



University District Rotary Club Bulletin

Wednesday, December 4, 2024



PH: (206) 542-7070

PO Box 31125, Seattle, WA 98103

Linda Fukuda, 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

Program for December 6

**Meet at Off the Rez Café, Burke Museum, UW campus (NW corner)
4303 Memorial Way NE, Seattle**



Join Marilee Fuller at Off the Rez at noon. RSVP to her at marileefuller@yahoo.com



Future Programs

Dec 13

Mahnaz Eshetu: Refugee Women's Alliance

Dec 20

Holiday Party

Dec 27

No meeting: holiday weekend

Jan 3

No meeting: holiday



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

Send material to:

paulalaschober@gmail.com

Company Matching (by Paula Williams)



Does your employer offer company matching for charitable contributions? A number of local companies—such as Amazon, Expedia, Starbucks, Boeing, et al—will match employee donations to almost all non-profits. Microsoft, in fact, doubles the contributions its employees make.

Check with your human resources department to see if your company matches. **Thanks so much!**





URock FUN Zone

You've found us! This is the place in each issue of the bulletin where you'll find our FUNraising calendar. Contact the (Team Leader) for information and/or reservations.

11/29/24 An Evening At the Theater (Dale Hicklin)

12/26/24 Private Screening of *Wicked* (Sally Porter Smith) – Pending

01/30/25 New Convention Center Tour, Lunch following (Jeff Werthan)

04/25/25 Annual Gala (Sally Porter Smith)

05/03/25 Off To the Races! Kentucky Derby Watch Event (Lisa Edwards)

06/29/25 Pawzapalooza Pet Parade & Party (Carol Butler)

*Break out your pearls (okay, and maybe your Chucks) and head off to the theater! Our feature event this month is Noel Coward's *Blithe Spirit*. A skeptical novelist invites a self-proclaimed medium to his home for a séance. She accidentally summons the jealous spirit of his late wife, who proceeds to torment him and his new wife. Sounds like a fabulous time! Hope to see you there!*

Still in the works: wine tasting, progressive dinner, chili cook-off, retail revenue sharing and some incredible in-meeting events!

Family members are welcome, as appropriate. And please do bring friends, neighbors, business associates, etc; the more guests we invite, the more outside FUNds we raise. And the more FUNds we raise, the more good we can do in the community!

Thanks so much for your support.

UDRC Funds Thanksgiving Turkeys

Our club donated \$3,275 this year to fund turkeys and produce provided to the community served by Women United. Vicki Robbins sponsored the project. The funding came from our Service Fund.

We distributed 150 turkeys and produce bags to the community on Saturday from 10am-4:00pm.

The process was organized and went well. We had very grateful families and we had a great distribution team. We also did a few deliveries to elders that were shut in.

Thank you so very much for your support. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday and God Bless.

Alesia D Cannady

Executive Director at Women United

Cell: 206 316-7601

www.womenunitedseattle.org





In Memoriam: Son Michael Pham



Son Michael passed away on November 21, following a drowning accident in Viet Nam in late October. He was leading his 33rd Humanitour.

Son Michael's wife, Judy, welcomes cards, email and phone texts. Please send your condolences to her at email jwpseawa@gmail.com, text 206-910-3344, or address 1729 221st Place NE, Sammamish, WA 98074.

Son Michael was a member of our club for 29 years, joining in 1995. His classification was International Business (Asia

Gateway), but we knew him as the founder and leader of the non-profit, Kids Without Borders, an active participant/presenter in our annual fundraising events, Spirit of Rotary award winner July 2022, organizer of our annual Warm Winter coat give-away in collaboration with UHeights Center, organizer of food packing events at Ronald McDonald House and participant in food packing for Harvest Against Hunger, co-organizer and participant in Husky football ushering, leader of 33 Humanitours to Viet Nam, sponsor of community service projects (washers and dryers) for Ronald McDonald House, and sponsor of international service projects in Viet Nam benefitting orphans, street kids and disabled youth. He has been our club's Foundation Chair for several years, as well as carrying out that role for District 5030 2017-2024.



Son Michael was President of our club in 2004-2005. He was a Paul Harris Fellow and Major Donor to The Rotary Foundation. And he was an Assistant District Governor 2013-2016.

In 2019 he was honored by the FBI, receiving the 2018 Director's Community Leadership Award. The article written about him starts below.

