



PH: (206) 542-7070

PO Box 31125, Seattle, WA 98103

Paula Williams, President

Meeting Location

Seattle Yacht Club
1807 E. Hamlin St.
Seattle, WA 98112

To join via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88235453974>

When: Fridays

Business: 12:00-12:30 pm

Lunch: 12:30-1:00 pm

Program: 1:00-1:30 pm

VISITORS ARE WELCOME

Future Programs

February 6

David Bobanick: Harvest Against Hunger

February 13

No meeting: Presidents Day weekend

February 20

James Donaldson: mental health and suicide prevention

Links

[Club Photos](#)

[Club Facebook Page](#)

[Club Website](#)

[DACdb](#)

[District 5030 Website](#)

Club Bulletin Deadline

Monday at 2:00 pm
Send ads & photos in .jpg. For January, 2025, send material to:
paulalaschober@gmail.com



Margaret O'Donnell

Since 2018, *The Detention Lottery* has delivered a wallop to audiences across the state and online with its stark exploration of an immigration detention courtroom. We see the detainees torn out of their daily lives and hustled into the cold, byzantine realm known as our judicial system. As one judge put it, "life-and-death decisions are made in a traffic-court setting."

Today we will see the story of one of the seven detainees, a businessman trapped by new laws and old accusations. Tom Heller

will play the detainee Jose Miguel Suarez, and Rick Taylor the Private Attorney. Both the judge (Karin Tolgu) and the DHS Attorney (Luz Metz) are practicing immigration attorneys who will conduct the question and answer afterward.

Margaret O'Donnell is a Seattle-based playwright and poet. Her work explores the migration of peoples, the resilience of the elderly, the urgent impacts of climate change on all living creatures, the byzantine workings of the US legal and justice system, and the intricacies of human relationships. She is a retired immigration attorney who represents asylum seekers pro bono.



The Detention Lottery is award-winning selection at the Kennedy Center's 2021 American College Theatre Festival. The audio version of the play will be part of the International Radio Drama Festival in Canterbury, England in March 2026.

Amy Youngblood directs performances of *The Detention Lottery*, bringing actors, activists, and advocates to fill the cast roles. She learned professional theater systems through the Public Works program at the Seattle Rep, which added to decades of stagework for art and fundraising. She believes in theater and justice for all.



Amy Youngblood



Sign Up Now!



2026-2029 Strategic Planning for the future of UDRC

February 28, 2026
11 AM to 3 PM

Magnuson Community Center
7110 62nd AVE NE, Bldg 47, Seattle WA

\$15.00 lunch, pay at meeting or event



Register online or at a club meeting

Register at: [UDRC 2026-2029 Strategic Planning Event Registration](#). More ways to pay on next page.



Paul Harris Fellow Awards

Last Friday, Foundation Chair Rosemary Aragon presented Paul Harris Fellow (PHF) awards to six University District Rotarians.



PHF awardees Wolfgang Kluge, Angie Jimenez, Doug Frick, Lisa Latchford, Linda Fukuda and Kay Rodriguez

The club members above received the following awards: Wolfgang Kluge PHF+2, Angie Jimenez PHF+1, Doug Frick PHF+3, Lisa Latchford PHF+5, Linda Fukuda PHF+6, and Kay Rodriguez PHF+8.

Rotarians receive PHF awards for each \$1,000 they donate to The Rotary Foundation. Every donation makes a difference!



How to Pay for Lunch at Strategic Planning Event February 28 (by Bill Herkes)

Please note that cash and checks will not be accepted to pay for the lunch for this event. There are four ways to pay:

1. By credit card at one of our Friday meetings on or prior to February 20 (last day to register).
2. By focusing your mobile phone camera on the QR code shown and following the link.
3. By using the following Internet link: [UDRC 2026-2029 Strategic Planning Event Registration](https://www.rotary.org/en/strategic-planning-event)
4. By sending an email message to Bill Herkes (bill.herkes@gmail.com) and requesting an invoice from Square (which means you will pay by credit card on line).



