

Meet Jack Jacobson

Introduction by Connie Miller

Today I have the pleasure of introducing to you our new member Jack Jacobson, Classification Retired. Jack epitomizes for me the entrepreneurial leader.

He grew up in South Africa and went to school in London at Kings College, studying physics and then came to the US via a post doctoral fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania. In addition he received an MBA at Harvard.



After school he participated in a variety of roles, each one utilizing his experience from the previous one. He spent 18 years as an executive with Teradyne an electronics firm creating equipment for manufacturers of semiconductors. During this time the firm grew from an early stage company to a global company.

Subsequently he joined a medical device startup as a principal to develop the operational and financial functions. Together with the two founders they took the company to a successful exit.

Medical devices became his passion because of the inherent value of the products, the challenge of producing devices safe for human use and the financial stability of the market. He applied his knowledge of and experience with devices to consult on the commercializing of medical device innovation. In parallel, he volunteered with the MIT Venture Mentoring Service and got great satisfaction from mentoring the leaders of early stage and emerging companies.

In his next role he was a co-founder, chair, and CEO of a company developing minimally invasive devices. Again, he increased his leadership capacity by designing and using organizational methods and structures that allowed them to bring devices to market much more quickly than normal.

In 2009 he retired and moved to the Seattle area to join his partner, Linda Kumin, who is here today. One of the reasons I so enjoyed conversing with Jack is his leadership wisdom gained through years of studying and creating ways to lead people. Here are some of the leadership ideas he mentioned to me:

- When you empower the world's women the problems will begin to go away
- Eliminating fear - which is very difficult – is crucial to engaging your people
- Empower your people and enable them to maximize themselves

- The ultimate goal of leadership is that the people should feel they did it themselves

In joining Rotary, Jack is acting on his wish to diversify his relationships and come to appreciate a wider range of viewpoints and values. In addition, he wishes to increase his giving back and sees Rotary's service vision as a wonderful way to do this. Currently he is a mentor of life sciences entrepreneurs and also works with an organization called Learning Ally that creates audio books for sight impaired learners and reading challenged students. He is looking forward to expanding on those activities by participating on the Education and International Service Committees.

Jack came to Rotary thanks to **Larry Granat** and **Roberta Greer**, his proposers.

Please join me in welcoming him.