

DAWN



ROTARY CLUB
of
MERCER ISLAND

Serving our community since 1963



4 December 2007
Reporting: Brian Comstock

ON THE WATERFRONT

'Twas a drizzly Tuesday. Swollen rivers and soaked Rotarians. How fitting to hear about the "state of the Port." Organized in 1911, the Port was part of a populist movement to "save" the waterfront from those greedy old railroad barons. Now the Port is a major operation running both the seaport and the airport. So, in keeping with this watery theme, here goes . . .

Opening: Prez Bo took the helm.

Thought for the Day: Bob Lewis, citing our dedication to a better world, quoted from

Nelson Mandela (in his charge to the Elders, a team of former world leaders): "*We will work to support courage where there is fear, foster agreement where there is conflict and inspire hope where there is despair.*"

Pledge of Allegiance: Bo led all hands on deck to a solemn salute to the flag.

Song: Now what could be more fitting on such a watery day than *Anchors Aweigh* directed by **Rod Norris** accompanied by that superb pianist **Becca Palm**.

Visiting Rotarians: Coming in out of the rain, **Carol Nygren**, CPA, from Seattle 4.

Guests of Rotarians:

-Vali Somers introduced Interact Club students **David Yount, Patrick Yoon** and **Austin Dunn**. This is a very unit activated, ready for duty.

-Dave Lindstrom introduced **Catherine Rodriguez**, our inbound Rotary Exchange student from Chile.

-Gay Brook introduced her friend, **Helen Martin**.

-Petra Walker, soon to join our ranks, received a very special welcome. Petra will be assigned duty as Program Chair.

Annual Foundation Drive: Elizabeth Baska reports Mission Accomplished (almost anyway, with but 5 yet to report for duty). Awards were handed out to Pac 10 teams – getting more respect that the real Pac 10 gets from BCS. With the few remaining stragglers catching up with their comrades, unconditional victory will be announced Friday at Christmas party. Good job Elizabeth and her Special Forces!

Rotary Students of the Month: Young mates auger well for the future. **Joyce Hedlund** introduced the proud teacher, **Kim Schjelderup**, who presented this month's Youth Merit Awards to: **Hannah Choi** and **Jacob Bruckner**. Hannah's father, **Andrew Choi**, and **Jacob's** parents, **Jim Bruckner** and **Mary Jo Bruckner** were also present. The achievements of these recruits are deserving of the highest honors – not just in the academic realm, but in their devotion to duty in the community. Where do heroes like this come from? Congratulations to the students, the parents and the teachers.

Wheelchairs for Akola and Beyond: Ray Brook reported on the team of 22 that will be going to India in January to distribute wheelchairs to human beings, until now, condemned to crawling the earth. MI Rotary's broad commitments to India include the water dam project and teacher development. Ray demonstrated one of the wheelchairs - a model of simplicity and functionality.

-Ray is intriguing us with a **mystery guest** to be introduced at the Christmas party on Friday – the founder of the wheelchair program who will relate his inspiration.

The Search for Christmas: Grinch is not the only Christmas bandit. To recall the sacred pinnings of this holiday, our resident poet, **Greg Asimakoupoulos (Rev)**, gifted us with new verse:

Exposing the Holiday Bandits

Alas, it's December when darkness prevails.

Birthdays

Jim Buckley -----12/04
John Frazier-----12/04
Rand Ginn-----12/04
Boyd Loendorf-----12/04
Gary Smith-----12/07
Mike Galvinr -----12/10

Rotary Anniversaries

Caig Clampitt -----3 years
Bob Darling-----3 years
Fred Reeb-----23 years

Upcoming Programs

December 11, 2007

Medical Team International
Dick Frederick, Exec Dir

December 18, 2007

Holiday Event
MI High School Band

December 25, 2007

No Meeting

January 1, 2008

No Meeting

January 8, 2008

Current Developments
Rob McKenna, Atty General

Event Reminders

December 7, 2007

Holiday Party—6pm - 11pm
MI Congregational Church
4545 Island Crest Way

December 11, 2007

Don Walker's Life Celebration
MI CCMV—5pm-8pm

*But also the wonder of Biblical tales.
The miracle oil. The miracle birth.
The miracle visit of One sent to earth.*

*A season that's marked by tall tapers of wax
that light up our world with the truth they unmask.
This season of Christmas and Hanukkah too
means candles for Christians and candles for Jews.
Some grace a menorah and some grace a wreath.
The glow from these candles expose cunning thieves
that lurk in the shadows and hide in the weeds.
One thief's name is Envy. The other is Greed.*

