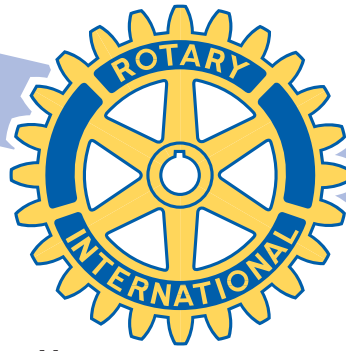


# Drive SHAFT

Volume 23, Number 33 / February 19, 2009

Rotary Club of East Portland, Portland, OR USA

Second Thursday in February 2009  
By Phill Colombo



[www.eastportlandrotary.org](http://www.eastportlandrotary.org)

Chartered March 27, 1950 • Club No. 283  
Rotary International District 5100 • Zone 23

**Meetings:**  
Thursdays at Noon,  
Rose Quarter, One Center Court



**Mary Jane Hunt, President**  
**Randall Lewis, Co-Secretary**  
**Dick Ferreira, Co-Secretary**

## PROGRAMS

### February

#### 19 Club Assembly Mary Jane Hunt.

GREETER DIANE FOREMAN  
GREETER JONATHAN JOHANSEN  
HOST ANDREAS GERLSBECK  
INVOCATION PAUL NAGEL  
INTRO DESK KEVIN PASION  
SONG JIM BACKENSTOS  
CARD GAME JOE KELLER

#### 26 Ethiopia National Immunization Day Featuring Dana Clark

### March

#### 5 Goodwill Good Turn Day Richard Knox.

## MEALS ON WHEELS

### February

23 MARK CHAPIN NEED VOLUNTEER  
WORTH CALDWELL NEED VOLUNTEER

### March

2 NEED VOLUNTEER NEED VOLUNTEER  
NEED VOLUNTEER NEED VOLUNTEER

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### March

#### 7 Goodwill Good Turn Day

### April

#### 25 Rebuilding Together Service Project

#### 30 District 5100 Conference Salem, OR

### June

#### 21-27 International Convention Birmingham, England

Appropriately, in the Rose Garden's East Room, EPR President Mary Jane Hunt gavel-gonged members, guests and visiting Rotarians to order, inviting Past President ('99-'00) Richard Lazere to begin the meeting with inspiration. The good doctor explained an in-charge living philosophy, reminding all that our decisions govern how well we live. "Wake up and decide to love so you can say, 'I did it my way,' in the end," Lazere encouraged.

Doug Baker led the Pledge and a rousing chorus of "Jingle Bells," gearing the group to begin celebrating Christmas on St. Valentine's Day. EPR Foundation Treasurer Bob McCall introduced visitors and guests, including Carla Swearingen, Jean Nagel, Cleveland's Junior Rotarian, Outbound Exchange Student Ellie Oaken (who announced she will be going to Russia in the fall), Rebound Exchange Student Angela, and Françoise Inbound Exchange Student Anne Sophie and her family.

### CARING EXPRESSION

President MJH invited Anne Sophie's parents, Natalie and Yves, and sister to the podium, reiterating how much EPRotarians regret circumstances that brought them to the US unexpectedly and affirmed that Anne Sophie had 108 strong and proud parents in the Club's members.

Natalie expressed gratitude for the sentiment and pleasure in being able to share their family. She read a letter of condolence, concern and support to families of exchange students and said, "This could have happened in any country, and our children were simply in the wrong place at the wrong time." The members responded with a standing ovation.

MJH presented the family with coffee table books of Northwest scenes signed by Rotarians. Anne Sophie observed Rotarians' response to what she has been through as amazing, and she observed that off her crutches, her leg is healing.



A standing ovation greeted Anne Sophie and her family visiting from France.

### SANTA'S CHAIR

Membership Director Grant Marsh introduced Coffee Creek Correctional Facility's assistant superintendent who expressed how interested inmates were to assist East Portland Rotary in the Foster Kids' Christmas party. He presented a colorful and decorative chair in which Santa Clause could sit when presenting gifts to the children.



Santa showed up to give the chair a try and deemed it most comfortable. "Coffee Creek is proud to be a partner with East Portland Rotary in this annual project," the corrections official added.

Pres MJ commented, in expressing thanks, that the furniture craftsmanship was detailed and that the chair was on wheels for easy transportation and storage. (The chair got its initial run this weekend at



Royce Marlin from the Coffee Creek Correction Institute presented EPRC with a handmade Santa Chair for our Foster Children Christmas Program. Santa, aka Jim Backenstos, tries it out.

