



What's Going on in Rotary

World Wide



World Peace: Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies Program

The Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies Program was established to provide professionals from around the world the opportunity to be trained in conflict resolution and mediation strategies and to become better equipped to help prevent and resolve conflict, as well as foster policies and create settings that ensure peace, worldwide. Offered in English, the program is aimed at mid- to upper-level professionals in governments, non-governmental organizations, and private corporations. Begun in July 2006, the intensive three-month course housed at the newly established Rotary Center for Peace and Conflict Studies at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand accepts up to 30 program participants per session for two sessions per year. Each session includes both academic learning and practical fieldwork components. The program aims to:

- 1) Inspire people to work for a culture of peace and tolerance while enhancing their capacity, knowledge, and skill to do so, in part by generating interaction between practitioners and academics.
- 2) Provide advanced international educational opportunities for Rotary Peace and Conflict Studies Program participants chosen from different countries and cultures on the basis of their potential as leaders in government, business, education, media, and other professions.
- 3) Provide a means for The Rotary Foundation and Rotarians to increase their effectiveness in promoting greater tolerance and cooperation among peoples, leading to world understanding and peace.

More information, including application materials, can be found on the R.I. web site at www.rotary.org/foundation/educational/rpcsp.

Clint's Corner

Rotary 1st Harvest is a very important part of Rotary service to the community. MI Rotary is very active in this program, but usually by the same group each month. It seems the same members enjoy working at the warehouse and the fellowship it provides. If the list of workers each month were examined, we would find the same familiar names. Think how much more significant the effort would be if more MI Rotary members were to make it a regular part of their schedules. Of course, we know that personal schedules sometimes stand in the way...but it is hard to believe that more of us cannot spend one Saturday morning per month, at least two or three times per year. Do you agree? Will we see you there next time?

In Our District

World Peace: Reasonable Goal or Mission Impossible? Rotary's goal of eradicating polio throughout the world has nearly been completed. Fulfillment has been delayed by obstacles of ignorance, prejudice and bigotry on the part of small groups whose narrow-mindedness threatens the achievement of that lofty goal by providing a source of incubation for perpetuating the disease. Our efforts may have assumed that scientific facts and common sense would allow self-interest to overcome preconceived notions in order to promote the individual and common good. Bias intervened.

Will Rotary's even more ambitious goal of furthering resolution of issues related to peace, goodwill and world understanding face similar obstacles? It is well to note that the program does not envision that graduates will proceed to the scene of violent conflicts to invoke instant peaceful measures, but is intended to produce trained mediators who are experienced practitioners in conflict resolution and hopefully influence the next generation of diplomats and world leaders. A comparison can be drawn between the potential results of this plan and the obstacle encountered in the eradication of Polio. If sufficiently trained mediators had been able to resolve the objections of the reluctant population in advance of the scheduled administration of the Polio vaccine, perhaps the delay could have been avoided?

Classification Talk

Greg Asimakoupoulos, (Clergy) gave his classification talk. Greg was born in Moscow, (long pause) Idaho. He says he decided to be a minister by the time he reached 12 years of age and has never regretted the choice. He attended Seattle Pacific University and then attended a Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. He met Wendy there, but they did not date until many years later. They did marry sometime later and Greg accepted a call from a church in Illinois. Greg and Wendy have been married 25 years and have three daughters. About 1-1/2 years ago Greg received a call from the Covenant Church on Mercer Island. He loves what he is doing and loves writing poetry. He believes Rotary is a good fit for what he wants to see going on in the world.

Today's Program

Crash Williams, a close friend of our speakers today, introduced **Chuck** and **Barbara Snyder**. Chuck has written several books about marriage and how to endure and sustain relationships, overcome differences and maintain humor while doing so. Chuck opened the talk, quoting from his book, "Incompatibility-The Key to a Happy Marriage". His remarks were very humorous...but very true as well. Barb then related the woman's view of the issues of marriage. All of us recognized the many scenarios covered and laughed heartily at the solutions

In Our Club



Guests: Many spouses came to enjoy the Valentine's Day Luncheon. They were too numerous to name, but it was great having them join us. Many long-term marriages were announced and celebrated today. The longest? **Earl and Anne Payne** (62 yrs). The shortest? **Dick and Priscilla Martin** (1+ yrs). They have known each other for 50 years, however.

