

DAWN



ROTARY CLUB
of
MERCER ISLAND

Serving our community since 1963



April



Magazine Month
[World Magazine Overview](#)

Rotary Anniversaries



Dirk van der Burch, 1-Apr.....	5 yr
Guy Townsend, 3-Apr.....	7 yr
Ray Saarela, 12-Apr.....	39 yr
Merle Dowd, 13-Apr.....	37 yr
George Chambers, 15-Apr...	5 yr
Bill Bain, 18-Apr.....	30 yr
Donna Buckingham, 20-Apr.	4 yr
Dan Madigan, 21-Apr.....	16 yr
Bruce McAuley, 26-Apr.....	3 yr
Charlie Buck, 30-Apr.....	53 yr
Dennis Shelton, 30-Apr.....	17 yr
Jim Stumbles, 30-Apr.....	25 yr

Birthdays



Mike Cero.....	8 Apr
Nancy Lee.....	15 Apr
Dick Pringle.....	17 Apr
Greg Asimakoupoulos.....	18 Apr
Sylvia Bailey.....	19 Apr
Tom Ulie.....	20 Apr
Paul Booth.....	22 Apr
Bob Herr.....	22 Apr
John Matthews.....	22 Apr

April 15 , 2008

Scribe: Pat Turner

President Bo opened the meeting acknowledging it was Tax Day.

Ray Brook gave the invocation honoring the spirit of his mother Ruth Brook who was recently diagnosed with cancer, and his sponsor Gene George who passed away several years ago from cancer. Both who live life to the fullest.

President Bo led the Pledge of Allegiance

Janie Stewart reminded us of tax day by leading us in the song *The Best Things in Life are Free*

Visiting Rotarians: none

Guests:

Dan Madigan introduced his wife, **Carol Madigan**

Ray Brook introduced **Yogi Agrawal**, who has applied for membership

John Townsend introduced his good friend from the University of Washington, **Bill Wall**

David Witis introduced **David Bly** from the Gates Foundation and **Jennifer** from GM.

John Naye reintroduced **Ed Holmes**, the MI Police Chief who was in barely recognizable in plain clothes.

The Family of Rotary

- Thank you from **Ruth Brook** for the flowers and card during her recent cancer diagnosis and surgery. Everyone was happy to see Ruth back at her usual table with Rotarian friends all around.
- **Mary Kraft** said thank you for checking on her during a recent illness. She is well and back to Rotary.
- **Jim and Mary Ann Trombold** thanked the club for the flowers, which were wonderful to have when their family visited. Jim and Mary Ann wanted club members to know that Jim's diabetes is now under control. He had viral meningitis that caused a blockage of spinal fluid to his brain and resulted in some problems with brain functions. He is having surgery today to relieve the blockage and he will stay at Swedish for a few days. Jim said it was weird being on the receiving end of medicine. Rev. Greg Asimakoupoulos led the club in prayer to help Jim with a speedy and complete recovery.

Rotary Foundation

Elizabeth Baska honored the following Rotarians:

Three star recipients of Paul Harris Fellows went to: **John Townsend, Vivian Stumbles, Crash Williams, Chuck Wischman, Mark Scalzo, Bill Bain**. These folks donated \$3,000 to the Rotary International Foundation..

Four star recipients are: **Keith Blue, John F. Miller Jr. John Scherzo, Gary Smith, Charlie Buck, Dennis Shelton**. They each contributed \$4,000 to the foundation.

Announcements

- **President Bo** tried to pawn off a Subway card, so if you lost one, contact him. A free sandwich is just one sticker away.
- May 16-18 is the District Conference – all invited to join. See Bo if you are interested.
- Rotary International Conference will be in Los Angeles on June 16-18. Take advantage of the close location. (Usually you have to spend many Euros to attend.)
- The Changeover Dinner will be on Wednesday, June 25th.

Fables, Foibles and Fines

- **Patti Darling** recognized it was **Nancy Lee's** birthday. Patti also held up a photo of grandson Phillip, who is going to the Middle East. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.
- **Gus Raaum** was in his usual fine form. He first honored those who have birthdays in April, then extracted cash from them. (Remember to add the two numbers of your age together and make a donation of that amount to the foundation. Cash or check is equally appreciated.)
- **Dirk van der Burch** paid \$35 for his 35th wedding anniversary.
- **John Nelson** gave two bucks for the two bucks that showed up in his back yard. Yes, the deer are back on the island.
- **Joyce Hedlund** paid for the winning tennis match against Holy Names. Stay tuned next week because there are matches against Mt. Si, Issaquah, and Liberty.
- Gus said it was good to see **Ruth Brook** – obviously prayers work.