Rotary Foodies Need Home Hosts (by Vicki Robbins)

We need to shake up foodies yet again! If people want to return to having them in homes, are you willing to host in yours? Please let Vicki know!

Email Vicki at vickilee53@aol.com, or call her at 206-714-4809. Thanks!





New Member Induction (by Rosemary Aragon)

My Fellow University Rotarians, today we are inducting our first new member of 2026.

Please meet **Johan Wikman**. His sponsor is Rick Jones.

Johan was born and raised in Stockholm Sweden. His education has been through real-world experience, independent study, and years of building companies—not formal university training. He is curious by nature and always has been interested in people's stories...and eagerly shares his own story with anyone who is interested. This spills over into his professional career where he spent the last 25 years leading high performing software development teams in everything from small startups to public companies. He has a passion for developing innovative, user-centric solutions.



Rosemary Aragon introduces Johan Wikman

Building community--starting good conversations:

Johan spent most of his working career in the San Francisco Bay Area. He is a recent (2 years) transplant to the Pacific Northwest. How did he get here? A relationship and good timing. Two weeks after he quit his prior job, his friend of 36+ years, Peter O'Dell, called. He wanted to start a new business and wanted Johan to join him. Johan told me they have a vision of creating online villages...like the villages when villages and relationships worked. The wanted to connect people based on their interests...making introductions that might lead to friendships.

Johan is the co-founder of and CTO at Perdata.ai, where they build Conexus, a platform that brings people together and helps communities and events spark real connections and meaningful conversation. The Conexus app connects people through shared passions. Users share a small amount about themselves. Data stays private. It helps people skip small talk, moving past weather and traffic. People start with ideas that matter.

During the market research and the early Conexus prototypes, Johan and Peter learned how deeply social isolation affects health and lifespan. That led to their writing a book on friendship and community--[Dying for friendship and community](#)--which is scheduled for release in early February. *I think we'll find that an interesting read.*

Perdata.ai is in the early stages of development and is working with small communities, including Del Ray Dads in Alexandria. They are in active conversations with several larger organizations focused on building strong communities. Last year they made a few pivots to focus more on communities rather than one-off events.

Something you wouldn't know about Johan: He is a passionate ultra-runner (i.e., Long Distance Running). He says endurance shapes how he works and thinks. In 2018 he finished the Western States 100. It is widely regarded as one of the hardest 100-mile races...on a course running from Squaw Valley to Auburn through the Sierra Nevada. One hundred miles. One day. Please talk to him about this.

Johan, we welcome you to University Rotary and hope you engage with us socially (e.g., foodie dinners and beer/hamburgers at Magnuson) and lend a hand to our local and international efforts. Our organization fits your business: building community and starting good conversations.



University District Rotary Luncheon & Auction

Join us in a celebration of the fellowship of giving

March 28, 2026, 11:30-1:30pm
Seattle Yacht Club

United we have the power to alleviate suffering in our community

<https://udrc2026fundraiserauctriaevents.auctria.events/>



UNITE FOR GOOD



2026 Fundraiser Contacts

Angel Donors: Joe Whitford—josephwhitford@gmail.com

Sponsorships: Hugh Brannon—hbrannon45@aol.com and
Angie Jimenez—gejim22@yahoo.com

Procurements: Stephanie Feldt—s.feldt@comcast.net

Dessert Dash: Terry Cicero—cicero@seattleu.edu

Event Tickets: Available February 6, 2026

Gala Information -Sally Porter Smith, sallypor789@gmail.com

Gala Chair—**Doug Frick**, dugfrick70@gmail.com

Event Website: <https://udrc2026fundraiserauctriaevents.auctria.events/>

The website is in process of being built. People wanting to use credit cards to pay for Angel Donations and Sponsorships may do so now on the website.



