

Sunday, January 12, 2025

Club Meetings and Time

The Rotary Club of Mercer Island meets at the **Mercer Island Community & Event Center**

8236 SE 24th Street
Mercer Island, WA 98040

First and Third Tuesdays of the month

12:00 PM - 12:30 - Socializing
12:30 to 1:30 - Meeting and a speaker

A catered lunch by Pogacha (a restaurant on Mercer Island) is available for \$25 or you can bring your own.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME
(no cost to visit)

Club Leaders



Benson D. Wong
President



Todd White
President-Elect



Judy Clibborn
Vice President



Patricia S. Turner
Secretary



David Thompson
Foundation Director
Treasurer



Walter Boos
Club Foundation President



Julie Hsieh
Club Director - Public Image



Dave Leibman
Club Director - Club Support



Jennifer Lyn McLellan
Club Director
RYLA Club Chair
Youth Service Chair



Robert L. Olson
Club Director - Club Administration



Diane Tien
Club Director - Membership



Stuart Scarff
Club Foundation Secretary

WE ARE PEOPLE OF ACTION

"SERVICE FOR THE SOUL"

LA Wildfires - We Can Help!



For those club members who want to engage in this effort to help victims of the LA fires, please send your check that is made payable to **"The Foundation of the Rotary Club of Mercer Island"** to P.O. Box 1, Mercer Island, WA 98040.

Be sure to write in the memo line on the check "FOR LA WILDFIRE RELIEF" (or some similar designation).

Mail your checks on or before the date of the club's next meeting on **January 21, 2025**. Or, bring your check to that meeting and give it to David. **All funds for this effort will be sent to the Rotary District in Southern California, which is providing direct relief to victims of the wildfires.**

Service Super Stars!



Todd White and his family, along with **David Thompson**, prepared food for men and women without housing at **Operation Nightwatch** on

CHRISTMAS DAY!
That is definitely "Service Above Self"

If you are looking for a project to do with your **family and friends**, you can contact Todd at tdw56@hotmail.com to help prepare food on the last Wednesday of the month.

The next volunteer opportunity is **Wednesday, January 29th from 6:00 to 7:45** (Children must leave at 7:30 before serving begins.)

President Elect Todd White is a RISE Graduate!



Congratulations to President Elect, Todd White, who recently completed the RISE leadership training program which develops emerging leaders, offers a culture of growth and fosters a peer support network with fellow Rotarians.

If you would like to participate in a terrific leadership training opportunity, contact Todd for more information. tdw56@hotmail.com



January 21 - Club Meeting - Mirya Muñoz-Roach, ED of St. Vincent DePaul

King County's homelessness crisis has exploded and it's at our doorsteps. King County's crisis response line 2-1-1 directs more calls to St. Vincent de Paul Seattle/King County than to any other agency. Join us Tuesday and learn how SVdP meets our neighbors at their point of need (for over 100 years), preventing homelessness and addressing barriers to self-sufficiency on Mercer Island and across King County.



Mirya Muñoz-Roach is the Executive Director of The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Seattle/King County. Mirya is a passionate and visionary leader committed to the common good, equity, inclusion, empowerment of those we serve, systems change especially those that keep people oppressed, and to closing the achievement gap in education as well as lack of access to resources for vulnerable populations. She is a systems thinker, motivator, and community organizer, and she is bi-lingual (English/Spanish). Prior to stepping into the Executive Director role, Mirya lead as Assistant Director, Chief Program Director and Director of Hispanic Outreach at SvDP. She holds a MA in Pastoral Care from Seattle University and Bachelors in Business Administration from University of Central Florida.

SERVICE PROJECT - January - Laundry Brigade



Want an easy service project - one you can do in your own home on your own time?

This is the project for YOU!

Once again, we are collecting the lost and found from the JCC (and possibly the school district) and are laundering it to give to children in need.

If you are interested in helping, contact Benson Wong at bensondwong@gmail.com Or text or call (206)940-9294

SERVICE PROJECT - 4th Saturday Every Month - Help Build a Tiny House



On the fourth Saturday of every month, anyone from our Rotary District 5030 can help build tiny homes. (**Bring your family members and friends** - must be 16 years of age). This is a great opportunity to meet other Rotarians from around the King County area. Click here to sign up: <https://www.soundfoundationsnw.org/>. One of our members, **Terry Lee** is a regular volunteer. Feel free to contact him for more information. JTerryLee44@hotmail.com



February 2 - SERVICE PROJECT - Lunar New Year Celebration

Two shifts available (3 people each). 10:00 to 12:00 and 12:00 to 2:00.

