

# ROTARY REACTOR



- Editor: Eric Livesay
- Publisher: Jan Jackson
- Editor Emeritus: Hal Ellner
- Web Site: [www.richlandrotaryclub.org](http://www.richlandrotaryclub.org)
- Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/RichlandRotaryClubWA/>

PO Box 37 • Richland, WA 99352  
 Meetings every Tuesday at 12:10 p.m.  
 451 Hills Street, North Richland  
 Charter 7390 • District 5080 • Club ID #262

**September Meetings**  
**15th** – Martha's Cupboard - Central United Protestant Pastor Kim Fields  
**21st** – State of Port of Benton - Diahann Howard  
**28th** – Social Distancing Zoom meeting

Secretary, and Jim Bauer will be happy to assist the volunteer in coming up to speed with the responsibilities of the role.

- New members are eligible for a dollar-for-dollar match in their progress towards a Paul Harris Recognition. Please contact President Jim Bauer for more information.

## Preliminaries

We meet via Zoom today due to the COVID-19 pandemic. President Elect Roy Keck brought the meeting to order. Cynthia Vaughn led us singing One Foot - "...You gotta put one foot in front of the other and lead with love..." – before we stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance. We had a moment of silence instead of an Invocation and then waved at each other through our Zoom windows.

- Sunrise Rotary Club is doing a drive for school supplies through HAPO in Richland this Saturday from 12-5. Donations are welcome.

- Reminder on our fundraiser. There are still several spots available on the Board for the Paul Harris Recognition. Please get ahold of Linda Bauer if you'd like to buy some squares. They're going fast - we sold several squares during today's meeting.

## Guests and Visiting Rotarians

There were no guests or visiting Rotarians.

## Judicial Session

We did not have a Judicial Session today.

## Announcements

- We are still looking for a volunteer to be the Club Secretary. Jeanne Dillner, our current

## Program – Grant McCallum – History of WWII Liberty Ships

Paul Harris Fellows	Officers
Judy Addis (3S)(B) Steve Arneson (1R) Jeremy Asmus (2S) Jim Bauer (4MD)(B) Linda Bauer (4MD)(B) Bob Best (2S)(B) Tom Bock (1R)(B) Blaine Carr (6S) Thomas A. Cowan (4S)(B) Bob De Lorenzo (D)(B) Jeanne Dillner (2S) Barbara French (D) Julie Funfar Linda Gilmore (2S) Jan Griffin (1S) Diahann Howard Jan Jackson (2S) Larry D. Jecha Darrel Johnsen (3S) Roy Keck	Phillip Koech Dave Larkin (D) Pamela Larsen (4S)(B) Bob D. Larson (4S)(B) Phil Lemley (2S) Tim Lewis (3S) Eric Livesay (1S) Jerry J. McGuire (2S)(B) Kathy Miller (5S) Greg Oberg (4S) (B) Thomas M. O'Brien (2S) Cindy Reents (1S) Dick Richter (2S) Robert Rivera Gary Scofield (4S)(B) Anjan K. Sen (1S) Chris Senske (6R) Rick Schulte Mike Sinclair Mark Smith (6S)(B)
Bob Tibbatts (2S) Cynthia Vaughn Sam R. Volpentest (2R)(B) Ken Williams (6S) Hal Williamson (4MD)(B)	President ..... Jim Bauer President Elect.....Roy Keck Secretary.....Jeanne Dillner Treasurer.....Dick Richter Foundation Treasurer.....Steve Arneson Past President.....Julie Funfar
	<b>Directors</b> Community Service.....Mike Sinclair Fellowship & Fund Raising.....Andrew Cook International Service.....Mike Winegardner Meeting Service.....Tom O'Brien Membership.....Teri LeBlanc New Generations.....Joan Wright Public Relations.....Jeremy Asmus

Our Club's own Grant McCallum presented today. Grant joined Rotary in 1991 and served as our Club President during the 2010/2011 Rotary year. Today he shared with us his experience working on a Liberty ship, a class of cargo ship built during WWII, for a summer after he graduated from high school.

Liberty ships are famous for their all-welded construction. During WWII there were a total of 18 shipyards operating in the USA; two were building ships for Great Britain and 16 were building ships for the USA. In total, 2710 Liberty ships were built between 1941 and 1945. In 1940, the British government ordered 60 ocean-class freighters from American yards to replace war losses and boost the merchant fleet. A Liberty ship's crew consisted of approximately 42 crew members including those in the Deck, Engine and Steward's Departments.

Grant spent his first summer at sea on the SS Nenana, a Liberty ship that was originally laid down in 1944 as the SS Felix Riesenbergh by the American West African Line, Inc. The ship departed the USA in a convoy in January 1945 and arrived in Liverpool, England in February 1945. In 1951, the Riesenbergh was sold to the Pacific Waterways Corp and was sold again, in March 1959, to the Alaska Steamship Company with whom it was renamed the SS Nenana. In August 1969, she provided Grant McCallum his first job after high school. The SS Nenana was scrapped in Taiwan in 1972.

Grant has his father to thank for his time on the SS Nenana. His dad, a member of the Merchant Marine himself, came home one day and announced he had figured out how to pay for Grant's college. Soon thereafter, Grant was a member of the Marine Fireman, Oiler, Watertender & Wipers Union (MFOWW) and boarded the SS Nenana in Astoria, Oregon on August 9, 1969. That first summer he traveled to Seattle, Bremerton, Ketchikan via the Inside Passage, Seward, AK via the Bering Sea, through the Aleutians to Kvichek Bay and onto Nome, AK. He sailed in the summers of 1970, 1971, 1972 and 1973 to Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Thailand and Singapore – he was in Vietnam in the (harrowing) summers of 1971 and 1973. The wages he earned during those summers paid for his expenses for one year of college. Tuition in those days was \$860/year.

Seventeen Liberty ships were named for African Americans: the first for Booker T. Washington, was christened in 1942 by Marian Anderson, herself an African American contralto and a key figure in the battle for equal rights. Other ships were named for Harriet Tubman, George Washington Carver and Frederick Douglass. This was at a time when the US Army and US Navy were still almost totally racially segregated.

In 1942, Captain Hugh Mulzac, an African American, was offered the command of the SS Booker T. Washington. He refused because the entire crew was to be black saying that "...under no circumstances will I command a Jim Crow vessel." Once his insistence on commanding an integrated crew was met, he served as captain over a crew of 18 nationalities.

After Grant's presentation, Jan Griffin shared a story about the SS Jeremiah O'Brien (<https://www.ssjeremiahobrien.org/>), one of the last remaining Liberty ships which has been turned into a museum in San Francisco Bay. In 1994, the O'Brien participated in the 50th Anniversary of the D-Day landings, sailing from San Francisco, through the Panama Canal, across the Atlantic to England and France and then back again. Jan was out on the water in San Francisco Bay when the O'Brien came home. On seeing the ship during a visit to San Francisco, a British friend of Jan's was brought to tears when she saw it saying "They saved us, these ships saved us" during WWII.

### Next Week

Pastor Kim Fields from Central United Protestant Church will speak to us about Martha's Cupboard, a Central outreach program providing ordinary household products and food for low income families.

**Be Involved**