



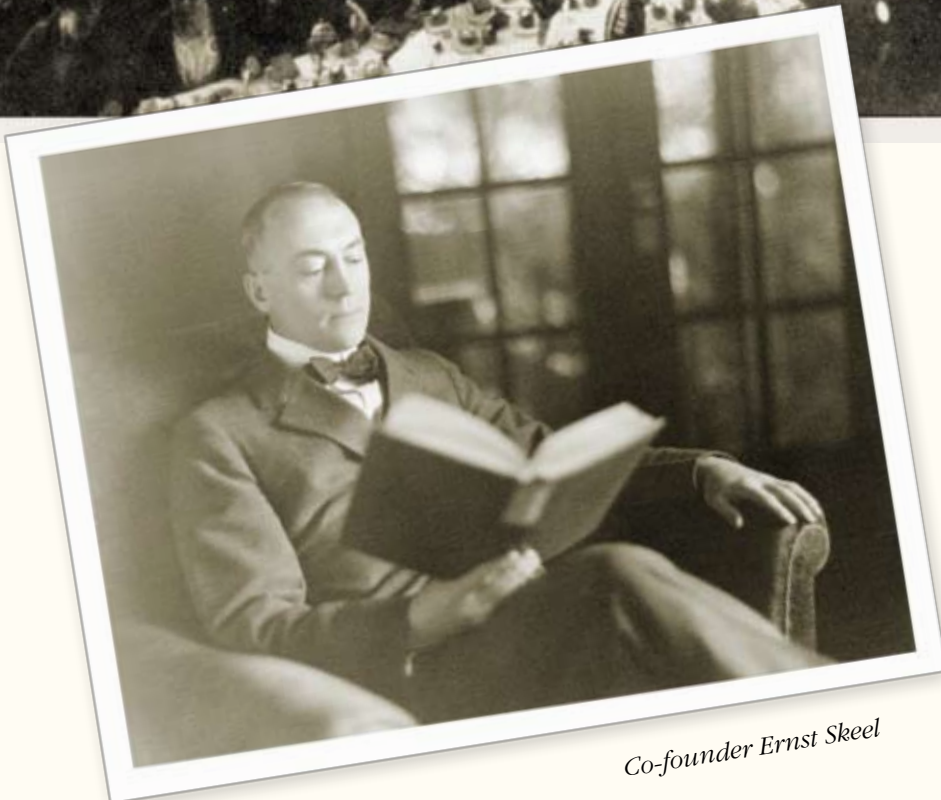
*Celebrating
a Century
of Rotary
in the
Pacific
Northwest*



Rotary Club of Seattle



1921 District Conference banquet, including 2100 attendance -- at the Hippodrome, now site of the IBM Building



Co-founder Ernst Skeel

The legacy

The Rotary Club of Seattle, 100 years old on June 15, 2009, is a remarkable organization.

Contemplate what has transpired since nine young men first met at the Olympus Café in Seattle. The club has...

... become the fourth oldest of more than 32,000 Rotary clubs, which have 1.2 million members in nearly 200 countries and geographical regions around the globe.

... grown to become the largest of all Rotary clubs, now with nearly 700 members.

... pioneered the ideal of service as the core value of Rotary.

... led the way in sharing Rotary locally, regionally and across the Pacific.

... contributed consistently – and sometimes even monumentally – to the well-being of the Greater Seattle community.

... excelled as an innovative leader and active participant in Rotary's World Community Service.

... gained a reputation as the premiere speakers' forum in the Northwest.

... developed a unique bond of fellowship among business, professional and community leaders who share a commitment to service.

So, as Number Four turns 100, this is a story of a rich historic legacy and an exciting vision for the future.

Building on a century of service



In the spring of 2009, the Rotary Support Center for Families becomes a major fortress in the fight against family homelessness in King County.

As their Centennial Project, Seattle Rotarians contributed the first \$4 million to put wind beneath the wings of the new Center. This was crucial to its becoming a reality.

Family Services has been helping families and children in Seattle since 1892. The new Center – the agency’s first permanent home – will bring together vital services for homeless and at-risk families in one convenient location.

Imagine a welcoming, comprehensive center where caring staff and friendly volunteers offer housing solutions, individual and group counseling, parenting classes, quality child care, essential supplies such as diapers and clothing, and more.



Seattle Rotary and Family Services share a vision of providing lasting solutions that will effectively prevent and end homelessness for 5,000 families over the next 10 years. The new Center will create positive change now and into future generations.

The selection of Family Services began with nominations of 41 worthy projects by the members of Seattle Rotary in 2005. A selection committee performed due diligence and narrowed the choice to four excellent candidates who presented their plans to the club in May 2006.

The final choice was made with input from club members, who helped decide where the Rotary Club of Seattle could make the most significant impact over many years.

The project is considered by many as the largest service project ever undertaken by a single service club anywhere in the world.

It is a fitting demonstration of dedication to “Service Above Self” by Rotary’s largest and fourth-oldest club in its effort to build on a century of service.

How it all started



“The Seattle Club came into the movement in the nick of time. It was born in the mental travail of two great Rotarians – Pinkham and Skeel. Its influence on the Rotary movement was far greater than was generally known.” –

Paul Harris

In 1905 a young lawyer named Paul Harris, who was a newcomer to Chicago, thought, “Why not – even in big, bustling Chicago – have a fellowship composed of one person from each of many occupations, without restrictions as to their politics or religion and with broad tolerance of each other’s opinion?”

