

DAWN



ROTARY CLUB
of
MERCER ISLAND

Serving our community since 1963



May Rotary Fellowship Month



[Rotary Fellowship Link](#)

Newsletter from DG
Don Gregory



Perfect Attendance Anniversary through April 2008



George Chambers, 15-Apr 5 yrs
Eva Agrawal, 18-Apr..... 2 yrs

Rotary Anniversaries



John Edmonds, 2-Jun..... 35
Greg Asimakoupoulos, 6-Jun... 2
Joyce Wagar, 8-Jun..... 15
Jim Aitken, 9-Jun..... 27
Bob Olsen, 9-Jun..... 27
Harold Hill, 10-Jun..... 39
Chuck Hansing, 13-Jun..... 2
Vali Somers, 14-Jun..... 3
Bo Darling, 15-Jun..... 9
Tom Bierlein, 19-Jun..... 19
John Townsend, 30-Jun..... 16

Birthdays

June 10, 2008 Scribe: Nancy Hilliard

Paul Smith opened with thoughts from Thomas Jefferson, who was only 33 when he wrote the Declaration of Independence, disassociating from Britain in 1776. He said TJ would have made a great Rotarian:

“That government is best which governs least; because its people discipline themselves . . . On matters of style, swim with the current, on matters of principle, stand like a rock. . . .When angry, count to 10 before you speak. If very angry, count to 100. . . . Nothing in the world can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goal; nothing on Earth can help the man with the wrong mental attitude. . . .”The greatest honor of man is in doing good to his fellow man.”

It was fun to sing *Let There Be Peace on Earth*, to the rousing piano accompaniment of **Becca Palm** once again.

Visitor **Ashley Mendes**, MIHS class of 2003, and her interpreter father, **Dan**, told Rotarians how Ashley has used her three vocational awards from our club to stay on track to graduate in 2009 from Ohio State University in Hotel and Restaurant Management – with a 3.5 GPA! She has the additional expense of hiring interpreters in all her classes, since she is profoundly deaf. She has been a deserving and hard worker, who some day wants to manage a hotel.

Other visitors: **Janet Graeber**, educator from Sammamish; **Gus Raam's** son, **Chris; Catherine Rodriguez**, Chilean exchange student and her friend from Chile **Valentine Parada**, who went on an exchange to Hawaii; **Bill McGovern**, former MI Rotarian and guest of **Jim Aitken; Mary Ellen Matthews**, to be inducted in a couple weeks; **Collin Bowen**, son of **Scott Bowen** and **Vali Somers**.



Gary Smith inducted into membership **Steve Agnew**, a commercial printer who lives on Mercer Island with his family. He was proposed by **John Frazier**. Welcome, Steve.

Recent new members **Tom Castor** and **Yogi Agrawal** gave “minutes from new members” to tell what’s inspired them and remind us of what we may take for granted: Said Tom, “I rejoice in now having 1.2 million friends in Rotary, but it’s been especially true here – your hellos and smiles and warm welcome make me feel I belong. The breadth of all the activities displayed at the District Conference in Kennewick really touched my heart.” Yogi told of the 23 MI Rotarians and families who visited India together earlier this year, and sealed their friendships in their two-week journey.

Family of Rotary:

- **Ray Saarela** and wife **Vi** celebrated their 60th anniversary June 5 (for which he contributed \$60 to the club). He now will be mostly at his Hoods Canal place for the “summer.”
- Welcome back to Rotary Capt. **Keith Blue** – after hip replacement surgery May 20. He thanked all for their calls, cards and flowers.
- Good news that **Denny Morrison** is continuing to improve at Virginia Mason Hospital after aggressive treatment for a blood disorder. Since no flowers are allowed in the cancer ward, **Mary** and Denny asked that the flowers Rotary sent be given to a lonely patient without family support. They appreciated the beautiful bouquet. Continued prayers are in order.
- **Troy** and **Kimberly Thomas** had a baby girl, and Kimberly is home now with 7.2-ounce daughter. All are healthy and happy.
- New member **Chris Tubbs** became Mercer Island's newest fire chief.
- MI track teams received MI Rotary tee-shirts at the recent All-Island meet (West Mercer became champs), bringing them into our family as well!

Business:

By-laws: President-elect **Bob Olson** presented an amendment to the by-laws to strike “all fees shall not be pro-rated;” members approved it and the by-laws adopted in May.

Members not in directory: Please get your photo taken after the next two meetings by **Terry Lee**, club photographer.

Change-of-command: Much urging for members and spouses to come to the Wednesday, June 25, dinner and floor show at the CCMV – and to prepay the \$25 per person to **John Scherzo** asap. **Curt Nakayama**, wine aficionado, is in charge of libations; and the entertainment committee portends a lively Bo-to-Bob changeover.



Neil Thomson..... 2-Jun
 Andrew Isaacs..... 6-Jun
 Reid Morgan..... 9-Jun
 Ruth Brook..... 13-Jun
 Trina Westerlund..... 16-Jun
 Bo Darling..... 19-Jun
 Steve Webert..... 19-Jun
 Yogi Agrawal..... 19-Jun
 Dean Matthews..... 22-Jun

**Rotary Foundation
 June 1st Newsletter**



[click here for your copy](#)

Upcoming Programs

June 17

Bad Things Happen
 Personal Safety for Adults
 Jenn Franklin, MI Police Dept

June 24

Republican State Governor
 Candidate
 Dino Rossi

July 1

Our New Rotary Leadership
 DG Jesse Tam &
 Pres. Bob Olson

July 8

Health Care in Kenya
 'Mama Maria Kenya'
 Peter Kithene, Founder

Event Calendar

June 15-18

International Convention
 Los Angeles, CA
 Pre-Registration



[click for information](#)

June 25, Wednesday

Change Over Dinner
 MI Community Center at Mercer
 View

Support Swedish run: Sam Sullivan encourages us to run in or volunteer for the July 27 Swedish event for ovarian cancer. Swedish's incredible support of our run -- \$30,000 a year for three years – deserves reciprocal support from us. Contact Sam to learn how you can help.

