



# THE WINDJAMMER

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**UPCOMING**  
(MEETING  
DETAILS WILL BE  
ANNOUNCED BY  
PRESIDENT AT  
MEETING - TBA)

**GREETERS**  
**February 16**  
David Wetzel  
Aaron Morrison

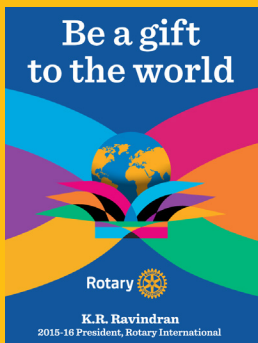
**February 23**  
Robin Thomas  
Steve Hamilton

**March 1**  
Sandy Williams  
Mindy Kissner

**March 8**  
Millie Ryan  
Clark Gruening



2015-2016 Rotary  
International Theme:



## This Week's Program: Mark Miller, Juneau School District Superintendent - Education Update

(EXCERPTS FROM JUNE 2014 JUNEAU EMPIRE ARTICLE USED IN THE  
ABSENCE OF A BIOGRAPHY)



Miller, who served as assistant superintendent of human resources for California's Hayward Unified School District the past two years, is stepping into his first role as superintendent. With 10 years of teaching and 10 years of administrative experience under his belt, he feels ready to take on the top job for an entire district.

Miller was one of three finalists interviewed by the board for the superintendent position, which opened up when Glenn Gelbrich announced in March he'd be resigning at the end of the school year. The other two candidates were Angela Lunda, of Hoonah, and Rick Williams, of Richardson, Texas.

Miller's three children are all grown and have their own careers and lives, so they won't be moving to Juneau with him, he said. His daughter curates art shows and does visual marketing for companies like Nordstrom. His oldest son has a master's degree in computer engineering and designs computer chips. His youngest son counsels patients with drug and alcohol addictions and is working on his master's degree in counseling.

"They all texted me, because that's what they do, 'Congratulations, we can't wait to come visit,'" Miller said. "I'm clearly going to have to find a place (in Juneau) that has a couple of bedrooms and a couple of bathrooms."

As for Miller, he's a self-professed "Renaissance man" who hasn't found an outdoor activity he doesn't like. He even likes running in the rain, he said. All told, he's excited to begin work in July.

"This has been whirlwind for me; a week ago I wasn't even on an airplane going to Juneau," Miller said. "Now I'm thrilled to be named superintendent and wrapping my head around this whole thing."

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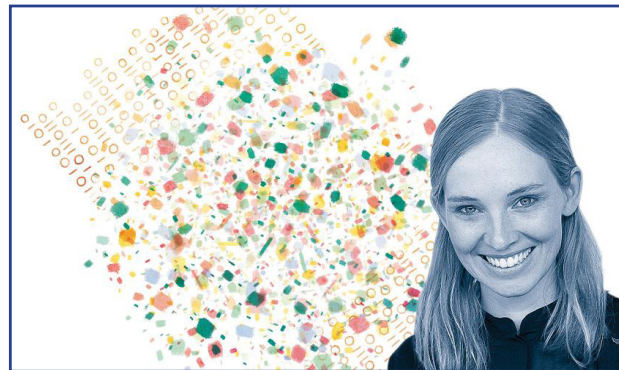
Wayne Stevens

## PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR

Our Tri-Club Rotary Food Drive is scheduled for Saturday, March 12th. We'll be at the food entrance of Fred Meyer (times to be announced). The Girl Scouts, who have graciously given up one of their entrances, will be at the customer service entrance.



## ROTARIAN MAGAZINE: POWER UP



“The world sees Germany as a country of hope and chances,” German Chancellor Angela Merkel declared last September, as refugees fleeing war and conflict in Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere were streaming into her country in unprecedented numbers. As of November, 792,000 people had made the journey to Europe by

boat since the beginning of 2015, with the majority ending up in Germany. There, they receive food, clothing, medical attention, and shelter while they wait for their claims to be evaluated and the government to decide if they can stay.

Watching the crisis unfold in Berlin last year, Anne Kjaer Riechert saw a need – and an opportunity. Riechert, originally from Denmark, studied at International Christian University in Japan as a Rotary Peace Fellow in 2010-12 and helped set up Stanford University’s Peace Innovation Lab in Berlin the following year. “What we are trying to do is to bring people working in innovation, technology, user interface, start-ups, entrepreneurs – people with a lot of ideas – together with NGOs and people with social causes,” she says. “In April, when the refugee crisis was starting, we did a lot of interviews with refugees and social workers and brainstormed ideas.” One of the projects that resulted was Refugees on Rails.

The name is a twist on Ruby on Rails, a simple coding language used for building websites. In recent years, so many tech companies have launched in Berlin that there aren’t enough coders to meet the demand. When Riechert and two fellow tech entrepreneurs saw that refugees had nothing to occupy their time while they waited for their asylum claims to be processed, they realized that teaching these new arrivals how to code could help solve their industry’s labor issue while giving refugees an in-demand skill that could help their chances of success as they rebuild their lives in a new country.

Refugees on Rails launched a used-laptop donation drive, which brought in hundreds of computers for refugees to learn on. As word of the project spread throughout the start-up community, Riechert says, the enthusiastic response convinced the organizers that their idea should be expanded to at least three more German cities with large refugee populations.

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<https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/news-media/power>

*Thanks to AK Litho/CopyWorks, for printing The Windjammer!*