



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.

THIS WEEK AT

Rotary 
Club of Tacoma # 8

MARCH 13, 2025



Vol. One Hundred-One | Issue No. 37

Stepping Into The Spotlight

Name: _____
Address: _____
E-mail: _____
Phone: _____

FILL OUT FOR A CHANCE TO WIN THE RAFFLE #0100

AUCTION RAFFLE | \$50 EACH | YOUR CHANCE TO WIN

Stepping Into The Spotlight

\$1,000 CASH!

THE DRAWING WILL BE ON SATURDAY APRIL 26th AT 7:00 PM—NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN

#0100

CAN'T MAKE IT TO A MEETING?

YOU CAN NOW PURCHASE A RAFFLE TICKET BY CALLING OR EMAILING THE OFFICE

Rotary 
Club of Tacoma #8

This week's meeting:
MEMBER EVENT ONLY

5-7pm

REBUILDING HOPE
50 SEXUAL ASSAULT CENTER
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS IN 2025

723 MLK Jr. Way
Tacoma, WA 98405



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.

Refreshments and light appetizers will be provided.

Office is located in a brown brick building located on the corner of MLK and 8th Street in Hilltop. The property includes a parking lot with 4 ADA parking spots on the North end of the property, as well as several parking spots on the back-alley street. Guests may also be dropped off at the covered thru lane.

Please enter by locating the covered walkway that leads to the marked agency entrance and Rebuilding Hope staff will be present to greet you. Rebuilding Hope administers confidential Victim of Crime Act/Violence Against Women's Act and Department of Health-licensed services - visitors may be asked to complete confidentiality agreements upon arrival.

**CLICK HERE
TO RSVP**



AUCTION RAFFLE TICKETS

**\$50
EACH**



PURCHASE TICKETS BEFORE & AFTER MEETINGS

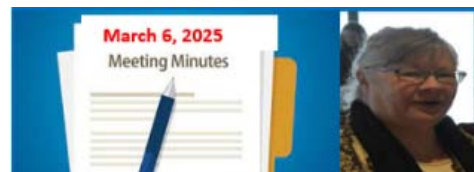
Virtual streaming of Tacoma Rotary Club meetings can be viewed on



March Broadcasts

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

12 – 1pm



**Story Writer – Kathi Willis
Program – Rotarian Of The Year**

AUCTION SPONSORS

EGOT \$10,000 Timberland Bank	GRAMMY \$5,000 Kathi Willis Kathryn Nelson Mike & Liz Dunbar	TONY \$1,500 Banner Bank	TONY \$1,500 MOSSADAMS	GOLDEN GLOBE \$1,000 Buck Thompson Barry & Sharon Benson
EMMY \$7,500 Titus-Will	OSCAR \$2,500 Edward Jones Investments	UNITED WAY Pierce County	STADIUM HEALTH MANAGEMENT Rusty & Janet Hersey Chris Serface & Mike Reynolds	GOLDEN GLOBE \$1,000 Michele Johnson Donna Haynes Jim & Deb Tanasse Cynthia Darland Greg & Sonja Rolsma
GRAMMY \$5,000 SLA	Heritage BANK Carol & Chris Webster Clay Zhang Cindy Grady Stacey & Ed Ogle	Zenith West GYMNASTICS	GOLDEN GLOBE \$1,000 WEDDERMANN ARCHITECTURE	PEOPLE'S CHOICE \$500 Marsha & Andrew Burns Jan Brazzell & Wolfgang Opitz Rick Oldenburg Jeff & Kim Albers Whitney Grisaffi
DIMMER FAMILY FOUNDATION	evergreen HOME LOANS	TACOMA LITTLE THEATRE		

President Chris Serface, called the meeting to order to a room filled with conversation as we all joined together to enjoy our weekly meeting at the LaQuinta.

