

# DAWN



ROTARY CLUB  
*of*  
MERCER ISLAND

*Serving our community since 1963*



## March



### Literacy Month

Message from Don Gregory, Governor  
Dist 5030

## Perfect Attendance Anniversaries through January 2008



Ray Brook, 3-Jan..... 2 yr  
Tom Callahan, 9-Jan..... 1 yr  
John Frazier, 2-Jan..... 18 yr  
John Naye, 9-Jan..... 1 yr  
Bob Olson, 16-Jan..... 12 yr  
Clint Prescott, 18-Jan.. 31 yr

## Rotary Anniversaries



Kevin Bay, 8-Mar..... 3 yr  
Peter Noone, 8-Mar..... 3 yr  
Cindy Goodwin, 11-Mar ..5 yr  
John Naye, 15-Mar..... 14 yr  
Dale Dunning, 15-Mar. ..14 yr  
Roy Simperman, 19-Mar 23 yr  
Claude Layman, 21-Mar 13 yr  
Weiling Li, 26-Mar..... 6 yr  
Dave Helsby, 28-Mar..... 8 yr  
Michael Scruggs, 28-Mar 8 yr  
Jim Trombold, 31-Mar. ..16 yr

## Birthdays

March 25 , 2008

Scribe:

**Opening:** President Bo

**Thought for the Day:** **Craig Clampitt** shared some poignant thoughts about family.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Led by President Bo

**Song:** **Jim Marich** led in singing My Country 'Tis of Thee

**Visiting Rotarians:** **Alan Kunovsky** and **Ron Bayley**, both from Seattle #4 joined the meeting today.

**Guests of Rotarians:** **Jordan Olson** was introduced by dad **Bob Olson**, **Steve Star** was introduced by **Chuck Wischman**, and **Dave Putnam** was introduced by **Petra Walker**.

**Family of Rotary:**

President Bo welcomed back Merle Dowd.

**Business of Rotary:**

**David Bobanick** presented an enlightening and entertaining overview of the Membership Committee. The membership process is simple, according to David – “Find them, bring them in, keep them interested.” Remember the “Three Rs,” says David. Recruitment – having a vibrant club, Retention – having a dynamic club, and R..., well there are only two Rs, but they are important ones. David reminded club members that, not just the Membership committee, but all are responsible for recruiting and retaining members.

The Membership Committee is focusing on two programs; (1) Getting to know you – includes bios for the Dawn, and a “new member minute,” and (2) Call to action – members suggest ways to improve (e-mail David at [david@firstharvest.org](mailto:david@firstharvest.org), and invite one new member to join rotary.



President Bo thanked **Joseph Barker**, our caterer and fellow Rotarian, for the wonderful lunches Mercer Island Rotary enjoys, and asked Joseph to tell the club about the Annual Foundation Fundraising Event of the International District, Magnolia, Queen Anne, SODO, and Rainier Rotary Clubs. A Dinner and Auction will be held on May 4, 4:30 – 9:00 pm at the Bell Harbor International Conference Center in Seattle. For more information e-mail

[ness@cablespeed.com](mailto:ness@cablespeed.com).



**Ray Brook** announced that Bellevue Breakfast Rotary club (“BBRC”) is having its Hike for Healthy Kids, a 7k Walk-A-Thon on Saturday, April 26 in Bellevue. For information or questions, [www.rotarywalks.net](http://www.rotarywalks.net) or e-mail [rotarywalks@bbrc.net](mailto:rotarywalks@bbrc.net).

President Bo reminded Rotarians that there will be a Rotary Day of Service at Secret Park 8:00 am on Saturday March 29 to remove the igloo.

President Bo also reminded Rotarians that the Uganda fund raising luncheon will be Saturday March 29 from noon to 2 pm at Forest Ridge Academy in Bellevue.

President Bo announced that there will be a Fireside on Thursday April 10 at the Home of **Gay** and **Ray Brook** – 6 to 8 pm.

President Bo had further reminders that the Foundation Seminar is Saturday April 5, the District Conference is May 16 – 18 in Tri-Cities, and that the Rotary International Conference is in Los Angeles this year on June 16 – 18.

**Fables, Foibles, Etc:**

**Gus Raam** presided as the following were shared:

**Vyviene Stumbles** reported on the astronomic inflation in Zimbabwe.

**Tom Castor** bragged about the feats of his grandson in football – scored four touchdowns in four plays and won the game.

**Bruce Peters** reported that at the MI Schools Foundation breakfast, Rotary was commended for providing scholarships.

**Melinda Booth** confessed that, on the day after the Rotary Run, she almost ran over **Sam Sullivan**. To make amends, she praised Sam for an outstanding job as Race Director.

