



# The Gearshift

## 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.



Vol. One Hundred-One | Issue No. 39

**AUCTION TICKETS ON SALE NOW**

**CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE TICKETS**

**Rotary**   
 Club of Tacoma #8

**This week's meeting:**

**12-1pm**

La Quinta Inn & Suites  
 1425 East 27<sup>th</sup> St  
 Tacoma, WA 98421



# *This Thursday*

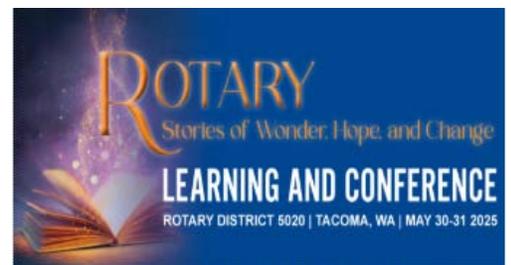




Founder of The Peace Bus, Kwabi Amoah-Forsen plans and manages humanitarian campaigns, promotes messages of peace through a variety of platforms, such as social media,

community events, and keynote speeches, and foster partnerships with other local organizations.

Kwabi aims to bring people together, inspire positive change, and empower people to promote peace and equality.



**JOIN US FOR AN INSPIRING ROTARY DISTRICT 5020 CONFERENCE!**

Greetings, Fellow Rotarians and Guests!

I am excited to invite you to join me and your fellow Rotarians at the Rotary District 5020 Conference and Learning event in Tacoma, WA, on May 30-31, 2025.

Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to engage in valuable learning, meaningful fellowship, and hear from motivational speakers.

You'll be inspired by powerful "Rotary Stories of Wonder, Hope, and Change", it's the perfect occasion to spark new ideas and build lasting connections with fellow Rotarians!

In Rotary Service,  
Bill McGregor  
District 5020 Governor 2024-2025

Our club has limited funds available to assist individuals who wish to attend the District Conference. Contact David in the office for more information.

To learn more about the conference and to Register [Click Here](#)

**We will meet the Queen**



**RAFFLE TICKETS ON SALE NOW**



**PURCHASE BEFORE & AFTER MEETINGS**

Virtual streaming of Tacoma Rotary Club meetings can be viewed on



**Meeting Sponsor**



**Barbara Wyatt**

# March Broadcasts

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

**12 – 1pm**

**REGISTER HERE**



**Goal: \$250,000**



**\$96,950 Raised!**

## Auction Sponsors

Thank you

FOR YOUR SUPPORT

<b>EGOT \$10,000</b> Timberland Bank	<b>GRAMMY \$5,000</b> Kathi Willis Gesa Credit Union	<b>TONY \$1,500</b> Banner Bank	<b>TONY \$1,500</b> STADIUM WEALTH MANAGEMENT	<b>GOLDEN GLOBE \$1,000</b> Buck Thompson Barry & Sharon Benson Michele Johnson Donna Haynes Jim & Deb Tanasse Cynthia Darland Greg & Sonja Rolsma Joe & Sandra Gordon
Financial Insights	<b>OSCAR \$2,500</b> Edward Jones Investments	UNITED WAY Pierce County	Rusty & Janet Hersey	<b>GOLDEN GLOBE \$1,000</b>
<b>EMMY \$7,500</b> NTUS-WILL	Heritage Bank	Zenith West GYMNASTICS	Chris Serface & Mike Reynolds	<b>PEOPLE'S CHOICE \$500</b> Marsha & Andrew Burns Jan Brazzell & Wolfgang Opitz Rick Oldenburg Jeff & Kim Albers Whitney Grisaffi Jenn Jensen
<b>GRAMMY \$5,000</b> DIMMER FAMILY FOUNDATION	Carol & Chris Webster Clay Zhang Cindy Grady Stacey & Ed Ogle	MOSSADAMS	WEDDERMANN ARCHITECTURE	
Mike & Liz Dunbar		evergreen HOME LANDSCAPE	TACOMA LITTLE THEATRE	
			COMMUNITY HEALTH CARE MEDICAL • DENTAL • PHARMACY	



**The Art of Peace: Lessons learned over a cup of Turkish coffee Article 3 of 4.**

At the 2025 Rotary Peace Conference that honored a \$15.5 million donation from Rotarian Otto and Fran Walter, I was learning about Rotary International's efforts to secure peace in the world. Another gargantuan project of Rotary International.

My new friend, Maria from Istanbul, and I watched the crowd gather for tea and coffee during a break between presentations. A young woman in a crisp hijab was deep in conversation with a man, their hands moving animatedly as they spoke about water rights in their region. Nearby, a Pakistani grandfather and an English man huddled over smartphones, showing each other pictures of their grandchildren before diving into plans for a joint renewable energy project.

"Notice their body language," Maria murmured. "Shoulders relaxed, open postures. Now listen to their questions."

Fragments floated past me. "How did your community handle the drought last year? "What solutions have you tried already? "Tell me more about your experience with..."

