



THE ROTARY CLUB *of* BELLINGHAM
BELLINGHAM'S FIRST ROTARY CLUB

TATTLE



*February
1st, 2009*

2009-2010

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Opening

President Jim opened the meeting welcoming all members and guests. The invocation was delivered by **Rex Dudley** and we sang *America the Beautiful*, accompanied by **Don Anderson**.

Auction:

President Jim led a live auction of **D.C. Morse** and **Jan Marchbanks'** condominiums in Cabo San Lucas, with **Dominique Zervas, Bruce Clawson** and **Charlie Self** as "spotters." President Jim didn't help matters by stating that after a stay at the condominium; the lucky winner would come back "looking like D.C." A week-long stay at the one bedroom condominium went to **Margaret Curtis** for \$1,500. All of the

proceeds will go towards the major project - the Pickford Cinema's new location. Bidding for a week-long stay at D.C. and Jan's two-bedroom condominium in Cabo was postponed for a week so that Club members could contemplate other couples with whom to share the trip and come up with their bid.

Announcements

Bowling:

Gary Goldfogel urged Club members to sign up for the social bowling event on Tuesday, February 9th. **Pat Foley** told Gary that when she bowled, three lanes should be cordoned off because there's no guarantee of where her ball will land. Gary promised Pat that if she kills someone while bowling, Gary will rule the death an "accident."

Musical:

Brad Burdick made an announcement about, and ticket sales took place before and after the meeting for, the "Musical of Musicals, *The Musical*" at the Mt. Baker Theatre. This is a special event exclusively for Club members and their guests, with wine and snacks following the performance.

Business Notes

Corrected New Member Information: Kris Hamilton asked us to allow him to repeat his talk on January 4th on paper.

Kris Hamilton grew up in Ephrata, WA. Earlier, in the latter part of the depression, his father had to work hard to support a family. He built and operated a number of small businesses, including a XXX Root Beer stand, complete with roller skating carhops. He moved over to the quasi-governmental position of manager of the Chamber of



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THIS WEEK'S TEAM:

Editor: Dale Rings

Commerce. In the process of attracting irrigation-related business to the town, he began to study the problems of world-wide food and water shortages, including early reports on the effects of regional warming. In this process he made the acquaintance of Scoop Jackson and Stu Udall. He eventually obtained a position in the State Dep't of Ecology, where he could lobby congress on these issues. Through all this, Ephrata remained his home. He died in 1973.

Kris' first love was architecture, but his father convinced him that he should give law a try, so he attended Whitman College for three years (he also met his other first love, Jean.) Following a plan between the two schools, he went on to Columbia University in NY for two years, where he studied civil and structural engineering. (Kris and Jean got married over the first Christmas break, and moved into an apartment a month later. The apartment house was slightly larger than Jean's home town; ten of them would have housed Ephrata.) While there, he had some interesting summer jobs: the first was in 1969 at Grumman Aircraft designing complex connections for the F-14 fighter. The following year

he worked in the structural office of David Geiger, who was already developing an international reputation. He moved on to Stanford to pursue a Masters Degree in Aeronautic Structures, but had to drop out in the first semester due to a protracted illness. After recovering he worked for two years in the city, then returned to Stanford, this time in the structural engineering dep't obtaining an MS-Struct. The next two years he worked in the City again, this time in a 4-person special problems and projects group in an engineering company designing off-shore oil exploration rigs.

