

Rotary



Club of Eugene

January 20th - The Hult Center with Laura Lee



This Tuesday we are graced with the presence of Laura Lee, Managing Director of the Hult Center for the Performing Arts (The Hult). Laura will share how the Hult fuels Eugene's creative economy and quality of life—hosting 400+ performances a year, presenting Broadway in Eugene, partnering with four resident companies, nurturing local arts and expanding access for all. She'll preview season highlights, offer behind-the-scenes insights and share a few "don't-miss" picks for the months ahead.

About Laura:

Laura Lee has served as Managing Director of The Hult Center since July 2024. A veteran arts administrator with 30+ years in nonprofits and 14 years leading venues, she blends strong financial stewardship with audience growth, fundraising and

community partnerships. Her prior roles include ArtsWest (West Seattle, WA) and Village Theatre (Issaquah and Everett, WA), plus National Governing Bodies of Sport. At the Hult—home to 400+ events a year, including Broadway in Eugene—she focuses on access, guest experience and regional impact.

January 20th - At The Graduate

The **January 20th 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.

Rotary - Rotaract Mentorship Program Kicks Off!

Past President Tom Gilmour and UO Rotaract President Aly Wiseman kicked off this year's Rotary - Rotaract Mentorship Program with a bang this past week. It is shaping up to be a good year based on the buzz in our meeting room at the UO where mentors and students met for the first time. We had 14 mentors and 15 students so contact Tom if the photo looks like fun and you want to join in!

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

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

February 3rd
[Rotary Club of Eugene
Weekly Lunch Meeting](#)

February 10th
[Rotary Club of Eugene
Weekly Lunch Meeting](#)

Club Leaders



[Phillip 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



Photo note from Ed.: I don't know the names of all the Rotaract participants, so I'm only listing the names of the Rotary Mentors here. If you can't tell who I'm referring to, it is the old people. L to R - Front Row: Dick Barnhart, Todd Anderson, Andy Vobora. Middle Row: Liz Ness, Jennifer Geller, Scott Impeccoven. Back Row: Gregg Fuller, Pres. Phil Barnhart, Tom Gilmour, Pres. Elect Jesse Quinn, Bob Hart, and Jerry Whitman Harris. Not pictured: John Wolf and Victoiria Whitman Harris

Community Service Committee - Call for Volunteers for Bags of Love Work Party

By Karen Gaffney



Our first Rotary Community Service opportunity for 2026--Wednesday, **February 18 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm**. We are celebrating the month of love with service, helping Bags of Love assemble comforting custom bags that will be distributed to children and youth in our community when they need them the most.

The bags are provided to children of all ages experiencing abuse, neglect, poverty, homelessness or disaster. We will spend two hours working in the warehouse assembling bags--roles for volunteers who need to be seated can be provided (it would be great to know needed accommodations ahead of time if possible). This is open to Eugene Rotary members, friends and family (over age 15), and **we'd love to have you at this event**. If you have questions, please call Karen Gaffney at 541-729-5348. We're using SignUp to organize our community service activities, and have had positive feedback from earlier events. There are different links for the different projects—you just need to click on the link, enter your email address (You will NOT need to register an account on SignUp), and then sign-up for your spot(s). You will get an automated confirmation and reminders. Easy! Note: SignUp does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact me and I can sign you up manually.

To sign up for the February 18 event at Bags of Love, here is the link:
<https://signup.com/go/ZWNYirj>

If you have any questions or ideas for future service projects, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Karen Gaffney
 Community Service Committee
karengaffney@comcast.net

Project Roundup - Lane County Set Aside (Expungement) Clinics across Lane County

By Jesse Quinn



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 Phillips
 iPast President

Birthdays

Richard K Olson
 January 16th

Peggy Whalen
 January 17th

Mary Jeanne Jacobsen
 January 21st

Philip W. Speers
 January 22nd

Chris Stephenson
 January 25th

George Rogers
 January 27th

Thanks to the Rotary Club of Eugene's initial \$1,980 investment in October 2024, Restored Connections Peer Center (RCPC), Public Defenders Services of Lane County, and Lane Workforce Partnership have successfully expanded Set Aside Clinics across Lane County. To date, six clinics have been held, supporting 428 Lane County residents in filing for removal of eligible criminal history. These clinics provide free legal assistance, peer navigation, and hands-on help with paperwork, directly addressing barriers that prevent people from accessing employment, housing, and long-term stability.

The need for this work remains significant. It is estimated that of Oregon's 4.1 million residents, approximately 1.4 million have a criminal record, yet only about 112,000 people who qualify have applied for expungement. This "second chance gap" is associated with an estimated \$5,100 in lost earnings per person each year, underscoring the economic impact of unresolved criminal records. Even dismissed charges can create lifelong barriers, making access to expungement services a critical workforce and economic development strategy.

