

# Rotary



# Club of Eugene

## January 21st meeting - Imagination Library/Smart Reading



Join us this week to welcome Laurie Mc Nichols, avid reader and State Director for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Oregon. Laurie is eager to expand its reach so more children and families throughout the state can receive free books in the mail and begin a lifelong love of reading. Laurie is working closely with the Department of Early Learning and Care (which administers funding, via a state match, in support of Local Imagination Library Program Partners across the state) to achieve full statewide coverage, increase visibility and awareness for the program, and implement initiatives to grow enrollment.

### *About Laurie:*

Laurie is a proud graduate of the University of Oregon and has lived in Oregon all of her adult life. Before Imagination Library, Laurie spent almost 14 years with the nonprofit SMART Reading as a Program Manager and then Area Director. Being able to support early literacy alongside volunteers, partners, and funders through providing reading engagement and free books to thousands of Pre-K through 3rd grade children in Benton, Lane, and Linn Counties is one of the highlights of her career. She is grateful to have witnessed the magic shared reading and book ownership can hold for a child, and how committed communities can positively impact outcomes.

Laurie is an empty-nester with one adult child who is an avid reader. In her free time, Laurie can be found exploring the natural wonders of our beautiful state, kayaking, making art, and reading a good book!

## January 21st - At The Graduate!

The Tuesday January 21st meeting will be at **The Graduate - 66 E 6th Ave., Eugene, OR.**

## Save the Date!

**You are cordially invited  
to attend a murder  
mystery party...**



Hosted by the Rotary Club of Eugene  
Thursday February 13th, doors open at 5:30  
pm The Graduate Hotel and Conference  
Center

\$100 per person, table reservations available  
Dinner included, open bar  
Registration website coming very soon  
Contact Liz Ness with questions -  
beans1259@aol.com

## Club Meeting

Eugene  
Meets at Graduate Eugene (541)  
342-2000  
66 East 6th Street  
Eugene, OR 97401  
Time: Tuesday at 12:00 PM

## Events

January 18th  
[Volunteer Event at Bring Recycling - Snow Globes!](#)

January 21st  
[International Service Committee Meeting \(via Zoom\)](#)

January 21st  
[Eugene Weekly Club Meeting](#)

January 21st  
[Rotary Club of Eugene Board Meeting](#)

January 22nd  
[Rotary Club of Eugene's Community Service Committee Meeting](#)

January 28th  
[Eugene Weekly Club Meeting](#)

February 4th  
[Eugene Weekly Club Meeting](#)

February 5th  
[Rotary Club of Eugene's Program Committee Meeting](#)

February 6th  
[Rotary Club of Eugene's Environmental Committee Meeting](#)

February 11th  
[Eugene Weekly Club Meeting](#)

February 13th  
[Rotary Club of Eugene Fundraiser!](#)

## Club Leaders



[Nathan Philips](#)  
President



[Philip Holt Barnhart](#)  
President - Elect

[Ronald Terry Gietter](#)  
Secretary

## Food for Lane County Call for Volunteers



We had another(!) great turnout at Food for Lane County on Jan 15. We were anchored once again by the Binstadt family: Thank you Chris and Carolina Binstadt, son Charlie, daughter Maria and their exchange student Lark! Thanks are also in order to members Andy Vobora, Jane and Scott Impecover, Josh Dickenson (not pictured) and Jerry and Victoria Whitman Harris.

A great time was had by all! - so much so that after FLCC we had a mini-social at Forresters.

Don't miss out on the fun! Our FFLC volunteer night is **always** on the third Wednesday of the month - so put it on your calendar as a recurring event and make it part of your monthly routine! Let's do our part to

spread the bounty to our fellow citizens who don't have enough to eat at times. Help us by **joining in at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, February 19th, 2025 at Food for Lane County.** Friends, family, children 10+years old and older (supervised by an adult), are all welcome!

Please contact **Victoria Whitman** at [vwhitman@hearthstonere.com](mailto:vwhitman@hearthstonere.com) or 541-954-7171 or **Chris Binstadt** at 415-519-7036 or [binstadt@gmail.com](mailto:binstadt@gmail.com) if you would like to participate, so we can let FFLC know how many volunteers they can count on. We have committed to at least six volunteers a month. The more people who come, the more fun it is!

**Food for Lane County, 770 Bailey Hill Road, Eugene, OR 97402  
Wednesday, February 19th from 6-8:30 pm**

## Club Christmas Social - At The Hyatt!

By Gregg Fuller



Wow...! what a fabulous social....in front of a roaring fire and lots of fun talking and joking with fellow Rotarians and friends! The beverages and food were awesome also! A great way to beat the fog.