"Avoid starting a question with 'why,'" Maria explained, tapping her coffee cup. "'Why' makes people defensive. 'Why' do you think that way?' sounds like an attack. But 'How' did you come to that conclusion?' opens a door to understanding."

Patterns emerged slowly. These peacebuilders were artists of conversation, creating bridges instead of walls and avoid placing others on the defensive.

A young Myanmar Rotarian joined us, her name tag reading, "Ma Phyu."

"Were you in the session about the youth peace program?" she said, sliding into an empty chair. She was referring to one of the breakout sessions Rotarians could select to attend. Topics ranged from artificial intelligence, youth, ongoing conflicts, and more.

Phyu went to the session that discussed a successful program with youth. "They brought teenagers from three different ethnic groups, all raised on different versions of history. The youths had never met. We didn't know each other. Yet we hated each other. Only knew that they were from a different belief. The youth practiced how to listen better, argue less, and find common ground. Within a few days, friendships developed. Some became close friends."



# Next Thursday



Katie Arthur works in the Pierce County Department Of Emergency Management. Katie is the department's Outreach Coordinator and is frequently in the community teaching preparedness classes or attending public events to share information with the community. It's a very busy job. During emergency operations center activations, Arthur is often working in the Logistics section making sure partners get the resources they need for the emergency.

Katie was recently accepted to the National Emergency Management Advanced Academy (NEMAA).

The NEMAA reinforces the qualities needed to lead emergency management programs, provides relevant management theories and concepts, and utilizes appropriate case studies. NEMAA participants work within a collaborative environment on projects and establish a network of peers.

The NEMAA program is a one-year program that requires students to attend in-person, one-week classes four times and extensive virtual collaboration with other students and faculty throughout the year.

**REGISTER HERE**



**Friday March 28, 2025**  
**6:00 – 9:00am**  
*Breakfast* 425 South Tacoma Way  
Tacoma, WA 98402



**CLICK HERE TO RSVP**



**Talk Time** is a unique opportunity for volunteers to work with adults in our community who are in the English Language Acquisition Program.

A Rotarian in his seventies joined our conversation, "You cannot hate someone whose story you know," he said, settling into our circle.

This was the natural flow at the Rotary Peace Conference. During breaks, people would mingle and discuss projects from their local club or what they learned in a session.

We all nodded, then Phyu added, "Then a surprise! At the end of the workshop, the youth were asked how they would use this training. The instructors were sure the youth would first talk with friends, then classmates.

"Instead..." She paused, smiling, "They all said the same thing: parents. My parents. I want peace at my home first. I don't want to feel defenseless anymore."

Phyu's mention of the word, "surprise" reminded me of a taxi ride in Africa a few months before that had shaken my American worldview. The taxi's ancient air conditioning rattled as he drove past a gleaming sports stadium, its modern architecture standing in stark contrast to the surroundings of a dry, flat arid landscape.

"Built by the Chinese," my driver had said. He adjusted his rearview mirror to look at me. "You know the game?"

I shook my head. "Game?"

"Your country gives us millions in aid. Cases filled with cash. Just hands it over. The Chinese?" He chuckled, navigating around a pothole. "They offer loans to build things we can see and touch. We pay them with your American dollars. Then they loan those same dollars back to America." His eyes met mine in the mirror. "Tell me, who is smarter in this game?"

I listened.

"The Chinese. The Americans aren't very smart. And the Chinese walk away with our minerals." He shrugged his shoulders.

That was hard to hear. But was his tale true? I have more to learn at this peace conference about challenges facing peace.

Barbara Wyatt, Board Member  
Rotary #8 Tacoma WA



**Story Writer – Kirsten Willis**  
**Program – Tacoma Initiative II**

Our March 20, 2025 meeting of the Rotary Club of Tacoma #8 began at 12:01 pm with the ringing of the bell by **Past President Greg Rolsma**. So nice of **Greg** to fill in for **President Chris**!

**Eu-Wanda Eagans** led us in the 4-way test and the Land Acknowledgement – it was very nice to hear all voices participating! **Past President Greg Rolsma** invited new member, **Lacey Kuckelman** to deliver the reflection. She shared a passage from the book *The Pivot Year* by Brianna Wiest about finding the courage to become the person that is within you. Lacey reflected on what it would be like to date yourself. Figure out how you desire to be treated and do that for yourself – maybe it is a special cup of coffee, a walk in the park, or snuggling on the couch watching a movie. It was a great reflection and I'm so glad **Lacey** shared it with us – very inspirational!

**Cathy Hall** took the microphone around to introduce guests. It was great to see new faces in the crowd and we even had an online guest – **President Chris** was checking in!

**Past President Greg Rolsma** celebrated our Club Anniversaries. **Fred Matthaei** – 44 years, **Jerry McLaughlin** – 28 years, **Shon Sylvia** – 18 years, **Laurie Jinkins** – 16 years, **Marsha Burns** – 13 years, **Nick Frank** – 9 years, and **Brian Heaven** – 1 year.

