

Rotary



Club of Olympia

Next Club Meeting Date: Feb 5, 2024

By Dan Lehuta

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Our next lunch meeting is February 5th and our program will be Cultural Creative Arts Tax, with speaker Marygrace Goddu. Marygrace is the Program Manager for Inspire Olympia, the City of Olympia's new Cultural Access program. In public service her entire career, she has held federal, state, and city government positions, including 26 years at the Washington State Capitol as a senior planner responsible for art conservation and historic preservation. She has served on the Olympia Arts Commission and the Board of the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation, and is on the Board of Inspire Washington. She was Olympia's Historic Preservation Officer from 2019 through 2022. Marygrace has lived in Olympia since 1991 and raised three children here.

Meeting of 1-22-2024 Washington State Criminal Defense System

**Rotary Club of Olympia
The Wheel**

Date: 1/22/2024 **Today's Program:** Washington State Criminal Defense System

Meeting Called to order: President Debra @ 12:30 pm

Pledge of Allegiance led by: Mark Elliott

Four Way Test led by: Joe Scuderi

Visiting Rotarians:

Tom Anderson - South Puget Sound
Larry Jefferson - South Puget Sound

Guest of Rotarians:

Daniel - Rotary Youth Exchange student

Announcements:

Blue Badge - Amanda Blanski received her blue badge as a club member. She shared that on a trip to Dubai for COP she met local Rotarians.

Classification Talk - Susan Mayer - she was born in Budapest Hungary. She and her family immigrated to New Jersey. She found her passion in ancient history, so much so that she got her doctorate and traveled abroad to several digs (two in Israel). Later she joined a well-known advertising agency where she worked on the US Navy account. When she came to Washington, she started her own marketing/communications firm. One of her clients, the Washington State Parks, hired her as their own marketing and communications director. She held that role for several years. She got involved with the Washington State Capitol complex where she now gives tours.

Happy Bucks:

Ralph Munro - shared a story about how he and other Rotarians collected donated laptops to benefit communities in Ethiopia. He received a letter from a young man who received one of the laptops and is now a doctor.

Bret Anderson- worked with the regional Safeway manager to replace the Golden Bear gift cards.

Heather Antaniatis- she shared the benefit of Girl Scout cookies. Each box is \$6. Of every box, \$1 stays directly with the club. She encouraged everyone in the club to support Girl Scouts by buying cookies. She can connect you unless you already have a Scout in your life.

Susan Mayer- shared that today is also her birthday. The club sang Happy Birthday.

Program: Washington State Criminal Defense System - Larry Jefferson

President Debra introduced **Larry Jefferson**. In April 2021, she and the other Supreme Court Justices appointed him as the second Director of the Washington State Office of Public Defense - a statewide judicial agency that provides training and coordination for public defenders throughout Washington. She has always known Larry to be innovative especially around adding diversion programs as a component of the criminal justice system. He has been awarded the Bigelow Award, the highest award given by the Thurston County Bar Association. He spent 16 years as a public defender with Thurston County. Larry is a Rotarian with the South Puget Sound Rotary Club.

Larry shared about the deficiencies in the criminal justice system. He talked about mass incarceration and a lawyer's responsibility. He talked about the benefit of shared spaces and building community. Larry is passionate about babies, children and young people. He has never met an evil baby. He shared about the fact that communities have been segregated, especially with the lack of housing, which has increased the homeless population. Larry shared the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) questionnaire. The more ACEs (4-7 out of 10) the more likely someone is that they will go to prison. Currently the Washington State prison population is 93% men, 30-35 years old, and 90% have been abused. Women who have 8+ ACEs are at 900% more likely to suffer mental health problems.

Washington State has a public defense attorney shortage. As well, the state also has a shortage of prosecutors. 92% of Superior Court Judges reported a current attorney shortage. Most common type of case in front of the Superior Court Judge is public defense. The judges believe it has to do with low pay, high caseload and burnout/stress. Rural and remote areas are hit hardest. A solution is to hire contracted legal professions; however the rate of pay is drastically below the private sector. Both New Mexico and Oregon have hired auditors to study the case load issue. On average each public defender case takes about 12 hours and public defenders have about 150+ cases.

Looking ahead, Larry hopes to employ a victim first mentality. The criminal justice system should be victim centered, they (the victim) should receive services every time. The system should be accountable, taking responsibility that aids the community. The system should be safe, where everyone wants to be safe. In addition, the system should be equitable because things should be fair. Larry ended by encouraging everyone in the club to get involved to build an inclusive and supportive community.

The meeting was recorded, if you would like to see the recording, please contact President Debra.

Mr. Snappy: Laurie won a \$25 gift certificate to Farrell's Pizza that was donated by Cindy Hough.

Meeting Adjourned 1:30 pm by President Debra.