In 1976 Kris and his wife relocated to Bellingham, having discovered that a warm wood-stove, warm greetings, and intrepid gardeners can overcome the impressions of the coldest, rainiest mid-August day. They bought a house immediately, and are still there after 33 years, having raised a daughter, now 31, and a son, 25. After two years Kris opened his own firm; one year after that he was contacted by Dr. Geiger about Kris's office becoming the Geiger office for designing BC Place and several other major projects in Canada and elsewhere. He went on to work on projects including BC Place Stadium, the Alaska Ferry Terminal Building, Depot Farmers Market and the most famous golfing

Reporter: Matt Hammatt

Photographer: Del Vandekerck

Sgt. at Arms: Cheryl Crazy Bull

Invocation: Rex Dudley

Introduction of Visitors: Marty Haines

Greeter(s): Karen Morse

Raffle Tickets: Joe Morse

Music: Don Anderson

AV: John Raasch

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green, the 14th Green at Lake Coeur d'Alene. Diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, he has now retired. He is now looking for his next activities, such as being introduced to Rotary by fellow Engineer, **Margaret Curtis**.

Happy Bucks / Fines / Recognition

Sergeant at Arms

Cheryl Crazy Bull stated that all Club members that thought **President Jim's** comments at the meeting were inappropriate / inept should put a dollar on the table. President Jim's comments, at that point, had included numerous references to endorphins, not seeking permission from spouses for various activities, and several suggestions of Club members traveling with other Club member's spouses... **Gary Goldfogel** provided the Club with a working definition of endorphins, which are chemical messengers that affect the nervous system in a positive manner. **Ralph Rinne** added that endorphins also can relieve pain. President Jim offered to match the amount paid by Club members, ultimately costing him over \$170.

Cheryl also put in \$50 for a new grandchild - her 16th - and one that is currently under the same roof with her. Cheryl also donated in appreciation of there being no **D.C. Morse** fishing story this week.

President Jim mentioned the list of supplies for the Mt. Baker climb, including toilet paper, two sleeping bags and plastic bags. **Dick Tucker** announced that it is becoming time to start training, and **Brad Burdick** is going to head that effort. The mountain climb is currently scheduled for July 9th and 10th.

Irwin LeCocq announced that he is 85 years old, and he gave \$85 happy bucks, not because of his age, but because he wondered if we remembered he had sold his boat.

Cleary Cone gave happy bucks in recognition of **Austin Huang's** planning for a "Year of the Tiger" event at the Mt.

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Baker Theatre. **President Jim** made some inappropriate "Tiger" references, but then allowed Austin to provide additional information. Austin said that the performance at the Theatre would include groups from Vancouver, San Francisco and Seattle, as well as WWU students and a guest conductor from China. Austin then modestly admitted that he had actually composed the music for the performance, for which President Jim fined Austin \$10.

Tom Eckert gave happy bucks for having run into **D.C. and Jan** twice on a recent trip to Cabo San Lucas, and additional happy bucks for not being in Olympia while grumpy legislators are wrestling with budget cuts...

Brian Griffin gave "confessional" happy bucks, admitting that more than fifty years ago, he had bought his first home without asking permission from his wife. **President Jim** commented that he adhered to the policy that it is easier to ask forgiveness than permission. Brian claimed that is not true.

Program

Dominique Zervas introduced the speakers who were at the meeting to talk about the Pickford. Kathleen Culver, daughter of Club member **Ken Culver** and president of the Pickford Board of Directors, was introduced, followed by **James Wilson**, board vice president.

Kathleen spoke first, and told Club members what an enjoyable job she had, coming to the Club to thank the members for their generous support of the Pickford. She also specifically thanked the Club "liasons" - **Dominique Zervas, Bruce Clawson, Joe Coons and Jim Visbeek.**

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Club Website
www.bellinghamrotary.org

District 5050 Website
www.district5050.org

Club meets
Monday - 12:00 Noon
Northwood Hall





Kathleen recounted that she has been coming to the Bellingham Rotary Club since she was a little girl - and Ken has photos of her on Santa's lap at a Rotary holiday event to prove it. She also talked about her family's emphasis on service to the community; an emphasis shared by Rotary.

