

Thursday, January 2, 2025

Club Meetings and Time

The Rotary Club of Mercer Island meets at
Mercer Island Community & Event Center
 8236 SE 24th Street
 Mercer Island, WA 98040

First and Third Tuesdays of the month

12:00 PM - 12:30 Socializing

12:30 - Meeting and a Speaker

A catered lunch by Pogacha (a restaurant on Mercer Island) is available for \$25 or you can bring your own.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME (no cost to visit)

Club Leaders

 **Benson D Wong**
President

 **Todd White**
President-Elect

 **Judy Clibborn**
Vice President

 **Patricia S. Turner**
Secretary

 **David Thompson**
Foundation Director
Treasurer

 **Walter Boos**
Club Foundation President

 **Julie Hsieh**
Club Director - Public Image

 **Dave Leibman**
Club Director - Club Support

 **Jennifer Lyn McLellan**
Club Director
RYLA Club Chair
Youth Service Chair

 **Robert L. Olson**
Club Director - Club Administration
Diane Tien

WE ARE PEOPLE OF ACTION
"SERVICE FOR THE SOUL"

January 7 - Club Meeting - Marvin Charles CEO of DADS



Our Vision
 To model healthy relationships as a means of creating healthier fathers and families.



Marvin Charles, Co-Founder, CEO & President
 Marvin Charles has emerged as a community and national leader in creating stronger fathers and healthier families. Because of his own powerful story of separation from and then reunification with his own family, parents and children, and his 15+ years of helping others reclaim the positive role of fathers to their families, he is an experienced and trusted mentor and advisor. He has traveled all over the U.S. to speak about empowering fathers, to learn from other national leaders and to share our successes with other organizations hoping to implement fatherhood programs. Marvin Charles is an ordained minister and his extraordinary effectiveness comes from his ability to see through the pain and threats of those he counsels to the powerful change possible by embracing a living God and larger purpose. Neither class nor ethnicity poses an obstacle to him being heard.

January 21 - Club Meeting - Mirya Muñoz-Roach, ED of St. Vincent DePaul



SERVICE PROJECT - January - Laundry Brigade



Do you want an easy service project - one you can do in your own home on your own time? This is the project for YOU!

Once again, we are collecting the lost and found from the JCC (and possibly the school district) and laundering it to give to children in need.

If you are interested in helping, contact Benson Wong at bensondwong@gmail.com or text or call (206)940-9294

January 29 - Operation Nightwatch - 6:00PM to 7:45PM

Help prepare food for those in need.



Club Director
- Membership



Stuart Scarff
Club
Foundation
Secretary



This is a great project for family and friends.
(Children leave by 7:30 before serving begins)

Contact Todd White to volunteer. tdw56@hotmail.com

SERVICE PROJECT - Sunday, Feb.2 - Lunar New Year Celebration

10:00 to 2:00 - Volunteer to help out at the Rotary Table at the Lunar New Year Celebration at the Mercer Island Community and Events Center. Click the link for more information about the event. <https://www.parentmap.com/calendar/mercer-island-chinese-new-year-celebration>



February 4 -Club Meeting - Jackie Jones Hood - Buffalo Soldiers Museum



Buffalo Soldiers Museum, located in Tacoma, Washington, has served as a community resource encompassing a significant – and all too often overlooked – facet of American history. The museum presents varied accounts of the many challenges and triumphs of the brave African American men who served their country and helped to build and strengthen the Western Frontier with integrity, devotion and pride.

The museum is a space that fosters the exchange of historical education, identity and culture, making it a practical link to a stronger community. This common good engages scholars and the public.

An astonishing number of American students receive an incomplete account of the history and people that shaped their own country. Understandably, there is a lot of ground to cover for such a complex and diverse nation. Most school systems do a decent job utilizing curricula that touch on the most significant events in U.S. history – but just covering the basics is not enough to truly understand why and how the United States is what it is today. This is especially true in regards to the significant contributions made to American history by people of color. Students of all backgrounds will benefit from learning about the policies, experiences, achievements, and perspectives of the many different groups who played a role in shaping the nation. Social studies programming must do a better job with inclusiveness. Our curriculum will help.

Let's support MI Youth and Family Services

By Benson D Wong

If you want to attend the 2025 MIYFS Breakfast on February 12th at 7:40 AM and are looking for a table, please let me know **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, JANUARY 10**. I will then register your name with the event organizers. If enough folks receiving this email express an interest in attending and sitting with Terry and/or me, I can try to fill a second table. A number of folks receiving this email are members of the Rotary Club of Mercer Island and their friends, so the table could be a Rotarian-heavy table. I look forward to hearing from you at your convenience. You can call 206.940.9294. or email me. bensondwong@gmail.com

February 18 - Club Meeting - Frank Blethen, Publisher of The Seattle Times



Seattle Times publisher and CEO Frank Blethen will step down at the end of 2025 after four decades leading the family-owned company but will retain his position as board chair of The Seattle Times Co.

