

Friday, January 24, 2025

### Club Meetings and Time

The Rotary Club of Mercer Island

meets at:

**Mercer Island Community & Event Center**

8236 SE 24th St.  
Mercer Island, WA 98040

**1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month**  
12:00 - 12:30 Socializing  
12:30 - 1:30 Meeting and 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 ABOVE SELF"**

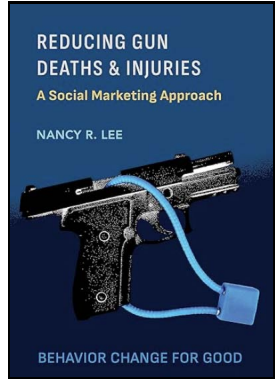
### Rotarian Spotlight - Nancy Lee Leads the Way!



Long time Mercer Island Rotarian Nancy Lee, author of **Reducing Gun Deaths and Injuries**, is encouraging people to support the new bills in Washington State regarding gun safety.

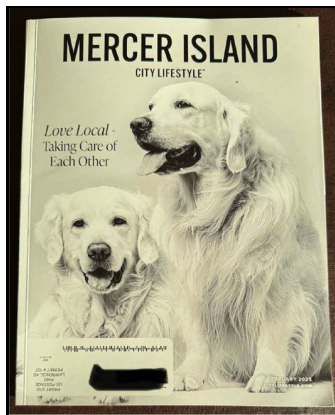
You can read about the bills at:  
[http://gun\\_responsibility.org/2024-policy-agenda/](http://gun_responsibility.org/2024-policy-agenda/)

For A Bill of Interest to Advocate For, go here and type the bill number:  
<http://app.leg.wa.gov/BillSummary/?BillNumber=5098&Year=2025&Initiative=false>. From that website, you can comment on the bill, sign up to testify, etc.



### Rotarian Spotlight - Julie Hsieh Fosters Art, Culture and Community!

Our own Julie Hsieh was featured in the latest edition of **Mercer Island City Lifestyle Magazine** that describes how she curates contemporary art that fosters creativity, culture and community connection. Congratulations Julie!



## SERVICE PROJECTS "SERVICE FOR THE SOUL"

### January 25 - Help Build a Tiny House - (4th Saturday Every Month)



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/>



## January 29 - Prepare Food for Those in Need at Operation Nightwatch - (Last Wednesday Every Month)



**6:00 - 7:45 PM**

(Children leave by 7:30 before serving begins)

This is a great project for family and friends.

Contact **Todd White** to Volunteer. [http://tdw56@hotmail.com](mailto:tdw56@hotmail.com)

## February 2 - Help Out At The Rotary Table - Lunar New Year Celebration



Volunteer to help out at the Rotary table at the Lunar New Year Celebration at the Mercer Island Community and Events Center. We will be offering some activities for children (spin a wheel for a prize, color a picture, etc.) and sharing information about Rotary for those who are interested.

**Two shifts are available** - from 10:00 to 12:00 and from 12:00 to 2:00 (3 people per shift). **Contact Benson Wong to volunteer.** 206.940.9294 [bensondwong@gmail.com](mailto:bensondwong@gmail.com)

Click the link for more information about the event.

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

[celebration](https://www.parentmap.com/calendar/mercer-island-lunar-new-year-celebration)

## Ongoing - Laundry Brigade



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

Then this is the project for YOU!

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

Right now, no washing is needed, but get on the list to be contacted when there is.

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

## CLUB MEETINGS

### February 4 - 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.

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. This is especially true in regard to the significant contributions made to American history by people of color.

Come hear how the Buffalo Soldiers Museum is helping people young and old to learn about those contributions.

## February 18 - 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 industry-wide 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."

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES

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



**Your Support Can Transform Students' Futures**

### February 12 - MI Youth and Family Services Fundraising Breakfast

Remember to support Mercer Island Youth and Family Services by attending the breakfast on Feb. 12th. **You can register at** <https://miyfs.org/2025-annual-breakfast-registration/>

If you would like to be seated with other Rotarians, you can contact Benson Wong at 206.940.9294. or [bensondwong@gmail.com](mailto:bensondwong@gmail.com) to see if there is still room at the Rotary table(s)



EVENT REGISTRATION OPEN NOW!	<b>SAVE THE DATE &amp; REGISTER!</b>	
	MIYFS.ORG/BREAKFAST	
	MIYFS FOUNDATION 23RD ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BREAKFAST	FEB 12, 2025 <b>7:30 AM</b> MERCER ISLAND COMMUNITY & EVENT CENTER

## OTHER ROTARY ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

### 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 18<sup>th</sup>  
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.

Enjoy **delicious appetizers** (on us!) and beverages (available

for 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 if they have one).

**RSVP Required:**

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

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

### February 26 - Special Invitation: Visit to DADS



Marvin Charles, the CEO of **DADS** who was a recent speaker at one of our meetings, 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](mailto:jhamer46@gmail.com)

## SAVE THE DATES

### March 14 - Harvest Against Hunger - Annual Fund Raising Event

 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

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.

## APRIL 19 - District Symposium - Empowering Leaders



**Networking Activities**

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

This will be an opportunity for members to connect with other Rotarians in the District and learn new leadership skills.



**Session and Workshop Topics**

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

## July 21 - 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](mailto:bensondwong@gmail.com). or by text or phone (206) 940-9294.

## AUG 22-24 - First Annual Pickleball Tournament



Contact Stuart Scarff to volunteer:  
[stuart@scarfflaw.com](mailto: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](mailto:rotarymercerisland@gmail.com)

**Prospective Members and Applications for Membership:**  
Diane Tien, Director of Membership [dianehtien@gmail.com](mailto:dianehtien@gmail.com)

**Have ideas for, or to volunteer for Community Service**  
Benson Wong, President [bensondwong@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:dethompsoncpa@outlook.com)

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

**To include something on our Facebook Page**  
Julie Hsieh, Director of Public Image [juliehsieh@outlook.com](mailto:juliehsieh@outlook.com)

## Birthdays January and February



Robert Ellis  
January 2nd



Jennifer Crespi  
January 16th



Judy Ginn  
January 30th



Mark Scalzo  
February 6th



Todd White  
February 13th



Terry Lee  
February 16th



Olivia Lippens  
February 26th

## Years of Rotary Service This Month



Seth Landau  
36 Years



Pat Turner  
35 Years



Bob Olson  
29 Years



Stuart Scarff  
27 Years



Elizabeth Baska  
19 Years



Mak Abulhosn  
18 Years



Chuck Maylin  
18 Years



Erinann Childress  
5 Years



Todd White  
2 Years