February 27, 2019 (from FBI Seattle, Seattle Media)

FBI Honors Founder of Puget Sound-Area Non-Profit Kids Without Borders

Son Michael Pham Empowers Children to Help Other Children, Locally and Internationally

The FBI's Seattle Field Office selected Sammamish, Washington, resident Son Michael Pham for its 2018 Director's Community Leadership Award (DCLA). Every year, each FBI field office honors a person who has demonstrated outstanding contributions to his or her local community through service...

"Son Michael Pham is connecting communities in Washington State with each other and with the world," said SAC Duda. "The FBI applauds Mr. Pham's dedication to teaching children to *(continued on next page)*



In May 2019, FBI Director Christopher Wray presented Son Michael with the 2018 DCLA award in a ceremony at FBI Headquarters.



FBI Honors Founder of Puget Sound-Area Non-Profit Kids Without Borders *(continued)*

embrace diversity and care for those in need. The Seattle Field Office is honored to announce his selection as this year's Director's Community Leadership Award recipient for the state of Washington."

A Vietnam War refugee, the generosity and care of Chicago community church members profoundly impacted Mr. Pham when he arrived in the United States in 1975. Mr. Pham has dedicated his life to extending the kindness he experienced to others by championing causes for improving the lives of children, both locally and internationally...

As a member of Rotary International, Mr. Pham embodies the organization's motto, "Service above self." Mr. Pham actively supports charitable programs of the University District Rotary Club that serve the Puget Sound region and international communities. He also facilitates donations to the Tukwila Children's Clothing Bank and Seattle Ronald McDonald House, as well as local refugee communities. In addition, he serves as an advisory board member of the Asia Injury Prevention Foundation, which worked with Vietnam lawmakers to create a children's motorbike helmet law.

Mr. Pham creates opportunities for young people in the Puget Sound region to experience the power of charitable giving through his nonprofit organization Kids Without Borders. For example, he coaches them on how to run donation drives for supplies to address hygiene and clothing needs of other children. He believes strongly that by empowering children to help other children, they will begin to recognize more similarities than differences in each other.

The mission of Kids Without Borders is to inspire and involve youth in service to others in their communities and worldwide. Mr. Pham originally launched Kids Without Borders as a school service project for students to sort clothes and donated items for Puget Sound area children. Today, the organization supports and works with children in more than 30 countries, and has an international volunteer base.

Through Kids Without Borders, Mr. Pham mentors and partners with local high school students to organize the annual Hope Festival, a year-round service project helping homeless and low income people. In addition, Kids Without Borders partners with the Seattle-based group called The Marah Project, which supports and educates kids, parents, and the public about the disease of addiction. The Marah Project also supplies law enforcement with Narcan, a life-saving drug for opioid overdose.

Mr. Pham's accomplishments and service extend even further beyond the Puget Sound community through his work with Kids Without Borders and other organizations. His involvement with initiatives to improve the safety and wellbeing of children in the global community includes:

- Mentoring Vietnamese orphaned teenagers, encouraging them to pursue career and educational goals, protecting them from being victimized by poverty, trafficking, and sexual exploitation, through the Teach Me to Fish program.
- Supporting the needs of several orphanages in Vietnam by providing medical supplies, volunteers, and other resources several times a year.
- Providing wheelchairs to children in Vietnam in partnership with Rotary International.
- Traveling with volunteers to Vietnam on yearly "HumaniTours," in which participants engage in service projects such as visiting orphanages to provide supplies, learn about the country's history, and experience Vietnamese culture.
- Working with Make Agent Orange History, advocating for the U.S. Government to eradicate remaining traces of the military-employed Vietnam War herbicide Agent Orange that are still present in Vietnam.

For the countless ways that he positively impacts the Puget Sound and international communities, the FBI honors Son Michael Pham with designation as Washington State's 2018 DCLA recipient.



On February 27, 2019, in a ceremony at the FBI's office in Seattle, Special Agent in Charge (SAC) Raymond P. Duda congratulated Son Michael.



From our club bulletin dated 10/28/2020:

A Memory from Viet Nam HumanITours (by Son Michael Pham, founder/director of Kids Without Borders)



Judy Lovelace with Victory, Kids Without Borders and Rotary Mission to Viet Nam, 2011

This photo showed up on the Facebook timeline ... it was posted on this same day (Oct. 23) from 9 years ago. This little boy is almost two years old Victory. I remembered when Victory came to the Go Vap Orphanage from the hospital in Saigon only a few days after he was born. He was all wrapped up in a small towel, so tiny. Judy (Pham) and I were at the orphanage and she held him in her arms when I snapped the first photo of him. He was a healthy baby but was born without ears, not even ear holes on both sides of his head. The orphanage director decided to name him Baby Chien Thang which means Victory.