That February, Harris met with a coal dealer, a mining engineer, a merchant tailor, a printer, a real-estate agent and a piano manufacturer. He outlined his plan for mutual cooperation and informal friendship. They soon started “rotating” meetings from one member’s place of business to another. Thus, Rotary was born.

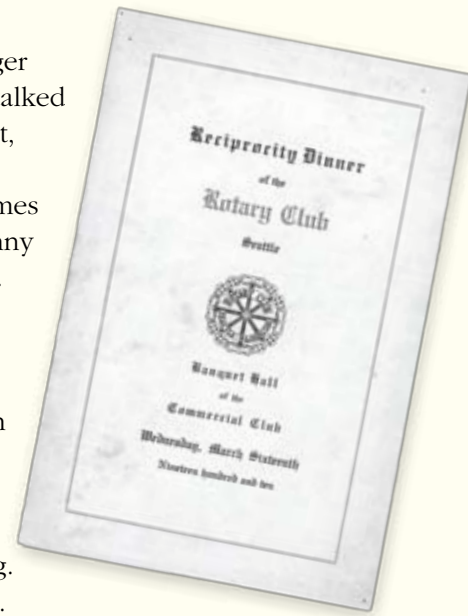
They used first names. They emphasized attendance, fellowship and cooperation. They soon grew into a diverse membership. The original concept focused on “reciprocity,” meaning helping each other in their businesses.

Go west, young club

Paul Harris started corresponding with Homer Wood, a lawyer in San Francisco who organized club #2 in November 1908, and with Arthur Holman, club #3 in Oakland.

Holman was the San Francisco manager for Travelers Insurance and, in 1909, talked about Rotary to his Seattle counterpart, Roy Denny. The Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition was getting under way. Times were good. Seattle was booming. Denny and others welcomed the Rotary idea.

The founding members met every day for three weeks in May 1909, agreeing on what Rotary should mean and what it should do. Then, on June 15, 1909, nine men met at the Olympus Café and Rotary in the Pacific Northwest was off and running. Within a year there were 85 members.



Planting “the seed of service”

Three men emerged as leaders of the new Seattle club – and ultimately of the Rotary movement. They were Roy Denny, the insurance man who at 31 became the first president; Jim Pinkham, 27, a lumber wholesaler, and Ernst “Ernie” Skeel, a 28-year-old lawyer.

At the initial national meeting in Chicago in 1910, Skeel helped draft Rotary’s first constitution. He said: “Reciprocity, in the largest sense, means not just getting but also giving. We should be willing to give our time and money to ideas which uplift our people.” Thus, the seed of service – a seed that has grown and flourished over the past century, was planted in Rotary.



Roy Denny



Jim Pinkham



Ernst Skeel

He profits most who serves best

Pinkham, Skeel and Denny all went to the second national convention in Portland in 1911. Denny was national vice president.

Pinkham, as chair of the Resolution Committee, said: “Rotary membership is both a responsibility and a privilege. If one is met and the other used, the result will be progressive efforts for good. He profits most who serves best.”

Those last six words, “he profits most who serves best,” had been in a report sent in from the Committee on Business Methods. When that report was read, Pinkham jumped to his feet and said, “Here is a positive affirmation packaged in six words. It should be put into Rotary’s platform.” The conventioners agreed with a “bomb-burst of applause.” By many, that is seen as a defining moment in the development of Rotary. “He profits most who serves best” served Rotary for over half a century and evolved into today’s “Service Above Self.”

How Rotary became the first “Service Club”

Ernie Skeel wrote the original Five Objects of Rotary, most of which remains today in Rotary’s Object of Rotary, with its four avenues of service.

