

**Rotary Club of Olympia**  
**The Wheel**  
**Date: 02/24/25**

**Today's Program:** Kathy Baros Friedt - Local Support for Immigrants and Refugees

**Meeting Called to order:** President Corrina @ 12:20pm

**Pledge of Allegiance led by:** Holly Mason

**Four Way Test led by:** Bill Lahmann

**Visiting Rotarians:**

None today

**Guest of Rotarians:**

Several guests joined us today, including a few potential members.

**Announcements:**

**Cool Jazz, Clean Water** - Corey Gauny - \$12,000 band instruments and \$14,000 into the club's water project fund

**Foundation Update** - Barbara Barney/Paul Knox - Colleen was recognized for her Paul Harris +1 achievement by Barbara. Paul shared information on some of the projects that our club, other clubs and the district collectively fund. He and Barbara shared the power that giving to the RI Foundation has on how much the district receives to put toward grants.

**25th Anniversary Paul Harris Dinner** - The annual Paul Harris Dinner. It is the 25th anniversary of the event. Paper registration forms are available, if needed. To register online go to: [www.paulharrisdinner.com](http://www.paulharrisdinner.com) For every member who is in attendance, you will get 100 Paul Harris points toward your next Paul Harris level. The date this year is March 20. The venue is Indian Summer Golf & Country Club.

**Golden Bear** - Toby is the most recent student nominated for this award. He was nominated by Jeremy Clark. Mr. Clark got to know Toby when he participated in the farm program and again when he joined the football program as a senior, his first time playing football while in high school. Toby plans to pursue a career in education after high school.

**Happy Bucks:**

**Corey Gauny** - celebrated 7th wedding anniversary

**Jen Boeltz** - thanked all club members for their help with the OHS resume review project

**Program:** Mongolia - Karen Fraser

**Judy Henderson** introduced Karen Fraser, her neighbor and a long time public official who is now retired. Karen is now a trustee at The Evergreen State College. Karen served for 24 years in the Washington State Legislature first in the state house and later in the state senate. Karen is also a former Thurston County Commissioner.

Karen Fraser spoke about her 19 day trip to Mongolia with friend and longtime resident Sandra Romero. Mongolia is on the northern border of China between China and Russia. When ruled by China the country was split between what is known as Inner Mongolia and Outer Mongolia. Inner Mongolia has since been absorbed into China. Outer Mongolia is the region we now know of as Mongolia. 40-50% of Mongolians are nomads. Children attend boarding school in town. The capital city has about 1.5M people. The city is heated by coal fired boilers/steam. This is the reason that the city cannot build a subway system. Gridlock is seen as almost constant. Mongolia is very active in the United Nations and has strong relationships with countries around the world, including the United States.

After her time in Mongolia, Karen flew down to visit the Gobi Desert. You can drive anywhere in the desert. It is the fifth largest desert in the world.

Karen took several questions from club members.

The meeting was recorded, if you would like to see the recording, please contact President Corrina.

**Mr. Snappy:** Sean Paget won a calendar donated by a club member.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 1:19 pm by President Corrina.