



THE DAWN

Mercer Island Rotary Club

Meeting Report for December 1, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: President Tom Callahan

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK: Jenny McCloskey and her father, 90 plus years young, imparted some words of wisdom based on the parable of the lion and the calf.

SONG OF THE DAY: Brad Judy “This Land is Your Land”

VISITING ROTARIANS AND GUESTS: Introduced by Dave Schiffrin – Only one Rotarian: Jerry Burtenshaw, a long time MI resident and member of Seattle #4. Visiting Guests: Martha Barrett of the Salvation Army sponsored by Flo Chambers; Laurie Adams introduced our speaker Erica Varga; Mark Scalzo introduced our December Rotary Students of the Month – Helena Shield and Fletcher Stribling – along with Fletcher’s mother and teacher Laura Totten

ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES: Too many to mention and even to count.

ROTARY BIRTHDAYS: Likewise. What was going on in March?

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER: None today.

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH: See above. Highlights: Helena is editor in chief of the HS newspaper and Fletcher is passionate about business matters. Gary Plano mentioned that Helena had written a very insightful editorial about the notorious “tag” issue that has been the subject of recent debate and that both Helena and Fletcher had voluntarily attended cultural training at the high school. We are expecting great things from them both.

BOARD MEETING UPDATE: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Holiday Party at John and Mary Ellen Mathews’ home from 2 to 5 pm on Sunday, December 13; Tree Selling with the Lions and Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army (sign up now); Boys and Girls Club Breakfast at the PEAK on Wed. December 9 at 7 am (show your support for this great organization).

FAMILY OF ROTARY: Bob Kaercher read a nice letter from Brian Comstock’s wife Karen reporting on his medical condition (viral encephalitis), treatment and prognosis, noting that he has made remarkable improvement over the last week. He is scheduled

to be released from Virginia Mason Hospital around December 3 and then will be in rehab. She will keep us posted as he progresses. Pat Turner and Donna Buckingham reported on their visit with Brian and noted he appears to be doing well and welcomes visitors.

PROGRAM: Erica Varga, the owner of safari company Worlds Away Safaris, was here again to extoll the pleasures of going on safari in Africa. She gave a delightful talk about 2 years ago on Botswana; this time her focus was on Namibia – still in southern Africa but on the SW coast just north of South Africa. She outlined and showed the key areas of this diverse county to visit and then provided some tips and guidelines for choosing the right kind of safari. Sounds like a fascinating county and experience.

NEXT WEEK'S SPEAKER: Mike Flood – Seahawks and the 12's.

MEETING ADJOURNED

SCRIBE: Bob Olson (the younger).