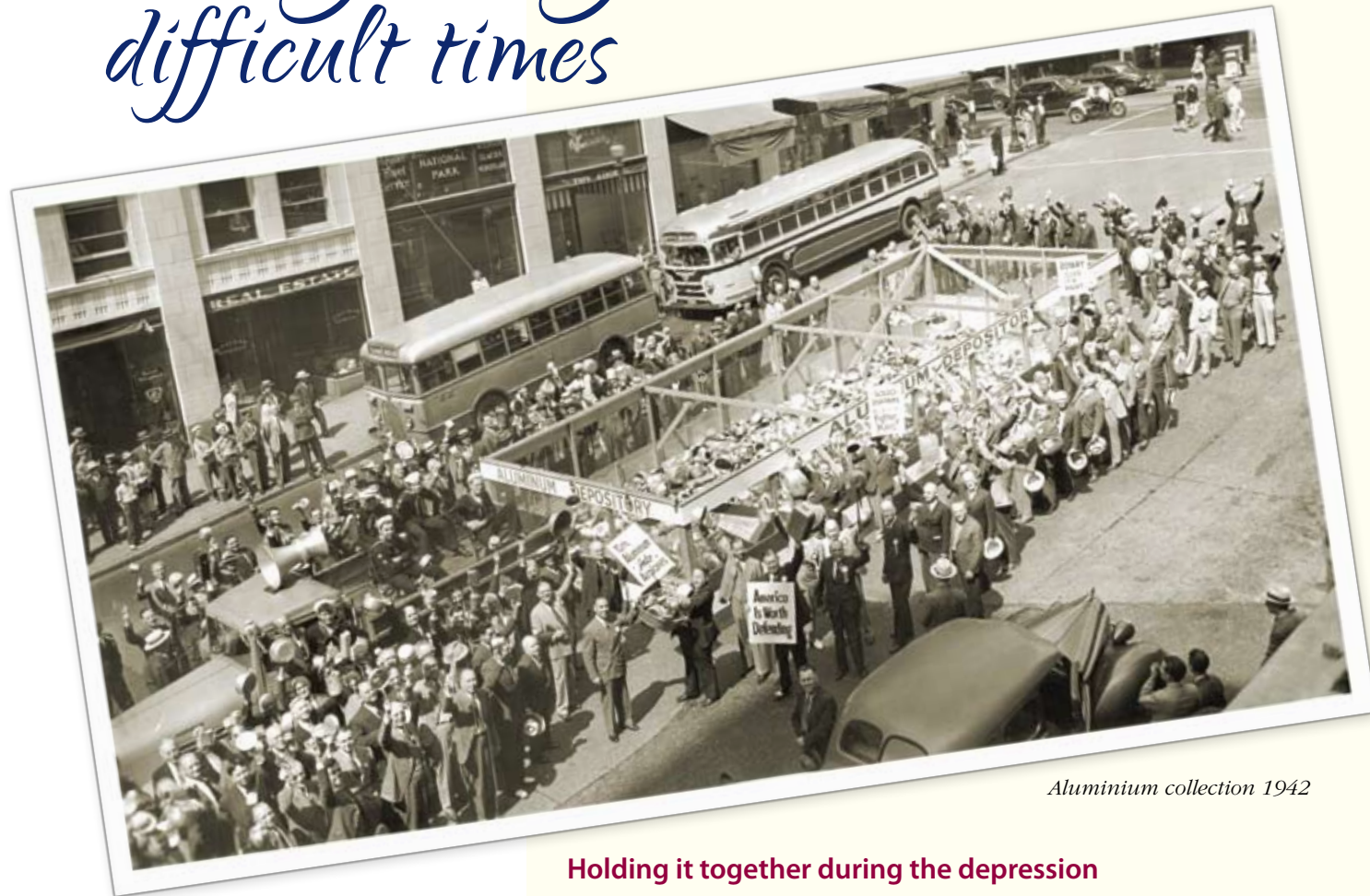
Skeel’s fifth object read: “To quicken the interest of each member in the public welfare and to cooperate with others in civic development.” When that idea was adopted at the 1911 convention, Rotary became the world’s first service club.

In a 1941 letter, Paul Harris said, “I can’t tell you how large Pinkham, Skeel and Denny loomed up in those formative days...as authors of the ‘Seattle Platform’ taken over by International.”

Rotary serves in World War I

During World War I, Seattle Rotary had more than 300 members – and faced its first test as a real service club. The club sold Liberty Bonds, entertained servicemen, and sent money for children in war-torn Europe. In 1919, they helped veterans in job-training classes.

Growing through difficult times



Aluminium collection 1942

Roaring into high gear in the Twenties

During the 1920s, Seattle Rotarians raised \$50,000 to help Children's Orthopedic Hospital – contributions worth over \$1 million in today's dollars.

They also bought a site for a Boy Scout camp on Mercer Island, named it Camp Rotary, and financed the camp supervisor and two scout masters. Imagine what that property would be worth today!

Holding it together during the depression

When the Great Depression struck, donations were hard to come by. The Club transferred Camp Rotary to the Scouts, who kept it for 20 years and sold it for enough to build a large camp in Snohomish County.

The Seattle club hosted an extremely successful international convention in 1932 at the "spacious and comfortable Civic Auditorium." Considering the economy, the attendance of 5,159 from 53 countries was truly remarkable.

In the mid-Thirties, membership declined as many could not pay their dues. Yet, somehow the Seattle club raised \$800 for improvements for Boy Scout Camp Parsons.

When the Olympic Hotel announced that the price of lunch was going up to a dollar, Seattle Rotary said 85 cents was all they would pay. The hotel obliged.

On the international front, Hitler outlawed Rotary in the Third Reich.

Serving on the home front during WWII

During the four years of World War II, Seattle Rotarians diligently got behind the war effort, both as individuals and as a club. Twenty-two members enlisted in the armed services, as did 286 of their sons and daughters. Nine did not return.

Rotarians helped start the Seattle Blood Bank, entertained service personnel, helped at the USO, assisted with recruiting for the armed forces and Boeing, and helped find housing for war workers.

In 1942, club members provided materials for construction of a 43-room guesthouse for wives and mothers of service personnel.

Rotarians took over Victory Square on University Street for war bond sales. One year, they broke all records by topping \$7 million in sales, \$1 million of it in one day. They also led a drive to collect aluminum pots and pans in the Square, hoisting signs that read: "America is worth defending" and "Turn aluminum into airplanes."

Laying the foundation for great things to come

By 1940, the club was being deluged with so many appeals from worthy causes that it formed the Rotary Youth Foundation to give more focus and impact to future service projects. Known as the Seattle Rotary Service Foundation since 1968, the Foundation has enabled the club to make major contributions to the community over the past 60 years.