Community Service Project Report-Bilingual Books (by Ellenore Angelidis)

In the 2024-25 Rotary year, our club's Community Service Committee awarded the NGO Open Hearts Big Dreams a grant of \$10,000 to provide 1,000 bilingual books for Seattle children. Fifteen schools, libraries and not for profits were given donated books.

The purpose of this project is to provide diverse bilingual children's early reader books within the U-District Community. This allows diverse families with children to see themselves represented in the books they read and will give all families the opportunity to learn about either their own or new cultures to create more empathy, understanding, peace, and global citizens.

Reports were requested and received. The feedback was universally positive. Solid Ground provided feedback shared below that was repeated by the other beneficiary organizations which included Bellwether Housing, Ethiopian Community in Seattle, AKIN, University of Washington, and The Children's Center at Burke Gilman Gardens.



Solid Ground Washington: What was the impact with the community you serve?

Sand Point families expressed gratitude for receiving books that they could read with their children in their native language – many shared that it allowed them to connect with their children through stories from their own upbringing and cultural roots. “It was powerful to see families bond over storytelling in such a familiar and meaningful way,” shared Scott Moorhouse, our Family & Children’s Program Manager. One Sand Point parent also told us that their child, who usually avoids reading, has asked to be read to from the books in their home language for the first time in weeks – sparking a new nightly routine for the family.

At Broadview, Open Hearts Big Dreams books are a source of comfort for families who are navigating big transitions – from living with an abuser, to living homeless, to reaching safe housing at Broadview. Families love coming to our onsite library and picking out books to read together – and for families who speak a first language other than English at home, Open Hearts Big Dreams is an incredible gift that allows us to offer these parents the same opportunities to read stories that reflect their languages and cultures. We've seen that these books are especially impactful for kids and parents still learning English – allowing them to read in and practice both of their languages and connect with other family members through shared stories. One of our Broadview Children's Advocates shared: “It makes it easier for us as advocates to build relationships when families feel seen and understood. I have heard only positive reviews of the stories that have been told and how the families were so entertained!”



As a part of this grant, OHBD donated 250 books in Ethiopia. Here is the impact report from a recipient: Addis Guzo has been working with and for people with disabilities in Ethiopia since 2011. We actively include the donated books from Open Hearts Big Dreams as an integrated component of our programming. Additionally, we send books home so that the whole family, including siblings, can benefit from them. Most of the children who receive treatment at Addis Guzo have not been read to before and these are typically the first children's books in their homes.



Education Committee - Book Drive and Trip to Ethiopia (by Ellenore Angelidis)

Children's Book Drive – on-going.

Photos from Udist CSC book donation grant 2024/25. The positive feedback from that grant reenforced the power of getting quality books in the hands of all kids.

- a. Did you know there are book deserts in the Seattle area? I learned this recently and we can do something to change that.
- b. We identified two organizations that are doing great work in this area and will provide more details on those collaborations in the near future.
- c. One need identified we can immediately meet are high quality children's books, especially featuring diverse characters or themes as well as bilingual. Think gift. I will be collecting at upcoming meetings.
- d. Please let me know if you are bringing so I can have someone take if I am not there. ellenore@openheartsbigdreams.org



Trip Opportunity -- Ethiopia – 2026.

Photos below from recent book donation in area where kids have been out of school for two years because of conflict. One girl shared that these books and opportunity to continue her education gave her hope.

- a. Ezra and I are tentatively planning to take a small group back to Ethiopia in October/November 2026.
- b. We will be visiting our collaborating Rotary clubs and new and in progress reading rooms there as well as seeing a bit of Ethiopia.
- c. Travel is more restricted now for those who have traveled before 2020. I will share more details in the coming months.
- d. Reach out to me if interested at ellenore@openheartsbigdreams.org





Message from District Governor Jeff Borek

Three quick highlights of new ways you can start off the new calendar year with compassion, service and a bit of fun.

