

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 22, 2008

Scribe: Brian Comstock

EARTH DAY 2008 – From Conception to the Next Level

QUESTION: What do Seattle and Earth Day have in common? Believe it or not, Seattle can claim the birthrights to Earth Day. It was in Seattle, September 1969 -- in the midst of protests over the Viet Nam war and the untimely death Jimi Hendrix -- that a conference took place attracting national attention. As spokesman for the conference, U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin announced there would be a nationwide grassroots demonstration on the environment. In keeping with the times, it was to be a protest – a throwing down of the gauntlet that would put the environment on the national agenda. Today Earth Day is observed in countries large and small around the globe, by more than a billion people. Yes, it all began in the city by the Sound, known for its radical movements and elitists who drink too much coffee.

President Bo Darling called forth his flock to worship the good earth and conduct other necessary business.

For inspiration, **David Bobanick** reminded us of the memorable words of Chief Seattle (a true environmentalist before his time): *“Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect.”*

John Nelson then led us in a rousing *God Bless America* – befitting respect for the land we live in.

We had many **visitors** and **guests**: There was **Carl Behnke**, a frequent visitor from Seattle 4. **Shirley Silke** introduced her daughter, **Julie Devin**, and a friend, **Bob Long**. **Nancy Lee** introduced her friend and partner, **Carol Friends** (third visit and prospective member). **John Frazier** introduced another frequent visitor, **Steve Agnew** (filling out a membership application). Not to be outdone, **Dave Lindstrom** introduced prospective member **Mary Gonzales**. Mary is from Venezuela and has an interesting story to tell. .

Bruce Peters reported on our **Rotary family**: **Gordon Rasmussen’s** wife, **Susan**, recently came down with an illness that ended up in the hospital. Good news, however, she’s back home and on the mend. **Mary Ann Trombold** reports that **Jim** is on the road to recovery and will appreciate cards and greetings -- but not visits quite yet. **Paul Smith** is a good intermediary. Our thoughts are with you, Jim and Mary Ann.

There was many a **foible** and **fable**, but few **fin**s because, alas, that terrifying Viking, **Gus Raam**, was out on a raid elsewhere.

- **Duane Matthews** reported that MI Rotary was well represented at the April 16 Volunteer Appreciation Dinner sponsored by Mercer Island Parks and Recreation and Youth and Family Services. Duane and other Rotarians were interviewed on video – including **Jim Aitken** and **Bo Darling**. Yes, our Rotarians are visibility in community service.

- **Joyce Hedlund** (“**Coach**”) has good reason to be proud of the talent on her girl’s team at MI High School. (I can attest she has a freshman at #1 who hits the ball harder the Serena.) So, the girls won over Liberty which has a formidable team, and they play Bellevue today (smart money bets on MI). Way to go, Coach!

- **Tom Castor** just can’t stop bragging about that grandson - who seems to be good for about 3 touchdowns per game. If the statistics mean anything, Tom has reason to be proud.

- **Bob Williams** also can’t stop bragging. He unfurled a red tee-shirt that had a lot of Kansas U basketball championship stuff all over it. Will this March Madness never end! Gus, we need you!

- I guess we can forgive **John Naye** for quizzing us on the countries our exchange students go to and come from. (Hint, you’re safe in saying Chile.) But wait, our newest inbound student is from Turkey and needs a hosting family. Step forward and I can promise you a rewarding experience. These young people have a way of becoming part of the family.