Hosting a second R.I.convention

When Seattle played host to Rotarians of the world in 1954, there were three memorable highlights: 3,000 guests being hosted in 254 Seattle-area homes (a first); a keynote address by Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, and the magnificence of Puget Sound scenery. The Convention went into the record books as a resounding success.

"Let us as Rotarians pledge to give of ourselves without stint of effort or sacrifice to the end that the ideals of Rotary may once again be established throughout the world."

-- Statement by club president W. Walter Williams, three days after Pearl Harbor



- To promote acquaintance in 1912, Ernie Skeel and E. G. Shorrock devised various contests to see who could go around the room and identify the name and business of the most members.
- April 30, 1913 was booster day for the Golden Potlatch, Seattle's new summer festival. The president of Potlatch was a Rotary member.
- Several 1913 meetings were devoted to understanding the Port Commission's proposed development for Harbor Island.
- In 1914, half the members were given a number and half a letter. If "5" didn't know "E", he bought the cigars and they proceeded to get chummy.
- Debates were held in 1914 on such current issues as Panama Canal tolls, construction of an Alaskan railroad and the "Mexican situation."
- Tacoma Rotary sent a delegation to Seattle in 1916, urging help in changing the name of Mount Rainier to Mount Tacoma.
- By 1917, heavy emphasis on reciprocity vanished. It became understood that any business between members was based on "personality, reputation and ability" rather than upon a sense of obligation.

Service has been multiplied by sharing Rotary

In the past century, Rotary in the Greater Pacific Northwest has grown from nine members to an army of 31,000 in nearly 600 clubs – all dedicated to the goal of "Service Above Self."

Seattle has led the way in sharing Rotary perhaps as much as any club in the world. Between 1910 and 1920, Seattle #4 established Tacoma #8, Portland #15, Spokane #21, Vancouver #61, Victoria #90 (the first two in Western Canada), as well as Everett, Bellingham, Yakima, Aberdeen and Centralia.

In 1919, Roger Pinneo, a steamship executive and Seattle past president, founded the first clubs in Asia – Manila and Shanghai. In 1920, Seattle organized Ketchikan #2000, the first club in Alaska.

In 1937, Kirkland became the second club in King County. Seattle led the way again in 1939 when it organized the University District club. This was the first time any club had ever relinquished territory within its own city.

Seattle Rotary salutes its "offspring" and is the first to recognize that sheer size is no measure of true Rotary service. One dedicated true Rotarian can often be the equal of one hundred spectators.

- Seattle sponsored Tacoma, Portland and Spokane, which became clubs #8, 15 and 21. All have contributed mightily to sharing Rotary in the Northwest.
- Vancouver and Victoria were the first clubs in Western Canada – both chartered by Seattle.
- In 1919, Seattle established clubs in Manila and Shanghai, the first Rotary Clubs in Asia.
- Seattle's sponsorship of Ketchikan in 1920 led to Rotary throughout Alaska. (Now with 37 clubs and 1900 members.)
- Everett, Bellingham, Yakima, Aberdeen and Centralia were sponsored between 1916 and 1920.



Rotary Club of Seattle

Seattle Rotary has sponsored 10 clubs in District 5030, which have in turn sponsored 17 clubs, which have in turn sponsored 23 clubs, which have in turn sponsored 5 clubs. The total is now 55.

Working together locally and globally



Over the years, Rotarians in this area and around the world have accomplished great things by working together. Here are a few impressive examples:

Feeding hungry families

Rotary First Harvest was started in 1982 when members of the University Rotary Club began encouraging backyard gardeners to plant extra produce to share with the hungry. This evolved into collecting surplus produce from farmers across the state and moving it into large warehouses equipped to handle thousands of pounds of food in one donation.

Eventually it became more than one club could handle and District 5030 agreed to make it a district project. RFH continues to receive financial and hands-on support from Rotarians throughout the area. Since 1982 it has gathered more than 130 million pounds of produce for food banks in Washington and other parts of our region.



Saving lives a half a world away

Every year for 12 years, an army of Seattle-area Rotarians has traveled to Ethiopia to administer polio vaccines to children. The program, started by University Rotarian Ezra Teshome (a native of Ethiopia), has been supported by scores of Rotarians, here and in Ethiopia. For most it has been a life-changing event. One Seattle member relates this experience:

As we walked through the village, a shy little girl got curious and came too close. I reached out and tickled her. We walked up a trail together to a school where 100 children were to be vaccinated. When we headed back to the village in the morning sun more children joined us. The girl, holding my hand – in a beautiful pure tone – started to sing a simple two-word song, to which all the other children and myself responded in chorus. We sang all the way back to the village. I have never been closer to heaven.

Giving a hand to Pakistanis in need

The Pakistan Earthquake of 2005 ravaged large parts of the country. Led by a \$50,000 Seattle Rotary contribution and supported by 17 other local clubs as well as the Islamabad Cosmopolitan Rotary Club and CARE USA, a large water and waste-water project was focused on one of the hardest-hit areas. It benefited 21,000 people living in 3,000 households in 30 communities.