'Tis the season to be jolly' does not need to be just at Christmas time... it can be all year long!



Come next time!

(clockwise from upper left and left to right in each photograph: 1) Linda Eaton, Sybele (Todd's friend), Todd Anderson, Gregg Fuller, Scott Palmer; 2) Monica and Mike Wilton, Karen's fabulous boots, Karen and Richard Scheeland; 3) Nancy Claussen's companion, Karen Fuller, Nancy Claussen; 4) Heinz Selig, Bart Poston, Scott and Liz Ness, Liz's friend)



## Rotarians fill Bags of Love for residents of Cornerstone Community Housing

Rotarians and one friend of Rotary helped fill Bags of Love for residents of Cornerstone Community Housing as part of our 204-25 District Grant. This project expanded the Bags of Love/Cornerstone



Erik Peter Gribskov  
Club Admin Chair  
Club Executive Secretary



Todd Anderson  
Treasurer



Ken Brown  
Club Director  
Membership Chair



Andy Vobora  
Membership Chair



David A. Frosaker  
Rotary Foundation Chair



Lauren Regnani  
Rotary Foundation Chair



Dennis J. Biggerstaff  
International Service Co-Chair



Robert E. Nickel  
International Service Co-Chair



Elizabeth A. Ness  
Past President  
Eugene Rotary Scholarship Foundation Chair



Gregory L. Stewart  
Eugene Rotary Charitable Fund Chair



Karen Gaffney  
Community Service Co-Chair



Jesse Quinn  
Club Director  
Community Service Co-Chair



Bonnie J Bailey  
Club Director  
Youth Services Chair

Maxine Proskurowski  
Interact Rotary Adviser  
Youth Exchange





partnership program and the number of youth served. Cornerstone and Bags of Love work together to ensure that Bags of Love containing necessities and comfort items such as clothing, toiletries, toys, books, school supplies and a handmade quilt are delivered to each child moving from housing instability into housing. The District grant helped fund important supplies and staff time, and on



Thursday afternoon seven of our Club members spent a couple hours helping to assemble personalized bags for children ranging in age from newborn babies all the way to a 17-year old—all of the bags will go to children in need. We learned a lot about Cornerstone Community Housing (providing more than 400 units of affordable housing in the Eugene area) and Bags of Love (provided more than 4,100 personalized bags of support last year), and had a tour of their warehouse (including the shelving we contributed last year). We had a great time matching



donated quilts, stuffed animals, toys, clothes, coats and other items with particular requests and then packing it all into a fun bag for younger children or a travel duffel for older children. There was a little friendly competition and a lot of coaching and quality control from the coordinator from Bags of Love. What a great afternoon! Thanks to members Karen Scheeland, Andy Vobora, Bart Poston, Mark Hewitt, Karen Gaffney and Jerry Whitman Harris for volunteering.



## Community Service Committee - Small Project Updates



**Burrito Brigade Little Food Pantries:** Stand by for a Call for Volunteers! Until then, **there will be a food barrel at the next few meetings to support the Burrito Brigade/Little Food Pantries Project** led by Lynne Grilley. Please bring non-perishable food items to fill the barrel each meeting.

### Healthy Snacks for Hungry Minds

Thank you to those who volunteered to fill all the available slots for snack shopping and packaging the snacks for distribution to Camas Ridge classrooms! Thanks to organizer Kristina Gribskov for putting together this great project.

Thank you for your participation in our community service projects--it feels good to do good!

Karen & Jesse, Community Service Co-chairs

## Environmental Committee - Call for Volunteers

The Rotary Club of Eugene Environmental Committee recently donated \$2,500 to BRING Recycling to support their ToolBox Tactics classes. These classes are offered monthly on topics such as Furniture Upcycling 101, Basics of Wiring, Basics of Tiling, and Build Your Own Toolbox. Classes are intended to encourage repairing and re-using materials in and around your home, thereby preventing items from being discarded and ending up in landfills. You can find more information at:

<https://bringrecycling.org/toolboxtactics>

As you all know, our Club strives to include a community service component in all our projects along with donating money to good causes. This project is no exception so we are asking our club members



