

the wave



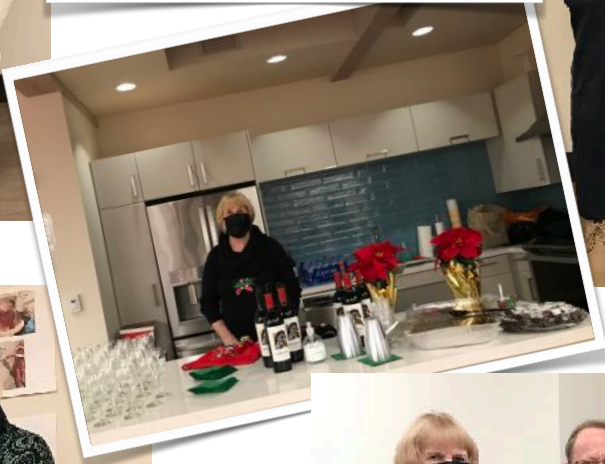
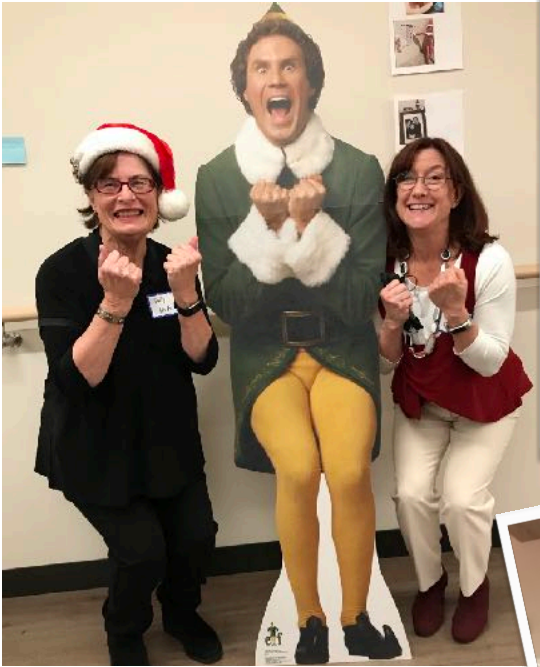
The first Rotary float in the Pasadena Rose Parade was in 1924, and every year since, except when the Parade was canceled during WWII and last year (due to Covid). The Parade theme this year was “Dream, Believe, Achieve,” and the Rotary title was “Changing Lives Through Education.” If you’ve never been to the Rose Parade it is really special. I remember seeing it as a kid, as well as a grown up. It’s magical. The uniqueness of it is that EVERY bit of the float’s surface must be covered in flower or vegetable matter (flowers, leaves, seeds, etc). It takes a full year to design and plan, and weeks to construct. Yet, the flowers must be applied almost last minute in order to be fresh. RI does not have a committee for nor does it pay for the float. It is paid for by donations from clubs and individuals, and is coordinated by a Rotary Club in Santa Barbara, California. It also requires many volunteers, obviously. Rotarians, Interactors, Rotoractors, etc, from anywhere can sign up to help, except that no more than 15 members from any one club. You can learn more about the process and this year’s journey at [www.rotaryfloat.org](http://www.rotaryfloat.org)



Jim Welsh and Steve Tholl are loaded up with just a few of the 290+ gifts for kids through CASA, which provides help for kids in the Snohomish County Guardian ad Litem program. Diane Buckshnis headed up the effort again this year. Her letter of thanks that was printed in the My Edmonds News appears also on page 6 in this edition of *The Wave*.

Holiday Party... with a visit from Elf





# President's Message

by President Maggie Peterson



## December President's Letter

What a mixed bag December has been. As seems to be the case these last few months, we've had some fun, and have had to weather some challenges (see what I did there?).

We were able to come together for a fun Christmas Party, which was truly special after the isolation that we experienced last year. I don't know about you, but I could really feel the love and holiday spirit in the room.

Unfortunately, we now have to navigate a new covid variant. I'm paying close attention to Snohomish County Health guidelines and will (reluctantly) convert us back to Zoom if necessary. But the good news is we have tools we didn't have last year, and more on the way. So let's keep up the good work to keep us all healthy and we'll get through this. I've noticed that a couple of members order their lunch to go in order to keep their masks on the entire meeting, which is a great solution to staying safe and supporting the club by purchasing lunch (the club pays if at least 20 members don't buy lunch).

Finally, I wish you all a healthy and joyous New Year. I will admit that I'm having trouble feeling too optimistic (I've been let down twice now), but hope springs eternal, and I have to keep reminding myself that I have a warm house, enough to eat, a bed to sleep in, access to good medical care and a wonderful community I love - I'm one of the lucky ones.

And finally, if you have not downloaded the DACdb Mobile app, you really should. It's pretty amazing (thanks Brenda for bringing this to the club's attention). Just go to the App Store and download DacDb. So much information at your fingertips.

Enjoy your snow days and stay safe. Be sure to check on vulnerable neighbors. See you next year.

Maggie

## Happy Holiday Time

We asked members to send us photos of their holidays this year. Here and on following pages are some photos members shared.