Tom Callahan..... 24 Apr
Melinda Booth..... 27 Apr

Rotary Foundation April 15 Newsletter



[click here for your copy](#)

Upcoming Programs

April 22

*Earth Day
Waste-to-Energy*
Damon Taam

April 29

*Mt. Rainier National Park
Damage & Repair*
Lee Taylor

May 6

Seattle' Music Scene
Music Critic, Melinda Barreen

May 13

520 Bridge Replacement
Julie Meredith, WSDOT

Event Calendar

April 19 - District Team Training,
7:30 a.m. - Noon
River Rock at Maplewood Golf
Course

[click for information](#)

May 16-18

District Conference
Kennewick, WA



[click for information](#)

June 15-18

International Convention
Los Angeles, CA
Pre-Registration



[click for information](#)

Thank You Letters

Bo shared some of the many thank you letters he received.

- **Soul Lumination** – Thank you for the ongoing support and donation so they can continue photographing seriously ill children.
- **Covenant Shores** appreciated the grant for the English as a Second Language program – their staff represent 24 non-English speaking countries and the participants are now better able to help the residents and boost their own lives.
- **Boys and Girls Club** supports the mission to enable all young people, especially those who need it most, to be productive citizens. Thanks to Rotary for sharing that mission.
- **MI Police Department** - the donation will help Special Olympians from MI
- **Elsworth House** enjoyed the pizza party sponsored by MI Rotary. The also appreciated the amazingly good jazz musicians, many who could speak Mandarin Chinese to the residents.

Today's Program

David Witis introduced the new director of Pacific Northwest Division of the Gates Foundation, **David Bly**



Rotary and the Gates Foundation have a lot in common. We both start with the "heart". Rotary's motto is Service Above Self, which ties in with what Mary Gates liked to quote, "to whom much is given, much is expected".

David grew up in a situation similar to MI – great family, great education, solid community, and all family members lived productive lives. Giving to others was just a part of their lives. Bill Gates grew up learning about philanthropy around the family dinner table. His parents were models of giving long before Bill even came on the scene. Melinda also modeled the

giving spirit, having volunteered many years as a youngster and as an adult. Together, they built the seeds of compassion that started the Gates Foundation.

So what drives us to place service above self, to act on our compassion for people we will likely never meet? Because we can make a difference in the lives of others! The Gates Foundation gave \$100 million to Rotary's polio campaign, which represents a sense of optimism to cure a serious problem in the world. We can end this crippling disease soon. In the 1980's 1,000 children daily were diagnosed with polio. Today polio is down 99%. Now only 2,000 cases are diagnosed every year. Over 2 billion children are now immunized against polio. What an amazing joint effort between the Gates Foundation and Rotary.

The Gates Foundation work is guided by the following principles:

1. All lives, no matter where they live, have equal value.
2. Innovation, ingenuity and scientific breakthroughs can be leveraged to meet the needs of all people.
3. We have deep appreciation of economic forces shaping individual and community success. The economic system has driven great progress, so we need to harness the markets.
4. The foundation does not act alone. We always partner with business, governments and non profits.

75% of our giving is overseas due to the intense poverty. We give to prevent and treat AIDS/HIV and malaria, among other diseases. We provide for potable water, shelter, medicine, and more. The needs are the greatest in other countries, but 25% are given in the US.

In Washington and across the nation, education is the key. Thirteen million American children live in poverty and the majority of them have academic skills many grades below their peers. Half will not graduate from high school. Most of the graduates will function only at an 8th grade level. Only 1 in 10 children in poverty will earn a college degree. Education is the way out of poverty. The Gates Foundation is committed to getting students ready for college and then to provide the financial resources for them to attend. They also provide access to technology.

The foundation is now also focusing on the very youngest children, to provide support for struggling families to help prevent serious problems. The foundation is giving to programs for infants to kindergarten age, to prepare them for school. These children have not failed, we have failed them, so we need to give them a fair chance for success.

