

Rotary



Club of Eugene

February 3rd Meeting - SMART Readers Program - with Elissa Kobrin



This Tuesday we welcome Elissa Kobrin of Oregon's SMART Reading organization. Elissa is SMART Reading's Director for the organization's South Valley Area. SMART Reading pairs young children with volunteers from our literacy arm for weekly reading sessions and gives children books to keep and use to strengthen their education. SMART Reading is a children's literacy nonprofit that serves kids in Oregon's highest need schools with two ingredients critical for literacy and learning success: one-on-one reading time and access to books. Elissa will update us on the state of SMART Reading in the South Willamette Valley.

About Elissa:

Elissa Kobrin was born in the Bronx, New York. She has lived all over the United States, coast to coast. In 2013 Elissa received her BA in Planning, Public Policy and Management with a minor in Nonprofit Administration from the University of

Oregon. She then earned her Masters in Education from Western Washington University. Elissa has spent much of her career supporting outdoor learning experiences for children through summer camp and outdoor school programs in California, Utah, and Oregon. She has been an interpretive park ranger with Oregon State Parks and a backcountry ranger for North Cascades National Park. She is a moose expert, and presented at the 48th Annual Moose Conference in Girdwood, Alaska and authored a children's book about a moose in both French and English. Elissa has been the South Valley Area Director for SMART Reading since October of 2024. Her area has just expanded from Linn, Benton and Lane Counties to include Marion, Polk, Yamhill, and Lincoln Counties. She loves reading, hiking, photography, yoga, and good coffee.



February 3rd - At The Graduate

The **February 3rd 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.

Give A Dollar, Get A Point, Make a Difference

Our The Rotary Foundation (TRF) Committee chairperson Lauren Regnani announced the start of the Committee's Matching Points Campaign for TRF at last week's meeting. In case you missed the details, the Campaign is encouraging all Club members to donate to TRF this month by offering donors matching points for every dollar they donate up to \$500.

For example, this means that if a Club member wants to score their first or another Paul Harris Fellow (PHF) they can donate \$500 dollars to TRF this month and your TRF Committee will match your donation with 500 matching points to get your donation up to the \$1,000 threshold for a PHF. Regardless of whether you donate \$500, \$100, or \$25, you will have your donation matched. Our TRF donation goal for the Club is **"Every member, every year."**

Club Meeting

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

Events

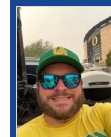
February 3rd
[Rotary Club of Eugene
Weekly Lunch Meeting](#)

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

February 17th
[Rotary Club of Eugene
Weekly Lunch Meeting](#)

February 24th
[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



[Lauren Regnani](#)
Rotary Foundation Chair

The easiest way to donate is to go to this link: [Donate to TRF!](#) The default TRF donor option (highlighted on the link page in blue) is a one-time donation to the TRF Annual Fund - SHARE. This option ensures that one-half of your donation is returned to our District (District 5110) in three years to be re-distributed to District Clubs as matching District Grants. There are many other donation options available on the linked page, including the convenient Recurring Donation Option. We encourage our members to explore these options to **find one that most closely matches your philanthropic goals and desires.**

If you prefer to just write a check and let the TRF Committee handle it from there: Make the check out to The Rotary Foundation, put Annual Fund-Share (or your preferred option as listed in the link above) in the memo line, and hand your check to a TRF Committee member (Lauren, Dave Frosaker, Todd Anderson or Jerry Whitman Harris). They will take it from there and donate your matching points to boot! Just remember:

It's the Truth!, It's Actual!, Everything is Satisfactual! when you donate annually to TRF!

UO Rotaract Club Trivia is back!

The **University of Oregon's Rotaract Club** presents **Winter Trivia Nights!**

If you are looking for a fun activity during these cold Eugene months, stop by **Rabbit Hole Tea Bar** at 240 W. 17th Ave. on 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!

Rotary Club of Eugene's Laulima Lua Fundraiser!

