

the wave



Happy Spring!

Recap:

Photos, clockwise from top right: Maggie Peterson presents a check to Lester Cooper, Chelan Rotary, for the Kenya School Project; Deb Anderson discussed the latest successes of the Edmonds Education Foundation; District governor Alex Hopkins presented an award to President Scott; Lamin Manneh introduced guests Boka and Afua Kouyate, of Kouyate Arts, for a program of music from Senegal; and finally, Michael Kealy presented the banner from the Rotary Club of Escazu, Costa Rica, from his recent trip there with Libby Freese and Pat Thorpe.

Club Retreat

May 12 ~ 9:30am - 3:30pm  
Edmonds City Hall



*"When women and girls are empowered to participate fully in society, everyone benefits." ~~~ Melinda Gates*

*"I would like to remind you that the world of 1989 is very different to the world of 1905. I sincerely believe that Rotary has to adapt itself to a changing world."  
~~~Frank J. Devlin (who would later be RI President, 2000 - 01)*

The first "make-up" meeting I ever attended was in Florence, Italy, in 1989. Numerous members tried to explain to me - in Italian - that the meeting was for "members only". When they finally found a Rotarian who could speak English, we connected, and they then could not have been more gracious to welcome me, explaining "We have heard there are lady Rotarians but we have never seen one before!" In honor of **National Women's Month** we present the "lady Rotarians" of the Rotary Club of Edmonds.



*Brenda Brown*



*Diane Buckshnis*



*Valerie Claypool*



*Karen Conaway*



*Elizabeth Crouch \**



*Debbie Danekas*



*Tonya Drake*



*Libby Freese \**



*Dori Glass*



*Elise Hegrat*



*Carolyn Henry*



*Sally Hyde \**



*Janet Jensen*



*Kristiana Johnson*



*Caitlin Kelly*



*Carol Kinney \**



*Joan Longstaff*



*Sue MacDonald*



*Linda Lou McCullough*



*Adrienne Miller*



*Carrie Morehouse*



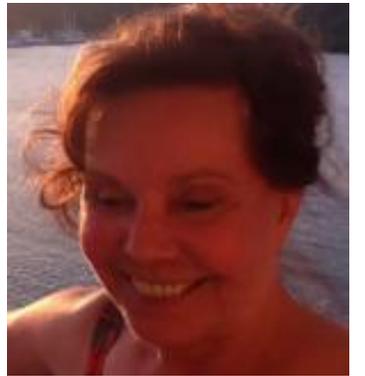
*Lori Parsons*



*Maggie Peterson*



*Kathy Prewitt*



*Sharalyn Ramm*



*Emoke Rock*



*Donna Stanton*



*Darlene Stern*



*Jean Eastman Swenson*



Pat Thorpe \*



Meenakshi Tomar



Beth Westenhaver-Kealy \*



Karen Wiggins

## From the Editor...

Efforts to include women members in Rotary (the Inner Wheel for spouses, known as "Rotarianns", was established in 1924) go back at least to 1950, in clubs all over the world, including India, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), Brazil, Sweden, and Switzerland, as well as the United States. When the Duarte, California, club admitted a woman member in 1983, their charter was revoked, thus sending the matter to the courts. The International District club in Seattle joint the legal battle when they presented a list of 12 women for admission as members, and sued RI for the right to do so. In 1987 the US Supreme Court ruled that Rotary clubs may not exclude women from membership on the basis of gender. Rotary then issued a policy statement that any Rotary club in the US could admit qualified women into membership. At its next meeting, in 1989, the Council on Legislation voted to eliminate the requirement in the RI Constitution that membership in Rotary clubs be limited to men, thus opening the door worldwide to women.

Our club here in Edmonds admitted 5 women in 1988. Two of them - Joan Longstaff and myself - are members today. There were rumors - confirmed by some while denied by others - that a few old timers resigned in protest of the changes. Still and all we hit the ground running and with good feelings of inclusiveness. We were even asked to judge the annual "Ugly Necktie Contest"... Things have changed in more ways than one, haven't they? Women Rotarians in 2017 made up about 20% of Rotary International members worldwide. No female President yet, but hopefully soon.

The June, 1990, ROTARIAN magazine (see cover, right) featured women in Rotary. In addition to profiles of some of these newest members, male Rotarians were asked about the pros and cons of women in Rotary: "Have women destroyed the old clubby atmosphere?... Have they turned club meetings into baby showers and Tupperware parties?" Or "Have women refreshed the atmosphere, letting in the sunlight of fresh ideas?" Opinions were mixed. With over 20,000 women members in 33 countries by then however, the article concluded that "women Rotarians are here to stay."

For perspective, we would also note that this same 1990 ROTARIAN also featured a rousing article titled "Rotary's breakthrough in the USSR", about the first club there, in Moscow. That was our world in 1990.

Meanwhile, the 1990 magazine concluded the reasons women join Rotary are the same as those of their male counterparts: "Rotary gives them prestige. It permits association with community leaders and achievers like themselves. It allows them to share their ideas about - and help to build - good communities, thriving nations, and a peaceful world. Most telling of all, it demonstrates that for Rotarians everywhere - women and men - rotary's bottom line is still Service above Self."



Pat Thorpe, Editor  
*c'est finis*



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