

Meet Taylor Shimizu

Introduction by Rob LoBosco

My fellow Rotarians, I hope to introduce to you our newest, and I believe youngest, member, Taylor Shimizu. I say hope because Taylor is so outgoing and friendly, most of you have probably already met her by now.

Meeting Taylor is meeting optimism, energy, and determination in one convenient package. Which makes it so hard to believe that just six months ago, life dealt her one of its many cruel blows.

She had just returned from a two-week vacation with her boyfriend, and intended fiancé, C.J., when he died of cardiac arrest. No warnings. No signs. A life cut short at twenty-nine years. Taylor, by the way, is twenty-four.



So, here she stands as a new member of Seattle Rotary, ready to move on, meet new friends, and new challenges. This was part of her plans. She had discussed it with C.J., who worked at Russell Investments with Ben Linford, and did business with fellow-Rotarian, Derryl Willis. It just wasn't part of her immediate plans.

That changed in October, when shortly after C.J.'s passing she visited us for the second time. It just happened to be the day Derryl Willis was introduced. She knew then that she belonged here, that Seattle Rotary would provide a route to her future with a secure connection to her past. That bold step perfectly captures her essence. Grieving? Yes. Giving in? Never. Not Taylor.

We're fortunate to have her. She's passionate about service, and people, especially kids. She eventually wants to get involved in international service. In college, she volunteered for Side-by-Side, a Ronald McDonald House program to help families with kids at Children's Hospital. And she has volunteered for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society since 2014.

Taylor is the Communications Director of the 12,000-strong Young Professionals of Seattle, and she intends to recruit her fellow young professionals to Rotary. She's even brought one with her today: Ryan Evans with Atlas Workbase. I think we're all going to have learn how to speak Millennial soon.

Taylor works as an account executive for Intersection, a technology and media company connecting cities and people. Her manager, Matt Pelleteri, is with us today, as well. Media is definitely her thing. She interned at Comcast Spotlight, and at KING-5, where she met Mark Wright. She returned to KING-5 after college, but not before a brief stint at Microsoft—definitely not her thing. She hopes to combine her love of media with her love of sports. Let's all stay tuned for that.

Taylor was born and raised in Seattle, one of two children of a Japanese father and a Chinese mother. She graduated from Kentridge High School and the University of Washington, where she earned a degree in Marketing. At the UW, she was on the board of the UW Consulting Organization, and took the course associated with our own Business Mentors committee. Nyasha Tunduwani was her mentor.

She already knows that she wants to live here for the rest of her life, close to her family and friends. She's even determined to beat Jim McCurdy's 68-year Seattle Rotary record. Don't do the math, it's too depressing.

Please join me in thanking her proposers, Margaux Kendall and Mark Wright, and welcoming Taylor to Seattle 4!