#1 — Washington Flood Relief – Website Now Live

Our District 5030 Washington Flood Relief website is now live and ready to support those across our area impacted by recent December flooding. Thousands of residents and hundreds of homes and farms across western Washington were badly damaged, and tens of thousands were evacuated due to levee failures, power outages, and atmospheric river rains. Please visit, share widely, and consider how your club or individual members can contribute to relief and recovery efforts across our state. Many thanks to District Governor-elect Patricia Chapman and her Chief of Staff, Mike, for leading a team from their home club along with other 5030 Rotarians across our area to help those in need.



A link to the website can be found on our main District landing page: <https://district5030.org>

#2 — Bloodworks NW Code Red – Urgent Need

Bloodworks NW has issued a **Code Red** alert. All eligible Rotarians, especially if you are Type O or a platelet donor who is feeling healthy, are urged to schedule an immediate appointment at a donor center or blood drive near you. If just **1% more people donated**, we could stabilize the blood supply and prevent this emergency from worsening. This is a simple, lifesaving way to serve right now. Remember to mention our group code 5030 when you check in. Bloodworks NW is a Platinum Sponsor of the 5030 District Conference in Walla Walla later this spring.



Learn more and book your appointment at <https://bloodworksnw.org/?nab=1>

#3 – Anti-Bullying Program & Rotary Social at Taproot Theatre

The Rotary Education Interest Group of RCOS and **Taproot Theatre Company** invite Rotarians from all local clubs to a special anti-bullying program and social gathering on **February 10 at 5:00 PM** at Taproot Theatre. For this evening, the entire theatre will be open exclusively for Rotarians, with light snacks, drinks, and plenty of time to connect and discuss our shared commitment to serving youth in our local communities. All Rotarians are warmly encouraged to attend, bring potential new members and guests, and ensure your fellow club members are aware. **Come curious—and expect the unexpected.** Tickets are \$20 per person, space is limited, and early registration is encouraged.



Register and purchase tickets here: <https://seattlerotary.org/events/february-10-evening-event-at-taproot-theatre/>



Buy tickets at: [Harvest Against Hunger | Hearts & Wine 2026 - Harvest Against Hunger](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hearts-wine-2026-tickets-33031000000)

Tickets out now
for our annual
fundraiser!

Hearts & Wine



**March 20th
5:30 - 9:00 PM
Victory Hall at the Boxyard
1201 1st Ave S, Seattle**





Ignite Your Rotary Spirit in Walla Walla | April 16–19, 2026 🔥

Sign up today for the 2026 District 5030 Conference | Marcus Whitman Hotel

Reignite your purpose. Rekindle connections. Refresh your Rotary spark.

Join us in **Walla Walla** this April for an unforgettable **District 5030 Conference** that goes far beyond the typical event. Set in the heart of Washington wine country, **Ignite Your Rotary Spirit** is your chance to step away from the routine and immerse yourself in a weekend designed to **inspire, connect, and empower**.

Why attend?

- Inspiring speakers and energizing sessions
- Fellowship in the heart of wine country
- A chance to recharge your Rotary passion and purpose

Bonus: Kick off the weekend with our **pre-conference golf tournament and lunch** on the morning of April 17th—a fun and relaxed way to connect with fellow Rotarians and enjoy the scenic beauty of Walla Walla.

Club Incentive Program:

- Clubs that reach key registration milestones will be entered into a drawing for a **gift certificate for a two-night stay at the Marcus Whitman Hotel**—a special getaway for one lucky attendee (or couple) **to enjoy after the conference**.
- Cash prizes to support your club's next community service project.

The more members who attend, the better your club's chances to win!

Check your club's progress and get incentive details at <https://www.igniterotary2026.com/club-incentives>.

Sign up for the Conference today at <https://www.igniterotary2026.com> and get in at the early bird price! Spots are limited!

Should you have any questions, feel free to email us at conference@igniterotary2026.com.

A heartfelt thank you to our Presenting Sponsor, Seattle Rotary 4, for their generous support in helping bring this experience to life.