Next, **Kathi Willis** and **Cindy Grady** gave an update on the upcoming auction. Sponsorships are close to the \$100,00 goal at \$97,000. So far 195 items have been donated valued at \$35,000 – much more work to do and hopefully more forms will come in the next couple of weeks. To entice the audience with some of the procured items we played Auction BINGO – it was a hit! We learned more about items like the Private Flight to the San Juan Islands, a gold bracelet, vacation on the Oregon Coast, Sounders tickets, and MORE!

**Thursday April 24, 2025**

Available Sessions

10:30am – 12:00pm

1:30 – 3:00pm

6:15 – 7:45pm

If you plan to attend, please let Natasha Stockton know the date and time by emailing the [Tacoma Community House](mailto:info@tacoma.org).



**Happy Anniversary!**



<b>FRANKLIN DACCA</b>	<b>37 YEARS</b>
<b>BRIEN ELVINS</b>	<b>28 YEARS</b>
<b>DEAN HANKS</b>	<b>26 YEARS</b>
<b>CAROLYN WEYRICK</b>	<b>21 YEARS</b>

**Happy Birthday!**



<b>CLAIRE AIJIAN</b>	<b>MARCH 24TH</b>
<b>JERRY MCLAUGHLIN</b>	<b>MARCH 25TH</b>
<b>BUCK THOMPSON</b>	<b>MARCH 29TH</b>
<b>TERRI SCOTT</b>	<b>MARCH 29TH</b>



**Past President Greg Rolsma** invited our meeting sponsor and my birthday twin, **Dan Wirth**, from the Red Cross to make an announcement. Volunteer at the upcoming blood drive on Tuesday, March 25 at 1201 Pacific Fountain Court 5 – I just signed up to donate my blood! Also on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> is the 27<sup>th</sup> annual Red Cross Heros Awards at the Museum of History and Industry in Seattle – get your tickets today!

Next, **Tacoma Council Member Sarah Rumbaugh**, introduced our speaker, Ramiro Chavez, Public Works Deputy Director, to present about the City of Tacoma, Streets Initiative II which will be on the ballot on April 22, 2025.

In 2015, Tacoma voters approved two propositions that funded street repair, maintenance, and safety improvements that focused on residential streets. Past and future projects can be found at [tacomastreetinitiative.org](http://tacomastreetinitiative.org). The proposition generated over \$397 million (projection was \$325 million) but is set to expire in December 2025. Much has been accomplished with this initiative including exceeding the original goal of 5,600 of residential blocks topping out at 6,000 blocks. Over 3,900 ADA curb ramps constructed, installed 48 school crossing beacons, 41,800 feet of new sidewalks, and 7 miles of bike lanes.

For Street Initiative II focus will be on Safety, Equity, and Connectivity – 83% of Tacoma residents believe that every resident should be able to safely walk, roll, bike, and take transit to access schools, parks, grocery stores, and healthcare. Data indicates that based on a 15-year performance period that Tacoma Streets II could bring a total investment of \$ 900 million. Funds will be used in the following areas: Arterial Improvements; Repair and Maintenance; Vision Zero High Risk Network; Pedestrian Priority Projects; and Residential Improvement.

The Tacoma Street Initiative is important for the future of our community. It allows a significant opportunity to invest in Vision Zero Goals. Our arterial streets need work; according to the 2023 PCI, arterial conditions have decreased by 22%. The funds will used for economic development, accessibility, meeting the City's Climate action Plan, and betterment of our community.

In addition, this initiative helps create jobs! 41,000 apprentice hours were worked by WA residents enrolled in an approved apprenticeship program. Over 136,000 hours worked by journey or apprentice-level working residing in Tacoma. An estimated \$9.3 million in wages paid to local workers!

This is just the beginning of the conversation and Ramiro is dedicated to including all voices in this process. He shared QR codes for us to provide feedback and ideas. There is also a survey that is available for us to participate in the process.

Ramiro took questions from the audience and invited those with more questions and comments to email [tacomastreet@cityoftacoma.org](mailto:tacomastreet@cityoftacoma.org).

**Past President Greg Rolsma** thanked Ramiro for making his presentation and asked him to sign a copy of my favorite book – To Kill a Mockingbird – to put in a Little Free Library.

A few announcements followed:

1. Buy your \$50 Raffle Ticket
2. Auction Tickets are NOW AVAILABLE!!!
3. Next week we will honor the Community Service Award Winner – Kwabi Amoah-Forson. Please register to attend
4. We have two community service projects coming up – check the gearshift for more info

We took time for true confessions and since I was up making my own I did not get a chance to take notes – guess you will have to attend the meetings to get the tea!

**Past President Greg Rolmsma** ended the meeting with our rolling credits of people that helped make the meeting possible. Thanks to all those that take the time to participate and be present at Rotary! That's the Magic of Rotary!

Our meeting ended with the ringing of the bell at 1:02pm.