Rotary 1st Harvest: **Bruce McAuley** reported that **Marilyn and Keith Blue**, **Dan Madigan**, **Bob Lewis**, **Sam Sullivan** and son, **Neil Thomson**, **Priscilla and Dick Martin**, **Vali Somers**, **Jim Trombold**, **Chuck Hensing** and Bruce himself, helped pack 10, 500 lbs of frozen corn and 11,500 lbs. of dry goods.

Shirley Silke made one more plea for nomination for the MI Rotary Achievement Award. Nominations will close at the end of February.

Pres John brought our attention to the Run Day brochures, which are now available for distribution.

Pres John reported that we received letters of thanks from the Mercer Island School District for our gift of \$1000 to the MI Schools Foundation drive. We also received thanks from MI Youth and Family Services for our support.

Many thanks were extended to **Earl and Anne Payne** for supplying the corsages and table decorations for our luncheon.

Upcoming Events

Feb. 21 – Rotary Academy Mid -Term Session

Feb. 23 – World Understanding and Peace Day (Anniversary of the first Rotary Club Meeting)

Mar. 10 – District Service Above Self Day

Apr. 20-22 – District Conference – Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Upcoming Programs

Feb. 20 – Veterans – **Mike Gregoire**

Feb. 27 – Boy's and Girl's Club Report

Mar. 6 – Exchange Student Report – **Julienne**

Klincke

Mar. 13 – Educational Tutoring – **Meredith Atkins**

New Member

Brent Fowler was inducted into membership today.

Past President Jim Trombold officiated and declared Brent to be the youngest member of our club. **Bob Olson** was Brett's sponsor.

Milestones

Birthdays

Feb. 10 David Gallimore and Eva Agrawal

Feb. 11 Rob Austin

Feb. 12 Denny Morrison

suggested. Chuck has spoken to us before and was just as humorous, witty and correct each time. Everyone enjoyed the program immensely.



Member Profile

Jim Aitkenr (25 years of service)



Jim was born in Paso Robles, CA and grew up in Carmel, CA where he was active in Boy Scouts and earned his Eagle award. Jim attended Chico State College for three semesters and during that time worked in the cafeteria. From then on, all of his jobs have been food service oriented. After a few years in the mid-60's partnering in a Seattle restaurant, he accepted a position in 1968 as Unit Manager for David Cohn in a company that became Consolidated Restaurants, Inc. Jim has now been with that company for 39 years and works 3 days per week while he eases into retirement in 2007. Jim and Pat have been married 43 years. Son Mike is married to Sandy. They live in Duvall and have produced two grandchildren for Jim and Pat. Daughter Michelle is still single, lives in London, has a Fine Arts degree from WSU and works as a ceramics artist's assistant. Jim's favorite club activities include Bell Ringing, Pancake Breakfast and listening to the great speakers our club is able to attract. His hobbies Log Cabin building, beachcombing, crabbing, shrimping, wood carving and genealogy. His current bedside book is "The Fall" by Simon Mawer.

Story of the Week

Mike walked into the bar and said, "Pour me a stiff one Charlie. I just had another fight with the little woman."

"Oh yeah?" said Charlie "and how did this one end?"

"When it was over," Mike replied, "she came to me on her hands and knees."

"Really," said Charley, "now that's a switch! What did she say?"

She said, "Come out from under the bed, you little chicken!"

Paddy looked up to heaven again and said, "Never mind Lord...I found one."

Notable Quote

"The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother."

...(Theodore Hesburgh)

Have a good week! ...Jim Marich

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