Rotary's investment helped ensure these clinics remained truly low barrier. Through a shared cost model, no participant was turned away due to inability to pay the \$33 filing fee required by the Oregon Sheriffs' Department. The Rotary Club of Eugene's leadership as a funder made it possible to leverage public and nonprofit dollars, ensuring equitable access to justice and opportunity. Thank you to our club members for supporting this effort and helping neighbors move forward with dignity, stability, and renewed opportunity.

Click Read More below for the requirements to be eligible for expungement in Oregon:

[Read More](#)

Rotary Club of Eugene's Lualaba Luau Fundraiser!

Rotary Club of Eugene Fundraiser and Auction

When: **Thursday, March 5th, 2026**

Where: **Ford Alumni Center on the UO Campus**

Rotarians, we hope you have your calendars marked for Thursday, March 5th! We would love to have the whole club attend our Lualaba Luau Fundraiser at the University of Oregon's Ford Alumni Center. It promises to be a night of fun for all while we raise money to support the club's ongoing programs that benefit our community. Come prepared to enjoy and to bid! The evening will include entertainment, many silent auction items, a wine wall, and some live auction packages. The live auction packages include:

Maui Bound – One week stay at Kahana Falls Resort for 2, Lahaina.
December 11- 18, 2026. Includes \$1,000 airfare allowance, dining and more!

Over the Mountain to Bend – 3-night stay at 7th Mountain Resort in a 1-bed, 2-bath condo.
Sleeps six, includes day rafting, dining & more.

Enchantment at Antiquum Farms Winery – Wine-tasting followed by a 4-course, top shelf meal for 10 in the garden at the winery. Includes limo ride.

Swingin' Around – Round of golf for 3 at Shadow Hills Country Club with Rotarian Scott Palmer.
Includes 19th hole food and beverage.

See you on the 5th of March!!!

This year's fundraiser theme is *Lualaba Luau* so grab your Hawaiian shirts, bring your friends, sip on a Mai Tai and join the fun for a good cause.

Michael Grudzien
February 2nd
David A. Frosaker
February 7th
Mark Hewitt
February 7th
Noreen Dunnells
February 8th

Years of Service

F. Doug Harclerod
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

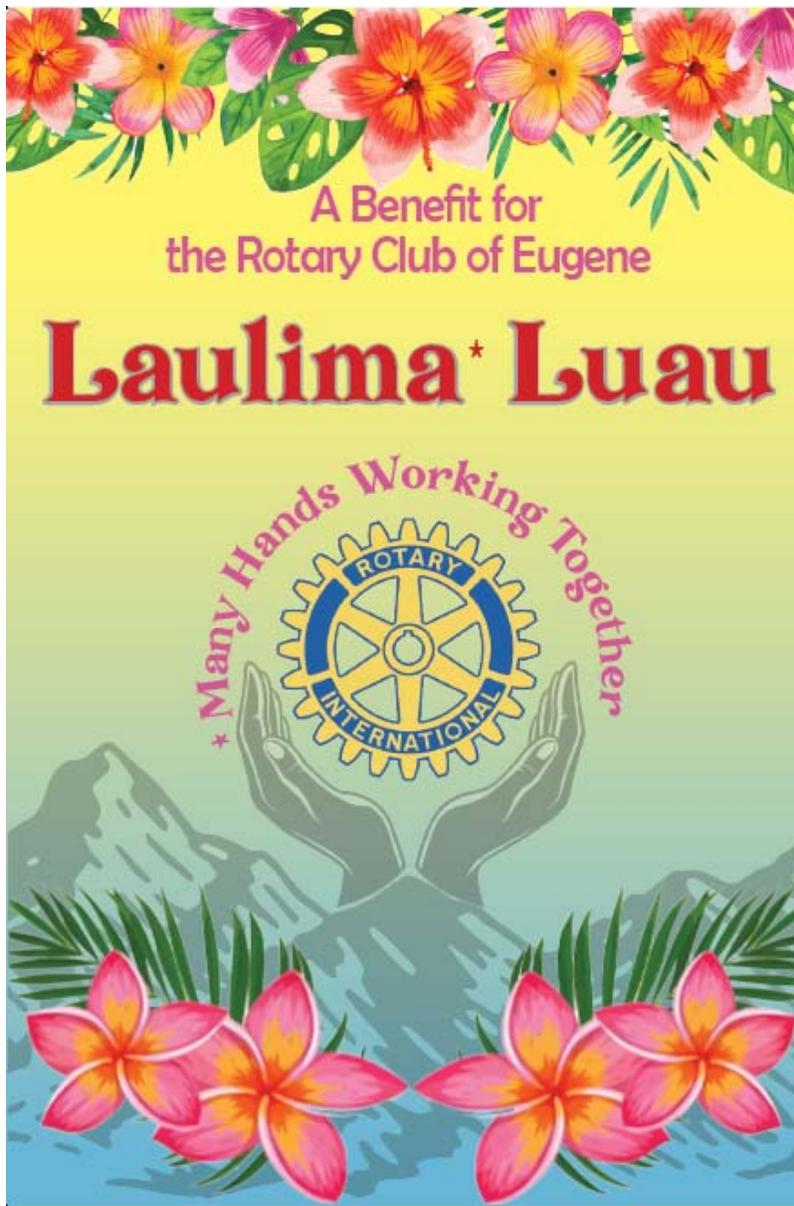
Karen Elizabeth Scheeland
02-14-1989
37 Years