*These holiday bandits are hungry as sin.
They steal and devour contentment within.
Like vandals they lure us. They're really quite smart.
They pillage and plunder the peace in our hearts.
They kidnap our reason insisting on new
while what we are using is fine and will do.*

*They hold our minds hostage to where we want more.
More money. More status. More stuff. So much more.
More big screens. More cell phones. More video games.
So much more technology. It is so lame.*

*These holiday villains just must be exposed.
Their criminal conduct's the cause of our woes.
We're weary. We're listless. We're often depressed.
We're angry. We're in debt. We're way over-stressed.*

*And all the while famines and earthquakes and war
rob helpless young children of life like before.
No shelter. No supper. No sweet dreams at night.
No hope that injustices will be made right.
No parents. No siblings. No laughter. No time.
No chance for survival beyond eight or nine.
No lie. It's the truth. We are victims you see
of devious Greed and his partner Envy.
They're ruining Christmas and Hanukkah too.
But there's a solution. Three things we can do.
The first is to thank God for all that we own.
The second's to care for the needy we've known.
The third is to give a free wheelchair abroad.
When we help the helpless, we're honoring God.*

*It's really amazing. By showing we care,
we'll lock up those bandits that cause our despair.
We'll find renewed freedom from unneeded stuff
and even the courage to shout out "Enough!"*

*Enough of the shopping. Enough of the crowds.
Enough of more diddies, for crying out loud.
Enough of just buying for family and friends.
Enough of this nonsense. It's time it all ends.*

*So as we light candles and ready our homes,
let's welcome the Presence that comes with shalom.
Let's listen for what in our hearts we might hear.
In candlelit silence, we find God. He's here.*

by Pastor Greg "REV" Asimakoupoulos

Announcements – Now Hear This:

- First Harvest** crew (this means you!) will report for duty this Saturday, December 8, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 8:00 AM reveille.
- Captain Blue** puts on the pressure for more bell-ringers to meet our commitment with the Salvation Army. Volunteer now for this mission possible!
- Dave Helsby** also asks support for our Christmas tree sales venture with the Lions Club.
- Poinsettias** are available, yes, for you to pick up at the Community Center. Treasurer

John Scherzo will take your contribution.

Program: Petra Walker introduced **John Kreighton**, lawyer turned commissioner. John unseated an incumbent in 2005 and is now, so soon, President of the Port of Seattle Commission. John gives a new face to the Commission which has been accused in the past of acting behind closed doors, excessive spending and catering to special interests. Yet he is not the radical reformer. His style is one of consensus building with solid achievement and sensitivity to the environment.

John gave his report on the state of the Port. As residents of King County, we are all owners of the Port. Port facilities and businesses are responsible for almost 200,000 jobs in the region. Capital projects are wrapping up at SeaTac Airport, with the completion of the third runway, due to open next fall. A new Central Terminal with new shops and restaurants make travel more enjoyable for the 30 million people going through each year. Air France and AeroMexico started new non-stop service this summer and Lufthansa will start direct flights to Frankfurt in the spring.

John also touched on the cruise industry, with 190 sailings and over ¾ million passengers this past summer. Each ship that home ports here brings about \$1 million into the local economy every time they land. Container cargo is also growing, with China as the Port's largest trading partner. Competition from Canada will increase in the foreseeable future, but our investments over the past 10 years in modernizing our seaport terminals of about \$1 billion should help us remain competitive. We have the ability to double our current capacity of two million containers annually.

With the arrival of the Port's new CEO Tay Yoshitani this past March, new and renewed focus will be placed on our environmental stewardship. Tay has set a goal of becoming the "greenest, cleanest and most energy efficient" port in the country. Many environmental programs both at the seaport and airport are already in place, and we will continue to be aggressive in this area.

John ended with a Port quiz which tested our knowledge of the Port and its many activities. For more info visit www.portseattle.org.

Bo's Parting Thought: *"There is always cheese at the mouse trap, but the mice, they aren't happy."*

Don't forget our Christmas party this Friday, December 7, 6:00 PM, at the Congregational Church.

Rotary Information-Rotary Foundation

In our Touchdown for Rotary campaign we now have two teams that have reached 100%. John Naye's USC Trojans have joined Joyce Hedlund's Washington Huskies in that exclusive group. Congratulations to both teams. What are the rest of us waiting for?

We are so grateful for all of the contributions thus far. The club as a whole is doing very well. As of November 20th, 113 members have contributed more than \$65,000.00 including club matching funds. Let us all try to complete our goal of 100% participation. Bring or send your check before our next meeting.

Remember that a large part of our money goes to Ambassadorial Scholarships. These enable hundreds of the worlds best and brightest young people to study in another country and spread their goodwill worldwide. I cannot think of a better way to help achieve world understanding.