In Rotary Spirit,

The 2026 District 5030 Conference Planning Team

Pricing

Conference Registration:

- **District 5030 Rotarian Member:** \$350 per person. Includes attendance at all conference sessions, receptions, dinners on Friday and Saturday evenings, and breakfast on Saturday morning. Onsite registration: \$400 per person.
- **Guests of District 5030 Rotarian Members:** \$200 per person. Includes attendance at receptions, dinners on Friday and Saturday evenings and breakfast on Saturday morning only. Attendance at other conference sessions is not included. Onsite registration: \$250 per person.

Hotel Pricing: Marcus Whitman Hotel Conference Room Rate: \$189 per room per night plus applicable state, local and occupancy tax. Conference room rate is only valid for the nights of April 15, 16, 17 and 18, 2026. **Rooms must be booked by March 26, 2026, in order to receive the conference room rate.**

Optional Events: Cost of optional events such as golfing and wine tasting are not included in registration.



Upcoming Club Activities and Deadlines

Feb 5 6:00-7:00 pm. Service Fund Board meeting. Contact: Paula Laschober, paulalaschober@gmail.com.

Feb 6 Please bring non-perishable food items to our lunch meeting. Leave them in the lobby. Jeff Werthan will take them to the University District Food Bank.

Feb 9 4:00-5:30 pm. Club Board meeting. Contact: Paula Williams, pdaywms@gmail.com.

Feb 15 11:00 am-1:00 pm. YMCA Grab n Go lunch preparation. Volunteers should contact Rick Jones at threepointoh@comcast.net.

Feb 20 Last day to register for Feb. 28 Strategic Planning, [UDRC 2026-2029 Strategic Planning Event Registration](#).

Feb 23 3:00-4:00 pm. Membership Committee meeting. Contact Lisa Latchford, lisa@foxassociatesllc.com.

Feb 28 11:00-3:00. 2026-2029 Strategic Planning meeting, Magnuson Community Center, 7110 62nd Ave NE, Building 47, Seattle. Register at: [UDRC 2026-2029 Strategic Planning Event Registration](#). Lunch \$15, pay at a meeting by credit card or pay online. No cash or checks accepted.

Mar 5 6:00-7:00 pm. Service Fund Board meeting. Contact: Paula Laschober, paulalaschober@gmail.com.

Mar 9 4:00-5:30 pm. Club Board meeting. Contact: Paula Williams, pdaywms@gmail.com.

Mar 15 11:00 am-1:00 pm. YMCA Grab n Go lunch preparation. Volunteers should contact Rick Jones at threepointoh@comcast.net.

Mar 18 8:30-10:00 am. Coffee Meet-Up, location TBD.

Mar 20 5:30-9:00 pm. Hearts & Wine, fundraiser for Harvest Against Hunger. See ad in this bulletin.

Mar 28 11:30-1:30. Save the date (Saturday) for our club's annual luncheon fundraiser at SYC.

Apr 8 1:00 pm. Volunteers needed to prepare food at Ronald McDonald House. Contact Angie Jimenez at gejim22@yahoo.com

Apr 16-19 District 5030 Conference in Walla Walla. Register at <https://www.igniterotary2026.com>.



May 20 8:30-10:00 am. Coffee Meet-Up, location TBD.

Donate to The Rotary Foundation (TRF) Every Year

The mission of The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty. Donate at:

[Donate | My Rotary](#)

Note: All club project sponsors are required to give to both TRF and our Service Fund in the prior year in order to be eligible as a sponsor. These two foundations are the source of all our project funding.



University Service Fund

The Foundation of the Rotary Club of the University District is called **“University Rotary Service Fund.”** It is a charitable organization with a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status. The Service Fund’s EIN, or tax ID, is 91-1123239.



University District Rotary Club

2026 Unite for Good Annual Gala Luncheon

Angel Donor Form

University Rotary Service Fund, EIN # 91-1123239, is a 501(c)3 non-profit. This donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Name (write on the line above)

Address

City, State, Zip Code

Email Address

Phone

**Yes! I would like to be a 2026 University Rotary "Angel Donor" with my donation of
\$ _____ (minimum of \$500).**

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ made payable to **University Rotary Service Fund**.

