

## A Message from President Rick

### A Historic Convention



A message from President Rick

My Colleagues in Service:

The 2002 RI Convention in Barcelona, Spain, will be one of the most significant events in Rotary's history. This meeting of Rotarians, invited from RI's 203 countries and geographical regions, will thrust Rotary onto the global stage as never before. Immense press and media coverage will record Rotary as a major player in world events, fighting terrorism, promoting peace and doing God's work on earth. This gathering of the world's leading citizens will proclaim to the nations of the world: *Mankind Is Our Business!*

In recent years, a decline in volunteers and funding has resulted in a struggle for local and global service organizations like Rotary. It was said that people were no longer interested in participating in organizations that improved their communities. But the events of 11 September have offered a new perspective on the value of Rotary and Rotarians. News reports and broadcasts have provided increased coverage of Rotary efforts this year by describing our role in supporting victims of terrorism in New York and Washington, D.C., our commitment to the Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution, our massive relief effort for refugees in

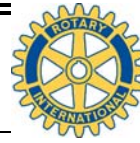
Afghanistan, our immunization of two billion children in the race to eradicate polio, and our tremendous growth in membership through Rotary's Global Quest. We also have enjoyed coverage of Rotary's popular Youth Exchange, scholarship, leadership, humanitarian and environmental programs.

These efforts and achievements will be the focus of discussion and celebration in Barcelona. A plenary session will be devoted solely to Rotary's core youth programs: RYLA, Youth Exchange, Interact and Rotaract. Global leaders and humanitarians will address the convention. American entertainer Jerry Lewis, who will perform and serve as a speaker, will receive the RI Award of Honor for his significant achievement in raising more than \$1.8 billion for muscular dystrophy. Mikhail Gorbachev, former president of the Soviet Union and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize for his role in ending the Cold War, will also receive the Award of Honor and address the convention. Gorbachev was the first Soviet head of state to invite Rotary into the country. Today, Russia has 70 clubs.

Other attractions will include a performance of the world-renowned Montserrat boys' choir and the presentation of Rotary's highest award - the Rotary Award for World Understanding and Peace. The four most outstanding district governors and four most outstanding club presidents who met the criteria of the Presidential Citation program will be recognized on stage and receive a special eagle plaque for their achievements. To honor the winners of the Global Quest membership drive, the district governors from the top five districts and the club presidents from the top 10 clubs will be recognized and receive a globe made of semiprecious stones. In addition, the International Institute will focus on issues of peace and conflict resolution. Workshops and seminars will examine the programs of The Rotary Foundation, membership growth, club development and Rotary's future.

Rotary is poised to become the most important nonprofit, nonreligious and nongovernmental organization in history. Every Rotarian in Barcelona will swell with renewed pride and enthusiasm for our global mission. You should join us. After all, we are engaged in the greatest work on earth because *Mankind Is Our Business!*

Richard D. King  
President, Rotary International



# The Four Way Flasher

Rotary Club of  
MeadowRidge Newsletter

Vol. 8 Issue 37  
April 2, 2002

Web-site: [www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge\\_Rotary](http://www3.telus.net/MeadowRidge_Rotary)

Meetings: Tuesday 12pm, Maple Ridge Library  
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INVOCATION April 2: Lindsay Hendy April 9: Diane Kirkland

### BINGO SCHEDULE BE ON TIME!

	3:30-5:00	5:00-6:30
Apr 11:	Brian Bekar	Kevin Nosworthy
Apr 25:	Mary Robson	Gordy Robson

Call Peter at 604-465-3392 for assistance or e-mail [pboekhorst@telus.net](mailto:pboekhorst@telus.net)

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Bonnie Telep, Brenda Findlayson and Andy Cleven from  
Maple Ridge Arts Centre & Theatre

NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM: Allison Maxwell from Pacific Riding for the Disabled Assn.  
(P.R.D.A.)

### CALENDAR OF CLUB EVENTS:

Date	Time	Event	Venue
Apr 2	5pm	Community Service Committee	Vernon & Thompson
Apr 4	12:30pm	WineZest Meeting	Library
Apr 18	7pm	MR Service Clubs Social Dinner	Ecra Senior Centre
Apr 20	7:30am-1:30pm	District Assembly	WWU
Apr 20	6pm	50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Haney Club	Meadow Gardens
May 11	7pm - 10pm	WineZest 2002	Maple Ridge Library
May 16		District Conference	Everett, Wa.
June 14		Installation Dinner	Meadow Gardens
June 23-26		RI Convention Barcelona	

50 / 50 draw - Jackpot at \$490 + 1/2 of today's sales, 25 cards, Jackpot on "Queen of Hearts" only!



## WineZest 2002, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 7 – 10pm, M.R. Library

### PART OF PROCEEDS TO M.R. ARTS CENTRE & THEATRE

Planning meetings are taking place weekly now and we are progressing at a steady pace (next meeting Thursday April 4<sup>th</sup>, 12:30pm. at the Library). We need participation from the entire club to make this event successful! So please if you haven't been asked, volunteer your services in any of the areas needed. For set-up and break down, speak to Betty (467-9387), for ticket sales talk to Ineke (463-3767), volunteer coordinator is Merlyn (465-7133), anything to do with the raffles see Stan (463-4753) , Silent Auction is chaired by Peter (465-3392), drop off point for raffle and silent auction items is Choc. by Grace as usual.