Kathleen talked about the Pickford Cinema's commitment to strengthening the community through education and dialogue, also commitments shared by Rotary. Kathleen talked about the Wizard of Oz, one of the most celebrated movies of all time. While most Club members have seen the movie, few have seen it on the "big screen" - something that was done recently at the Pickford. Kathleen talked about the importance of that movie, and its parallels to the Pickford. The scarecrow is looking for brains, the tin man is looking for a heart, and the lion is looking for courage. In much the same way, the Pickford demonstrates its brains by showing carefully curated, independent films that leave audiences thinking; it demonstrates its heart by being a passionate group of people dedicated to - and celebrating - a love of movies; and, it demonstrates its courage by taking calculated risks by now making the move to a new expanded facility. The Pickford, in its twelve years, has grown into the largest dues-paying member group in Whatcom County, and is now showing its courage to expand into a great new venue.

Kathleen stated that throughout the current recession, the Pickford has continuously kept its operations in the black. She

stressed the importance of Rotary's commitment to the Pickford as a major reason that grants, and other community support, were realized. Going back to the Wizard of Oz analogy, Kathleen stated that the new cinema space will be like the transformation in that movie, from black and white to technicolor.

James Wilson then spoke, thanking all Club members personally for the commitment to the Pickford. James spoke of the difficulty of maintaining momentum during the middle of a capital campaign, after the initial excitement and prior to the culminating details. In the middle of a capital campaign, community involvement is critical. The Rotary Club's involvement has been critical to the Pickford, and will go toward the crucial, if mundane, things, such as sheetrock, electrical systems, sprinklers and raised floors.

Ski Trip



Bob Diehl presented a PowerPoint presentation of the recent Rotary ski trip. This year, the members and guests went to Jackson Hole, for the best ski trip ever. They stayed at the

Alenhof resort in Teton Village. The group had fun skiing, snowboarding and snowmobiling. The PowerPoint slides showed the new tram in Jackson that can hold 100 people, and gains over 4,000 vertical feet in about nine minutes. The top of the mountain, at 10,450 feet, is the highest ski mountain in the U.S.



Bob talked about our member, **Cathy Buckley**, referring to her as "the bullet" for her speed on the slopes. Photos were also shown of the Million Dollar Cowboy Bar and the Mangy Moose, where Club members enjoyed food and drink together. All told, it sounded - and looked - like the Club members who went to Jackson Hole had a wonderful time together, and Bob encouraged all Club members to consider participating in next winter's getaway.



Guests of Rotarians

Paul Grey introduced Glenn Butler

Dominique Zervas brought Kathleen Culver and James Wilson from The Pickford and also her son Pascal Foley

Jim Wilson introduced Scott Wilson

Brad Burdick brought Matt Lasinsky and Sam Stoedter representing the Mt. Baker Theatre

Robin Halliday introduced her husband Dan

Bob Diehl brought his wife, Connie and neighbor Jeff Macki

Member Birthdays/Club

Anniversaries

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Ben Kuiken, February 1st

Phil Griggs, February 2nd

Jim Visbeek, February 5th (Happy Birthday Prez)

Tom Eckert, February 6th

Vic Tate, February 6th

PARTNER BIRTHDAYS

Andrea Evans, February 2nd

Chuck Foster, February 4th

Penny Rings, February 4th (Our wonderful Tattler helper)

Judy Coons, February 5th

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

Al Archer, February 1st 28 Years

Ershig, February 1st 48 Years

February 1st 35 Years

February 1st 21 Years

3rd 7 Years

Years

Years

Years

Years

Herb

Chuck Farrell,

Jan Marchbanks,

Mike Abendhoff, February

Kevin Allen, February 3rd 7

Jamie Vos, February 3rd 7

Gary Nelson, February 5th 9

Bob Brunkow, February 6th 3

Marty Haines, February 6th 3 Years

Upcoming Programs

2/8 Paula Hammond - Dept. of Transportation

2/15 Holiday - No Meeting

2/22 Stephen Radcliffe - Marrowstone Summer Music

3/1 Kerrie Lenderman (WAHA) - Whatcom Alliance for Healthcare
Access

3/8 Joseph Drumheller - The End of Human Suffering

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