

# Rotary



# Club of Eugene

## January 6th meeting - Eugene Recreation Services - with Department Director Peter Chavannes



This week we welcome in the New Year with Peter Chavannes, the City's Recreation Services Director. Peter plans to speak about *The Profundity of Play - Transforming consumers into communities*:

"Recreation's benefits to individual health and wellness are well documented. Less explicit are the ways Recreation builds communities, both in terms of the interrelationships between community members and the social and economic vitality of a defined geographic space. Peter will be talking about the ways recreation offers community development possibilities while addressing deeply personal human needs."

...along the way Peter may share some ways the City's Recreation Services resources can help you achieve your New Year's Resolution weight loss goals!

### About Peter:

Peter's life experiences have seen him living in Racine Wisconsin, Kingston Jamaica, Atlanta Georgia, Orlando Florida, San Francisco California and for the last 23 years, Eugene Oregon. He relishes opportunities to encounter and be present with people.

Professionally, Peter has consistently pursued careers in Public Service; as a program evaluator and consultant for the San Francisco School District, as an organizational development specialist in the non-profit sector here in Eugene and for the last 20 years he

has worked for the City of Eugene in a variety of capacities. He is currently the City's Recreation Services Director.

## January 6th - At The Graduate

The **January 6th meeting will be at The Graduate Eugene**. The Graduate is located at 66 East 6th Avenue in Eugene. The meeting begins at noon and a buffet lunch is available for purchase.

## Camas Ridge Community Room – A Successful Holiday Work Party

By Kristina Gribskov

Our recent work party at Camas Ridge Community School was a great success. Rotarians worked together to assemble **food boxes for families to take home over the two-week school break**, as well as **snack packs that the school counselor will discreetly place in the backpacks of students she knows need extra support**.

Thank you to *(l to r)* **Susan Heisey, Kristina Gribskov, Bob Nickel, Monica Wilton and Abby Hyland** for giving their time and heart to help ensure students and families are supported during the holidays. Special thanks to Kristina for organizing this project and to the Community Service Committee for grant funds to establish and stock the Community Room at Camas Ridge. The Community Room is a food and health care products resource for Camas Ridge students and their families experiencing food and health care insecurity.

### Club Meeting

Eugene  
Meets at Graduate Eugene (541)  
342-2000  
66 East 6th Street  
Eugene, OR 97401  
Time: Tuesday at 12:00 PM

### Events

January 6th  
[Rotary Club of Eugene Weekly Lunch Meeting](#)

January 13th  
[Rotary Club of Eugene Weekly Lunch Meeting](#)

January 20th  
[Rotary Club of Eugene Weekly Lunch Meeting](#)

January 27th  
[Rotary Club of Eugene Weekly Lunch Meeting](#)