Volunteer to help out at the Rotary Table at the Lunar New Year Celebration at the Mercer Island Community and Events Center



Click the link for more information about the event.

<https://www.parentmap.com/calendar/mercer-island-lunar-new-year-celebration>

February 4 - Club Meeting - Jackie Jones Hood - Buffalo Soldiers Museum



Buffalo Soldiers Museum, located in Tacoma, Washington, has served as a community resource encompassing a significant – and all too often overlooked – facet of American history. The museum presents varied accounts of the many challenges and triumphs of the brave African American men who served their country and helped to build and strengthen the Western Frontier with integrity, devotion and pride.

The museum is a space that fosters the exchange of historical education, identity and culture, making it a practical link to a stronger community. This common good engages scholars and the public.

An astonishing number of American students receive an incomplete account of the history and people that shaped their own country. Understandably, there is a lot of ground to cover for such a complex and diverse nation. Most school systems do a decent job utilizing curricula that touch on the most significant events in U.S. history – but just covering the basics is not enough to truly understand why and how the United States is what it is today.

This is especially true in regards to the significant contributions made to American history by people of color. Students of all backgrounds will benefit from learning about the policies, experiences, achievements, and perspectives of the many different groups who played a role in shaping the nation. Social studies programming must do a better job with inclusiveness. Our curriculum will help.

February 7 - Rising Star Elementary School Gala

Charity Gala & Silent Auction
The Stables in Georgetown

Friday, February 7th
6-9pm

Our club has a long history of supporting the students and teachers of **Rising Star Elementary School** on Beacon Hill in Seattle.

We have tutored students in reading and language arts and have supported them in the classroom. Several years ago, we gave every third-grader a dictionary they could take home and keep, which became a resource not only for the student, but for the whole family as well.

69% of students come from low-income homes and receive free or reduced breakfast and lunch.

Students speak a variety of languages, including Somali, Oromo, Sonike, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Arabic, Cambodian, Amharic, and Afar. 92% of students are Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC).

For more information and to register click here.

https://www.risingstarpta.org/event/charity-gala?mc_cid=14cd175d81



February 12 - Let's support MI Youth and Family Services

By Benson D Wong



If you want to attend the 2025 MIYFS Breakfast on February 12th at 7:40 AM and are looking for a table, **please let me know by January 21**. I will then register your name with the event organizers. If enough folks receiving this email express an interest in attending and sitting with Terry and/or me, I can try to fill a second table. A number of folks receiving this email are members of the Rotary Club of Mercer Island and their friends, so the table could be a Rotarian-heavy table. I look forward to hearing from you at your convenience. You can call 206.940.9294. or email me. bensondwong@gmail.com

February 18 - Club Meeting - Frank Blethen, Publisher of The Seattle Times

Seattle Times publisher and CEO Frank Blethen will step down at the end of 2025 after four decades leading the family-owned company but will retain his position as board chair of The Seattle Times Co.



Blethen led The Times through some of its highs — nine Pulitzer Prizes, including one awarded in 2020 for the paper's coverage of mistakes by Boeing leading to two 737 MAX crashes — and its most difficult lows, including the Great Recession and an industrywide contraction.

A family-owned, daily print newspaper is a rarity in American media, which has faced unprecedented economic collapse. Blethen has been called an eternal optimist, a journalism fanboy and a visionary.

One aspect Blethen is especially proud of: When he looks at The Seattle Times every day, he sees women at the top of the masthead. As the son of a single mother, he said, he was especially sensitive to the discrimination women faced.

"There are a lot of women out there who can do great work that probably still aren't getting the opportunities they need," he said. "Although it's a hell of a lot better than it used to be."

He's also encouraged by an innovative revenue model of community-funded initiatives at The Seattle Times, which have been replicated by other outlets across the U.S. Since 2013, community donors have contributed more than \$10 million to newsroom projects focused on education, climate, mental health, traffic, homelessness and investigative reporting.

"My mantra is that good content and useful content is what you need to attract an audience, and you need to attract an audience if you're going to get revenue and get paid for what you do," Blethen said. "And you know, I think right now we're putting out a really, really, really good newspaper."

[Read More](#)

February 18 - New Rotary Member Celebration!

