



ROTARY: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

THE SPOKE

CLUB NEWSLETTER

JUNE 22, 2020

ISSUE NO. 271

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

June 23 - Michele Frets, Vine Maple Place

June 30 ~ New-officer induction

July 7 - Member spotlight
Hosea Bottley, Director
Aaversal Global Relocations

COMING EVENTS

Courage Ride - Canceled
(plans are being made for virtual ride)

Golf Tournament - Aug 28
High Cedars

Girls Night Out - Sept 25
The Kelley Farm. 6-10 pm

OFFICERS/DIRECTORS

President
Sam Suznevich

President-Elect
Sherm Voiles

Co-Secretary
Barbara Bitetto

Co-Secretary
Carmen Blankenship

Treasurer
Andy Elfers

Co-Treasurer
Barbara Bitetto

Past President
Brad Moericke

Directors
Mike Dobb
Pam Osborne
David Eidsaune
Scott Robbert

Chair of Rotary Foundation
Ed McConkey

Youth Services
Justin Watkins

Youth Protection Officer
Kathy Hayden

CLUB LINKS

[Rotary International](#)

[About Rotary](#)

[Joining Rotary](#)

[Rotary History](#)

[Rotary Foundation](#)

[For New Members](#)

SUMNER ROTARY CLUB

PO Box 272
Sumner, WA 98390
rotaryclubofsumner.org

Sumner Rotary Club conducts virtual meetings Tuesdays beginning at noon.

Tune in at
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87983647325>

Send articles/photos to The Spoke editor:
David Hammermaster
david@hammerlaw.org

CLUB MEETINGS

June 16 meeting
(10th Zoom meeting)

Guest Speaker

JENNY HONES
Reducing Clutter

Jenny introduced herself as an interior designer and a certified Feng Shui consultant from Blue Mountain Institute. She spoke about reducing clutter in your home, saying everyone suffers from too much stuff. "There are things that may be hard to come by and are difficult to get rid of." There are many reasons why:

1. Might need it
2. It was expensive
3. It was a gift
4. It has sentimental value
5. It is not replaceable

Clutter is defined as a large amount of things that are not arranged in a neat or orderly way. One technique to organize is to create whole forms, which means putting things into boxes or containers instead of letting them lie around. Non-whole forms become clutter and clutter takes away energy. "Clutter blocks our space, blocks our thinking and blocks our actions," she said. The benefits of decluttering include saving time, saving money and having less stress. She talked about the feeling of returning home from a trip or vacation. "You are happy to come home to a clean house. It replenishes your energy."

She says that decluttering is a modern trend because people have learned that when you change your space you change your energy. "Don't let your possessions control you, You must control your possessions," she stressed.

COVID 19 COMMUNITY FUND

Barb Bitetto announced that there is still \$2,200 in Rotary's Covid Fund and need to hand out to families, individuals or businesses in need in the Sumner-Bonney Lake community. The fund was set up by the Rotary board to help out needy local families and individuals adversely affected by the Covid-19 virus. Rotarians are asked to refer families or individuals who might need assistance.

President Sam announced that the City of Sumner has partnered with Sumner Rotary to help distribute \$20,000 the City has received to assist families or businesses in the city that need help as a result of the pandemic.

* Special guest was Tuure Heikkila, who joined the online meeting from his home in Finland. Tuure was a foreign exchange student who lived with the Suznevich family and is a familiar face among Rotarians. Tuure talked about his college and work experiences since attending high school in Sumner as an exchange student. He also talked about how his country is fairing during the Covid 19 pandemic.

June 2 meeting



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Eugene
Hammermaster



Gene is a long-time Sumner Rotarian and talked a lot about the early days of the organization. He said he is one of a handful of octogenarians in the club (those in their 80s.) He remembers as a Rotarian in World War II going to the Puyallup Fairgrounds to take soldiers to lunch and seeing Japanese families incarcerated there waiting to be taken to internment camps around the country.

Gene was born and raised in Puyallup where he graduated from high school in 1952. He went to the University of Washington, graduating from law school in 1958. He joined a Puyallup firm which later opened an office on Main Street in Sumner. The law office is still there today. He joined the Rotary Club in Sumner, which he said was one of only four clubs in the Seattle area, and served as president of the Sumner club in 1972. His son David served as club president in 2006. They are one of five father-son presidents going back to 1928, he said.

He talked fondly of old members, such as Pete Andrews, who had 52 years of perfect years of attendance. Pete's wife Jeanette never missed a meeting, even though at that time women weren't allowed to be members, Gene said. "She was club pianist. She didn't get paid, just got a bowl of soup."

Gene said one of the biggest changes in Rotary over the years, besides changing the rules to allow women to be members, was when the club choir stopped singing at club meetings. "I'd like to see that again. People came from other clubs to our meetings solely to participate in our choir."