Please charge my credit card \$ _____.

Credit Card Number (write on the line above)

____ / ____ / ____ / ____

Expiration Date / CCV # on back of card/ Credit Card Issuer (i.e., Visa, etc.)

If you wish to discontinue your donation or stop payment, please indicate your request clearly on this form or contact us directly for assistance before submitting.

Signature of Card Holder

To pay online, select "Donate" on our Event website, <https://udrc2026fundraiserauctriaevents.auctria.events/>

To mail check: mail form and check to **University District Rotary Service Fund, PO Box 31125, Seattle, WA 98103**



University District Rotary Club

2026 Unite for Good Annual Gala Luncheon & Auction

March 28, 2026, Seattle Yacht Club, 11:30 – 1:30 pm

Procurement Form

Increase your company's visibility by donating an item to the University District Rotary Club. Support funding for local community service projects as well as international projects in developing countries. Your donation will be recognized in our online preview catalog and print materials at the auction.

Donated Item Information

Item Name:

Certificate Only: _____ Physical Item: _____ Certificate and Item: _____

Item Description including terms and conditions (may use back of form as needed):

Expiration Date (*if applicable*):

Donor Stated Value \$

Photographs of donation if available (*jpeg's or png's accepted, please email*): Yes

Type of donation (designation may be adjusted by Fundraising Committee):

Raffle Item Live Auction Dessert Dash Bottle of wine (game of chance)

Delivery Options: Please indicate your preference:

Mail to Club Request pickup by Rotarian

Donor will deliver to the club at a mutually agreed time

Donor Information (as it should appear in event program)

Company Name:

Contact Name:

Phone:

Email Address:

Donor Address:

City, State, Zip:

Donor Website URL:

Company Logo: Send electronic PNG to s.feldt@comcast.net

Signature:

Date:

Thank you for your donation to support the University District Rotary Club and Service Fund. The University Rotary Service Fund, EIN # 91-1123239 is a non-profit 501(c)(3) charitable organization. This donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Email completed form/photos to: Stephanie Feldt, s.feldt@comcast.net OR Mail: University District Rotary, Attention Procurement Committee, PO Box 31125, Seattle, WA 98103



University District Rotary Club

2026 Unite for Good Annual Gala Luncheon

Sponsorship Form

Sponsorship opportunities for the University District Rotary Club's Annual Gala luncheon. Funds raised support local community service projects, scholarships for disadvantaged community residents, and service projects in developing countries.

Benefits that you receive from sponsoring this fundraising event:

Patron: \$2,500. **Patron sponsorship** includes 2 event tickets with dinner. Marketing includes brand display space, logo included in social media marketing, logo in print media, and an emcee announcement at the event.

Champion: \$1,200. **Champion** sponsorship includes 1 event ticket with dinner. Marketing includes a logo on the event website, a logo in print media, and an announcement by an emcee at the event.

Mission Supporter: \$500. **Mission Supporter** sponsorship includes social media marketing, a logo in the printed program, and an emcee announcement at the event.

Community Sponsor: \$250. Your name/logo will be displayed and announced by the emcee at the event.

Note: Each sponsor will be asked to provide a digital copy of their logo to upload to our gala site. For assistance, contact Sally Smith, sallypor789@gmail.com

Yes! I would like to be a 2025 University District Rotary Sponsor.

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ made payable to **University Rotary Service Fund**.

Please charge my credit card \$_____.

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date ____ / ____ CCV # on back of card: _____

Signature of Card Holder: _____

Please make the check payable to the University District Rotary Service fund and mail it to PO Box 31125, Seattle, WA 98103. University Rotary Service Fund, EIN #91-1123239 is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

To pay online, visit <https://udrc2026fundraiserauctriaevents.auctria.events/> and click Sponsorship in the header.