



HOLIDAY CHEER CELEBRATED AT ANNUAL ROTARY PARTY

Club Meeting

Bremerton
Meets at Olympic
College, Building 10
1600 Chester Ave.
Bremerton, WA 98337
Time: Monday at 11:45
AM

Speakers

December 16, 2024

[Salvation Army
Fundraiser](#)

December 23, 2024

[Christmas Break--no
meeting](#)

December 30, 2024

[New Year's Break--no
meeting](#)

Events

No Events found

Birthdays

Chad Melton

December 12th

Jessica D. Hull

December 19th

Timothy D. Olson

December 20th

Ryan Nickels

December 22nd

David W. Gitch

December 30th

Karen Sawyer-Meehan

January 1st

Douglas Berger

January 4th

Larry Eyer

January 6th

Years of Service

Steven M. Rice

06-01-1990

35 Years

Karen McKay Bevers

06-01-2012

13 Years

Caroline Rivers



Left, Max Hall, Ana Orona and baby Skylar; right, exchange student Iita Yli-Kuha enjoys some birthday cake. She turned 17 on the day of the party!



Left, Aaron Neske, Amanda Owen and baby Rex; right, Iita's birthday cake made by Carrie Rivers



Left, Doug Berger goes through the buffet line; right, Marty Cavalluzzi and Deborah Jackson

By Steve Landau

From the meeting of Dec.9, 2024

06-04-2015

10 Years

Daryl Wayne Matheny

06-22-2017

8 Years

Asked to lead a patriotic song, **Carrie Rivers** found herself leading the group in singing “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear.”

REFLECTION: Reama Schuldt said that in addition to running an art supply store, she is also a professional artist doing large scale art installations in unusual places, such as in a forest. She tries to pack everything she needs and worries she left something out. Someone at a Burning Man event said something that stuck with her: “Everything I need is inside me, and then the solution comes.” Reama said there’s power in believing in yourself and your community.

VISITORS & GUESTS

Mark Roper, the husband of **Jayne Roper** (formerly Barton), a past member of our club who does our accounting

Wendy Fox, Olympic College Interim Dean of Workforce and Economic Development, speaker

Joelle Jensen, Olympic College Interim Director of Continuing Education, speaker

Tiffany Turner, niece of **Deborah Jackson**, who is training Tiffany to do the work she does

Betsy Hagstedt, Bainbridge Arts & Resource Network

MUSIC COMMITTEE



To the tune of “Santa Claus Is Coming to Town”

You better watch out, I’m telling you why
The FAA doubts that Santa will fly
Santa Claus is coming by ground.
He’s renting a car, checking his sack
Too busy to fly and scared of Amtrak
Santa Claus is driving around.
He’d take a flight if he could
They thought his suit looked weird
They profiled him as bad, not good
Just because of his long beard.
Oh he’d better watch out, you better not cheat
The DOJ’s got clout, Santa’s dead meat
Driving from the pole, got him tired
And while he napped his Visa expired.

SERGEANT & HAPPY BUCKS

Mark Miller filled in for **Doug Berger**; he did a capable job on short notice.



Happy Bucks: **President Karen** had 10 bucks—five for being a Rotarian and 5 because **Reama Schuldt** and her son **Coolidge** got to hear her daughter’s piano recital. “It’s nice that people want to take part in each other’s lives.” She was also happy that the Rotary Holiday Party had been well attended and it gave her the chance to get to know Rotarians better.

Carrie Rivers said Karen’s daughter’s piano recital was held at her church, which has a beautiful piano and sanctuary.

John Stockwell had a “most marvelous weekend” in Victoria, B.C., getting exchange students from our district ready to go out on their missions. He also enjoyed the company of **Amanda Owen**, who was learning how the district handles this process.

Karen McKay-Bevers was talking up the annual holiday concert of the Navy Band Northwest, which was to have taken place Thursday at 7 p.m. at the BHS Performing Arts Center. Karen said the PAC hosts more than 100 events a year, many community-related.

Gerry Egan celebrated another stunning Seahawks’ win.

Gordon Cromwell said his brother, who lives in Chico, California, was awakened by a neighbor to alert him that a structure on the other side of his house had gone up in flames in an explosion.

Tim Quigley was glad to be back among us after working many hours in Kitsap County’s Election Department. How glad? Twenty bucks worth. He said anyone can watch the county’s election process firsthand, or it can be streamed online. He said we should be proud of our county’s election process.

Reama Schuldt said her son **Coolidge** got to go with his 3rd grade class to a performance of “The Nutcracker” at BHS. She sponsored some of his classmates who couldn’t afford the \$6 tickets.

Tom and Mary Lou Long took our Finnish exchange student **Iita Yli-Kula** to her first ballet performance, the same Nutcracker.

Amanda Owen enjoyed going to Victoria, B.C., with **John Stockwell** to observe the exchange student orientation process. She thinks that exchange students are really a different breed.

Fines: **Sergeant Miller** asked table questions about various aspects of Santa Claus, aka Saint Nicholas. St. Nicholas was a real person who lived in Turkey from 270 to 343 A.D. He was a Bishop who was declared a saint by the early Christian Church. He was known for helping women with their dowries so they could get married. Santa Claus didn’t get his red suit until 1888, when an artist drew him adorned in that color.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Karen urged those who attended the Rotary Holiday Party, which was free, to donate what it would have cost--\$30--to the Christmas Angels program. **Carrie Rivers** is going shopping for Christmas gifts on Friday.

Iita's fantastic birthday cake in the shape of a cactus at the Rotary Holiday Party was made by none other than **Carrie Rivers**.

Tom Long read an email from **Malea Martin**, our outbound exchange student to Germany in 2006-07. She has accepted a job offer from the State Department as a Foreign Service Office Management Officer. She has been assigned to Bamako, Mali (Africa), and will report in August 2025. She attended a six-week training program for diplomats. She said she spoke with a number of others in her class who credited high school exchange programs as launching their FSO careers.

PROGRAM



Wendy Fox, left, and Joelle Jensen, right

Wendy Fox, Interim Dean of Workforce and Economic Development, was one of two speakers from Olympic College. She said that one of their missions is paying attention to the needs of the business community. They can craft individualized credit programs to the businesses' needs. For instance they have a credited program in cybersecurity that was requested by local businesses. They also have received a request from Kitsap Transit to develop a training program in low voltage mechanics and they are working on a curriculum. They will open the class to local auto shops and dealerships.

Joelle Jensen, OC's Interim Director of Continuing Education, told us about OC's personal enrichment offerings. They are working to diversify their catalogue of classes. They have been using social media to advertise the programs. "This is the fun part of our job," Joelle said. The instructors for personal enrichment classes come from OC's faculty and from local experts in the community.

RAFFLE

Larry Eyer had the winning ticket and didn't draw the winning card.

EXCHANGE STUDENT NEWS



Iita Yli-Kuha, right, and her friend Avery Gambardella, enjoyed seeing "The Nutcracker" at the BHS Performing Arts Center. Afterwards, they posed with dance character Mother Buffoon.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Dec. 16: Salvation Army

Dec. 23: Winter/Christmas Break, no meeting

Dec. 30: New Year's Week, no meeting

Photos and proofreading by Tom Long