We aim at the toughest problems. The Gates Foundation is dedicated to ending family homelessness in Washington state. There are 1.3 million homeless children in the US, and 13,000 children are living in destitute situations in Washington State. The Gates Foundation gave 40 million dollars to Sound Families to demonstrate how to better serve homeless families. This program has been a success. After 8 years, there are now 1,500 affordable homes available to destitute families in this region. 2,700 children have warm safe homes in WA. We have achieved progress with those in most need. Employment rates have doubled, incomes are up for 60% of families, reliance on the government has decreased by 20%, and fewer children changed schools each year. The foundation is still committed to improving this problem. We can do better. We will make another round of investments to spread our learning and serve more families. We are going to focus on prevention, keeping people in their homes before they lose them. We will try to provide Rapid Rehousing, which is a move

to permanent housing rather than having to first go to a shelter. Some people need just a financial boost, but some need longer term support including mental health, etc. This is always a challenge. We also need to get people earning \$15-20 an hour. They went to from \$8 to \$11 an hour, but now we need to move them to a sustainable wage.

There is great power in the statement "all lives, no matter where they live, have equal value".

To quote Melinda Gates' 3 year old, "This is difficult, but I like difficult"

Let's keep up the good work together.

Bo's thought for the day

We were taxed less and governed better under George the Third.

Member Profile

Elizabeth Baska (3 years of Service)



Elizabeth moved to Mercer Island with her family when she was in the 9th grade. She graduated from MIHS in 1983 and attended Puget Sound University for her freshman year. For her junior year, she transferred to UW where she majored in Speech Communications. She also received a minor in Marketing. After graduating in 1987, she began an 18 year career in marketing, sales and sales management, focusing on radio and television advertising. At age 36, she received a message from the Lord in the form of heart attack. This event changed her priorities to allow more time for family and volunteering. Her mother, (Sue Sherwood), had been asking her to work in real estate sales, and it felt like the right time to do it. This proved to be a good fit for her strengths and experience.

Elizabeth is a consistent volunteer in schools and at the Presbyterian church. She is President of the Board for Educational Tutoring and Consulting (ETC), chair of Long Range Planning at MI Saddle Club, a PEO, a National Spokeswoman for Women with Heart Disease and she and her daughter have just been welcomed into the National Charity League.

Elizabeth has two children, Erica, 15 and a son Kyle, 13. Erica is on the JV tennis team at MIHS and Kyle is in 7th grade at the Middle School.

Elizabeth met husband Dave on the tennis courts in Ft. Collins, CO when she was 14. They eventually married. Dave has a BA in Civil Engineering from Colorado School of Mines, a Masters from UC Berkeley and a PhD from UW. His specialty is earthquake technology, and he travels a good deal for his firm, Terecon.

The Baskas have a license plate that reads 10S4EVR. Elizabeth enjoys tennis, reading, sunshine a seeing her extended family at noon each Tuesday.

Clint's Corner

Rotary magazines: Getting the word out

April is Magazine Month, a time to celebrate the global network of Rotary's official magazines, which provide valuable information to 1.2 million Rotarians.

[The Rotary World Magazine Press](#) consists of 32 magazines from Africa, the Americas, Asia, Australia, and Europe that inform, inspire, and entertain in 23 languages. In addition to [The Rotarian](#), Rotary's English-language flagship publication, it offers magazines such as *Vida Rotaria* (Argentina), *Rotary in Bulgaria*, and *The Rotary-no-Tomo* (Japan).

The RI Bylaws require all club members to subscribe to *The Rotarian* or a Rotary regional magazine. Rotary leaders, district governors, and club presidents are encouraged to support magazine editors in their country or region by submitting story ideas, promoting readership, encouraging timely subscription payments, and assisting with other communication efforts. Look for a new international supplement edition in the pages of *The Rotarian* early in the 2008-09 Rotary year. The eight-page supplement, to be produced for all official Rotary magazines, will highlight Rotary's work on the global stage. Ahmet Tükel, editor of *Rotary Dergisi*, the Turkish magazine, says the special edition represents a step forward. "The supplement will help promote a unified and global image of the organization," he notes, "and show how collaboration of editors from different parts of the world can help put together a tool for communicating the strength and appeal of Rotary International."

Publishing items in the Dawn

If you have information, articles, photos, etc., for publication in the Dawn, please send them to DawnEditor@MIRotary.org.