Albert Poston
01-26-1999
27 Years

Richard Shugar
01-26-2009
17 Years

Josh Neckels
01-24-2017
9 Years

Peggy Whalen
01-23-2025
1 Year



The Rotary Club of Eugene thanks **Summit Bank** for their support as the **Exclusive Presenting Partner** for our Club's Laulima Luau Fundraising Event. **Summit Bank's** support is a tremendous start toward reaching our goals for the event.



Food for Lane County - Call for Volunteers

Our first FFLC volunteer night of 2026 is coming up! Our volunteer night is **always** on the third Wednesday of the month - so put it on your calendar as a recurring event and let's see you join us this month! We will do our part to spread the bounty to our fellow citizens who don't have enough to eat during this holiday season. Help us by **joining in at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, January 21st, 2026 at Food for Lane County**. Friends, family, children 10+years old and older (supervised by an adult), are all welcome!.

Let's start the new year right! We can do some good work together and then, group willing, we can stop at a local establishment for a nosh, some libations, and great social time with friends old and new!

Please contact **Victoria Whitman** at vwhitman@hearthstonere.com or 541-954-7171 if you would like to participate so we can let FFLC know how many volunteers they can count on. We have committed to at least six volunteers a month. The more people who come, the more fun it is!

Food for Lane County, 770 Bailey Hill Road, Eugene, OR 97402
Wednesday, January 21st from 6-8:30 pm (due to recent shortfalls in rescued foods we often complete our work well before 8:30).

UO Rotaract Club Trivia is back!

The **University of Oregon's Rotaract Club** presents **Winter Trivia Nights** for the first time ever! If you are looking for a fun activity during these cold Eugene months, stop by **Rabbit Hole Tea Bar** on January 27th, February 10th, or February 24th. Each event will start at 6:30 and run for approximately one hour. Our trivia themes are as follows: Decades, Valentine's Day, and World Traveler.

Whether you're looking for a fun date night or sweet time with friends, Rotaract's Trivia Nights are for you. Cash donations will be collected for a local charity. Our January 13th Trivia Night proceeds supported Food for Lane County. Still not sure? We have a prize for the winning team/person! The competition is sure to be *fierce*!

Rotaract is looking forward to seeing some friendly familiar faces at the Rabbit Hole in the coming weeks. See you soon!

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

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

February 10th - Building Leadership through Debate/Mock Trial with Trond Jacobson. Introduction - Mary Jeanne Jacobson.

February 17th - Bushnell's Health Program Expansion with Corynn Gilbert and Dr. Reed Mueller. Introduction - Bob Hart.

Next Committee Meetings

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

Environmental Committee: Monday, February 2nd, 2026!! at 4:00 pm at Susan Heisey's office, 747 E. 32nd Ave, Suite A1, Eugene (**first Monday**). Via Zoom. [Click here for Zoom link to Env. Committee Meetings](#)

Program Committee: Wednesday, February 4th, 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, February 16th at 8:30 am, via ZOOM (**third Tuesday**) [Click here for Zoom link to Int. Service Committee Meetings](#)

Club Board Meeting: Tuesday, February 16th at 4:00 pm at Lane Workforce Partnership, 1401 Willamette St. No. 2, Eugene, Oregon. (**third Tuesday**).

For the Good of the Order

The Eugene-Springfield NAACP 2026 MLK March & Celebration will be on January 19, 2026 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

This year's theme is: **Together. Together we can. Together we will. Together we are unified.** A combined Eugene and Springfield march will go from the X's and O's of Autzen Stadium on MLK Blvd. to The Shedd at 285 E Broadway in Eugene. At the Shedd at 11am there will be music, a

dramatic reading, and a short keynote speech. There will also be a panel expanding on the theme **Together we are unified** by connecting MLK Day and Day Without an Immigrant. Immigrants from a few countries will talk about what the current situation looks like for them.

Please join us and show your support!

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

January is 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 16th is National Religious Freedom Day. This day commemorates January 16, 1786, the day the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom was signed. Each year, by Presidential Proclamation, January 16th is declared Religious Freedom Day. This landmark statute, penned by Thomas Jefferson, became the basis for Congressman Fisher Ames' establishment clause: "**Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.**" Of course, this is the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

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

[+16699009128](tel:+16699009128), [83908618864#](tel:+16699009128), ..., [*695590#](tel:+16699009128) US (San Jose)

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