I then shared his story and the photo of Judy Pham and

Victory on Facebook. A family in France saw the photo and contacted me for information on him.

Shortly after Judy Lovelace met Victory, he was adopted by the family in France. Here is a photo of him and his mother. Victory is a handsome young boy. He wears a hearing device (a small headphone) and he is able to hear. He is doing very well in school and his family is wonderful to him. They are friends of ours and we stay in communication online.

Just one of the so many stories from the 30 missions to Viet Nam over the last 19 years. Nothing has stopped us, from typhoons to SARS, until Covid came. I was last in Viet Nam one year ago and this has been the longest I have been away from the children for more than 20 years. Until it is safe for me to be back in Viet Nam again, these wonderful memories give us hope and light.



Victory with his mother in France



Viet Nam 2009, Son Michael celebrates Christmas with the children of the Go Vap orphanage.

Son Michael Pham: Growing up in Viet Nam as Catholic, Christmas was always celebrated as a special holy time in our family. Our last Christmas there was in 1974, four months later we escaped Viet Nam. I have nothing left except my memories of Christmas in Viet Nam, photos were burned and we lost everything when we left. Thirty five years later, my wife and I were in Viet Nam over Christmas and I was able to relive Christmas time growing up in Viet Nam.

Left: A short article Son Michael wrote for a December 2020 bulletin provides information about his life in Viet Nam before coming to the U.S. Club bulletin 12/16/2020, titled "Holiday Memories"



Maria Lull Inducted as New Club Member Nov. 22 *(by Rosemary Aragon)*



Maria Lull with sponsor Linda Fukuda and Rosemary Aragon

I'm pleased to induct former Rotarian Maria Lull into the University Rotary today. With her is her sponsor, Linda Fukuda.

The call of a new infant granddaughter brought Maria to Seattle from the beautiful rural Hudson River Valley (and the community of Old Chatham, New York).

Maria had a fascinating career with three intertwined parts:

For almost a quarter of a century (1980-2001), Maria owned and operated a 300-acre thoroughbred and sport horse breeding farm in Old Chatham, New York. Her life-long love of

horses and her determination to become an equestrian opened the door to the most wonderful years of her life. She and her husband purchased an old dairy farm, which became their breeding farm. They purchased broodmares by famous and proven sires and dams, bred the broodmares to winning sires, and sold their offspring as yearlings at Keenland, Ocala, Timonium, and Saratoga Thoroughbred auctions. She also showed, trained and sold driving horses for pleasure driving.

All good things come to an end. With her husband's retirement, it was time to sell the farm. In 1997 Maria became a realtor, a broker and then an agency owner. She was Elected President of the Multiple Listing Corporation, President of the Board of Realtors, and chair of the New York State Association of Realtors Grievance Committee. She was awarded Realtor of the Year.

Starting in 1997, Maria served as vice chair of the Chatham Planning Board for 12 years. She ran for the Town Board in 2010. In 2016, she was elected as Town Supervisor (upsetting a 16-year incumbent). Upon taking office, she oversaw an audit of the town's finances which uncovered a \$225,000 structural budget deficit. This was a major problem for her new town board, which they handled together. After three years, they reduced town taxes by 5%. By establishing bi-partisan committees reporting to the town board for every aspect of the town's business, she was able to help educate and help town board members make informed decisions. These committees are still in existence today, affording a broad scope of citizens an opportunity to have a voice in their own town governance.

Maria joined Rotary 20 years ago, and was Club President of the Northern Columbia County Rotary Club of New York in 2009-10. She is a graduate of SUNY, Empire State College.

Something you might not know about Maria: she held the position of Master of Foxhounds of the Old Chatham Hunt Club. The purpose of this US/Canadian Association and its 135 hunts in 35 states and three Canadian provinces is to promote, preserve, and protect the sport of mounted hunting with hounds. The ideal Master of Hounds possesses many exceptional qualities: a love for hounds, horses, nature, wild animals and conservation; a consuming passion for foxhunting's lifestyle; AND a dedication to organizing the best hunt and best sport possible.

Maria says: *"It taught me many lessons: leadership, teamwork and bravery. Foxhunting two and sometimes three days a week afforded me the opportunity to train and sell highly-prized, experienced and safe foxhunter horses. It was joyful."*

Tally Ho, Maria. Your new life in University Rotary is in sight.