Blethen led The Times through some of its highs — nine Pulitzer Prizes, including one awarded in 2020 for the paper's coverage of mistakes by Boeing leading to two 737 MAX crashes — and its most difficult lows, including the Great Recession and an industrywide contraction.

A family-owned, daily print newspaper is a rarity in American media, which has faced unprecedented economic collapse. Blethen has been called an eternal optimist, a journalism fanboy and a visionary.

One aspect Blethen is especially proud of: When he looks at The Seattle Times every day, he sees women at the top of the masthead. As the son of a single mother, he said, he was especially sensitive to the discrimination women faced.

"There are a lot of women out there who can do great work that probably still aren't getting the opportunities they need," he said. "Although it's a hell of a lot better than it used to be."

He's also encouraged by an innovative revenue model of community-funded initiatives at The Seattle Times, which have been replicated by other outlets across the U.S. Since 2013, community donors have contributed more than \$10 million to newsroom projects focused on education, climate, mental health, traffic, homelessness and investigative reporting.

"My mantra is that good content and useful content is what you need to attract an audience, and you need to attract an audience if you're going to get revenue and get paid for what you do," Blethen said. "And you know, I think right now we're putting out a really, really, really good newspaper."

[Read More](#)

THANK YOU from Liliya Valihun - Hebron IT Academy - Helping Vulnerable Youth in Ukraine



Our club made a grant to Hebron IT Academy and we received a thank-you note from our speaker, Liliya Valihun.

"Dear MI Rotary Club,

Happy Holidays to you and your families!

Ihor, I and all of our Hebron team would like to thank you for your generous donation to change the lives of orphans and underprivileged youth in Ukraine through education!

Your grant allowed us to provide an Advanced Tech Lab at Hebron IT Academy."

SERVICE PROJECT - MONTHLY - Help Build a Tiny House

On the fourth Saturday of every month, anyone from our Rotary District 5030 can help build tiny homes. (Bring your family members and friends - must be 16 years of age). This is a great opportunity to meet other Rotarians from around the King County area. Click here to sign up: <https://www.soundfoundationsnw.org/>



Past SERVICE PROJECT: Ringing Bells for the Salvation Army - Thanks to all who participated. **WHAT A JOYFUL TIME WE HAD!**





SAVE THE DATE: Harvest Against Hunger - Annual Fund Raising Event



PRESENTS



Save the Date
Friday, March 14, 2025

Get ready for the next annual Hearts & Wine event
benefiting Harvest Against Hunger at
Pickering Barn, Issaquah

SAVE THE DATE: Mercer Island Rotary's FIRST Golf Tournament

There will be a meeting at the MICEC on Tuesday January 7th from 1:30 to 2:30 (right after the club meeting). Even if you have not previously attended (or even don't play or even like golf), we need folks to pitch in to make this fundraising effort a success. If you want to get more involved, please contact Benson Wong at bensondwong@gmail.com. or by text or phone (206) 940-9294.



SAVE THE DATES AUG 22-24, 2025 - First Annual Pickleball Tournament

MERCER ISLAND
ROTARY CLUB



pickleball tournament



TENTATIVE DATES AUGUST 22-24, 2025

Contact Stuart Scarff to volunteer: stuart@scarfflaw.com

RESOURCES

Club Website: <https://mirotary.org>

Club Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/MercerIslandRotary>

Club Mailing Address: PO Box 1, Mercer Island, WA 98040

Club Email: rotarymercerisland@gmail.com

Prospective Members and Applications for Membership:
Diane Tien, Director of Membership dianebtien@gmail.com

Have ideas for, or to volunteer for Community Service
Benson Wong, President bensondwong@gmail.com

Financial reimbursement - forms are available online and at the meetings.

- **Reimbursement under \$100:**
Fill out the reimbursement form and have it signed by the President or Director you are working with, then give it to Dave Thompson. dethompsoncpa@outlook.com
- **Reimbursement over \$100:**
Fill out the pre-authorization form and have it signed by the President or Director you are working with. Once pre-approved, complete the rest of the form and give it to Dave Thompson. dethompsoncpa@outlook.com

To include something in The Dawn (newsletter), or to change your contact information
Pat Turner, Secretary turner.pat@gmail.com 206-852-4717

To include something on our Facebook Page
Julie Hsieh, Director of Public Image juliehsieh@outlook.com

Birthdays This Month

January and February Birthdays



Robert Ellis
January 2nd



Jennifer Crespi
January 16th



Judith Ginn
January 30th



Mark J. Scalzo
February 6th



Todd White
February 13th



Terry Lee
February 16th



Olivia Lippens
February 26th

Years of Rotary Service This Month



Stuart Scarff
26 Years



Elizabeth Baska
19 Years



Mak Abulhosn
18 Years



Charles Maylin
17 Years



Erinann Childress
4 Years



Todd White
1 Year