[Raquel E. Hecht](#)  
Youth Exchange



[Tom Gilmour](#)  
Rotaract Rotary Advisor



[Noreen Dunnells](#)  
Club Director  
Club Programs Co-Chair



[Chris Stephenson](#)  
Club Programs Co-Chair



[Robert Scott](#)  
[Impecoven](#)  
Vocational Lunch Group  
Service Chair



[Richard A. Barnhart](#)  
Club Director



[Gregg Fuller](#)  
Social Events Chair



[Susan Heisey](#)  
Club Director



[Richard K. Olson](#)  
CCO-Club  
Communications Offcer



[Gerald Whitman Harris](#)  
Bulletin Editor  
Webmaster  
iPast President



[Monica Wilton](#)  
Rotary Connect Chair

## Birthdays

Mary Jeanne Jacobsen  
January 21st

Solomon Harris  
January 22nd

Philip W. Speers  
January 22nd

Chris Stephenson  
January 25th

George Rogers  
January 27th

Michael Grudzien  
February 2nd

to help out with this upcoming ToolBox Tactics class:

## February 8: Solar Animal Lights

The estimated time commitment is from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm on the day of the class. They need two or three volunteers to help set up the class (which begin at 11:00 am), assist during the class and help clean up after the class (class end at 2:00 pm). If you are excited about helping out, please contact the BRING Recycling volunteer coordinator, Debra West by phone (541-359-6803) or email: [debw@bringrecycling.org](mailto:debw@bringrecycling.org). You can also sign up at <https://bringrecycling.org/volunteer/> (indicate Workshop Enthusiast).

## Rotary Club of Eugene Mentorship Program



Many of you recall, and a goodly number of you participated in, our Club's UO Rotaract Mentorship Program prior to Covid. Due to the pandemic, the mentorship program was placed on extended hiatus. Now, at the request of the current cohort of Rotaract members at the UO (photo at left), we are bringing this great program back! We are looking to you to help restart the program by volunteering to be a one-on-one mentor to a Rotaractor currently attending the UO.

The basics of the program are simple: our Club recruits willing mentors from our members. We match up our available mentors with a student who has career aspirations within the scope of the mentor's expertise. We then ask mentor and mentee to schedule a meeting for introductions and a

chat about how the two of you want to interact. Most of our previous mentors ended up agreeing to meet for an hour or so at or near the U over coffee or lunch to just talk about how school and life is progressing, what difficulties the student may be working through, and/or whatever else comes to mind. The goal is to offer stability, advice when asked, act as a sounding board, and generally be there for the student if needed. Meetings generally happened once or twice a month but are totally up to you and your student.

If you are interested in supporting this program and through it some great young students, simply contact Jerry at [tgilmour@comcast.net](mailto:tgilmour@comcast.net) to let me know you wish to be considered as a mentor. I also need to know what profession(s) you have expertise in. You will not regret it!

Alexi Overland and mentor Jerry Whitman Harris at Alexi's graduation from UO with a double major. Alexi now has a permanent job as a scientist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California. As one of 17 national laboratories, Lawrence Livermore's mission is to enable U.S. security and global stability and resilience by empowering multidisciplinary teams to pursue bold and innovative science and technology. Many of our other past mentors have maintained a relationship with their students.

## Community Service Projects from Member Survey

The Community Service Committee met late November to review great ideas submitted by club members in response to the question: If you had \$500 and a group of Rotary volunteers what would you do to impact our Rotary priorities? Thank you to everyone who submitted—and it's not too late to submit your own idea to the committee for consideration!

We have three projects that will be kicking off in early 2025, and we are hoping our club members will rally to the cause and volunteer in support. More sign-up emails will be coming out soon, so keep an eye on your email for more information.

- **Healthy Snacks for Hungry Minds.** This project is kicking off this month. All volunteer slots have been filled.
- **Free Little Food Pantries with Burrito Brigade.** This project is also starting this week with a nonperishable food and hygiene items drive at our next few meetings (bring your donations to the meeting and we'll have a collection barrel ready)! More project tasks and a Call for Volunteers next week!
- **Refugee Resettlement Welcome Kits:** Jennifer Geller will be leading this effort to work with the Refugee Resettlement Coalition of Lane County to identify some of the highest-needed items for welcoming refugees who are newly arriving in our community, helping get them set up in their new home. Based on the list of items for particular kits, the club will shop for and assemble these kits that can go to our newly arrived community members. More details to come soon about dates and times!

David A. Frosaker  
February 7th  
Mark Hewitt  
February 7th  
Noreen Dunnells  
February 14th  
Dan Montgomery  
February 17th

### Years of Service

Michael W Gerot  
01-19-1982  
43 Years  
R. Scott Palmer  
02-01-1983  
42 Years  
Dan Montgomery  
02-01-1983  
42 Years  
Karen Elizabeth Scheeland  
02-14-1989  
36 Years  
Albert Poston  
01-26-1999  
26 Years  
Richard Shugar  
01-26-2009  
16 Years  
Josh Neckels  
01-24-2017  
8 Years

These are wonderful examples of how our club can make a difference in our community through service. If you have ideas for later this winter or spring, please let us know!

