



The Backwash



The Rotary Club of Edmonds

February 15, 2005

Happy 100th Birthday

Reminders

- February 16th, Board of Directors Meeting, 7:30 a.m.
- **February 23, 2005 Rotary's 100th Birthday!**
- **March 12, 2005 Club Auction and Dinner.**
- The District Centennial Celebration in Vancouver, BC is scheduled for April 29—May 1, 2005.
- **June 3-5, 2005 Edmonds Rotary Waterfront Festival.**
- Rotary International Convention, Chicago, June 17-23.

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Tom Shilling Shares the Highlights of His Trip to Ethiopia to Help in the Fight Against Polio

Tom Shilling shared the highlights of his trip to Ethiopia in a slide presentation that was put together for our February 1st meeting. The presentation began with some basic facts about the demographics of Ethiopia and ended with some very moving pictures of grateful parents and smiling children.



Tom Shilling gives moving presentation on his trip to Ethiopia

Tom reported that Ethiopia is the third poorest country in the world. Its population of 64 million people are roughly half Christian and half Muslim. While agriculture is their number one industry, they do not grow anything the people can eat.

In 1980 Ethiopian children were stricken with polio at the rate of 1,000 new cases per day. With this mission completed in October of 2004, it is hoped that no new cases will be re-

ported in 2005. To accomplish this goal, 56 Rotarians from five U.S. Districts joined 2,000 Ethiopian volunteers to vaccinate 750,000 children at 1,250 locations in the remotest parts of the country. The Rotarians also visited various clinics established to care for the children already stricken. Tom reported that the work being done is truly astounding. He saw children who could not stand upright months before, were now playing soccer with the use of crutches.

Standing Ovation for Our Newest Member... Susan St Germain

Susan St Germain was inducted as a new member during the February 1st meeting. Susan, who works for Washington Federal Saving, was sponsored by long time member, Bill Moran. Bill applauded the fact that she has had a perfect attendance record since her first visit to a Rotary



meeting. The induction ceremony was conducted by Past District Governor Carl Swenson who said: "Because you have joined us, we are a better club. So please feel free to speak up. We welcome your new ideas." At the conclusion, Susan received a standing ovation from the membership.



Bill Toskey and Scotty show off the hand-carved art work they acquired at the auction held in behalf of The Rabour Village Project. Project founder, Loyce Mbewa, appreciates their contributions.

In Case You Missed the Meeting

The February 1st meeting continued the theme that has attracted so much attention in recent weeks: involvement in International Service projects.

The featured speaker was Loyce Mbewa, founder of the Rabour Village Project. Loyce is a Seattle resident who in 2001 began to privately support the activities of a women's group based in her home village of Rabour, western Kenya. The women had been working to cope with the rising tide of illness, poverty and orphaned children that HIV/AIDS had inflicted on their community. Loyce soon realized that the problems were so great that she needed to get more people involved to achieve any significant results. In 2003, along with a small group of dedicated volunteers she established the Rabour Village Project (RSP) a U.S. based non-profit organization.

Together with Rabour villagers and other concerned stakeholders they identified ways that they could make long-term positive change. They set out to create a reliable supply of clean water for human consumption as well as for agriculture. They opened a nursery

school for children who had lost one or more of their parents. They now support any effort that might produce economic self-sufficiency through micro-loans and technical assistance and even publish a monthly newsletter to report on their progress for each endeavor. To make a tax-deductible donation, send a check to: Rabour Village Project, PO Box 45757, Seattle, WA 98145 or contribute by visiting their web site at www.rabourvillageproject.org.

The February 8th meeting was jam packed with announcements, ceremonies and presentations. Jeff Dragovich, Asst. Professor of Civil Engineering made a presentation about a project sponsored by Engineers Without Borders. EWB is building a campus in a remote area of Thailand for 128 students. Rob Norman presented a check for \$900 to Powerful Partners, the group that organized ART DAY. This event was for over 300 fourth graders from the Edmonds School District. Carl presided over a new member induction ceremony for Susan St Germain. And Tom Shilling gave a wonderful slide show presentation about his trip last October to Ethiopia. Tom also visited Kenya which we hope to hear more about later.

“Women are the principal, if not sole economic support for themselves and their children. It is critical that ways be found to empower women to explore and pursue opportunities.”
Loyce Mbewa
Founder,
The Rabour Village Project

Future Speakers...Arranged by Carol Kinney (Feb) and Mike Kealy (March)

February 22ndRotary 100th Birthday
Topic: The Rotary Club of Charoen Nakorn & the Relief Efforts

March 1Ciscoe Morris
Star of “Gardening With Ciscoe” on KIRO radio

March 8Mayor Gary Haakenson
The State of the City of Edmonds
(And any other topic members care to submit)

2004 - 2005 Club Officers, Board Members and Committee Chairs

BOARD MEMBERS

President.....Elizabeth Crouch
 Immediate Past President.....Vern Chase
 President ElectMichael Kealy
 Vice-President and Waterfront Festival Chair.....Karen Wiggins
 Secretary.....Don Henderson
 Treasurer.....Mike Meeks
 Sergeant-at-Arms.....Larry Thronsen
 Director, Club Service Chair.....Alex Hopkins
 Director, Community Service Chair.....Rod Norman
 Director, International Service Chair.....Carol Kinney
 Director, Vocational Service Chair.....Kathy Dahlstrom
 Membership Committee Chair.....Joan Longstaff

