



ROTARY CLUB OF TACOMA #8


We are bringing together business and professional leaders to provide humanitarian services, to encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and to advance goodwill and peace around the world.

The Gearshift is a weekly publication to inform members of current events in the Rotary Club of Tacoma #8.



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PLEASE JOIN US ON MARCH 6TH AS WE CELEBRATE THE TACOMA ROTARY #8 ROTARIAN OF THE YEAR **DIANE TILSTRA**. DIANE JOINED TACOMA ROTARY #8 ON AUGUST 30, 2012 AND HAS LIVED THE ROTARY MOTTO "SERVICE ABOVE SELF" EVER SINCE.

Rotary 
Club of Tacoma #8

This week's meeting:

12-1pm

La Quinta Inn & Suites
1425 East 27th St
Tacoma, WA 98421





Diane Kelleher

REGISTER HERE

WELCOME NEW MEMBER



KEN THOMAS

AUCTION RAFFLE TICKETS

\$50
EACH



PURCHASE TICKETS BEFORE & AFTER MEETINGS

Virtual streaming of Tacoma Rotary Club meetings can be viewed on



March Broadcasts



Thursday March 6th
Thursday March 20th
Thursday March 27th

12 – 1pm

AUCTION SPONSORS

EGOT \$10,000



EMMY \$7,500



GRAMMY \$5,000



GRAMMY \$5,000

Kathi Willis
Kathryn Nelson
Mike & Liz Dunbar

OSCAR \$2,500

Edward Jones INVESTMENTS

Heritage BANK



Carol & Chris Webster

Clay Zhang

Cindy Grady

Stacey & Ed Ogle

TONY \$1,500



TONY \$1,500

Rusty & Janet Hersey

Chris Surface & Mike Reynolds

GOLDEN GLOBE \$1,000



Buck Thompson

Barry & Sharon Benson

GOLDEN GLOBE \$1,000

Michele Johnson

Donna Haynes

Jim & Deb Tanasse

Cynthia Darland

Greg & Sonja Rolmsa

PEOPLE'S CHOICE \$500

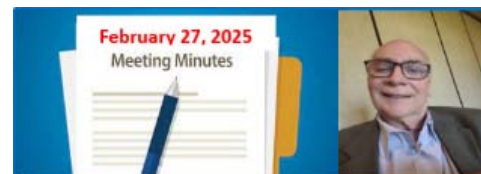
Marsha & Andrew Burns

Jan Brazzell & Wolfgang Opitz

Rick Oldenburg

Jeff Albers

Whitney Grisaffi



Story Writer – Jim Henderson
Program – Tacoma Rescue Mission / 115th Anniversary

President Chris Surface called the February 27, 2025 meeting of the Rotary Club of Tacoma, #8, to order at 12 noon. The meeting was held at the LaQuinta Inn in Tacoma Washington and was live on YouTube.

Corey Hjalseth came forward to lead everyone in the Four Way Test, followed by PP Greg Rolmsa to read the Land Acknowledgement. Board member Dean Hanks took the roving microphone around to members who had guests and visiting Rotarians. Members with guests were Andy Laycock, Libby Catalinich, Carol Duris, Kathi Willis and our two inbound Rotary Exchange Students Ruth and Emil.

Club Anniversaries were acknowledged: Carroll Dickson - 37 years; Don Meyer-25 years; Michelle Johnson-23 years; Harrison Laird-11 years; Tina Vasen -7 years. Jim Tanasse came forward to introduce our newest member, Ken Thomas. Ken was Past President of the Kent Sunrise Rotary and previously was chief of police in Kent and Des Moines. Welcome to the club Ken.

There were two Meeting Sponsors this week, Sally Leighton who was unable to attend, and Jim Tanasse who promoted the Harvest Against Hunger program. A small staff including Farmers and Trunkers helped keep over 300 pounds of waste going into the dump.

President Chris introduced today's program, learning about the Tacoma Rescue Mission. For a few years we have been connected with the agency and continue to assist with the lunch service and more recently breakfast service. First up to the podium was development staffer Desniege Haywood who then turned over the presentation to CEO Duke Paulson. Duke shared the core areas of their mission, people who suffer from drug addiction, homelessness, and housing recovery and free meals. He told us vans and staff went out at night to encampment. They serve 600 people each night.

A new program on the horizon is the Good Neighbor Village. Targeting residents, where 30% of the residents are over age 55. It will provide both housing and a safe place to live. It would free up 40 beds nightly from the shelter, and the goal is 285 units. They are waiting on permits and will utilize a new system of beds. They need volunteers and want to continue to partner with the community. They are full every night in the Women's Shelter.