### Club Leaders



[Philip Holt Barnhart](#)  
President



[Robert Scott Impehoven](#)  
President - Elect



[Ronald Terry Gietter](#)  
Secretary



[Erik Peter Gribskov](#)  
Club Admin Chair  
Club Executive Secretary



[Todd Anderson](#)  
Treasurer



[R. Scott Palmer](#)  
Membership Chair

[David A. Frosaker](#)  
Rotary Foundation Chair



Jesse Quinn  
Club Director  
Community Service Co-  
Chair



Richard A. Barnhart  
Club Director-  
Membership



Susan Heisey  
Club Director-  
Vocational Service



Robert E. Nickel  
Club Director-  
Communications



Richard K. Olson  
CCO-Club  
Communications Offcr



Craig Opperman  
Club Director- Youth  
Services



Chris Stephenson  
Club Director-Club  
Service



Nathan Philips  
iPast President



## Birthdays

James Ralph  
January 3rd

Richard Ralston  
January 4th

Erik Jorgensen  
January 6th

Kelly Sutherland  
January 12th

Bonnie J Bailey  
January 13th

Richard K Olson  
January 16th

Peggy Whalen  
January 17th

Mary Jeanne Jacobsen  
January 21st

Phillip W. Speers  
January 22nd

Chris Stephenson  
January 25th

George Rogers  
January 27th

## Years of Service

F. Doug Harclerod

## Rotary Social at the Wildish Theatre

By Gregg Fuller

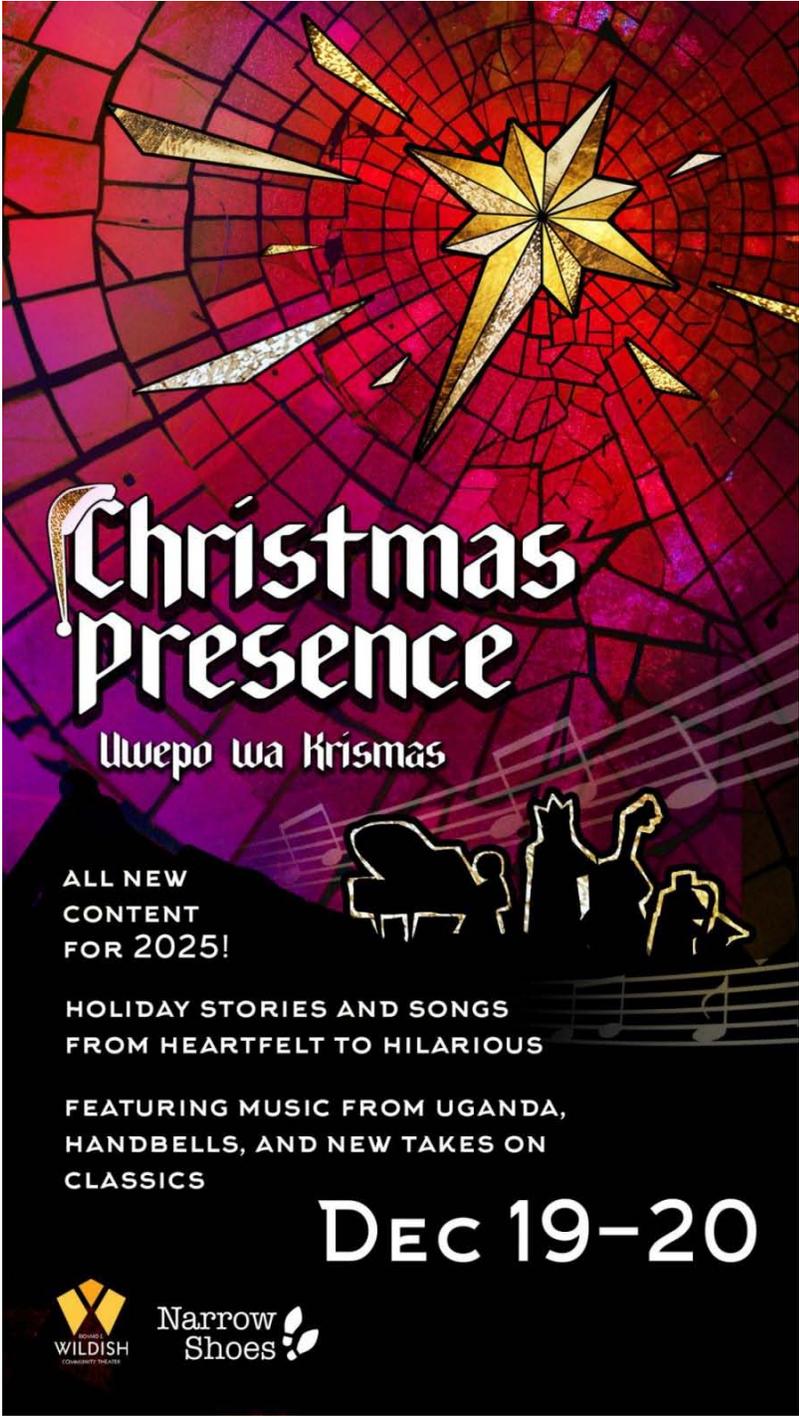
Fun was to be had at the WildishTheater for the presentation of Christmas Prescence! We first met at Planktown for a drink and then on to the show, watching the beautiful Christmas decorations on the outside while we walked.

This show had Rotary's Julius Kyakuwa in it and he did a great job!

There were great stories

from heartwarming to hilarious, wonderful music, and surprising anecdotes from the audience.

In our attendance were: Gregg and Karen Fuller, John and Judy Wolf, Diana and Mark Bray, Mike Grudzien, Nissa Newton and 4 other guests. More Socials coming in 2026!



**Christmas Presence**  
Uwepo wa Krismas

**ALL NEW CONTENT FOR 2025!**

**HOLIDAY STORIES AND SONGS FROM HEARTFELT TO HILARIOUS**

**FEATURING MUSIC FROM UGANDA, HANDBELLS, AND NEW TAKES ON CLASSICS**

**DEC 19-20**

 **WILDISH**  
COMMUNITY RELATIONS

**Narrow Shoes** 

01-16-1979  
47 Years  
Michael W Gerot  
01-19-1982  
44 Years  
R. Scott Palmer  
02-01-1983  
43 Years  
Dan Montgomery  
02-01-1983  
43 Years  
Albert Poston  
01-26-1999  
27 Years  
Richard Shugar  
01-26-2009  
17 Years  
Kerrie L. Johnson  
01-11-2011  
15 Years  
Josh Neckels  
01-24-2017  
9 Years  
Elizabeth A. Ness  
01-09-2018  
8 Years  
John Barnum  
01-10-2022  
4 Years  
Peggy Whalen  
01-23-2025  
1 Year

