

# Rotary Club of Renton



Wednesday, January 22, 2025

## January 23rd, 2024 Program

Jesse Tam



Lunar New Year, January 29th

Jesse Tam is the founder and Managing Director of Mega Pacific Investments (an international business consulting firm). He is also a founder and banker for 40+ years and forming his 4<sup>th</sup> Washington State chartered community bank, United Diversity Bank in Bellevue, WA.

Jesse has been a Rotarian since 1984 and a charter member of Seattle International District Rotary Club. In 2008-2009, he became the first Asian American Rotary District Governor for Rotary District 5030, covering the Greater Seattle area. Currently, he is Renton Rotary's President-Elect.

He has a passion for education and has served as mentor and lecturer for Seattle University and other universities in the Pacific NW. He is a past president and current director of the Seattle Chinese Chamber of Commerce. Jesse is a graduate of Boise State University, and holds an MBA from City University and the University of Washington.



### Club Meeting Place & Time

Renton  
Meets at Fairwood Golf & Country Club  
17070 140th Ave SE  
Renton, WA 98058  
Time: Thursday at 12:00 PM

### Events

January 23rd

[Jan 23rd Club Meeting](#)

**Speaker:** Jesse Tam - Lunar New Year

January 30th

[Jan 30th Club Meeting](#)

February 6th

[February 6th Club Meeting](#)

**Speaker:** Thomas Robbins - Embracing Passion Post-Retirement

February 13th

[Weekly Club Meeting](#)

February 19th

[Monthly Board meeting](#)

February 20th

[Weekly Club Meeting](#)

### Club Officers



[Al Ralston](#)  
President



[Rosie Rourke](#)  
President-Elect



[Jesse Tam](#)  
President-Elect



[Mary Fitzgerald](#)  
Secretary



[Lora Ueland](#)  
Treasurer

## Weekly Agenda

Meeting Agenda

LUNCH SERVED ~ 12:15

Spaghetti with housemade meatballs, garlic toast, and tiramisu

MEETING STARTS ~12:30

WELCOME

FLAG SALUTE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STUDENTS OF THE MONTH (Video)

THANK YOU FROM CASCADE ELEMENTARY (Video)

SPEAKER

FINES & HAPPY BUCKS

FOUR WAY TEST

ADJOURNMENT

## 2025 Community Service Grants

# Rotary grant process is open!



Calling all Renton area non-profits. Renton Rotary is wanting to hear from you and the great work you are doing in the community. We will again be awarding grants to 501(c) 3 organizations serving the Renton area. Applications are due by midnight, March 7th, 2025. [Please download the application and carefully read the instructions to apply.](#) We look forward to hearing from you.

## Come Learn About Rotary



## January Students of the Month

### Renton Rotary selects Youth of the Month

January 2024 - Rotary Club of Renton has selected their Youth of the Month. Rotary members recognize several Renton School District high school students each month as Youth of the Month. The award is given to students who possess leadership abilities, community service, commitment to their fellow students, and maintain good grades and attendance.

Renton's Youth of the Month are:



**Gretchen Frier** is a Senior at Mason High School. She enjoys math classes at Mason and is involved in Photography Club, Education Thing Club, and Science Club. She also participates in variety events where she serves as a team captain. Gretchen spends time volunteering at a variety of locations over the summer and during the school year. She engages with other nonprofits. She has also worked part-time with the City of Renton as a Recreation Center working with different groups of kids. After high school, she plans to attend a four-year university to pursue a degree in either Educational Studies or Elementary Education and her hope is to become an upper elementary or middle school math teacher.



**Sharafuddin Majid** is a Senior at Lindbergh High School. He enjoys math and specifically his bridge in College Math class at Lindbergh and serves as the President of Bridge Club. He takes his classes and extra classes after school and on the weekends so he can keep studying. He has worked for the community through Renton Club and spent time as a volunteer with students at Cascade Elementary. He has begun his own website selling business and hopes to grow his skills and expand his business. Sharafuddin plans to attend college where he wants to earn a Business Degree and would like to use his degree to continue growing his business to a point of having his own shop.



