

THE WAVE

Rotary Club of Edmonds

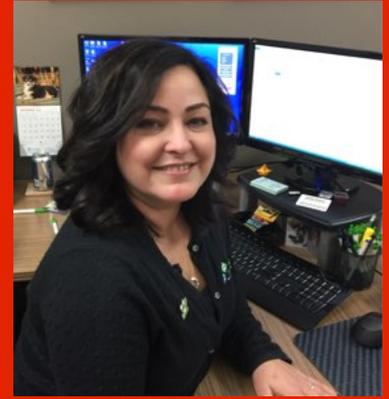


Richard Okimoto, right, congratulates Student of the Month Orion Herman from Meadowvale High School. Jim Gregory and Debbie Danekas are congratulated by Michael Kealy for earning their Blue Badges in such a short time by engaging in club service in quick time. Club membership has been growing at an altogether high rate this year, and time has shown that getting involved in club activity right away is a key to long term membership. Speaker DJ Wilson, a consultant in the health care field, highlighted some of the possible changes - and unknowns - regarding the fate of the Affordable Care Act in the new Presidential administration. Finally, bottom left, Michael Mathis was inspiring and encouraging about his work with the Burned Children Recovery Foundation.



Spotlight on Kristi Jenson

Smiles and laughter follow Kristi everywhere she goes. Her enthusiasm for life and love of people are the attributes that define her personality. Kristi was born in Los Angeles, and later moved to Washington where she graduated from high school in Auburn. She received a BS in Physical Education from Central Washington University in Ellensburg. Kristi soon found her place in the banking industry, starting out as a teller. She has had many different jobs through the years in banking and is currently Retail Relationship Manager at First Financial Northwest Bank here in Edmonds. She has been in the banking field for 28 years.



Always a positive person with a need for connecting with the community, Rotary and Kristi fit together perfectly. She first joined our Rotary Club in 2008 and within 3 weeks was elected Secretary, a position she held for 2 years. Her job took her to Everett for two years but the job was not a good fit for Kristi who loves to engage with the local community. She moved back to Edmonds in 2016 and is now Membership Chair for our club and will be President-Elect in July 2017.

Kristi has a son Josh, 26, a daughter Emma, 19, a son Will 15 and a step-daughter Hallie, age 17. She loves to hang with her kids, attending their sporting events—baseball and softball—and enjoys shopping with the family. Kristi and John were married in 2015.

It is a joy to have Kristi back with us as such an active and enthusiastic member of our club.

~ Submitted by Carol Kinney Lofstrom

Who is Robert Jorgensen?

Robert is an Edmonds native, where his fondest childhood memory is growing up in a great neighborhood, riding his bike to school and playing sports - football, basketball and baseball. He attended Sherwood Elementary, College Place Middle School and graduated high school at Edmonds Woodway. And folks, he didn't stop there; Robert went on to UW and graduated with a B.A. in Speech Communications. Go Dawgs!

You will be quite interested to know that Robert likes parades, especially the 4th of July parade as he is a patriotic guy who loves being out in the nice weather when our summers here actually begin. Robert also enjoys playing golf, traveling and spending time with family and friends. He also prefers dogs over cats. Growing up with Golden Retrievers will apparently do that to a person.

Robert is a Seattle sports fan thru and thru; The Seahawks, Huskies and the Mariners (no comment on this latter team from the writer).

His grandmother gave him sound advice as a child by telling him, "Do the best you can with what you've got."

And, after taking a recommendation from our very own Kristi Jenson, he joined Rotary to give back to the community he loves and is doing his best as a volunteer and board member. He was past Treasurer and is currently head of our Membership committee. He also said our Immediate Past President, Beth Kealy is awesome. Yay!

If you're ever in the Methow Valley (where his family has a cabin) and see Robert, say hi and remind him how appreciated he is in our club. We are so grateful to you, Robert. Thank you for being part of Rotary.



~ Submitted by Beth Westenhaver-Kealy



Jim Gregory and John Kealy, along with President Doug Lofstrom and Carol Kinney Lofstrom deserve a special hug for their "Service Above Self" efforts in the cold at Trinity Place.



Ladies and gentlemen, I present to you...Mr. Paul Albers.

I sat down with Paul after our meeting last week eagerly anticipating getting to know him better. And, I did! Paul is a Seattle native who graduated from Shorecrest High School. He spent the early 70's working at Cee and Dee Meats in the Westgate Shopping Center. His favorite Holiday is Valentine's Day and he enjoys riding his motorcycle, skiing and music. He appreciates R&B, Jazz and especially Jazz guitar music. His favorite guitarist is Mr. Byrd.

If he could invite one person to dinner, it would be his girlfriend. Why? "Because we love each other." Cue the romantic music and awwwws from the crowd... Paul's favorite book is "The Catcher in the Rye" and his favorite travel destination is the Island of St. Barts. He was lucky to vacation there while on a Windjammer Cruise.

Paul has one daughter who is 34 and lives in Phoenix AZ where she is the Maintenance Director of Arizona State University.

Paul believes in Santa Clause and Rotary! Why Rotary? Paul wanted and needed a social outlet where he could also "do good" in the community. Plus, the jokes this writer tells each week keeps him coming back!

With the best advice he received being "Be Grateful", I am sure you will join me in being thankful that Paul is a member and fantastic addition to our club. Thank you Paul!!



~Submitted by Beth Westenhover-Kealy

From the Editor...

Christmas time is about love and caring. It is about the spirit of sharing and giving. And here at Edmonds Rotary, we've got the Spirit. Just the photos in this month's pages of The Wave tell so much about what it means to be a Rotarian. Through the annual Guardian ad Litem Mitten Project we help to make sure over 300 children caught up in the court system receive Christmas gifts (see a few in the photo at right). Thanks to Diane Buckshnis for coordinating, even doing some of the shopping, and thanks to all of you who donate gifts or money to make this project successful! Our fundraising efforts also result in helping many community projects. At right President Doug gives a check for \$1,000 to Barb Athanas of Mill Creek Rotary to help purchase a van for Cocoon House, and another check for \$5,000 to Pat Doherty for construction of a public restroom in downtown Edmonds. Bottom right, Randy Hutchins hands over \$750 to Nancie Burriss for the Shoes for Kids Project. Not to be overlooked are the hard working crew shown elsewhere in this edition, doing maintenance at Trinity Place.

Then there are the ongoing "little projects", requiring 1 or 2 volunteers here or there. In my 28 years in Edmonds Rotary I have never known a project we've set out to do that hasn't got done... or paid for. From the first Aid Car in Edmonds, to remodeling the Boys & Girls Club, to all that has been accomplished at Trinity Place, the thousands of dollars for scholarships, and the myriad international projects involving computers, clean water, polio immunizations, hosting international visitors and students through Rotary, our support of women in Gambia growing food in their own gardens, schools in Kenya, and even supporting Llwanga's wonderful effort to send pianos to his village in Uganda. And all this doesn't even include the results of money generously given by members to the RI Foundation! To all of you, thank you for your caring, thank you for giving.

***Merry Christmas** to you all, and while we're at it we wish a Happy Hanukah (December 25), and a Joyful Kwaanza (December 26). Why not? And may all your Bowl Game picks be winners!*

Pat Thorpe, Editor
c'est finis