## Food for Lane County - Thank you team!

Our last Food for Lane County (FFLC) service day of 2025 was on Wednesday, December 17. We had a great time working side by side with members (*pictured below, L to R*) Bob Nickel, Andy Vobora, Jerry Whitman Harris, Todd Anderson, Scott Impecoven, Victoria Whitman Harris and Jane Impecoven. We had a fun time rescuing food and topped the evening off with a post-FFLC social hour at Forrester's. Thanks to everyone who participated this year - whether it be through your donation of time or your donations of food and/or money during our very successful FFLC food drive this past November.

**Will it be your turn this year? We hope so!**



Our FFLC volunteer night is **always** on the third Wednesday of the month from 6:00pm until we are done or 8:30pm latest: The next one will be on January 21st, so put it on your calendar and we'll see you there. Please contact **Victoria Whitman** at [vwhitman@hearthstonere.com](mailto:vwhitman@hearthstonere.com) or 541-954-7171 if you would like to participate. The FFLC facility is located at 770 Bailey Hill Rd., Eugene.

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## Upcoming Meeting Programs

The Eugene Rotary Club is known locally for our outstanding speakers and programs. Here's what members can look forward to during the next month:

January 13th - District 5110 Update with District Governor Chris Waugh. Introduction - Club President Phil Barnhart.

January 20th - The Hult Center with Laura Lee. Introduction - Monica Wilton.

January 27th - Mobility International with Susan Dunn. Introduction - Liz Ness.

February 3rd - SMART Reading Program with Elissa Korbrin. Introduction - Andy Vobora.

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## Next Committee Meetings

**Community Service:** Wednesday, January 7th, 2026!! at 4:00 pm at Susan Heisey's office, 747 E. 32nd Ave, Suite A1, Eugene (**first Wednesday**).

**Environmental Committee:** Wednesday, January 7th, 2026!! at 4:00 pm at Susan Heisey's office, 747 E. 32nd Ave, Suite A1, Eugene (**first Wednesday**). In person if possible! Zoom available. [Click here for Zoom link to Env. Committee Meetings](#)

**Program Committee:** Wednesday, January 7th, 2026!! at 8:00 am at Stifel office, 497 Oakway Rd #280, Eugene, OR 97401. (**first Wednesday**). **Zoom will be available - request link from Chris Stephenson if you are not a committee member.**

**International Service Committee:** Tuesday, January 20th at 8:30 am, via ZOOM (third Tuesday) [Click here for Zoom link to Int. Service Committee Meetings](#)

**Club Board Meeting:** Tuesday, January 20th at 4:00 pm at Lane Workforce Partnership, 1401 Willamette St. No. 2, Eugene, Oregon. (third Tuesday).

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## News you can use (and other snippets of useless information)

**January 1st is New Year's Day.** Around the globe people have celebrated the beginning of the new year for millennia. Four thousand years ago Babylonians celebrated the new year during the first new moon in late March after the vernal equinox — the day with an equal amount of darkness and

sunlight. The Babylonian Akitu festival included different rituals for 11 days. The victory of the mythical Marduk, a sky god, over the sea goddess Tiamat, was celebrated during the event. A new king was also crowned, or the current king's divine mandate was renewed. Around 2000 B.C., the new year was celebrated around the time of the vernal equinox, in mid-March, in Mesopotamia. Ancient Persians gave mid-March New Year's gifts of eggs that symbolized productiveness. In Egypt, the first day of the year coincided with the annual flooding of the Nile and the rising of the Sirius star. In China, the first day of the year coincided with the second new moon following the winter solstice. Romans offered sacrifices to Janus - namesake of the month of January. Janus was the god of beginnings with two faces that could see the past and the future.

In 46 B.C. Julius Caesar chose to realign the Roman calendar with the sun, adding an extra 90 days to the year to create the Julian calendar. The Julian calendar closely resembles the current Gregorian calendar observed by most countries today. Medieval Christian authorities temporarily changed the beginning of the year to more religiously significant dates such as December 25 (Christmas) and March 25 (the Feast of the Annunciation). In 1582 Pope Gregory XIII changed New Year's Day back to January 1. It took some time for Protestant countries to adopt the Gregorian calendar. Britain did not follow the reformed calendar until 1752. Until then, the British Empire, and their American colonies, continued to celebrate the new year in March.