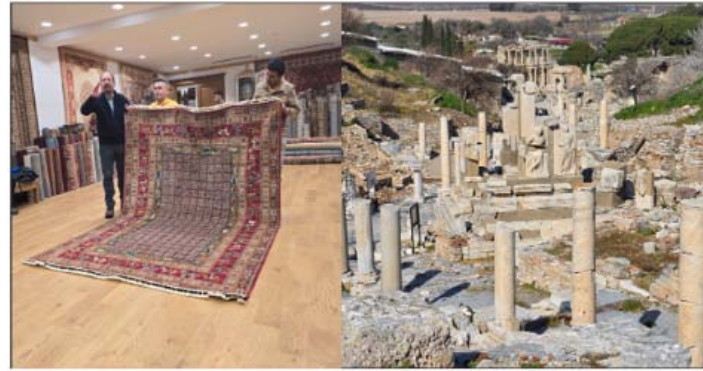
Diane Kelleher came forward to recite the Land Acknowledgement and lead us in the 4 Way test. She was followed by **Leslie Dalzell**, who we learned finds inspiration in music, and she reflected on a line from a Dolly Parton song called Tennessee Homesick Blues. "It's hard to be a diamond in a rhinestone world" She encouraged us to be compassionate leaders and help to uncover the diamond in those around us.

Emily Mendez- Bryant introduced a visiting Rotarian from Federal Way, who is looking at the possibility of transferring her membership. **Diane Tilstra** had 3 guests join her Monique DuBose, Erin Guinup, and J Woody Lotts. Emil also joined us today. We celebrated Anniversaries and were joined by **John Bailey** with 13 years.

Next Cindy Grady came forward to celebrate birthdays and since it is Water and Sanitation month she asked the celebrants what body of water they identified with. There were some great answers. Joining us to celebrate were **Dan Bogart, Bill Duppenthaler, Cathy Hall, Harrison Laird, Jerry McLaughlin, Terri Scott, Buck Thompson** (our most Senior Member!) **Jim Whitacre, Kirsten Willis, and Dan Wirth.**

Diane Kelleher was also our meeting sponsor and encouraged each of us to volunteer at one of the great organizations in our city, Tacoma Rescue Mission. **John Schneider**, Rotarian of the Year for 2024, came forward to introduce the 2025 Rotarian of the year **Diane Tilstra**. **Carol Webster** took the microphone to share some of the amazing experiences she has had with **Diane** and then **Diane** came forward to share. We learned that she is a great grandmother, she lived in Thailand for about 10 years and worked for the US Embassy. She lived in 7 states in her first 9 years. She came to Tacoma in 2012 to work for NW Trek and immediately became immersed in the community. She retired 2 years later and her opportunity to continue to meet great people and volunteer helped cement her continued membership in Rotary #8. She has served on the Grants Committee as well as serving on and chairing the Youth Exchange Committee, Program Committee, and IDEA as a new member. She has been a wonderful leader and hosted a number of exchange students. She is currently serving as our Youth Protection Officer. She has volunteered for dozens of Rotary projects, but she doesn't just serve through Rotary. She volunteers as a foster mom for the Humane Society, volunteers for the Tacoma Refugee Choir, as well as Tacoma Little Theatre. She is a busy and inspirational leader and a perfect person to celebrate as our 2025 Rotarian of the Year. **Chris** then presented Diane with her ROY pin, a certificate, and a Paul Harris Fellowship. Not surprisingly she received 3 standing ovations during the celebration!

Carlyn Sampson from Rebuilding Hope came forward to invite each of us to join her for Thursdays at 5 on March 13 at their new location on the hilltop. We had a few minutes for table talks, which are always fun. We were reminded of upcoming volunteer opportunities. **Chris** ended the meeting by thanking all the meeting volunteers. **Remember we need between 5 – 8 volunteers for meetings.** Please offer your services by emailing the office at clubadmin@rotary8.org



The Art of Peace: Lessons learned over a cup of Turkish coffee. Article #2 of 4.

The aroma of strong dark Turkish coffee rose from my cup as I settled into a corner of the Istanbul convention center. The halls hummed with dozens of languages, accents and dialects that mixed in the air. Here at the 2025 Rotary Peace Conference, I watched over 1,000 Rotarians gather at the tables laded with teas, coffees and local delicacies during the break.