Asked what Rotary means to him, Gene called it "the heart of the community."

STUDENT REPORT

Nick Yochum and Josh Lee, SHS officers, gave their last reports about goings-on at the school and thanked the Rotary for letting them be part of their meetings. "Thank you for giving us a voice," said Josh, adding that they probably took in more from Rotary than Rotarians learned about them. "We've learned a lot from your guys about the power of community." Nick told Rotarians, "It's been a complete gift to us to be able to come and speak to the most powerful people in the Sumner community."

Both Nick and Josh spoke passionately about the current unrest in the country over the police-caused death of George Floyd. Nick said he's had to do research to learn about the history of African Americans since he learned very little about them in school. "There was not a lot of exposure to them in school. I can count on two hands the number of African Americans there. I feel it is up to me to learn by myself."

Josh said he is one of those who are demanding justice for George Floyd. "I hope you are demanding justice with me. It all starts with us. Let's all stand for all that's right." Nick concluded by vowing to use privilege to change things for the better. "We can change the hearts and minds of the people around us."



HAPPY BUCKS

President Sam donated \$60 in recognition of his 60th birthday on June 24.

Barbara Riske donated \$65 for her recent 65th birthday.

May 26 meeting

Guest Speaker

KEVIN STOCKER

Former major league baseball player and now sports commentator for PAC 12 network sports

Kevin is a native Washingtonian who played baseball for the Washington Huskies and was named to the Husky Hall of Fame. He was drafted by Philadelphia Phillies in 1991 and called up to play two years later. With the Phillies he was the youngest shortstop to play in a World Series.

He remembers being drafted on first day of finals at UW. "I didn't get called until 11 pm even though it was a daytime draft because they didn't have his phone number. They tracked him down through my parents."

He immediately flew to Spartanville, S.C. to play on a minor league team and went straight from the airport to the ball field. He spent two years in the minors before being called up to the Phillies from a Triple A team in Scranton, Penn. He immediately played in his first big league game that lasted 20 innings. After the marathon game ended he was called to the manager's office where three coaches were waiting. "They who handed me a bat and immediately went to work on my swing."

The Phillies competed in the World Series that year against Toronto, best remembered for the home run by Gary Carter that won a game for Toronto. Kevin joked that every year his siblings tease him by texting him on Gary Carter's birthday and remind him of that famous home run.

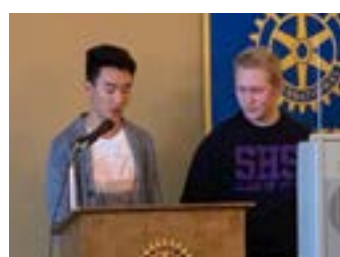
Kevin had a successful career with the Phillies where he played for five years before being traded to Tampa Bay where he spent three years. He finished his career in Anaheim. Looking back on special memories from playing professional baseball, Kevin remembers that first 20-inning game with the Phillies. He said talked with Lenny Dykstra in the tunnel just after Lenny had scored a crucial run. Lenny stuffed his mouth with chew, lit a cigarette and said to Kevin, "Welcome to the Big Leagues, kid." He said the hardest pitcher for him to face was Pedro Martinez, who threw 97-98 mph and had four different pitches. The hardest closer he faced was Mariano Rivera. "He threw fastballs that cut in on your hands 99 percent of the time"

He said retirement from baseball was his greatest challenge. "It was a wonderful ride. It took me five years for me not to want to play after I retired." He was later hired by CBS sports to do color commentary for pro and college baseball games and currently announces in the Pac 12 network. Now he says he has a new appreciation for sports announcers — how difficult it can be. He said one difference between announcing at the Big Leagues and college level is the accessibility of players. "College players are anxious to talk with you anytime but in the Big Leagues you have to set up interviews in advance." He learned early on to visit coaches and player before game and take notes so you could have tidbits to use during the game.

He said he never really dreamed about being a major league baseball player as many kids do. He enjoyed playing baseball but his real love was basketball. Baseball is where he was given opportunities. "My parents were real supportive and big believers in playing lots of sports. They made sure I tried everything."

NEW MEMBER

New member Curtiss Johnson was inducted into Rotary during the meeting. Trudy Bleirer conducted the induction. Curtiss is owner of the Inta Vintage Store in Sumner. He and his wife live in Graham and have two sons and two grandkids.



Josh Lee, left, and Nick Yochum gave regular reports from SHS at Rotary meetings.



DOWNTOWN CLEAN-UP

Sumner Rotarians have been pitching in to help clean up downtown Sumner to prepare for the reopening of businesses that have been closed due to the Covid-19 virus. Pictured left are President Sam Suznevich, Jerry Vanderberg and John Rader during a recent work party on Main Street.