Other accomplishments through cooperation

- Hosting hundreds of Soviet citizens during the 1990 Goodwill Games.
- Sending 500 tons of goods, including clothing and medical supplies to struggling Russian citizens in 1992.
- Helping build a primary school in tiny Shuiyu, China in 1998 -- with clubs from Australia, Hong Kong and Japan.
- Providing over 1,000 boxes of food to starving children in North Korea in 1999.
- Aiding victims of the 2004 Southeast Asia Tsunami with money and supplies.
- Supporting relief efforts after Hurricane Katrina in 2005.





One club serving thousands of kids for 65 years

In 1944, Seattle's Rotary Youth Foundation embarked on its first major project, one that is still a source of Rotary involvement and pride 65 years later.

In the beginning, it was called the George Colman Boys Club and was located in the basement of Plymouth Congregational Church where it served 300 boys. Today, it is the Rotary Boys and Girls Club serving over 950 young people.

In 1947, the club affiliated with the Boys Clubs of America, but was still operated entirely by Rotary. Its mission was to provide leisure-time activities under

trained leadership and guidance for 7-to-18-year-old boys, regardless of race, religion, creed or color.

By the early 1950s, it became apparent that the Boys Club had outgrown its space in the church, so \$175,000 was raised to build a first-class clubhouse at 19th and East Spruce. Ground was broken during the R.I. Convention in June 1954, with Seattle Rotary's first president Roy Denny taking part in the ceremonies.

That was one of the greatest moments in Club #4's history. It had the vision to see a major need in the community.



Now known as the Rotary Boys and Girls Club – or “the Rotary,” as the kids call it – it continues to have substantial Rotarian involvement. In 1987, Rotarians donated \$450,000 to add a new floor for the Rotary Educational Assistance Program (REAP), which provides tutoring and mentoring to help youth reach their full potential.

From 2001-2003, an additional \$375,000 was provided to the Rotary Boys & Girls Club for capital improvements.

Rotarians continue to serve as board members, mentors and donors. The club's Learning Center and its new Computer Lab were made possible by the generosity of individual Rotarians.

It had the will and the resources to get the job done. And it had the commitment and staying power to see it through. The Boys Club's membership jumped from 470 to 716 during its first year in the new location.

The Rotary Youth Foundation continued to support and operate the club for the next 13 years.

Then in 1967, to allow Seattle Rotary to take on new projects, the club's operation was phased over to the Boys Clubs of Seattle-King County. In 1968, the Foundation's name was changed to the Seattle Rotary Service Foundation to more accurately reflect its scope of activities.



Landmark projects



Talk about "heart"...

One of Seattle Rotary's most exciting joint ventures began in 1971 when Rotarian Gordon Vickery, Seattle's Fire Chief, convinced the club that more lives could be saved by one well-equipped medical unit than by an additional fire engine.

In a program called Medic II, the club not only bought a fully-equipped Medic I vehicle, but also financed a three-year CPR training program and a training film that was shown in cities around the world where similar programs were being considered.

Largely because of Medic I, Seattle is often called "the best place in the world to have a heart attack" – thanks in large part to the role Seattle Rotary played in breathing life into this innovative program 38 years ago.

Helping young people get jobs

Unemployment among youth has always been a challenging community problem, particularly when the economy takes a dive. That's why Seattle Rotary started the Rotary Youth Job Center in 1978. It helped young people learn the skills needed to get jobs. By the mid-1980s, the Center was transferred to the YMCA.

At age 75, the club became a TV star

A group of past presidents met in August 1983 to discuss the club's 75th anniversary, to be celebrated the following June. After the usual brainstorming, one of them said, "Why don't we give a birthday gift to the community?" Another added, "Good idea, let's make a \$75,000 gift to some worthwhile cause." A third chimed in, "Why be so chintzy? Let's raise \$750,000 and do something worthy of Seattle Rotary's 75th anniversary." Thus the decision was made.

By September, the project was selected. KCTS-TV, Channel 9, had outgrown its crowded quarters on the University of Washington campus and was about to launch its first-ever capital campaign to build a state-of-the-art facility independent of the University. It was a good cause: a valued community service that brought information, education and entertainment to millions of viewers, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Rotary could make a huge contribution by spearheading the campaign!



Originally a goal of \$2 million was set, with \$750,000 targeted to come from Rotarians. As the campaign gained momentum, it ultimately topped \$3 million – with \$1 million coming from Rotarians and another million contributed by their companies!

In May 1984, a gala 75th anniversary banquet was held – televised by KCTS – and featuring the well-known humorist Mark Russell. The community saluted Seattle #4 for its "birthday gift," and Channel 9's new main studio was named "Seattle Rotary Studio."



Rotary goes to the Zoo, too

In 1994, Rotary contributed \$500,000 to help the Woodland Park Zoo carry out its vision of promoting lifelong learning about conservation of wildlife and preservation of natural habitats.

The result is the Seattle Rotary Education Center, which enabled the Zoo to expand its hands-on,

living laboratory with a new 14,000-square-foot education facility.

The Center is a major asset as Woodland Park Zoo makes "education" come alive for more than one million visitors a year.

A Discovery Lab for the 21st Century

The Seattle Rotary Discovery Lab at the Pacific Science Center is a place where kids can get excited about science and parents can become involved in their children's education. There too, teachers can hone their skills for teaching science literacy and imparting the knowledge the next generation will need to compete in a global economy.