The attendees at the conference were dedicated to creating peace in the world, but they were not your typical negotiators in power suits and clutching briefcases. They are Rotarians—volunteers who somehow convince terrorists to lay down arms so children can receive vaccines.

I had to understand their secret.

"You see that woman in the blue scarf?" Maria, a new friend from Istanbul whispered, "She's one of the Rotary Peace Fellows with a bachelor's degree in political science, a master's degree in conflict resolution and completed her Rotary Peace Fellowship at one of Rotary's peace centers. And that man..." she continued, pointing to man standing to the woman's right, "negotiated a two-day cease fire with terrorists to inoculate children."

"How does someone even begin that conversation?" I asked.

Maria's eyes crinkled as she smiled. "By remembering that even the most hardened fighter has children. Grandchildren. You *do* know who he is?"

I shook my head.

"K. R. Ravindran, Past Rotary International President. He led Sri Lanka's polio eradication effort, received Jewel of Sri Lanka award and even has a postage stamp dedicated to him"

My mouth dropped open. Being commemorated on a postage stamp is a super level of recognition. What an achievement!

"During National Immunization Days," Maria continued, "he wrote a letter to the northern militants requesting two days free of conflict to inoculate the children in a village. The letter was passed through several hands, because the northern militants were well-hidden from government troops. A few days later, a response arrived from the leader with the days specified when there would be no conflict."

She smiled, "If the government had asked for the cease-fire? The militants would never have agreed. But they trusted Rotary. Not the government—*Rotary*."

Yet in Afghanistan, Rotary's efforts did not have a happy ending. A terrorist group held control of the region and agreed to allow inoculating the children, provided the mothers and children came to the mosque. But maybe due to distance, maybe due to lack of communication, the volunteers knew they had missed children. A decision was made to visit the homes of those who were unable to walk to the mosque. Dedicated volunteers interested in saving children's lives began visiting villagers' homes. They were all shot dead.

Why? A failure to understand the sensitivity of the region.

Is this why Rotary International hosts these Rotary Peace conferences? To learn from what we've done right, and wrong, as we take on these worldwide projects? I'll be here for three days of presentations and breakout sessions.

Stay with me as I learn.

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

Next Week!



City of Tacoma
W A S H I N G T O N



As Public Works Department Director for the City of Tacoma, Ramiro Chavez is responsible for the City's facilities management and real property services, street operations and grounds maintenance, streetlights and traffic signals, capital projects, design and construction services, fleet services, parking management, active transportation and traffic safety programs, commercial vehicle enforcement, and local improvement districts. More than 300 City staff are employed with the Public Works Department, which has a 2023/2024 adopted Biennial Budget of \$250 million.

Ramiro came from the County Manager position for Thurston County, where he oversaw the Public Works, Public Health, Social Services, and Economic Development departments. Ramiro began serving as County Manager for Thurston County in an interim capacity, starting in June 2016, and in a permanent capacity starting in February 2017. Ramiro joined the City of Tacoma as a part of his return to his passion for public works.

With a robust background in public works, architecture, public administration, and project management, Ramiro brings both expertise and dedication to public service. From August 2014 to June 2016, Ramiro served as Public Works Director for Thurston County, where he oversaw utilities and public spaces, including transportation and parks. From September 2003 to August 2014, Ramiro served as Transportation Division Manager for Pierce County's Public Works Department.

REGISTER HERE



Friday March 14, 2025
11:00am – 2:00pm

Lunch 425 South Tacoma Way
Tacoma, WA 98402



**CLICK HERE
TO RSVP**



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



**CLICK HERE
TO RSVP**



IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU



ROGER LEE	MARCH 10TH
TRACY PEACOCK	MARCH 10TH
CATHY HALL	MARCH 12TH
JIM WHITACRE	MARCH 14TH
JOHN WEST	MARCH 16TH



MARSHA BURNS 13 YEARS

FOLLOW US

ON SOCIAL MEDIA