Our annual Foundation drive was a success. **Elizabeth Baska** honored some of the major contributors who made that possible. In the category of **PH + 5** (\$5,000), sapphire pins were awarded to **Jim Aitken**, **Dave Lindstrom**, **Curt Nakayama** and **Bruce Peters**. In the category of **PH + 6**, pins were awarded to **Tom Ulie** and **Denny Morrison**. Finally, in the category of **PH + 8** (wow!), pins with 3 rubies were awarded to **Sam Sullivan** and **Bob Lewis**. Congratulations from all of us to each of you. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

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

Rotary Foundation April 15 Newsletter



[click here for your copy](#)

Upcoming Programs

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

May 20

Law and Order
Hon. Richard Jones
Federal Judge

Event Calendar

April 30

District Leadership Council Meeting

May 8

Fireside at John Naye's
8215 SE 59th St

[click here for directions](#)

May 16-18

District Conference
Kennewick, WA



[click for information](#)

June 15-18

International Convention
Los Angeles, CA
Pre-Registration



[click for information](#)

Shirley Silke introduced the Earth Day program. She traced the history of this annual event, beginning as a diversity and enjoyment of life festival to a serious environmental movement observed by more than 170 nations. She introduced guests who are interested particularly in thermal recycling, King County Councilmember **Kathy Lambert**, **Douglas Gilmore**, Executive Vice President of Waste Recovery Seattle International, LLC, and **Philipp Schmidt-Pathmann**, Executive Vice President of Green Conversion Systems, LLC. Obviously, things are happening in Seattle-King County in the areas of waste recovery and green conversion systems. So, let's see what that is all about.

George Chambers is a real activist in the cause of converting waste to energy. You should talk with him just to learn all that's going on. George introduced our speaker, **Damon Taam**, who is head of the Spokane Regional Solid Waste System.



The macro approach to establishing a city-county system for handling solid waste and converting it to energy parallels in many ways our own experience with METRO. The Spokane Regional Solid Waste System (SRSWS) was created in 1998 by agreement between Spokane County and the City of Spokane. The system manages **all** garbage in Spokane County (it's a monopoly). All cities and towns in Spokane County and Fairchild Air Force Base participate in the system through interlocal agreements. The solid waste facilities are publicly owned and were financed through the issuance of tax-exempt revenue bonds. The facilities are operated under contract with a private company that specializes in this type of business.

Aside from the regional approach that makes a lot of sense, there is a further element that makes this system unique. The key concept is converting Waste to Energy or WTE. As you know, the practice has always been for garbage to be carted away to huge, smelly dumps where it is compacted and treated – then eventually deposited in even huger landfills, to be forgotten. The problem is that the landfills are becoming harder and harder to find – and they are proving hazards to the environment, seeping into groundwaters and eventually becoming Superfund sites. The Spokane WTE facility recycles trash into energy that runs turbine generators. The electricity that is produced is then distributed to the Northwest Power Grid.

The furnace and other components of the WTE plant are capable of consuming all trash leaving nothing but ferrous metal scrap and ash. This is a system that not only creates needed energy for consumers, but reduces greenhouse gases and the problems associated with landfills. As I say, if you want to find out what's happening in King County and wish to get involved, see George. Let's see, if Earth Day was conceived in Seattle some 39 years ago, maybe we are the ones who can now take it to the next level.

For his parting thought, **Bo** called on Ring Lardner: "*The race is not always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong – but that's the way to bet!*"

Clint's Corner

In this world of immediate information through the Internet, e-mails, blogs, and cell phones, the very idea of celebrating Magazine Month sounds somewhat old-fashioned. Although information about Rotary Foundation programs is immediately available at www.rotary.org, your Rotary magazine is still the best place to read in-depth accounts of the Foundation's remarkable work around the world.

Member Profile

Bob Darling (3 years of service)



Bob was born elsewhere, but moved to Chicago with his family when he was three years old. He attended grade school and high school in Chicago, before attending Dennison University in Granville, Ohio where he earned a degree. He then spent two years in the Army Medical Corps. Upon discharge, he began working at what was his lifelong ambition - writing ads for the print media, radio, TV, outdoor billboards, etc. His customers were various advertising agencies and independent clients. Bob retired and moved to Covenant shores, but still maintains a soft-spot for the Chicago White Sox and "da Bears".

Publishing items in the Dawn

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