Made possible by a \$375,000 Rotary gift in 1995, the Lab provides space for a wide variety of programs. The Pacific Science Center trains more teachers in science each year than any other institution in the state.

One can learn a lot in the wilderness

Providing disadvantaged youth with a camping

experience that emphasizes personal growth, team work and service is the mission of The Salvation Army's Camp Arnold near Puyallup.

And the Seattle Rotary Wilderness Education Center there provides a central meeting and learning place where kids can work with hands-on exhibits. It was made possible by a \$200,000 Rotary grant in 1997-98.

And yet another Education Center

The Seattle Rotary Education Center at the Downtown YMCA serves low-income and inner-city youth who need assistance in getting the required training that allows them to enter the work force.

It was made possible by a \$250,000 grant in 1999.

Community Service Worldwide



“You are beacons of a simple truth – that the key ingredient to making a peaceful world is the understanding that all people, no matter where they live, are equally precious. You understand that you have obligations that extend out from your home town – and ultimately to your world.”

– Bill Gates Sr.,
speaking to
his fellow members
of Seattle Rotary

Rotary’s World Community Service started in Seattle

The idea behind Rotary International’s extensive World Community Service program is to match the need of a club or district with another one that is willing and able to help.

It all started in Seattle. In 1962, R.I. president Nitish Laharry of India announced this new program in a speech before Seattle Rotary. He said it would start by matching Seattle with Suva, Fiji. Before long, the Seattle club had provided a mobile dental clinic and sent training books and films to Suva.

Next, Seattle was matched with Visakhapatnam, India, where a well was dug to relieve women from carrying water in jugs on their heads for miles. After that, a health clinic was also built in Visakhapatnam.

The world has become #4’s community for service

Seattle Four’s reach truly extends around the globe, and it has for many years. In recent years especially, Seattle Rotarians – often in concert with other local clubs and the Rotary Foundation – have reached out to practice “Service Above Self.”

The end goal is to advance international understanding, goodwill and peace. The means are carefully selected projects that most effectively impact the health, education and welfare of less-advantaged people, with a focus on children and youth. The list of projects is long and wide, including:

- Giving earthquake relief funds through our Kobe, Japan, sister club
- Helping build a computer classroom for immigrant Ethiopians in Israel
- Building three deepwater borehole wells in Uganda
- Funding watershed dams in two villages in India
- Equipping a hospital laundry in South Africa

- Building 269 homes in Guatemala after a hurricane
- Assisting a job-training program for teenage street girls in Cameroon
- Renovating a kindergarten in Vietnam
- Funding water-purification systems in Nepal
- Providing irrigation water to farms in Nicaragua
- Funding prosthetics for amputees in Bangladesh
- Shipping books to students learning English in Ethiopia
- De-mining rural fields and villages in Cambodia
- Providing a clean-water system in Kenya
- Building a suspension bridge between remote villages in Peru
- Purchasing wheelchairs for disabled people in Tajikistan
- Providing blankets to homeless families after a hurricane in Mexico
- Repairing and upgrading a girls’ high school in Afghanistan

R.I. promotes peace with Seattle help

For over 60 years, R.I.’s Foundation has promoted peace through thousands of Ambassadorial Scholarships and other exchange programs. In the past 20 years, it has also all but eliminated polio from the globe through its PolioPlus program.

Most of the funding for the Foundation comes from Paul Harris Fellowships, each of which represents a \$1,000 contribution. To date, Seattle Rotary has accounted for 624 Paul Harris Fellowships and has another 470 Sustaining Members working toward that goal. Seattle Rotarians have contributed more than \$1.43 million to the R. I. Foundation through the Paul Harris Fellowship Program.



Rotarians aren't afraid to get their hands dirty

Year-in, year-out service on a smaller scale

All the "landmark" contributions highlighted here should not obscure the fact that service and support to important community causes is constantly taking place on a smaller scale.

Seattle Rotarians aren't afraid to get their hands dirty. They regularly volunteer for hands-on service projects that entail active participation – even sore muscles!

Club committees and task forces have:

- Packed thousands of pounds of apples and peas at Rotary First Harvest work parties.
- Filled gift bags for battered women at Noel House.
- Helped build a Habitat for Humanity home.
- Held a painting party at the YWCA's Center for Homeless Women.
- Organized annual maintenance days at the Boys & Girls Club to paint and clean up the club and its grounds.
- Filled backpacks with school supplies for kids starting the school year.
- Given generously to regular clothing drives, which provide clothes to the Union Gospel Mission, the YWCA's "Dress for Success" program and Family Services.
- Taken homeless or underprivileged children holiday shopping.
- Promoted conservation with cleaning and replanting in wetlands and parks.
- Distributed printed resource materials concerning diverse issues from homelessness to Puget Sound water conservation



A long-time partnership with the schools

Through all its entire history, Seattle Rotary has been committed to supporting the Seattle Public Schools, an effort that has escalated substantially in recent years.

For example, the Youth and Schools Committee holds an annual "Winners for Life" reception and luncheon to recognize students who have overcome challenges to succeed, and gives scholarships to many of these students to continue their educations.