**Sofia Bloom-Porter** is a Senior at Renton High School. Her favorite classes have been math and science classes such as in Biology and Calculus. Sofia is involved in the Latin Student Group, ACE class (Art), as well as French Club. She also likes to read and travel. She volunteers with the University District Food Bank and the Seattle Children's Ronald McDonald House where she works closely with other volunteers to prepare and serve meals for their families. She also works part-time at Round Table Pizza. After graduation, she plans to attend a four-year university to major in aerospace engineering and is also interested in joining a study abroad program to expand her role as a global citizen. She would like to join the workforce as an aerospace engineer to further our understanding of the universe.



**Anysha Hawkins** is a Senior at Talley High School. She enjoys Leadership, Entrepreneurship, History and Creative classes at school. She is involved in the Black Student Union and the new DECA Chapter at Talley. She occasionally volunteers at school in the game and prepares for school events. She currently works with the Renton School District in the Youth Read Program to help students in elementary school build their reading skills. After high school, Anysha would like to attend a four-year university or a trade school and be involved in the specific field of study. Her thoughts on a future career at this time, are to become either a caregiver or possibly an event coordinator.

## January Educators of the Month

Renton Rotary is pleased to honor these educators with \$250 each to be used in their classrooms.

Renton Rotary selects Teachers of the Month  
 Since 1925, as part of their commitment to education, and to celebrate teachers in the Renton School District, each month members of Rotary Club of Renton select a few teachers as Teacher of the Month.

**January Teachers of the Month are:**

**Singer Burke**  
 Frontend Teacher at Meadow Creek Early Learning Center  
 Singer attended Pacific Lutheran University where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education, and she continued at the University of Washington to receive a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Special Education. Before teaching with the Renton School District, Singer worked as a teacher in Alaska. Singer has been teaching with the Renton School District for two years.

**Silvia Flores**  
 Special Education Teacher at Tabbot Hill Elementary School  
 Silvia attended the University of Texas at Austin, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Education with a focus on Special Education, and she is currently working toward a Master's through the University of Washington to earn a degree in Critical Educational Change and Leadership. Before becoming a Special Education Teacher, Silvia worked for a year in educational and paraprofessional for several years in Texas. This is her eighth year teaching with the Renton School District.

**Christine Olson**  
 Multilingual/ESL Teacher at Hobbes Middle School  
 Christine attended Boston University where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education. Before moving to Washington, Christine worked as a middle school health/social teacher in Worcester, Massachusetts. This is her seventh year teaching in the Renton School District.

**Yukiko Shin**  
 Special Education Teacher at Henry VIII Elementary School  
 Yukiko attended Doshisha University in Kyoto, Japan where she earned a degree in English Literature and she currently attends City University where she will obtain a Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction, with a Special Education Endorsement (pending) in December of June 2025. Prior to becoming a teacher, Yukiko worked as an office assistant at a non-profit working with families and individuals in maintaining stable housing. This is Yukiko's third year teaching in the Renton School District.



## Share the Magic of Rotary



With your friends, neighbors and professional network!

You can tell them how we.....  
 Join with millions of other Rotarians to provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through our fellowship of business, profession and community leaders.

Engage with and support the community. In the last 12 months, we have raised funds through the Rubber Ducky Race at Renton River Days and our annual CAPER auction and:  
 Awarded **\$24,000 in college scholarships** to Renton School District seniors

Put **\$12,000 worth of warm coats** on children

Contributed over **\$3,000 to eradicate polio**

Invested over **\$13,000 in 3rd graders education** and ongoing learning

Contributed over **\$15,000 to international humanitarian projects**

Provided a **\$250 cash gift to over 24 educators** in the Renton School District to support their classroom

Awarded nearly **\$53,000 in non-profit grants**

**Supplied appliances for senior citizens** to help them be able to stay in their homes

and much more!

Our dues are only \$50 a month! Come check us out at a weekly meeting and have lunch with us on Thursdays at 12:00 pm at the beautiful Fairwood Golf & Country Club. All are welcome, you don't have to be a business owner, just someone who cares about Renton and cares about serving.