One New Year's tradition the South is especially known for is eating black-eyed peas and collard greens. It is believed that a meal with black-eyed peas and collards symbolizes humility and a new year full of coins and "green" (money). Lentils are another popular legume on New Year's for the same reason. Eating Sauerkraut on New Year's Eve is a German tradition to bring wealth and blessings for the new year. Before eating, everyone wishes each other as much goodness and money as the number of shreds of cabbage in the pot.

Of course, there's also mistletoe. The plant's romantic overtones most likely started with the [Celtic Druids](#) of the 1st century A.D. Because mistletoe could blossom even during the frozen winter, the Druids came to view it as a sacred symbol of vivacity, and they administered it to humans and animals alike in the hope of restoring fertility. Mistletoe's associations with fertility and vitality continued through the [Middle Ages](#), and by the 18th century it had become widely incorporated into [Christmas celebrations](#). Just how it made the jump from sacred herb to holiday decoration remains up for debate, but the kissing tradition appears to have first caught on among servants in England before spreading to the middle classes.

And, in keeping with 18th century norms of patriarchy, men were allowed to steal a kiss from any woman caught standing under the mistletoe, and refusing was viewed as bad luck. Yet another tradition instructed the merrymakers to pluck a single berry from the mistletoe with each kiss, and to stop kissing once they were all gone.

Bottom line? Just ask before smooching anyone, anytime. It's the right thing to do.

**January is also National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month.** National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month is intended to increase awareness about the exploitation of people through force, fraud, or coercion. This includes both labor and sex trafficking.

Victims often come from vulnerable backgrounds, but anyone can be targeted. Traffickers use manipulation and threats to control their victims. Raising awareness helps communities recognize and combat these crimes. Understanding the signs of enslavement and trafficking can lead to prevention and support for those affected. This month encourages collective efforts to end human trafficking.

Recognizing the signs of trafficking is crucial because many victims stay silent out of fear. That's why raising awareness is so important. If more people know what to look for, more lives can be saved.. Indicators may include individuals who appear fearful, lack freedom of movement, or show signs of abuse. Unusual work conditions or living arrangements can also be red flags. If you suspect someone is a victim, it's important to report it to the authorities. Resources like the **National Human Trafficking Hotline (1-888-373-7888)** are available to help. By staying informed and vigilant, we can protect our communities. *We are Rotary*, together we can work towards a future free from human trafficking.

**January 27th is Holocaust Remembrance Day**, also known as the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust. Each year on January 27th, the world remembers one of the most horrific events in modern history. This tragic event is known to Jews as the Holocaust. The holocaust occurred during WWII when Adolph Hitler's National Socialist German Workers Party (Nazis; this term is a phonetic shortening of the word *Nationalsozialist* [National Socialist]) killed an estimated six million Jews. Most were killed in concentration camps, making the Holocaust a genocide for the Jews. Hitler's persecution was not limited to the Jews: millions of other minorities were killed in the four years from 1941 to 1945. These minorities included 1.8 million Polish civilians; 312,000 Serb civilians; approximately 250,000 people with disabilities; approximately 250,000 Roma; an estimated 1,900 Jehovah Witnesses; and thousands of homosexuals. In addition, the Nazis indiscriminately killed approximately three million Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) prisoners of war (POWs) and seven million USSR citizens. Beginning in 1933 when Hitler assumed power, these other groups of people were segregated and persecuted. By the beginning of World War II in Europe (September 1939), these people were forced to live in ghettos where they died of sickness or starvation. During WW II, others were rounded up, shot, and buried in mass graves; were killed in concentration camps; or were killed in POW camps.

*Remembering the Holocaust and these other mass murders is important: If the holocaust is forgotten or denied, it will be easier for history to repeat itself.*

## Rotary Club of Eugene



Rotary is an organization of 1.4 million business and professional leaders united worldwide in 30,000 Clubs to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

**The Rotary Club of Eugene has served the Eugene and Springfield Area for 102 years. We are taking our second century of Service deeper into our community and farther across the world than ever before.**

We meet at The Graduate Eugene, 66 E. 6th Street, Eugene Oregon. Meetings are held weekly on Tuesdays at Noon. We can be contacted at PO Box 1184, Eugene, Oregon 97440. Our phone number is 541 654-0921. Our email address is EugeneRotary@gmail.com.

Join us to make an impact in our community and around the world! To find out more about membership and fill out an application please visit:  
[Rotary Club of Eugene Membership](#)

### Club meetings can be attended on Zoom - link below



Meetings will be on Zoom assuming internet availability  
Automatic link: Click to link. If using the link, no password is required.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83908618864?pwd=Ly85Skc3NXhoVTZGOTZjeGpCWGI2dz09>

Meeting ID: 839 0861 8864

Passcode: 695590

One tap mobile

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