Rotary Club of Eugene Fundraiser and Auction

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

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

Rotarians, your Laulima Luau Event Committee is working hard to wrap up plans for our fundraiser. The word Laulima in Hawaiian means "many hands working together." It represents the power of teamwork, community effort, and individuals uniting toward a common goal. This spirit is at the heart of Rotary - and at the heart of this year's celebration.

The committee's goal for the event is to be a lot of fun for all, while raising money for the great work our club committees do in our community. If you have not yet signed up to attend the event, do so now to ensure that you get to be a part of it. Who knows, you just might be the high bidder on one of our silent or live auction packages. You might be the winner of our "Heads and Tails" program, or you might get a special bottle of wine from our wine wall.

To sign up, just go to this link: <https://auctria.events/rotaryeugeneluau> and then get ready to have some fun. We hope to see you all on March 5th at the U of O's Ford Alumni Center!!! Come on! Grab your Hawaiian shirts, bring your friends, sip on a Mai Tai and join the fun for a good cause.



Jesse Quinn
Club Director
Community Service Co-Chair



Chris Stephenson
Club Programs 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 Officer



Craig Opperman
Club Director- Youth
Services



Nathan Philips
iPast President

Birthdays

Michael Grudzien
February 2nd

David A. Frosaker
February 7th

Mark Hewitt
February 7th

Noreen Dunnells
February 8th

Dan Montgomery
February 17th

Kerrie L. Johnson
February 20th

Karen Elizabeth Scheeland
February 24th

Years of Service

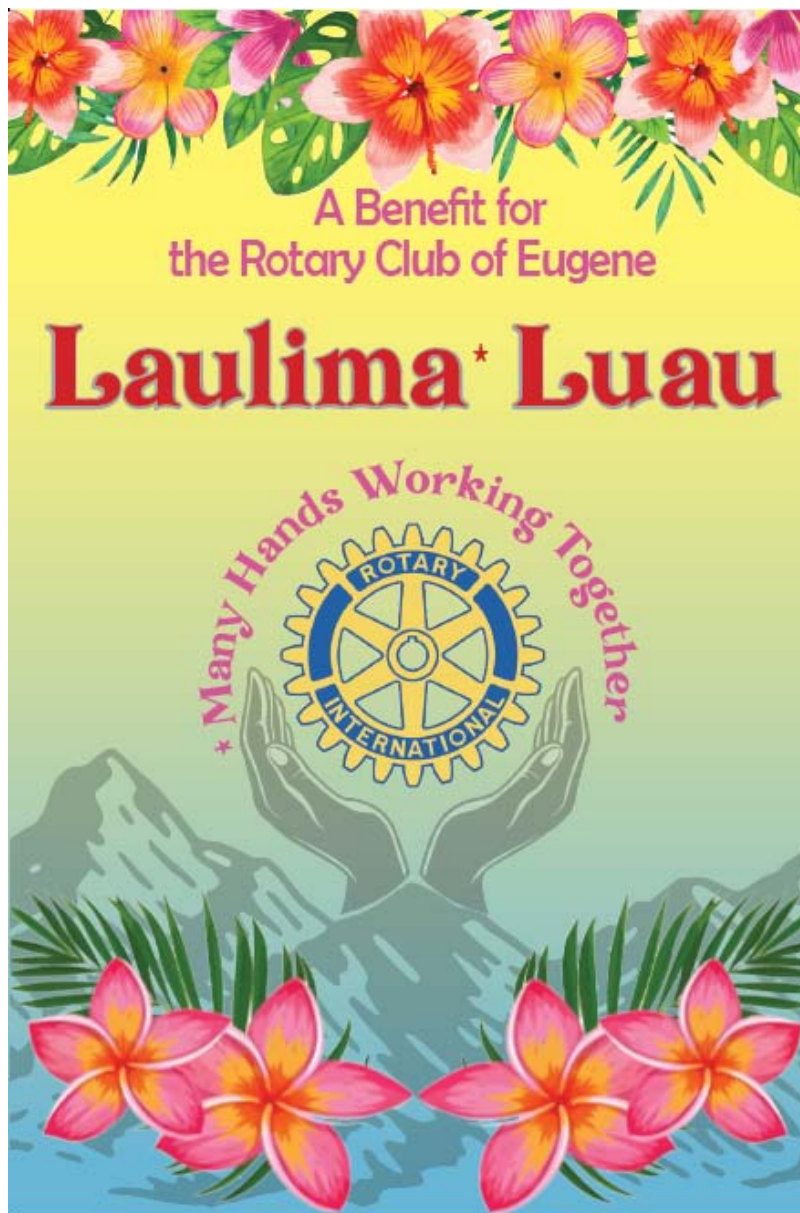
R. Scott Palmer
02-01-1983
43 Years

Dan Montgomery
02-01-1983
43 Years

Phil Barnhart
02-22-1983
43 Years

Erik Peter Gribskov
02-21-1984
42 Years

Karen Elizabeth Scheeland
02-14-1989
37 Years



Gregory L. Stewart

02-27-1996

30 Years

Ravitej Singh Khalsa

02-26-2001

25 Years

Monica Wilton

02-25-2010

16 Years

Andy Vobora

02-19-2013

13 Years

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.



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:

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.

February 24th - Healthcare in Eugene Springfield with Ashli Blow of Lookout Eugene. Introduction - John Wolf.

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....

District 5110 Soars to #5 in the World for Foundation Giving

January 26, 2026
By Christine A. Waugh



Did you know that our Rotary District, 5110 (Oregon and Northern California), is ranked #5 in the **WORLD** for Total Contributions!