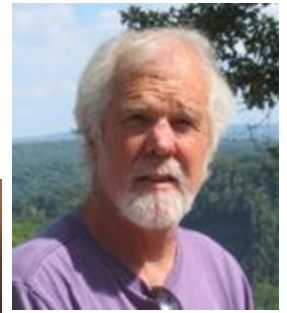
Nominating Committee Recommendations for Board Positions *(by Lisa Edwards)*

The 2024 nominating committee was comprised of Lisa Edwards (chair), Jeff Werthan, Kirk Laughlin and Carol Butler. It met and worked with the UDRC board to present the following slate of candidates for board positions:

- Vice President / President Elect Nominee - Doug Frick, 2026-2027
- President Elect Designate and Board Member- Stephanie Feldt, 2027-2028 (She will be a board member until she moves to Vice President / President Elect Nominee).
- Asha Iovin, Board Member, 2025-2027
- David Watkins, Board Member, 2025-2027
- Kirk Laughlin, Board Member, 2025-2027
- Bill Herkes, Treasurer, 2025-2026
- Marilee Fuller, Secretary, 2025-2026



Marilee Fuller



Doug Frick

Special thanks for their service to board members who will be leaving the board after June 30, 2025: Jim Rechten, Liz Causby Miles and Carol Butler. Per the club bylaws, the election of new board members will take place at a club meeting in December. Club members may also propose additional candidates.



Stephanie Feldt



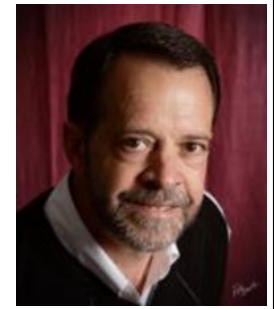
Asha Iovin



David Watkins



Kirk Laughlin



Bill Herkes



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



2025 District 5030 Symposium April 19, 2025

Empowering Leaders, Cultivating Growth: Strategies for a Thriving Rotary Club

**April 19, 2025, 7:30 am – 4:30 pm
Mercer Island Community & Events Center**

Save The Date!

Elevate your Rotary experience at the Rotary District 5030 Learning Symposium on April 19, 2025! This one-day dynamic event offers unparalleled networking opportunities and comprehensive training sessions. Connect with fellow Rotarians, share insights, and drive the future of your club together! Don't miss this opportunity – save the date of April 19, 2025 on your calendar!

Agenda Highlights

Keynote Speakers

- The Rotary Foundation's Impact
- Bridging Generations in Leadership

Session + Workshop Topics

- Mastering TRF + District Grants
- Treasurer Best Practices
- Secretary Best Practices
- Best Practices for Assistant Governors
- Empowering Youth Leadership
- Mastering Fundraising
- Best Practices: 501c3 Foundations
- Energizing Rotary Meetings
- Strategic Planning Essentials
- Welcoming and Nurturing New Members
- RISE Leadership Development Program
- Membership Growth + Retention

Registration Highlights

- Online Registration Opens: 1/6/2025
- Club Project Submission Deadline: 4/4/2025

Questions?

Tom Leonidas, District Learning Facilitator
Email: tom@leonidasconsulting.com

Networking Opportunities

Here are some of the activities to foster connections and create a vibrant networking environment at the symposium:

- Networking Breakfast
- Club Project Exhibits
- Look for Project Partners
- Panel Discussions
- Networking Breaks
- Lunch Meetups
- Workshops
- Business Card Exchange

Who Should Attend

- Rotary Club Presidents + Presidents Elect
- Rotary Club Officers
- Rotary Governors + Governors-Elect
- Assistant District Governors
- Rotary Club Members
- Rotary Foundation Chairs
- Membership Chairs
- Public Image Chairs
- Youth Program Leaders
- Rotoractors



December UROck Foodie Event

COOKIES! COOKIES!! COOKIES ETC!!!



Come celebrate ~~UROck's~~ UROck's Third Annual Cookie Exchange!

Where: the December 20th 2024 Holiday Meeting

When: Arrive a half hour before the meeting

What: Bring some treats, take some treats!

Don't leave them on the table, take some home!!





Ronald McDonald House *(by Carol Butler)*

University District Rotary has supported the Ronald McDonald House for many years. Not only has the Community Service Committee provided grant funding for new equipment, but volunteers have prepared dinners for RMDH guests while ill children are undergoing treatment at Seattle Children's Hospital.

Son Michael Pham was the force behind providing URDC with volunteer opportunities at RMDH. He worked with the charity to schedule meal preparation for interested members until Covid brought this to an end.

Then in late 2022, RMDH resumed permitting groups to participate in meal preparations. However, RMDH revised the program to require a \$500 donation each time, while limiting volunteers to no more than nine individuals.