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Waterfront Festival ChairKaren Wiggins
 Auction Committee Chair.....Bill Moran
 Scholarship Committee Chair.....Warren Bradbury
 New Member Orientation Chair.....Carl Swenson
 Centennial Project Committee Chair.....Bill Toskey
 Rotary Cares Co-Chair.....Pam Halsan
 Rotary Cares Co-Chair.....Sally Hyde
 Rotary First Harvest Chair.....Janice Freeman
 Assistant Secretary, Club Webmaster.....Kirk Greiner
 Homeless Youth Foundation Chair.....Sharalyn Ramm
 PublicityVern Chase
 Editor of *The Backwash*.....Michael Kealy

Membership Update.....Talk About a Well-Balanced Club

With the recent inductions of Jane Bloom and Susan St Germain the Rotary Club of Edmonds is fast nearing the point where the membership is evenly split between men and women. As of February 15th, the club membership broke down as follows: 60% male, 40% female. Additional infor-

mal, uncorroborated analysis reveals that of the male membership 27% are retired and 73% are still working. Among the women, 24% are retired and 76% are still actively pursuing a career. Rotary International does not reveal data regarding its retired population.

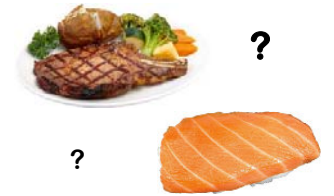


Auction Deadline Nearing.....Steak or Salmon?

Bill Moran, Auction Committee Chair once again reminds all members that the deadline for finalizing your dinner reservation is nearing. All attendees will have their choice of steak or salmon, but Bill needs to know everyone's choice a week in advance so the caterers can plan accordingly.

In addition, his committee is still looking for some "large" donations to sweeten the pot on auction night.

The Rotary Club of Edmonds Auction, held on Saturday, March 12th, is the club's only fund raising activity where the proceeds are dedicated specifically for scholarships.



For Mr. RogersDonate a New or Slightly Used Sweater

Since Sally Hyde is on vacation, Pam Halsan has stepped up to remind Rotarians that February is "Remember Mr. Rogers" month. All this month in cooperation with PBS stations new or gently used sweaters will be collected and redistributed to those in need throughout Western Washington. The practice was started by the

original sweater guy, Mr. Rogers, eight years ago, while he was still entertaining children on his PBS show, Mr. Roger's Neighborhood. After his death, two years ago, PBS decided to continue the tradition in his honor. Sweaters bought to our meeting any Tuesday in February will be passed along to those in need.



Getting to Know More AboutWomen as Rotarians

In 1905 Paul Harris decided to reflect American society by deeming his organization a male only club. And so it stood for eighty four years until 1989 when the Council of Legislation, Rotary International's Parliament voted to eliminate the male-only provision, making membership open to

qualified women for the first time. Rotary International's web site states that "Today, there are approximately 145,000 women Rotarians worldwide, many of them serving in leadership roles." This number represents 12% of the RI's membership.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

In District 5030 the District Governor, The District Governor-Elect, the President of The Rotary Club of Edmonds, plus the Zone Membership Chair are all women.

Correction: The previous Backwash issue had mistakenly shown the auction dinner date as March 13 in the "Reminders" section. The auction dinner, is actually Saturday, March 12th.

Make Up Meeting Days/ Sites / Times

MONDAY

N. Seattle—N. Seattle Community Collage12:00
 Lake City—Elks Club.....12:00
 Kirkland—Woodmark Hotel6:15 pm
 Southcenter—Red Lion Hotel, Southcenter Mall.....12:00

TUESDAY

Shoreline—Shoreline Center.....12:00
 Ballard—Anthony's Shilshole.....12:00
 Everett—Everett Yacht Club.....12:00
 Edmonds Daybreakers— Yacht Club.....7:00 am
 Fremont—Hale's Brewery.....5:30 pm

WEDNESDAY

Seattle 4-Call 206 623-0023.....12:00
 Bellevue Overlake—Harbor Club.....12:00
 Mill Creek—Mill Creek CC.....12:00
 Lake forest Park—Presbyterian Church.....7:00 am
 Shoreline Breakfast—Shoreline Center.....7:30 am

THURSDAY

North Shore—(Bothell) Inglewood CC12:00
 Lynnwood—Lake Ballinger Golf Course.....12:00

FRIDAY

University District—Seattle Yacht Club.....12:00
 Alderwood—Stevens Hospital Cafeteria.....7:00 am



THIS ISSUE IS ON THE WEB
edmondrotary.org



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The Rotary Club of
Edmonds



This issue is sponsored by:

The Rotary FOUR-WAY TEST

Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOOD WILL**
and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all
concerned?



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Upcoming Duty Roster

Invocators

2/15.....Jane Bloom
 2/22.....Warren Bradbury
 3/1.....Nancy Brown
 3/8.....Vern Chase

Greeters.

2/15.....Scott Springer
 2/22David Stern
 3/1.....Susan St Germain
 3/8.....Carl Swenson