Meeting of 1-29-2024 Interfaith Works

**Rotary Club of Olympia
The Wheel**

Date: 1/29/2024 **Today's Program:** Interfaith Works

Meeting Called to order: President Debra @ 12:30 pm

Pledge of Allegiance led by: Joe Scuderi

Four Way Test led by: Dennis Cooper

Visiting Rotarians:

Mark Elliott - Olympia

NO VISITING ROTARIANS TODAY

Guest of Rotarians:

Nate Peters - Cecelia Lovelace
Mary - Ralph Munro
Jasper Blake - Jen/Brett

Announcements:

Blue Badge - Joyce Mayer received her blue badge as a club member.

Golden Bear Award - Jasper Blake - Jen Boelts and Brett Anderson shared several accolades from Jasper's teachers. He currently is a senior at Olympia High School. Next year he plans to attend business school. Jasper thanked the club as well as his teachers.

Jim Wilson - Work Readiness Volunteer Opportunity - Feb 23 - Jim is looking for guest speakers who has experience hiring/firing employees. He'd like them to share specific examples of what traits/qualities they look for in a new hire and to share specific examples about why and how they had to fire an employee. The audience will be students participating in his work readiness class.

Auction - Steve Bean auctioned two tickets to Gabriel Rutledge's March comedy show at The Washington Center. The tickets were donated by Jim Leonard. Laurie Maricle Bridges won the tickets. All the money raised will benefit the Cool Jazz, Clean Water project.

Happy Bucks:

Ralph Munro - shared that Nancy Evans has recently passed.

Cecelia Loveless- thanked Interfaith Works for the very productive partnership with Multicare.

Oscar Soule - picked up three books on a recent trip to Gig Harbor that he donated to the club's literacy project.

Cyndi Zechmann- she and her husband successfully got to and from Maui right as the 737 Max planes were grounded. On the trip home TSA stopped Cindy because they found a loaded magazine in her bag. After much back and forth with TSA officers she was approved to fly, though it was quite the ordeal getting onto the plane.

Program: Interfaith Works

Reid Bates introduced Interfaith Works. He shared how his own congregation has been involved with the work of the organization throughout our community. Reid introduced Reverend **Cory Passons** and **Brock Schafer**. Reverend Passons serves as the Interfaith Relations Coordinator. Brock is the Training and Education Manager.

Originally founded by 50 Catholic communities 50 years ago the organization has since expanded to include members from several other denominations and as such the name was changed to Interfaith Works to demonstrate the collaborative nature of the work of all faith communities.

Reverend Passons shared the Interfaith Works vision statement: "Social justice and peace through interfaith communication and cooperation".

The organization's vision includes respect for diversity, intentionally toward community and shared action for a more just world. Examples of shared action are the Moments of Blessing, Day of Remembrance, and Resetting Our Sacred Table

Reverend Passons talked about what Interfaith Works focuses on as their "recipe". It includes defining the organization's Core Values and defining Guiding Strategies for Communication. Both Reverend Parsons and Brock commented that elaborating further on either would be its own presentation.

Reverend Passons shared that on the horizon for Interfaith Works is a continued focus on deepening self-awareness at the Program Council on many fronts, including the connection to and inclusion of Indigenous peoples and communities.

Brock shared about the current services and elaborated on what the High Access or low barrier model means. Interfaith Works prioritizes services for those with significant mental illness, substance use, BIPOC and indigenous folks, senior citizens and the LGBTQIA+ community. There is no sobriety requirement. Couples and Pets. No cap on length of stay. Noncoercive services/resources. Prioritize staffing with lived experience. Trauma informed care. Harm reduction philosophy.

First Christian Church was the first site run by Interfaith Works. It opened in 2014; it had 42 beds available for either a one-night stay or permanent beds. It was open 5pm-7am, 7 days a week.

The Community Care Center was the second site run by Interfaith Works. It opened in 2017 and closed during COVID. A multi-agency hub offered hygiene and other support services. It was open 10am-5pm, 6 days a week. The center saw about 200-250 individuals/day.

Unity Commons is a purpose built community that has both permanent supportive housing and a 58-bed shelter. Within the shelter area there are 13 shows, laundry services, a community room w/full kitchen, computer bank w/internet, community garden and secure access. Phase II will add 64 units of permanent supportive housing. This space follows the High Access model. The Low Income Housing Authority owns Unity Commons. Interfaith Works is the staffing agency.

The day center, called Sergio has, is the newest site. A multi-agency hub hosts community gatherings as well as training. The usual operating hours are Tues-Sat, 10am-5pm. It is also host to the Hazardous Weather Task Force (HWTf). During a Code Red (too hot) or a Code Blue, (too cold) Sergio's is open longer hours to provide relief.

Interfaith Works coordinates several Navigation Teams. These are groups of certified peer counselors. The three teams focus on guest support, REST (individuals who have just been discharged after a major medical procedure), and permanent supportive housing case management.

Both Reverend Parsons and Brock took several questions from members.

The meeting was recorded, if you would like to see the recording, please contact President Debra.

Mr. Snappy: Cecelia Loveless won a \$25 gift certificate to Ember Goods Coffee which was donated by Martin Meyer.

Meeting Adjourned 1:30 pm by President Debra.
