



# THE DAWN

## Mercer Island Rotary Club

### Meeting Report for

### March 29, 2016

**CALL TO ORDER:** President **Tom Callahan** opened the meeting.

**THOUGHT OF THE WEEK:** **Donna Buckingham**, observing the tensions we face daily in this world, saw relief in *The Velveteen Rabbit* by Margery Williams:

"What is REAL?" asked the Rabbit one day, when they were lying side by side near the nursery fender, before Nana came to tidy the room. "Does it mean having things that buzz inside you and a stick-out handle?"

"Real isn't how you are made," said the Skin Horse. "It's a thing that happens to you. When a child loves you for a long, long time, not just to play with, but REALLY loves you, then you become Real."

"Does it hurt?" asked the Rabbit.

"Sometimes," said the Skin Horse, for he was always truthful. "When you are Real you don't mind being hurt."

"Does it happen all at once, like being wound up," he asked, "or bit by bit?"

"It doesn't happen all at once," said the Skin Horse.

"You just....become."

It takes a long time. That's why it doesn't happen often to people who break easily, or have sharp edges, or who have to be carefully kept.

Generally, by the time you are Real, most of your hair has been loved off, and your eyes drop out and you get loose in the joints and very shabby. But these things don't matter at all, because once you are Real you can't be ugly, except to people who don't understand."

**SONG OF THE DAY:** We were led by **Brad Judy** to a season opener for the Mariners, a rousing rendition of *Take Me out to the Ball Game!*

**GUESTS OF ROTARIANS:** We had no visiting Rotarians, but were honored with several guests. **David Schiffrin** led the introductions, with **Patty Darling** introducing **Steve Marshall**, **John Naye** introducing today's speaker **Vicki Legman**, **Bruce Peters** introducing his daughter **Susan Peters**, **Bruce Fletcher** introducing friend **Wendy Weiker**, and **Bruce Peters** introducing his daughter **Susan Peters**.

**NEW MEMBERS:** **Bob Olson** introduced new members **Bing Teng** (sponsored by **Nancy Lee**) and **Jennifer Sells** (sponsored by **Tom Callahan**). Bing's career was in healthcare technology. He has just recently retired. Jennifer, having her early career in

---

New York, now works on Mercer Island in commercial development – and also enjoys coaching sports here.

**ANNUAL FUND – PAUL HARRIS FELLOW AWARDS:** David Helsby introduced and thanked members for their contributions and, as they approached, **Connie McLean** handed them the awards – covering six levels of substantial contributions. Next week will be the final awards presentation covering the remaining levels, 7, 8 and 9. The contributions overall are most impressive.

**PHF +4 \$5,000 Level (4 sapphire pin)**

David Bobanick  
Jim Hunt  
Aaron Kornblum  
Sandy Piha  
Gary Redman  
Chris Tubbs  
Trina Westerlund

**PHF +5 \$6,000 Level (5 sapphire pin)**

Claudina Campbell  
Mike Cero  
Judy Clibborn  
Gary Redman  
Joyce Wagar  
Le Voorhees

**PHF +6 \$7,000 Level (1 ruby pin)**

Amin Adatia  
Rebecca Palm  
Shirley Silke  
Bob Tutland

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** We were treated to a dozen announcements, which included **John Naye's** report of our club's skiing event this weekend and the upcoming Rotary District Conference at which **Bo Darling** will be taking over as District Governor. Bo also mentioned the Seattle *Music4Life* program which is supported by Rotary Clubs in the Seattle area and deserves our active participation.

**PROGRAM (LEGMAN COMMUNICATION TRAINING):** John Naye introduced **Vicki Legman** who is the founder and president of Legman Communication Training. Vicki described the internal functions of businesses which may either deter or lead to success in operations. This includes such basics as training, communication, collaboration, teamwork and employee relationships and dealings. These have a bearing on the success of most businesses. Vicki distributed a pamphlet entitled *Unlock the Secrets of Collaboration* which addresses "fast-paced, fun, activity-driven workshops which help business people to communicate in ways that foster collaboration, strengthen teams, reduce conflict and in general increase effectiveness."

The challenges are summed up in a Success Formula: “LS = M x U x A.” To spell this out, Likelihood of Success (LS) equals and comes about as the result of Motivation (M) combined with Understanding (U) and Ability (A). This invites positive and practical exercises designed to avoid negative attacks on co-workers and to instead use positive approaches. Some examples are to not use negatives such as “You aren’t clear” or “You did this wrong” and to instead use positives (or neutrals) such as “I don’t quite understand” or “I might suggest another way.”

This difference in approach is often basic. The change can lead to positive dealings with others which tend more toward progress than internal conflict and opposition. A further example is avoiding the word “but” (which infers you are wrong) and instead using the word “and” to denote different ideas for general consideration or to just break the comment into two separate sentences. These are all subtle approaches, but with significant positive effects. We thank Vicki for presenting these very helpful concepts.

**NEXT WEEK’S SPEAKER:** Our April 5 meeting features **General Barry McCaffrey** who will be speaking on National Security Challenges Facing the U.S. It should be outstanding.

### **MEETING ADJOURNED**

Our President adjourned the meeting, leaving us with these thoughts from Darlus Foroux’s “25 Things About Life” - 10. Pick an Industry, Not a Job; 11. Lead the Way; and 12. Money Isn’t Important.

**Brian L. Comstock, Scribe**