The Service Fund Budget included \$3,000 as a line item for this purpose last year, with RMDH receiving a check for this amount on October 31, 2023.

Subsequently, four meal preparation dates were scheduled and completed in 2024 on January 25, May 3, July 9, and August 28. That means UDRC has two more dates available to spend the remaining \$1,000 before June 30, 2025.

If you are interested in volunteering, please email Carol Butler at (peabody087@gmail.com).

Just as Son Michael established, new members have first preference. And, yes, it is too early to know anyone's availability though not to find out if there is sufficient interest in continuing the program.



Ronald McDonald House Charities®
Western Washington & Alaska



Volunteer - Reading Partners



Reading Partners Seattle

Sponsored · 🌐

Volunteers Needed 1 Hour Per Week

Volunteers Needed 1 Hour Per Week



readingpartners.org

Volunteer Online or In Person

Sign up



URoCK Foodie Happy Hour!

Let's get together for the first foodie event of 2025: Happy Hour at Ivar's Salmon House



Where: Ivar's Salmon House 401 NE Northlake Way

When: Saturday January 11th, 3-6pm

PARKING:

During business hours, guest parking lots can be found on premises or across the street

Happy Hour Menu:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5e13a2dab276bd1e787dfcd1/>



Rotarians With December Birthdays

(by Judy Lovelace)

Brenda Dimond	December 8
Linda Harris	December 14
Rosemary Aragon	December 24
Marella Alejandrino	December 30



U District Family YMCA Dec. 15 *(by Rick Jones)*

This month the 3rd Sunday is the 15th. Please consider joining our intrepid crew to make Grab n Go lunches for the neighborhood!

We'll meet at the U District family YMCA at 11 and make and distribute 65 to 70 lunches. Reach out to Rick Jones at threepointoh@comcast.net to register. It's pretty darn fun!





Upcoming Club Activities and Deadlines

- Dec 14** 9:00 am-4:00 pm. Bell ringing for Salvation Army at QFC in University Village. Sign up: Judy Lovelace, judyll555@aol.com.
- Dec 15** 11:00 am-1:30 pm. Volunteers needed to pack Grab n Go lunches at University YMCA, NE 12th at 52nd. Contact: Rick Jones, threepointoh@comcast.net.
- Dec 20** Bring cookies to exchange at our holiday party.
- Jan 6** 3:00 pm. Membership Committee meeting on Zoom. Contact Lisa Latchford, lisa@foxassociatesllc.com.
- Jan 6** 5:30-7:00 pm. Service Fund Board meeting. Contact Marella Alejandrino, m.alejandrino@windermere.com.
- Jan 11** 3:00-6:00 pm. URoCK Foodie Happy Hour, Ivar's Salmon House, 401 NE Northlake Way.
- Jan 30** New Convention Center tour, lunch following. Contact Jeff Werthan, jmwdog@gmail.com.
- Mar 14** Hearts and Wine, [Harvest Against Hunger | Hearts & Wine 2025 - Harvest Against Hunger](#).
- Apr 19** 7:30-4:30. 2025 District 5030 Symposium. On-line registration opens 1/6/2025.
- Apr 25** UDRC fundraising event, Seattle Yacht Club, lunchtime. Contact Sally Porter Smith, sallypor789@gmail.com.
- May 3** Off to the Races! Kentucky Derby watch event. Contact Lisa Edwards, lisasimoneedwards@outlook.com.
- Jun 21-25** Rotary International Convention, Calgary, Canada. Register at: [convention.rotary.org](#).
- Jun 29** Pawzapalooza pet parade and party. Contact Carol Butler, peabody087@gmail.com.

Volunteers Needed for Bell Ringing *(by Judy Lovelace)*



We are going to carry on our tradition of Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army on Saturday, December 14, at the QFC at University Village.

The times for signing up are one hour, 9:00 am–4:00 pm. Two slots are available for each hour, but more members may come -- bring friends, grandkids, family, etc.

Right now, we are in competition to raise more money that day than Ballard Rotary. Sign-up sheets will be at our meeting this coming Friday, and members can contact Judy Lovelace to sign up also.

Restaurant Fundraisers Wanted *(by Paula Williams)*

When a restaurant donates a portion of its profits to charity for a specific period, it's called a restaurant fundraiser. What happens is our club works with a restaurant to select a period and invite community members to dine at the restaurant during that time. The restaurant then donates a percentage of its sales during that period to us.

If you know of a restaurant that offers such fundraisers, please drop an e-mail to me, Paula Williams, at pdaywms@gmail.com or to Sally Porter Smith at sallypor789@gmail.com.

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.