**ROTARY CLUB OF EAST PORTLAND  
OFFICERS 2008-2009**

PRESIDENT MARY JANE HUNT  
 PRES. ELECT KIM SEID  
 CO-SECRETARY RANDY LEWIS  
 CO-SECRETARY DICK FERREIRA  
 TREASURER RICHARD KNOX  
 PAST DIST. GOVERNOR LAURIE CARLSON

**DIRECTORS**

<b>2007-2009</b>	<b>2008-2010</b>
ELIZABETH BOWMAN	GRANT MARSH
KELLY BUECHLER	JOHN HOWELL
JACK UBIK	STAR MOORE

*THE CLUB BOARD MEETS THE 4TH TUESDAY,  
7:30AM AT 2145 SW NAITO PARKWAY, BSA*

**FOUNDATION BOARD OFFICERS**

PRESIDENT MARK CHAPIN  
 VICE-PRESIDENT BARBARA CARDINALE  
 SECRETARY RON ATWOOD  
 TREASURER BOB MCCALL  
 EX OFFICIO KEVIN PASION

**DIRECTORS**

<b>2006-2009</b>	<b>2007-2010</b>	<b>2008-2011</b>
LARRY SALIMENA	RON ATWOOD	BARBARA CARDINALE
ROBERT MCCALL	MARK CHAPIN	WORTH CALDWELL

*THE FOUNDATION BOARD MEETS THE 3RD THURSDAY  
OF EACH MONTH AT 11:00AM*

Tualatin's Rolling Hills Church at the delayed-by-the-weather Foster Kids' Christmas Party.)

**THANK-YOUS**

President MJH read thank-yous sent to Karen Pierce for volunteering in the S.M.A.R.T. program. Additional kudos came from a Vestal School third-grade class to Karen and this reporter for distribution of dictionaries.

**ATTENDANCE PERFECTION**

Pres Hunt recognized a dozen Rotarians: Jeremy Shields (one year); Kelly Buechler and Tom Leiner (two); Mark Chapin and Rocky Johnson (four); Kevin Pasion (five); Terry Beard (15); Dana Clark (17); Ron Enna (24); Larry Salimena (25); and Spencer Vail (26).

**A WINNER!**

Karen Pierce had the dexterity and skill to select the 10 of diamonds, winning her more than \$1,700 in the long-running card game. Noting the Club benefited from the additional \$1,700 raised, MJH ordered the game to begin anew the following week.



*And the Lottery Winner is....Karen Pierce, who raked in over \$1,700 for drawing the right card!*

**SERGEANT DAVID**

David Vernon's first auctioned off a \$100 gift card from La Rog Jewelers – high bid: Karen Pierce at \$50. David dug up a two-year-old roster book with Jim Faville's picture sporting a full head of hair and charged the tallest member of the Club for scalping falsification. On the advice of an unidentified CPA sitting nearby, Karen Pierce tithed her \$1,700 card game winnings. Marlene, proud of her 53-year association with Mel Ness, contributed to Mel's Paul Harris.

**PROGRAM OF THE WEEK:  
HIGHER EDUCATION'S FAILING GRADE**

**Debra Ringold, PhD**  
**Dean, Willamette University's Atkinson Graduate School of Management**

Pulling no punches, Dr. Debra Ringold labeled higher education in America as "mediocre at best." She said that, as elementary and secondary schools continue to educate with less than excellent standards, higher education has lowered the bar, resulting in ongoing under-performance, and it's getting worse.

The Dean decried remedial work offered in higher education and the lowering of academic standards, for example, relying on objective multiple-choice questions as opposed to subjective questions to test collegiate students. "We've dumbed-down higher education," she unabashedly asserted.

"We're diluting what a college degree means for individuals as well as for society, and we must think about system wide educational reform," the doctor said. She characterized bachelor's degrees as the new high school diplomas and master's degrees as the new bachelor's degrees.

When asked what the federal government could do about improving education and if she had hope with the new administration, Dr. Ringold responded with expressions of hope and optimism, "...because I'm an educator, but education is not a federal matter. It is a local matter," that must be approached at the local level, she added. Dean Ringold suggested that local school districts managed by local school boards approach the state legislature to reverse Measure 5.

Dr. Ringold, arguing for choice and a voucher system to allow parents to select schools doing better, disagreed that students will learn as well online as they will in the classroom with face-to-face interaction with teachers. "Technology should be used to enhance interactive education, but no pedagogy is a substitute for choice."

Dean Ringold condemned the current state of higher education as a moral outrage, but admitted that criticism of those with whom we are engaged is difficult. Retired educator Jack Ubik agreed with the Dean to a point and encouraged Rotarians to discuss and explore the situation further.



*Program Speaker Debra Ringold addresses the Club.*