**District
New Member
Celebration**

Meet new Rotarians from
all over King County
Socialize, network,
enjoy free appetizers!

**Tuesday Feb 18th
4 to 6:30**

Dave & Buster's
11639 NE 4th Street, Bellevue



District 5030 is rolling out the red carpet for all our newest Rotarians, and you're invited to join the fun

What's Happening:

This is your chance to connect, mingle, and network with fellow Rotarians who are just as new and excited about Rotary as you are! It's not just a party—it's an opportunity to make meaningful connections, explore the world of Rotary, and discover all that District 5030 has to offer.

Highlights of the Evening:

Socialize with other new Rotarians in a fun and relaxed atmosphere.

Network with District Leadership and learn how Rotary can empower you.

purchase).

Event Details:

- **Who:** All new Rotarians as of January 1, 2024—plus your sponsor if you have one.
- **When:** Tuesday, February 18, 2025, from 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM
- **Where:** Dave & Buster's Bellevue
- 11639 NE 4th Street, Bellevue, WA 98004

Cost: Free for new Rotarians and their sponsors.

RSVP Required:

Space is limited, so don't wait—reserve your spot now.

<https://district5030.org/event-tickets/>

February 26 - Visit to DAD'S



Marvin Charles, the CEO of **DADS** the speaker at our last meeting, has invited our club members to visit their facility on:

**February 26th
9:00 to about noon.**

Marvin will pick up our members from MI Community Center in his 12 passenger van, then drive to their office. We will have a tour, then meet with staff and maybe some of their young father clients.

Because of limited space, RSVP is REQUIRED: If interested, please contact John Hamer:
jhamer46@gmail.com

[Read More](#)

SAVE THE DATE: Harvest Against Hunger - Annual Fund Raising Event

Every day, millions of pounds of the food grown in the United States goes to waste, while an estimated 1 in 6 children suffer from hunger and food insecurity. In Washington, roughly 2 million people turn to food pantries or hot meal programs to meet a basic human need.

Harvest Against Hunger plays a unique role in the hunger relief system by connecting farmers, transportation providers, produce packers, volunteers and



hunger relief organizations to move healthy produce from farms and fields to the plates of those in need.

SAVE THE DATE: Mercer Island Rotary's FIRST Golf Tournament



Even if you have not previously attended (or even don't play or even like golf), we need folks to pitch in to make this fundraising effort a success.

If you want to get more involved, please contact Benson Wong at bensondwong@gmail.com. or by text or phone (206) 940-9294.

SAVE THE DATES: TENTATIVELY - AUG 22-24, 2025 - First Annual Pickleball Tournament



Contact Stuart Scarff to volunteer:
stuart@scarfflaw.com



RESOURCES

Club Website: <https://mirotary.org>

Club Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/MercerIslandRotary>

Club Mailing Address: PO Box 1, Mercer Island, WA 98040

Club Email: rotarymercerisland@gmail.com

Prospective Members and Applications for Membership:
Diane Tien, Director of Membership dianebtien@gmail.com

Have ideas for, or to volunteer for Community Service
Benson Wong, President bensondwong@gmail.com

Financial reimbursement - forms are available online and at the meetings.

- **Reimbursement under \$100:**
Fill out the reimbursement form and have it signed by the President or Director you are working with, then give it to Dave Thompson. dethompsoncpa@outlook.com
- **Reimbursement over \$100:**
Fill out the pre-authorization form and have it signed by the President or Director you are working with. Once pre-approved, complete the rest of the form and give it to Dave Thompson. dethompsoncpa@outlook.com

To include something in The Dawn (newsletter), or to change your contact information
Pat Turner, Secretary turner.pat@gmail.com 206-852-4717

To include something on our Facebook Page
Julie Hsieh, Director of Public Image juliehsieh@outlook.com

Birthdays January and February



Robert Ellis
January 2nd



Jennifer Crespi
January 16th



Judith Ginn
January 30th



Mark J. Scalzo
February 6th



Todd White
February 13th



Terry Lee
February 16th



Olivia Lippens
February 26th

Years of Rotary Service This Month



Seth D. Landau
36 Years



Vyvienne C.
Stumbles
31 Years



Patricia S. Turner
35 Years



Robert L. Olson
29 Years



Stuart Scarff
26 Years



Elizabeth Baska
19 Years



Mak Abulhosn
18 Years



Charles Maylin
17 Years



Erinann Childress
4 Years



Todd White
2 Years