We also celebrated 115 years in Rotary International. There are only 7 other clubs in the world that are older than Tacoma #8: Chicago, San Francisco, Oakland, Seattle, Los Angeles, New York and Boston. A thoroughly enjoyable and historic slide show followed showcasing Tacoma #8, looking back at 115 years of the club.

Today is the deadline for nominations for the Community Service Award. There will be a community service project on Saturday March 1 at St. Vincent de Paul. At next week's March 6th meeting, this year's Rotarian of the Year Diane Tilstra will be honored. Club Director election ballots are due by March 3rd.

Member volunteers today were thanked and the meeting was adjourned at 1:10pm.



Rotarians from Canada, Columbia, Myanmar, Spain, and United States
2025 Rotary International Peace Conference, Turkey

Rotary #8 in Istanbul: A Skeptic's Journey to Rotary's Peace Center

Somewhere over the Atlantic, wrestling with jet lag on my twelve-hour flight, I had to laugh at myself. Here I was, headed to a peace conference in Istanbul, Turkey, and my worry was whether I'd have to wear a headscarf. (Spoiler alert: Istanbul is a blend of tradition and modern, where women stroll past ancient mosques wearing the latest fashion—from blue jeans to haute couture and some women included Islamic scarves in endless colors and patterns. Headscarves optional.)

My genuine anxiety ran deeper. As a news and social media advocate who's watched one too many world conflict reports, I've grown cynical about the very idea of peace. At the opening of the 2025 Rotary Peace Conference, Şafak Alpay, Conference Chair and 2014-16 Rotary International Director, said to over 1,000 Rotarians in attendance, "I firmly believe peace is possible."

My first thought was, "Really? Have you watched the news lately?"

That's when things became interesting.

From Elizabeth Sephar, Assistant Secretary General for peace-building support at the United Nations, to Stephanie Urchick, 2024-2025 Rotary International President, the message was clear: Through focused programs, grants, and fellowships, Rotary is on task to create stable environments that nurture and maintain peace.

During a coffee break, Arzu Alpagut from the Rotary Club of Findikli-Istanbul challenged my skepticism. "Stop thinking of it as a path to peace," she said. "That makes it sound like work, something difficult and distant. Peace is now. Today. It's truly and deeply listening to one person. Today." She winked, adding, "Not *approving*—just willing to understand."

Of all people to discover on the break, Arzu is a Rotary Action Group For Peace Director (ragfp.org). "When I heard about IEP's 8 Pillars of Positive Peace in 2020," she continued, "I became hopeful about peace. The Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), a partner of Rotary International, publishes a free Positive Peace Index of 163 countries from 50,000 parameters every year."

Rotary has this way of shattering your expectations. Just when you think you've got it figured out, they pull something like this: Rotary isn't just discussing peace, they're teaching it. Both master's degrees and certificates in peace. Not political science or law. Nor international relations. Peace. And not in some hold-hands-around-the-campfire way. They're training hard-nosed professionals who tackle water rights disputes, negotiate solutions for land boundaries, create two-day ceasefires between terrorists and government to inoculate children, and address economic inequalities. Then, somehow, Rotary and its partners make progress in places that are on the brink of exploding because of misinformation, miscommunication, and hatred.

After keynote speeches followed by smaller focused breakout session, we gathered for coffee, tea, and fine Turkish treats. During one break, I was in deep conversation with Naomi Lin Luna-Fong, a Rotary International Director from Taiwan, when a Rotarian from Minnesota joined us. He was on a mission. He asked Naomi to speak at his e-Club of Global Peace builders, whose motto, fittingly enough, is "Peace is Possible." I witnessed not just casual conversation, but bridges of peace being built in real time, right in front of my nose.

Later, sharing thoughts with Masao Mizuno from Saitama, Japan—a leader in Rotary's Scholarship Foundation and Peace Fellowship programs—our conversation weaved from our business interests to ideas that would push Rotary's peace efforts to success.

My skepticism is easily explained. The numbers are staggering: one-eighth of humanity is exposed to conflict and global military spending in 2023 reached a mind-boggling \$2.44 trillion. But statistics don't tell the full story.

We're not billionaires (well, I'm not). Rotarians are a network of people who've figured out that when you connect humans who care about the same things, despite the enormity of the goal, magic happens. Sometimes it means bagging supplies for seniors after a Rotary #8 meeting in Tacoma. It may be hands-on construction of little libraries for a community or a financial investment to give young children a book every month for their first five years. Sometimes it looks like the opening of the Otto and Fran Walter Rotary Peace Center in Istanbul. This is the Magic of Rotary.