MI Rotary Half Marathon reorganization: At our June 24th meeting we will hear an extensive update on restructuring the event's management with more breakout jobs and opportunities for leadership. Sam, the run director for two years, seeks triage! Please let Bob Olson or Sam know how you can help.

Food for the needy: Bruce McAuley invites us to join the First Harvest packaging crew Saturday (June 14). Carpoolers meet at 8:15 a.m. at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church parking lot; return by 12:15 p.m.

Cell phone drive: For the next few meetings, please bring old cell phones, pagers, batteries, BlackBerries and head sets to donate to the drive that will recondition them and put them into our soldiers' hands.

Today's Program



Rob Goff, founding partner of Goff & DeWalt law firm, specializes in construction and community association law by profession and youth outreach programs by passion – particularly those of his three children Lindsay, Richard and Adam. Through their innovative international outreach activities, his own provision of legal "counsel" and known joker habits, he circuitously was invited to become "Honorary Consul of Uganda."

While he first thought the invitation was a joke that he decided to play along with, he later found it genuine, and he now enjoys diplomatic immunity, government license plates and credentials to the world theater.

Here are a few ways he and his family have turned off T.V. and tuned into the world at large to make a difference, or as he says "get some skin in the game:"

He asked his three kids what they'd most like to ask world leaders. The 7-year-old said he'd like to invite them for a sleepover. The two older ones would ask – in a taped interview – "What is your hope in?" They got a PO Box and sent letters to hundreds of heads of state – and actually got 29 "yesses" to meet or talk.

At that point, Rob and his wife "Sweet Marie," simply became the "roadies" to get the kids to their world appointments.

In one meeting, a Russian leader had trays of food brought in to quell everyone's nerves. At the end of each interview the kids left a red box, with the key to their home – to come for a sleep-over. One from South America actually took them up on the invitation and stayed with them a while.

The outcome – kids with no reticence to become engaged. Rob encourages everyone to give up "ding-dong ditch" approaches to life in lieu of sincere offers of friendship. Other examples:

In their Gig Harbor neighborhood, the family invites everyone on the lane to participate in a New Year's Day Parade – with no watchers. For 17 years, Rob has put balloons in their yards so they will come out and join in. A queen and grand marshal are chosen, and are addressed as "Your Majesty" throughout the year.

He and other attorneys (including the US Attorney General) gathered all the judges and the president of Uganda to do briefings on 151 cases of human rights violations, to expedite justice and friendship. He also helps to expedite release of 31 young girls from prostitution, giving them a hope and dream.

As the 20-year civil war subsides in Uganda, Rob and others support "Restore Academy," education for war returnees and displaced kids, and an orphanage for other kids. The average age in the country is 15 – "kids will be running the nation," he says.

These and other ways, show how we – and Rotary – can really make differences in outcomes. "See how God uses unlikely people to live the changes we'd like to see in the world," says Rob. He may be reached at goff@goffdewalt.com, or 206-591-9798.

Bo's final thought for the day: "Democracy must be more than two wolves and a sheep voting on what to have for dinner."

Member Profile



Nancy Gould-Hilliard (In her second year of service)
 Nancy is a reporter who has worked 12 years in the Puget Sound media and 18 years for universities in Washington and Idaho. She earned a communications degree from UW in 1975, has taught media writing and won numerous professional awards for her work. She is a product of Seattle schools, having attended John Hay Elementary, The Bush School and Queen Anne High School in the 1950s.

After retirement from her formal career as reporter and media relations officer for WSU, BCC and U of I, she came back home to Mercer Island where she has raised a family of three children. The Island was her first home out of the womb. Her parents ferried to the Island and their summer place at Franklin Landing. On Mercer Island, Nancy was active in youth, schools, parks and civic affairs and worked for

the MI Reporter more than 10 years. Her kids Herb, JJ and Amy Gould were fortunate to spend their young lives being active in MI school sports and other activities. After 21 years of Eastern Washington living, while husband Bob and she worked for universities, they are thrilled to return to the Puget Sound area, where they engage in random acts of gardening, volunteering, grand-parenting, travel, entertainment, peripatetic walking, genealogy, bird-watching, beach-combing and dancing in the kitchen. Nancy again works for the MI Reporter. She can't seem to stop.

Clint's Corner

Rotarian Action Groups

Rotary now calls fellowships "Global Networking Groups" and identifies them as either "Fellowships", the 87 social and hobby groups, or "Rotarian Action Groups", the 14 service oriented groups. The Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action Group (WASRAG) will be holding its second annual meeting during the Los Angeles Convention. WASRAG promotes the provision of clean water and sanitation projects and includes success stories on its website-wasrag.org- like that of Rotarian Vikram Sanghani who devoted four years to facilitating the construction of a dam that now provides water to slum dwellers in Rajkot, India. The Rotary Foundation awarded a \$336,000 grant to assist in funding the project.

Publishing items in the Dawn

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