**David Weed** bragged about the achievements of his son and daughters in water polo.



Joyce Wagar..... 5 Mar  
 Dick Martin..... 9 Mar  
 Dennis Shelton..... 15 Mar  
 Charlie Buck..... 19 Mar  
 Chuck Hansing..... 20 Mar  
 Pete Mayer..... 28 Mar  
 Helen Martin..... 30 Mar  
 Paul Smith..... 30 Mar  
 Vyvienne Stumbles... 31 Mar

### Upcoming Programs

#### April 1

*Fight for Children in Underdeveloped Countries*  
 Dr Brad Berg

#### April 8

*Check Dams in India*  
 Eva Argawal & John Matthews

#### April 15

*Charitable Activities in the Pacific Northwest*  
 David Bley, Gates Foundation

#### April 22

*Earth Day*  
 George Chambers

### Event Calendar

#### March 29

*Service Above Self*  
 World Wide Event

#### March 29

*Ugandan Luncheon at Forest Ridge*  
[click for information](#)

#### April 5

*RI Foundation Seminar*  
 Where does the money go?  
[click for information](#)

#### April 10 - Fireside 6-8 p.m.

Gay Brook's Home  
 2929 81st SE Pl, G1 [click for directions](#)

#### May 16-18

District Conference  
 Kennewick, WA



[click for information](#)

#### June 15-18

International Convention  
 Los Angeles, CA  
 Pre-Registration

### Program:

**Petra Walker** introduced the Lieutenant Governor of Washington State, **Brad Owen**. Lt. Governor Owen congratulated MI Rotary for an outstanding Rotary Run, and noted that, while he is not a Rotarian, he is proudly a Paul Harris Fellow. Lt Governor Owen talked about what the Lt Governor does, and some things he is currently focused on.



The Lt Governor presides over the Senate, heads up certain tasks and programs for the Governor, and takes the Governor's place when she is out of the State. One of his focuses is on the Legislative Committee on Economics and International Relations. He is chairman of the Committee which meets at various locations around the State to allow communities to be involved. Some areas that are receiving a lot of attention now are healthcare, "green collar" (environmental) Jobs, and the video game industry, which is huge in the State.

Lt Governor Owen spoke about "growing up Healthy," and that he is focusing on marketing practices by alcohol companies. Problems with substance abuse and bullying are brought to the attention of youth through music programs. From an international perspective, he meets people from world wide locations who are keenly interested in the State because of the businesses and trade possibilities. Last year was a record year for exports from the State. Asia and the European Union are prominent in trade for the State, as is Brazil.

Lt Governor Owen noted the global economy that the State is involved in, and the incredible companies that Washington has. In responding to a question about what Washington schools need to focus on to prepare students for this global economy, Lt Governor Owen highlighted math and science, foreign language, and skills for medical research. This was an informative and interesting program, and an opportunity to meet our Lieutenant Governor.

In closing the meeting, President Bo recited a quote from John Wayne; "Life is tough – it's even tougher when you are stupid." And with that piece of wisdom to take away, another meeting of the Rotary Club of Mercer Island came to an end.

### Clint's Corner

#### Stories From the Field: Literacy Efforts in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

**Fred Mednick**, President of Teachers Without Borders

March 24, 2008

CHENGDU, CHINA: I am writing to you from this bustling capital of Sichuan Province, 15 time-zones away. Just yesterday, a little girl injured in the violence in neighboring Tibet was flown for treatment. I am not certain I know if she is literate or not. In Lhasa, perhaps she has received a basic education. The country itself has one of the lowest literacy rates in the world. In fact, formal schooling in Tibet began only in the 1950s. In a country of 13.5 million, the literacy rate is 13% for females and 38% for males. Clearly, the need is great, and the international community has done its best, against enormous odds, to help address the problem.

One organization that Teachers Without Borders admires the most began, humbly, in the villages of Bangladesh – BRAC (Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee). Here, in the land of rickshaw pullers, small traders, and factory workers, BRAC began with women's adult literacy circles that extended to include their children.

BRAC's website says it all: *From modest beginnings with 22 experimental schools, BRAC's education program now counts 34,500 schools catering to 1.2 million students, of whom 70 per cent are girls. Additional programs for children between 11 and 14 and for those living in urban slums have also been launched in the past decade, and community-based libraries have been set up across the country. Between 1985 and 1999, a total of 1.5 million students graduated from BRAC schools.*

There is no rocket science to this. BRAC focuses on reading for adults as a learning and earning enterprise; the more you can read, the better you'll do. They then involve parents in supporting their children. They change the hours of the school to meet community needs, and they create enjoyable experiences to ensure that in school and out, learning is a joyful experience.

If anything can spread joy, help communities clean water and create an environment of health, self-reliance, and sustainability, it is literacy. Though it feels like an intangible at first, the very motivation and capacity-building literacy enables helps catalyze the hopeless into people who feel they are worth something. And that, for me, is the key to international development.

### Publishing items in the Dawn

If you have information, articles, photos, etc., for publication in the *Dawn*, please send them to [DawnEditor@MIRotary.org](mailto:DawnEditor@MIRotary.org).



[click for information](#)