This remarkable achievement shows what's possible when Rotarians believe deeply in Rotary's mission. By continuing to support The Rotary Foundation, we don't just give — we create lasting lift that expands our impact locally and around the world.

We are part of an amazing District!

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

January is National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month so it ends today (Jan. 31). However, Slavery and Human Trafficking know no time limits! Please continue to be vigilant every day of the year.

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.

February 1 is National Freedom Day. The day celebrates freedom from slavery. It also recognizes that America is a symbol of liberty. The day honors the signing by Abraham Lincoln of a joint House and Senate resolution that later became the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. President Lincoln signed the Amendment outlawing slavery on February 1, 1865. It was not ratified by the states, however, until later on December 18, 1865.

February 7 is National Periodic Table Day. Because - Science!

February 13 is National Galentine's Day. On February 13th, Galentine's Day brings women together to celebrate each other every year the day before Valentine's day.

and of course...

February 14 is Valentine's Day. Valentine's Day began as St. Valentine's Day, a liturgical celebration of one or more early Christian saints named Valentinus. February 14th first became associated with romantic love during the High Middle Ages as the tradition of courtly love was then flourishing. During 18th century England, this day evolved into an occasion in which lovers expressed their love for each other by presenting flowers, offering confectionery, and sending Valentine cards.

Ed. Note: By no coincidence, February 14 is also National Organ Donors Day.

February 17, 2026 is Fat Tuesday. Held the day before ash Wednesday (which is observed 46 days before Easter), Fat Tuesday is the last day of Carnival, the final period of indulgence (feasting and partying) before the 40-days of fasting and sacrifice during Lent. Also known as Shrove Tuesday and Mardi Gras, this enduring celebration has many traditions and deep roots around the world.

Mardi Gras (French for Fat Tuesday) dates back to an ancient Roman festival honoring the deities Lupercalia and Saturnalia which took place in mid-February. When Christians arrived in Rome, they incorporated the festival into Lenten preparations.

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=Ly85Skc3NXhoVTZGQTZjeGpCWGI2dz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83908618864?pwd=Ly85Skc3NXhoVTZGQTZjeGpCWGI2dz09)

Meeting ID: 839 0861 8864

Passcode: 695590

One tap mobile

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[+12532158782..83908618864#....*695590#](tel:+1253215878283908618864695590) US (Tacoma)