When I watch a newsreel on social media, skepticism rears its ugly head, but I remember Rotary is on the job. What I saw in Istanbul wasn't just another conference, it was proof that while the rest of the world is building walls, yelling "Resist," or engaging in destructive conflicts, Rotary is building bridges. And sometimes, just sometimes, those bridges lead somewhere extraordinary.

Barbara Wyatt, Board Member
Rotary #8 Tacoma WA
(253) 381-0288 (Mobile)
www.linnlarsen.com
www.barbarawyatt.ca

Members of Rotary can attend international conventions and jump into the world, brainstorming solutions with

Rotarians around the world. <https://convention.rotary.org/en-us/about>

For more information about Rotary Peace:

New Rotary Peace Center in Turkey: <https://www.rotary.org/en/new-rotary-peace-center-open-turkey>

Rotary Peace Fellowship: <https://www.rotary.org/en/our-programs/peace-fellowships>

IEP: <https://www.rotary.org/en/institute-economics-and-peace>

Rotary eClub of Peacebuilders. Org <https://rotaryclubofglobalpeacebuilders.org/>



Next Week!

T
THURSDAYS AT FIVE

REBUILDING HOPE
50 SEXUAL ASSAULT CENTER
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS IN 2025

50 years ago, Pierce County Rape Relief was incorporated as the County's first and longest continuously operating 24/7 community sexual assault center in Washington State. Known now as **Rebuilding Hope Sexual Assault Center**, its mission is to provide support, promote healing and partner to end sexual violence. Sexual violence represents a broad spectrum of acts that include verbal sexual harassment, unwanted sexual contact, rape or attempted rape and sex trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation. It's estimated that 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys are sexually abused before turning 18 years old while more than half of all women and 1 out of every 3 men report experiencing sexual assault in the United States.

With access to 24/7 sexual assault and abuse-specific crisis intervention, information and referrals, general, medical and legal advocacy, Rebuilding Hope services can begin immediately and - over time - reduce the many negative and harmful outcomes associated with sexual assault and abuse by providing confidential, client-led advocacy and therapy services to survivors and their loved ones whether the violence happened hours or decades ago.

Rebuilding Hope's new headquarters is located in the historic Hilltop Business District of Tacoma while offering programs, services and responses for support throughout all of Tacoma, Pierce and Kitsap County. In 2024, Rebuilding Hope advocates responded to over 5,000 calls to its 24-hour hotline and online chat, delivered over 4,725 hours of advocacy and therapy services to almost 1725 survivors of sexual assault and abuse while also reaching over 2,700 youth, families and community professionals through prevention education and professional training. As Pierce and Kitsap County's only Community Sexual Assault Program accredited by Washington State Department of Commerce, Rebuilding Hope is committed to creating a community that fosters belief and healing for survivors while also reducing instances of sexual violence against its own community members.

Please join Rebuilding Hope for Thursday at 5pm on March 13 to learn more about Rebuilding Hope's history and continued work in Tacoma, Pierce and Kitsap County.

[**CLICK HERE
TO RSVP**](#)



Join other Rotary 8 members at Tacoma Community House for **Talk Time**, a heartwarming way to support immigrants and refugees who are studying in adult English classes.
You will just sit and talk informally with 3–4 adults, so they may hear and converse in English.
You will leave with a smile!

Date: Thursday, March 6th

Time: 10:30 a.m., or 1:30 p.m., or 6:15 p.m.

Place: Tacoma Community House, 1314 South L Street, Tacoma

Email your name and choice of time to: americorps2@tacomacommunityhouse.org

Friday March 14, 2025

11:00am – 2:00pm

Lunch 425 South Tacoma Way
Tacoma, WA 98402



**Tacoma
Rescue Mission**

HELP • HOPE • HEALING

**CLICK HERE
TO RSVP**



**EMERGENCY
FOOD
NETWORK**

Saturday March 22, 2025

12:00pm – 2:30pm

3318 92nd Street South
Lakewood, WA 98402

**CLICK HERE
TO RSVP**

Friday March 28, 2025

6:00 – 9:00am

Breakfast 425 South Tacoma Way
Tacoma, WA 98402



**Tacoma
Rescue Mission**

HELP • HOPE • HEALING

**CLICK HERE
TO RSVP**



IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU



ANNIE FRISBIE	MAR 4TH
DAN BOGART	MAR 7TH
DANA CALDWELL	MAR 9TH



FRED MOISIO	46 YEARS
ANN VOVES	26 YEARS
CHUNG LEE	18 YEARS
JOHN BAILEY	13 YEARS
CARLA SANTORNO	12 YEARS
KEVIN KYSER	3 YEARS
BIANCA MILEVOJ	1 YEAR

FOLLOW US

ON SOCIAL MEDIA