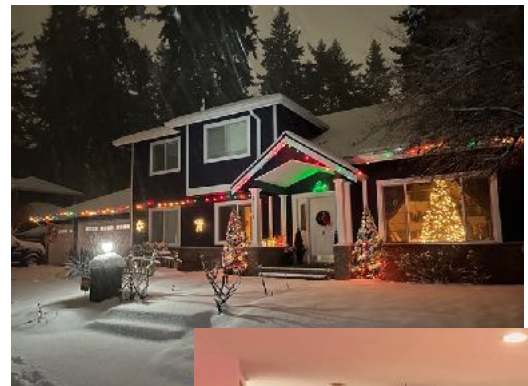
*Alison Pence sent us a photo of her mahjong group. Looks very intense, doesn't it? She also included a joyous family group photo.*

*Debbie Danekas sold her home and moved to a new place last fall. Clearly she's organized and ready for a fun time, snow or no snow.*



## More Holiday Joy...

From top right, Spike (Diane Buckshnis) enjoys the snowy view, but warmly from the deck. Libby Freese enjoyed sharing holiday dinner with family. With the house in full holiday glory, David Kaufer's wife Renee and son Stone celebrated the New Year. Brian Albright wants us all to know he "escaped to California" during the holidays. Alas, Michael Kealy sent us this photo with the caption, "The ice won!" So much for clearing the snowy driveway. He assured us that nothing was broken, but we might prescribe a little Irish whiskey to ease the pain. Georgia Ragsdale will actually have quite a tale to tell. For now, she shared a photo of her dog Bree, a Catahoula Leopard dog (seriously?), and a photo of her sister introducing the "friendly" chicken to family. As for the car? After a week in Houston and many flight cancellations, this is the rental car Georgia and Fiona Hatfield are driving home to Seattle as we publish.



*The following letter was published in the My Edmonds News  
Posted: December 28, 2021 106*

## Thanks to all who donated to the CASA giving trees

### Editor:

Every Christmas, the Rotary Club of Edmonds manages four gift-giving trees to support the Snohomish County CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocates for Children) and the Volunteer Guardian ad Litem (VGAL) program. This long-standing Rotary project allows CASA advocates the ability to provide gifts for infants, children or teens who are victims of alleged sexual abuse, physical abuse, or neglect. Mittens are created with the child's name, age, and gift requests, which are then placed on four trees at Harbor Square Athletic Club (HSAC), Gallagher's Where-U-Brew (GB), Axis Pharmacy (AP) of Mountlake Terrace, and Crucible Brewery (CB) of Everett. This year, we had a herculean 290 requests to fill. Miraculously, we fulfilled all requests.

A huge thanks goes to Mr. Jack Tawney and the staff and members of HSAC who every year maintain the main tree with about 150-plus mittens. We also wish to thank Chris Dufore and Jesse LaCasse and their crew and patrons of GB; Dick Mergens and Shawn Dowling and their crew and patrons of CB; Tom and Beth Sanger and their staff and clients from AP, and our Rotarians (noon club). We had two large donors this year — \$1,000 from Ms. Sharalyn Ramm and \$2,300 from Ms. Lorraine Meitzer — that allowed us to buy over 60 gifts request or over 120 items.

The generosity of everyone's contributions was overwhelming to those who work this program; we cannot express how much joy and love filled our hearts while we processed these gifts. Special thanks to Santa Jim, who made over a dozen "sleigh" runs — some days he made two. Those 290 kids had glee on their faces and warmth in their hearts on Christmas Day. Everyone should feel delight in their hearts as once again, we had another successful year of giving.

Should you wish to donate to this cause, please contact us at Rotary [www.edmondsrotary.com](http://www.edmondsrotary.com) and donate (specify for CASA). For more information about CASA visit [snohomishcountywa.gov/881/CASA-Program](http://snohomishcountywa.gov/881/CASA-Program).

Funds that are not spent will be used for our new "Literacy Project," which is a partnership with CASA, Rotary and Edmonds Bookshop. Over 200 books were purchased this year, so volunteers can read to them and then leave the book with the child. For more details, visit [myedmondsnews.com/2021/06/noon-rotary-teams-up-with-edmonds-bookshop-to-support-at-risk-kids](http://myedmondsnews.com/2021/06/noon-rotary-teams-up-with-edmonds-bookshop-to-support-at-risk-kids).



Happy Holidays,  
*Diane Buckshnis*  
Edmonds

*(On behalf of Santa Jim, Tom and Gary, Elves Sharalyn, Skylar, Nina, Lindsay, Joelle, Kay and all CASA volunteers that processed all those gifts)*

## Noon Meetings

*Laura de Koch joined us via ZOOM to tell us about JazzEd, the inclusive music program for kids of all socio-economic levels.*

*Darla Varrenti, from the Nick of Time Foundation, helped to educate members about Sudden Cardiac Arrest and its surprising prevalence among school age athletes. Named after Darla's son, who died of SCA, they provide testing at school sites as well as try to raise awareness of the problem.*

*President Maggie announced Carol Kinney as Rotarian of the Month, based on her long and constant service on behalf of Rotary.*



And even more holiday joy...



Doug Purcell shared a little good cheer with a couple of his cohorts from the Economic Alliance of Snohomish County, Garry Clark, President, and Shubert Ho.



Adrienne Miller and her daughters pose in their Christmas onesies. And of course, Santa never forgets the puppies.



## From the Editor

*It has been quite a year. Moving from ZOOM back to in-person meetings and activities, and now putting the brakes on a little once again. **We will meet on ZOOM for the next few weeks.** The photos in this edition of **The Wave** however, tell you that there was some fun to be had, especially for the holidays. For me, Christmas on Vashon Island with family was great. Hiking half an hour uphill in the snow to the car, parked on the main road, to get home (think Main Street with switchbacks!) was at least exhilarating, and well worth it. Back home, we snuggled by the fire and played in the snow. Here's to a happy 2022 (not another 2020 too!). We will get through this and discover a new normal. I already have a trip or two planned, and I'm not giving up.*

*New Year's Resolutions? Perhaps to listen more, smile warmly, let go of what I can't control anyway, and remind myself that a day given is a day not to be wasted.*

***Happy New Year to you all!***

**Pat Thorpe, Editor**  
*c'est finis*