Over 500 Winners for Life have been honored over the past 10 years. The majority of these youth go on to some form of higher education, and 50 or more have received two-year scholarships of up to \$5,000 each.

A safe neighborhood... thanks to Unity

In the aftermath of the 1990 Los Angeles riots, many in Seattle were seeking a way to make a difference here at home. Community members, including Rotarians and the YMCA, joined forces to transform the community center at High Point into a safe and enjoyable place for kids.

With Rotarians and others volunteering hundreds of hours and thousands of dollars to the Unity Project, the High Point YMCA was rebuilt as a haven of peace in a turbulent community. It now serves hundreds of teen-agers every week.



A challenge and a keynote

One thing is for certain. The world would not be where it is without Rotary, and it won't get where it needs to go without Rotary.

– Bill Gates,
Speaking to the
Rotary International
Assembly



At Seattle #4's centennial celebration on March 5, 2009 – its largest meeting of the century – Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, inspired Seattle Rotarians and their guests.

His message reflected his previous remarks to Rotary International: “You Rotarians have so much to offer. You are volunteers. There are more than a million Rotarians around the world and many of you have actually traveled to help with immunization days. I've had the great privilege of

administering vaccine to a child. Many of you have, too. It's a beautiful thing to immunize a child against polio. “If someone says we'll eradicate polio tomorrow, they're wrong about the immediate future. If somebody says we won't eradicate polio ever, they're wrong about the long term.

“Just think of what you have done. You've leveraged your 25-year commitment to polio into more than \$800 million to pay for the most aggressive push to end this deadly disease.”

In January 2009, Gates announced a new \$255 million challenge grant to Rotary in the global effort to eradicate polio. In response to the new grant, Rotary will raise \$100 million in matching funds. This adds to the \$100 million Gates grant in 2007, which Rotary committed to match by raising \$100 million. The two Gates grants total \$355 million. Rotary's matching effort adds \$200 million for a total of \$555 million.

Seattle Rotary's efforts in polio eradication over the years may well have helped inspire this partnership. “The extraordinary dedication of Rotary members has played a critical role in bringing polio to the brink of eradication,” said Bill Gates Sr., honorary member of Seattle #4.

The Gates commitment is one of the largest grants ever made by the Foundation and the largest received by Rotary International in its 104-year history.



The club turns co-ed in 1987

After nearly 80 years as a “boys club,” Rotary International admitted women in 1987. Seattle #4 was one of the first clubs to make the move, admitting 23 women in the first year. That number has now grown to more than 170 or 25% of the membership. Women have added considerable vitality to the club and to date, four have served as president.

*Presidents Anne Farrell, Nancy Sclater,
Nancy Lucks, Dorothy Bullitt*

Even the sub-groups have sub-groups

In a club with 700 members, it is not easy to cultivate acquaintance and fellowship. Seattle #4 addresses this challenge with a host of fellowship activities, committees and special-interest groups.

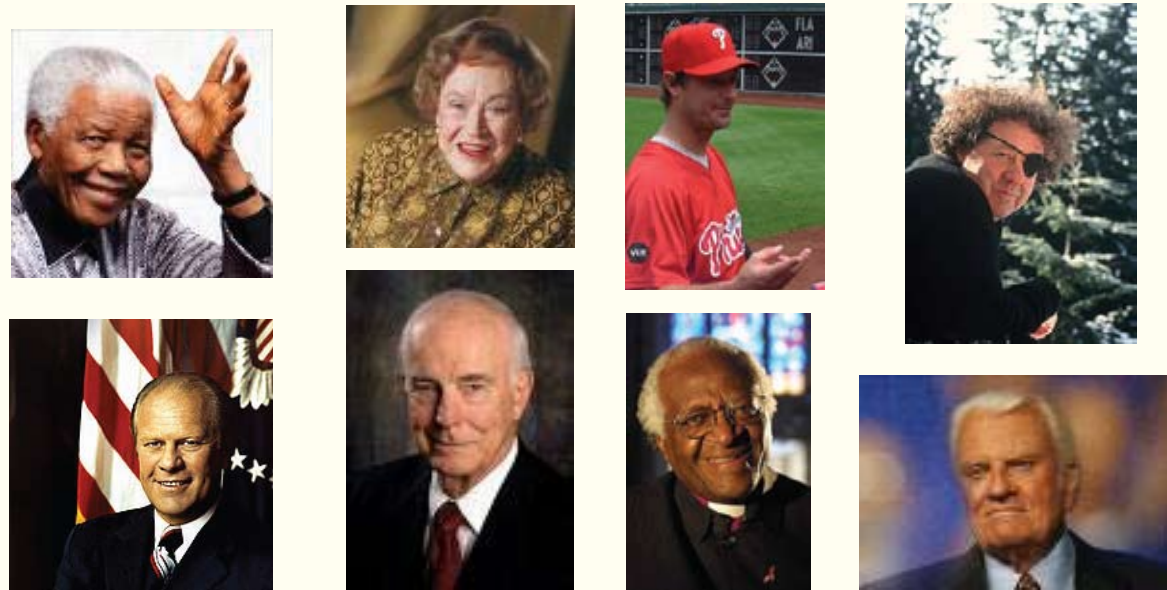
These include the club and foundation boards, 25 regular committees, many sub-committees and groups interested in boating, golfing, hiking, skiing and other pursuits. A large percentage of members serve on committees, while nearly 100 are in leadership roles.

