

Rotary Club of Edmonds



the wave

Rotary 

**FEBRUARY IS
PEACE & CONFLICT PREVENTION MONTH**

*"PEACE CANNOT BE KEPT BY FORCE; IT CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED
BY UNDERSTANDING"*

- ALBERT EINSTEIN

February 2022

"If you don't know the guy on the other side of the world, love him anyway because he's just like you. He has the same dreams, the same hopes and fears. It's one world, pal. We're all neighbors."

~Frank Sinatra

Recap...

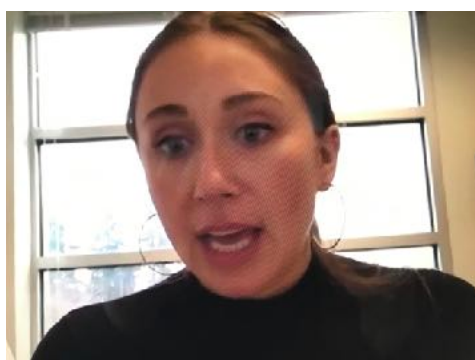
We took a step back in January, to meeting via ZOOM once again. This pandemic is not yet quite tamed. But weather presented other problems too, as our first speaker, our own member Georgia Ragsdale, found out. Quite successfully though she was able to share her tips for how to improve public speaking skills, all from the rental car she was returning home in, all the way from Texas! Challenge met and the teacher proves her skill!

Member Will Chen is a newly elected City Councilmember. Discussing his goals and his experience thus far was well received, with many questions and expressions of support by members.

Lindsay Cortes thanked the club for its support of CASA, helping to meet the challenge of almost 300 "mitten" gifts at Christmas for children in the Guardian ad Litem program. Literacy is a newer project for them that our club is also working on, trying to provide books for children in the program. There will be more involvement in this program later.

Laura Moe is President of the Edmonds EPIC Writers group, and a published author and poet as well. She encouraged anyone who has ever felt a need or desire to write to consider joining their group. You can learn skills, get support, and make possible contacts, as well as share the journey with other writers in the community. No judgment, only support.

No photo here, but we also appreciated hearing about Partners for Work from Aimee Sharp. This is also a District Project, and its goal is to connect employers with differently abled workers.



A Note From Your President

I don't know about you, but I'm happy to see January in the rear view mirror. It's been a challenging month in so many ways: We went back on Zoom when the Omicron variant was ravaging the world. We did the right thing, but I sure didn't expect or want that. A couple of members even got sick with Covid, but thankfully they were mild cases and they've recovered.



And of course, we lost our long term member Sharalyn Ramm on January 23rd. Our club suffers for the loss of this very active and caring member. Her many friends will be telling stories about her accomplishments and kindnesses for years to come.

But through these challenges, one thing has remained constant. Our Zoom meetings were well attended and we stayed in close contact. We came together and raised a record \$450.00 for the last Happy Bucks "pot" in Sharalyn's honor. And the leadership team was again stellar and supportive through it all.

I am so thankful to be a part of a club that is there for each other, not only during the good times, but the challenging times too.

Looking forward to seeing you all in person in February.

Maggie

Our Student of the Month from Meadowdale High School is Jasmine Moua. Congratulations to Jasmine, whose sister was also a Student of the Month awhile back. Youth Services Chair Richard Okimoto, along with Lorna Schwartzenberger at Meadowdale, have done a great job of keeping this student recognition program on a steady course in spite of the difficulties of the pandemic. Thanks to you both.



Taking time to relax...

President Maggie took some time off to see the sun in Mexico recently. It should be noted that many of us here have just continued to enjoy the "cool, refreshing air of the Pacific Northwest." Photos shared here are courtesy of Mike Rosen.



Happy Valentines Day



Awards time

President Maggie presented Rotarian of the Month Awards to Pat Thorpe for January, and to Brian Albright for February.

Richard Okimoto received his certification recognizing him officially as a Paul Harris Fellow. The recognition is based on donation level to the Rotary Foundation. Congratulations and thanks to Richard for his generosity.



"Peace is a daily, a weekly, a monthly process, gradually changing opinions, slowly eroding old barriers, quietly building new structures."

~John Kennedy

Club Retreat June 4 La Conner Country Inn

Come for the day or stay for the weekend.

Contact President-Elect Debbie Danekas for more information.



Sharalyn Ramm

12/12/40 - 1/23/22

Being a member of Rotary is one thing; being a **Rotarian** is something deeper. Sharalyn was a Rotarian. Whether it was time to volunteer for a project, or someone in need financially, she always gave it easily. She was short of stature, but so big of heart and action. She was a Major Donor to the RI Foundation. Her friendship groups extended well beyond our club, as noted by the sign at Edmonds Theater.

She loved to travel, as you can see in the pictures as well. Several of us have fond memories of our journeys together. I especially remember our visit to the Ice Hotel in Sweden. And then there was the Polish taxi driver she persuaded to take a slight detour - at no extra charge - so we could visit a local Starbucks. And for the science questions, it was usually Sharalyn we looked to on our team Trivia nights at Hamburger Harry's.

She was serious about work: she was a successful entrepreneur and inventor. But she was also quick to smile and have fun. And very proud of her greatest achievement, her son Scott.

She will be missed. Rest in peace Sharalyn.



From the Editor

January is always a bit cold and dreary. This year was no exception, with Covid chasing many of us back into our secure dwellings. Dare I say it, but somehow we may be starting to learn to live our lives in spite of the challenge of this pandemic. Recently, on a surprisingly clear and “mildly chilly” night, I was fortunate to go with my grandchildren (14 & 17) to see the Lantern Nights show at the Woodland Park Zoo.



After the animals had gone to bed for the night, the Zoo came to life in a different way, with life-size creatures and larger than life flowers and trees, all lit from lantern lights within. It really was quite spectacular. You can tell when teenagers are actually enjoying the show of course when you catch them snapping photos and selfies with their iPhones. And the limited-size crowd made for relaxed viewing. If you missed it, I'd recommend you add it to your calendar for this next year.

One of the better results of the pandemic is our growing ability to utilize connection through ZOOM. While we are back in person this month, many of our members are able to participate online when being present is not possible for other reasons as well. It has also given us the ability to reach out for speakers that may not otherwise be able to attend a meeting in downtown Edmonds.

As we continue to patch together our new reality, I encourage you to take some time to get to know Rotary better. Have you looked at our new Club website improvements? **Thank you to Janet Jensen, Brenda Carrithers, and David Kaufer.** Feel free to contact one of them with questions.

You should be receiving the District 5030 Newsletter by email too. Please don't just press “delete”. Take a minute to see what's going on around you.

Have you read your latest edition of **Rotary**, the magazine published by RI every month? Your annual dues pay for your subscription. There is so much there that is shared from other clubs all over the world, so much information about challenges other members and clubs are facing, and much that is just plain interesting for its own sake. And when you finish, think about sharing your copy by dropping it off at your local coffee shop, doctor's office, or giving it to a friend who might be a good fit for membership in Rotary.

One step further. When was the last time you - or have you even ever - hopped onto the RI website? At www.Rotary.org you will be amazed that there is so much more than just weekly get togethers and a few community service projects to this worldwide organization you have joined. You can find history, information about so many different projects. You can also find information about Rotary Fellowships: groups of Rotarians with similar interests coming together in worldwide fellowship - such as travel, playing bridge, motorcycle riding, drinking scotch, and lots more. Something for everyone.

Pat Thorpe, Editor

c'est finis