Karen Gaffney & Jesse Quinn

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## Rotary Club of Eugene Collaborates with Cascade Raptor Center II - We're baaack!!



Rotarians Dave Frosaker, Susan Heisey and Jerry Whitman Harris returned to the CRC on Monday to install additional wall studs, cut and hang roll insulation and then saw and install interior wall subpanels of oriented strand board (OSB). Photos of the construction process and crew are below: **(CLICK READ MORE FOR PHOTOS)**

Hans the Eurasian Eagle-Owl [Read More](#)

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## Upcoming Meeting Programs

The Eugene Rotary Club is known locally for our outstanding speakers and programs. Here's what members can look forward to during the next month:

January 21 - Smart Reading/Imagination Library - Laurie McNichols. Introduction - Andy Vobora

January 28 - Travel Lane County - Samara Phelps. Introduction - Andy Vobora

February 4 - Oregon Transportation Issues - Rick Metzger. Introduction - Nathan Philips

February 11 - ODHS/Resource Family Retention - Brandyn Rice. Introduction - Pete Gribskov

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## Next Committee Meetings

**Community Service:** Weds. Jan. 22nd at 4:00 pm at Susan Heisey's office, 747 E. 32nd Ave, Suite A1, Eugene (4th Wednesdays).

**Environmental Committee:** Thurs. Feb. 6 at Noon, via ZOOM (special date for January only). [Click here for Zoom link to Env. Committee Meetings](#)

**Program Committee:** Wednesday, Feb 12 at 8am, location TBD (special date for January only).

**International Service Committee:** Tuesday, Jan. 21st at 10:30 am, via ZOOM (third Tuesdays) [Click here for Zoom link to Int. Service Committee Meetings](#)

**Club Board Meeting:** Tuesday Jan. 21st at 4:00 pm (Third Tuesdays). If you wish to attend, contact President Nathan to reserve a seat.

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## News you can use (and other snippets of useless information)

**January 20th is Martin Luther King Jr. Day**, This day is a federal holiday honoring civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr..

**January 27th is International Holocaust Remembrance Day.** This is a United Nations observance that honors and remembers the tragedy of the Holocaust and the millions of people who lost their lives at the hands of the Nazi government. The 27th was chosen as it marks the anniversary of the date when, in 1945, Soviet troops liberated Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest concentration camp



operated by the Nazis.

**January 29th is the second new moon after the winter solstice, so, it is the date of Chinese New Year 2025, which is the Year of the Snake.** Chinese New Year in China is referred to as the Spring Festival. This day is also the day of the Lunar New Year in most countries. Generally, it is okay to use Lunar New Year to refer to Chinese New Year when speaking to a Chinese person or someone from a culture that doesn't traditionally celebrate Chinese New Year. However, it is best to use Lunar New Year when speaking to individuals with other Asian heritage. If you want to show you know a bit about the Chinese culture, use Spring Festival when talking about the actual Chinese New Year, as that is the official term used in China. That also allows you to freely use Lunar New Year for all the other celebrations without any confusion.

**February 2nd is Groundhog Day.** The special day when a cute little groundhog predicts the weather. Did you know that Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow 90% of the time? ..or was it "he sees Bill Murray 90% of the time"?

**February 13th is Murder Mystery Day** for the **Rotary Club of Eugene**. Join in the fun as you solve the mystery:

Til Death Do We Part

**February 13th is also Galentines Day.** This is the day set aside for women to celebrate women.

Do you know what is recommended you do **if you are alone and have a heart attack**? If not, read on....

[Read More](#)

## Rotary Club of Eugene



Rotary is an organization of 1.4 million business and professional leaders united worldwide in 30,000 Clubs to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

**The Rotary Club of Eugene has served the Eugene and Springfield Area for 100 years. We look forward to our second 100 years of Service.**

**Join us to make an impact in our community and around the world! To find out more about membership and fill out an application please visit:**  
[Rotary Club of Eugene Membership](#)

## Club meetings can be attended on Zoom - link below



Meetings will be on Zoom assuming internet availability  
Automatic link: Click to link. If using the link, no password is required.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83908618864?pwd=Ly85Skc3NXhoVTZGOTZjeGpCWGl2dz09>

Meeting ID: 839 0861 8864

Passcode: 695590

One tap mobile

[+16699009128](tel:+16699009128)..83908618864#.....\*695590# US (San Jose)

[+12532158782](tel:+12532158782)..83908618864#.....\*695590# US (Tacoma)