

DAWN



ROTARY CLUB
of
MERCER ISLAND

Serving our community since 1963



Birthdays

Elizabeth Baska—6 November
Li Weiling—8 November
Dave Helsby—9 November
Joyce Hedlund—11 November
Seth Landau—12 November

Rotary Anniversaries

Keith Blue
7 November—30 Years
Mike Galvin
7 November—18 Years
Dick Elkins
9 November—9 Years
Neil Thomson
10 November—20 Years

Event Reminders

10 November
Rotary First Harvest
8:15 am—12:00 noon
Carpool from Lutheran Church
lower (west) parking lot

13 November
Club Board Meeting
7:30 am—9:00 am MICC

15 November
Fireside—6 pm—8 pm
At Melinda & Paul Booth's home
(There will be a program at 7 pm,
but feel free to stop by any time—is
an "open house" forum. Committee
chairs will be sharing opportunities
for new members to participate.)

7 December
Holiday Party

Upcoming Programs

13 November 2007
Veteran's Day
Crash Williams

20 November 2007
Update on the Mercer Island School
District
Gary Plano, MISD Acting
Superintendent

27 November 2007
Multicultural Scholars Program
Speaker TBA

6 November 2007 MI Rotary meeting; reporter: Pat Turner

Terry Lee presented the invocation
Bo Darling led the flag salute
John Nelson led us in a rousing patriotic song.

Guests:

Students of the month, **Sam Sussman** and **Brooke Bourguignon**
and their parents

Jan Sayers the teacher who will introduce the students

Helen Martin guest of **Gay Brook**

Gary Plano guest of **Patti Darling**

Troy guest of **Bruce Peters**

Sylvia Bailey guest of **John Naye**

Tom Casper guest of **Bob Lewis**

Richard Anderson and **Yogi Agrawal** guests of **Eva Agrawal**

Ed Holmes guest of **Pete Mayer**

Visiting Rotarians:

Ron Bayley and **Jamie Parson**

District Simplified Grants: Elisabeth Baska

District Simplified Grants ("DSG's") are available from District 5030. We were fortunate get a grant of \$4,400 from our club that was matched with \$4,400 from the DSG to provide an electric gate system for Luther Burbank Park. This will allow access for emergency vehicles and disabled participants.

Rotary International Foundation: Elisabeth Baska and Denny Morrison

59 people have already contributed and we "thank you" for your timely contributions. Denny clarified the two letters each of us received. The first letter announced the campaign. The second letter gave each Rotarian information about his/her own account. There was some confusion about what the sentence regarding the "minimum amount" meant. The "minimum amount" in the letter was the amount you would need to contribute to reach the *next level* of recognition (such as a Paul Harris or a pin with 3 stones), which is totally optional. There is NO minimum donation requirement – any amount is welcome and sufficient. All we ask is that every Rotarian contribute something to the campaign.

Family of Rotary: Bruce Peters

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Don Walker age 61, who died of a stroke. Last Tuesday Don was sitting in his wheel chair out front and chatting with Rotarians as they left the meeting. Don was an organ donor and has donated skin and his eyes for the benefit of others. A little know fact about Don is that he founded the MI Rotary Pancake breakfast. Don's wife Petra will arrange for a memorial service at the MICC in the near future, but the date has yet to be announced. Crash was proud to say that Don made do with what he had left, and did not dwell on what he lost – he was a “class act.”

John Mathews uncle, (Carl Mathews' brother) died recently. Please keep John and his family in your thoughts.

Students of the month:

Jan Sayers read what **Brooke Bourguignon's** English teacher wrote about her: “Her sense of humor and great intelligence, made her one of the finest students I have ever taught in 19 years.” Brooke spoke of an accident that limited her ability to play sports, but she has since progressed beyond that accident with a new focus on helping others. She plans to go to UW and study pre-med. Brooke is a Bridges leader, athletic trainer, member of teen council, and secretary of Senior Service Club.

Jan noted that **Sam Sussman** “is an integral part of my program. His patience, ethical and moral character, maturity, brilliance and great personality are so much a part my program. Sam said that his grandfather was a Rotarian in North Dakota. Sam was proud to announce that MIHS won the water polo state championship, and after prodding by Jan, mentioned that not only was he Captain of the team, but that he also received the honor of being selected the offensive MVP of the state. Sam likes to mentor younger students. He is a Bridges leader and has participated in VOICE. His most important community service was at Valley Medical Center where he was a “counselor in training” working with an autistic child in conjunction with a therapist. He hopes to attend UW and study pre-med.

Announcements:

Holiday Party: 7 December; \$30 per person (pay at sign-in table)

Program:

Eva Agrawal said that the majority of the 3rd world has no access to access to information through the Internet and good teaching is not available in many poor areas. Digital Study Hall, was designed to meet this need. **Dr. Richard Anderson**, Department of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Washington, introduced Digital Study Hall, a program that helps with this problem. Dr. Anderson has a doctorate from Stanford, a BA from Reed, and spent a year in India.

Digital Study Hall has been going on for 3 years in India. The challenge is “How do you make education available for students in very poor environments?” There is a lack of teachers, poor infrastructure, poor teaching techniques, and few books and supplies. The challenge was how to help poor students get a better education? There are some good schools, so how could we record the lessons from the good schools then show them to the poorer schools. That is what this project is all about.

The first step was to find and build a database of excellent teachers. Those teachers were videotaped teaching classes in all subjects and languages. The classes were recorded live in the classroom to ensure there was interaction with students. The teachers in the poor schools received training in how to use the videos in their classrooms. There are many ways that teachers can use the videos to improve their instruction. They can use the materials rigidly, or they can learn concepts and techniques from the lessons and expand far beyond the videos.

The goal now is to collect a full database of instructional content that will be networked in centers of excellence with outreach into the poor surrounding areas. There is also some expansion of the program to other areas. For example, Digital Green provides agricultural education, teaching farmers better farming practices. As a result they will decrease water use, improve production, and maintain the quality of land.

Rotary Information:

We are now one week into our “*Touch Down for Rotary*” campaign, raising funds for the Rotary Foundation. One day after the Kick-off on 30 October, fifty nine members have contributed \$26,248.00. Thank you for your generosity. Also, the Huskies are going to the Roanoke as a team, congratulations!! Many fun prizes are still available for all other teams.

The Foundation allows each of us to participate in Rotary’s Fourth Avenue of Service which is International Service. The work done is truly making a difference in countless lives around the world. From providing potable water to numerous villages in arid regions, including our own pending water project in India, to bringing electricity to a hospital in Haiti and helping numerous victims of the many conflicts in the world. This list doesn’t include multiple Scholarships awarded, Polio plus, High School Student Exchange or Group Study Exchange. The Foundation has helped millions of people who had nowhere else to turn. In 2005-06 more than 2,000 Matching Grants were approved for projects in 126 countries.

This is what being part of Rotary International is all about. The program encourages Rotarians to participate at the level of their choosing. **We know you will all join in and help us achieve our goal of 100% participation for the sixth year in a row.**