Then there is Keekwulees (meaning “low persons on the totem pole”), the new member acquaintance and indoctrination group. New members are expected to attend five “Keek” meetings before they graduate to full member status.

Taking part in Rotary beyond Seattle #4

Members may participate in other Rotary activities by making up at any of the 54 other local clubs or those in nearly 200 countries around the world. Each year some members also attend district conferences or international conventions. Thirteen Seattle members have served as District Governor, many have been on district and international committees, and three have served on Rotary International's Board of Directors.

Incidentally, there's a meeting every Wednesday



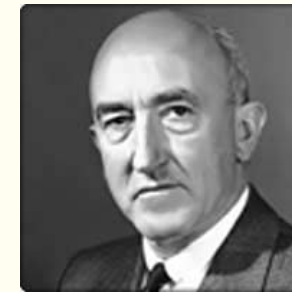
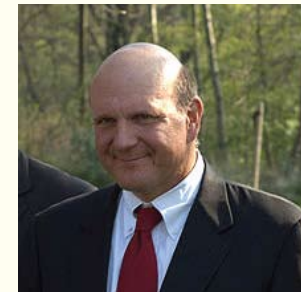
A new member or visitor to a Seattle Rotary meeting may have little idea of the legacy and activities summarized in this booklet – but they are always in for a good show!

The weekly Club #4 meetings are a wonderful blend of typical Rotary practices, Seattle's own traditions and its unique position as the largest club in the world.

The meetings typically draw about 400 members. The group is so large that meetings are rotated among several local venues. Rotarians look forward to the camaraderie, the networking, and the high-quality programs and speakers every week.

Special entertainment features – music, dance, and other performing arts – have become increasingly popular. The “Rotary Rogues,” a musical group made up of Rotarians, are always a big hit. And the annual Holiday Program is invariably a perennial favorite of members and their families.

Seattle Rotary is the preferred forum for regional leaders to launch campaigns, initiatives or events. It is a prime venue for political debates during election seasons. The list of speakers over the years is truly impressive. Many are world-renowned. They have included:



Bill Allen, Kofi Annan, Howard Baker, Steve Ballmer, Ezra Taft Benson, Dana X. Bible, Bill Boeing, Paul Brainerd, L. Paul Bremner, Jeff Brotman, McGeorge Bundy, Ralph Bunche, Scott Carpenter, Eddie Carlson, Dale Chihuly, Julia Child, Norton Clapp, General Mark Clark, James Conant, Phil Condit, Jim Ellis, Dan Evans, Gerald Ford, Tom Foley, Bill Gates, Bill Gates Sr., Mimi Gardner Gates, Robert Gates, Billy Graham, Herbert Hoover, Graham Kerr, Howard Lincoln, Nelson Mandela, Jamie Moyer, Alan Mulally, Nathan Myrhvold, Bill Neukom, Blake Nordstrom, Yitzhak Rabin, Robert Taft, Helen Thomas, and Desmond Tutu – plus thousands of others.

Why has the club succeeded?

In reflecting on the legacy contained in a 100-year history, one might ask: “How did Seattle Rotary get to be the largest in the world – and one of the best?” Several club members have given this question some thought and come up with the following answer.

From the beginning, Seattle Rotary stressed quality of membership. It has always sought out true leaders in a wide variety of businesses and professions, wherever they worked in the Seattle area.

Second, the founders placed a premium on regular attendance, as does the club today. Attendance begets fellowship, which fosters service. Year-in and year-out the club's 80-plus percent attendance is one of the best for large clubs anywhere in the world.

Also, the size, quality and vitality of the club attract first-rate speakers from virtually every field of endeavor. Hundreds ask to speak; many others are recruited to speak from among business, civic and religious leaders, politicians, athletes and scientists.

And finally, dating back to its roots, Seattle Rotary has always had a passion for service. Those who join the club – and stay in – put fellowship and service first. Those who join primarily because “it'll be good for business” either get converted to the ideal of service or soon drop by the wayside.

Bottom line: The combination of quality membership, high attendance standards, outstanding programs and a passion for service and has made Seattle Rotary the largest in the world...and one of the very best.

The vision



As Seattle #4 enters its second century of service, it is experiencing a renaissance of growth and vitality.

Today, the club welcomes men and women of all ages, races, nationalities and political perspectives. In an era when Americans supposedly were becoming more isolated from one another, Seattle Rotary's fellowship is flourishing, along with its purpose.

The "menu of opportunities" offered by the club's lively committee system and the energy and vision of countless Rotarians has proven that Rotary can make a difference from the bottom up, as well as the top down. Even in the largest club in the world, every member can step up and make a difference.

For 100 years, Seattle Rotarians have never wavered in their efforts to make their community and their world a better place. Now, to empower members to build on their considerable legacy and even surpass it in the future, the Seattle Rotary Service Foundation has established the Second Century Legacy Society to encourage deferred giving.

Over time, the Second Century Legacy Funds will add substantially to Seattle Rotary's ability to fulfill its goal of "Service Above Self."

For Seattle #4, "The past is prologue" translates to "You ain't seen nothin' yet!"

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BUILDING
on our
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SERVICE

Rotary Club of Seattle

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