topic: The Unexpected Impact of El Niño in the Galápagos