### EVERY MEMBER IS REQUIRED TO SUPPLY A MINIMUM OF 2 ITEMS FOR THE SILENT AUCTION OR (TRIP) RAFFLES!

And every member will be given 6 tickets to sell, cost of tickets is \$35.00 which covers all wine tasting and finger food sampling from 6 local restaurants + entertainment A SUPERB DEAL! Debbie Dunning is our (paid) assistant for this event (same Debbie Dunning that assisted with Sports' Banquet) You can reach her at 466-3972 and she will **harass** anybody that hasn't dropped off anything for the auction or hasn't submitted money for tickets sold etc.!

**SO PLEASE.....PARTICIPATE!!!!**

## 2 X 4 = 2 MINUTES OF ROTARY INFORMATION 4 TIMES PER MONTH

### This was last weeks 2x4: FUNCTIONAL LITERACY PROGRAM

It has been estimated that a billion people -- one-fourth of the world's population --are unable to read. Illiteracy of adults and children is a global concern in both highly industrialized nations and in developing countries. The number of adult illiterates in the world is increasing by 25 million each year! In the United States, one quarter of the entire population is considered functionally illiterate.

The tragedy of illiteracy is that those who cannot read lose personal independence and become victims of unscrupulous manipulation, poverty and the loss of human feelings which give meaning to life. Illiteracy is demeaning. It is a major obstacle for economic, political, social and personal development. Illiteracy is a barrier to international understanding, cooperation and peace in the world.

Literacy education was considered a program priority by Rotary's original Health, Hunger and Humanity Committee in 1978. An early 3-H grant led to the preparation of an excellent source book on the issues of literacy in the world. The Rotary-sponsored publication, *The Right to Read*, was edited by Rotarian Eve Malmquist, a past district governor from Linköping, Sweden, and a recognized authority on reading and educational research. The book was the forerunner of a major Rotary program emphasis on literacy promotion.

In 1985 the RI Board declared a ten-year emphasis on literacy education. In 1992, the board extended the emphasis until the year 2000. Many Rotary clubs are thoughtfully surveying the needs of their community for literacy training. Some clubs provide basic books for teaching reading. Others establish and support reading and language clinics, provide volunteer tutorial assistance and purchase reading materials. Rotarians can play a vitally important part in their community and in developing countries by promoting projects to open opportunities which come from the ability to read.

## PETS REPORT

When Ineke gave her report on her experience with PETS I listened, but had no association with the magnitude of the event. Various Rotarians who had gone to the seminar all told me that it would be a good experience, and I listened, but had no personal excitement about the event. I was, quite frankly, a bit dubious as to how I would contend with PETS, as I have never considered myself a participator in seminar's or conventions.

The past weekend has rejuvenated my outlook on the power of Rotary and it's ideals. Personally it was a life experience that I will not forget. I arrived home and could not stop relating to my wife Debbie the various things that the seminar inspired me to do. During a lunch the speaker asked us to stand up and turn to the nearest person in an adjoining table and within two minutes tell them as much about myself and extract as much about the participating person as possible. I have to tell you that, for a one who has been a self admitted social recluse, this was an extraordinarily difficult exercise.

I soon realised that the Rotarian I was involved with was not feeling anymore comfortable about the exercise than I was, but we warmed to each other's anxiety and spilled more about each other than we probable have done before to any other stranger. At a roundtable session we were asked to debate and offer solutions to the problem of grouping of individuals as to interest or age. . I found that many clubs that have been in existence for many years are quite polarised within their membership. Our table debated

the situation, and when it was time to choose a presenter, I was selected despite my efforts to diffuse my existence in the room. I think it went well as my presentation was warmly received. I could not get over the fact that within the Hotel confines there was not a single time that I was not genuinely greeted with a "Hello how are you" whether you were in a session or in the halls coming and going to your room. These were but one of many personal "shake-up" experiences that I was involved in during the weekend. I was told about the difference about being the member of a Rotary Club and BEING A ROTARIAN - the difference of putting in time, and GETTING INVOLVED. I now know the meaning behind the statement - EVERY ROTARY MEMBER MUST EXPERIENCE THE TRANSITION TO BECOMING A ROTARIAN.

PETS are one of many Rotary functions that inspire one to become a Rotarian. Every one in our Club should experience this. The one point of pride that I realised during the seminar is that our Club truly is an outstanding Club, both in its interesting and diverse membership and in the scope of involvement in Rotary Ideals and Programs. In every session, I realised that our Club was involved much more in the Four Avenues of Service than many other clubs. We should be proud of our accomplishments.

Many program ideas for the Four Avenues were presented to us, and I hope to share them with members in the upcoming year. Believe it or not the Polio Program is not over, and during the past weekend we were told that the last lap in the endeavour to eradicate Polio from the Planet has become the most challenging part of the Program. We have been asked by Rotary International to revisit the donation drive to eradicate this disease.

On a local note, I feel that our history within our community is important, and I feel we should make a concerted effort to document the commitment we have made to the service of Rotary International and to the contributions to Maple Ridge, and Pitt Meadows.

As I have said before, the PETS experience was truly an inspiring one, and it was comforting to know that there are hundreds of Rotary Clubs, all challenged with making our lives a better place to live in.

Stan Wade