



BALLARD ROTAGRAM

AUGUST 24, 2026 EDITION

Editor: Kathleen Linscott

Club Calendar

Member Notes



We have been a busy club this summer, with many opportunities to have fun!

President's Social July 28th

Thank you to all who attended the president's social on Tuesday, July 28th!

Attendance Total: 6
Club members: 6



Rotary Club of
Ballard

August-
September
Schedule
2026



End of Summer

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
AUG 16	17	18 Leif Erikson Lodge	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 President's Social	26	27	28	29
30	31	Sept 1 Leif Erikson Lodge	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Zoom	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 Leif Erikson Lodge	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 President's Social	23	24	25	26
27	28	29 Fifth Tuesday!	30	OCT 1	2	3



In-person Club Meeting details:

- TIME: 12:00 Noon
- LOCATION: Leif Erikson Lodge, 2245 NW 57th St
- NOTES: Pay for your lunch ahead of time: <https://bit.ly/4qOoJl1>. And don't forget, you can park for free in the parking lot at Leif Erikson Lodge, as well as in the underground parking lot at QFC (across the street from Leif Erikson Lodge)!

Online Club Meeting details:

- TIME: 12:00 Noon
- LOCATION: Zoom
- NOTES: Contact club president Wil Barrett for the Zoom link. He usually sends out an email with the link a day or two before the meeting.

President's Social on August 25th details:

- TIME: 5:00 PM
- LOCATION: The Swedish Club NW, 1920 Dexter Ave N, Seattle, 98109
- NOTES: The manager of the Swedish Club will be our bartender for this special social, and he is a personal friend of Wil Barrett. Just the excellent view of Lake Union and the Cascades is enough to draw you in, so be sure to attend. Who better to hang out with than your fellow Rotarians? And don't forget to invite a guest!



August 4th Club Meeting

At the August 4th club meeting, Debbi Bodal and fellow Lynnwood Rotary members Trond Bodal, Jecinta Silakan, and David Spicer came

Rotarians Are People of Action!

Food Drive for Food Bank



On Saturday, August 22nd, a dozen Ballard Rotarians worked in shifts over six hours to collect food for the Ballard Food Bank. The food drive took place at the Ballard Town & Country Market at 1400 NW 56th Street, and was very successful. Many thanks to the volunteers, to Ballard Town & Country Market, to all the shoppers who donated food, and to Terry Collings who organized the event!

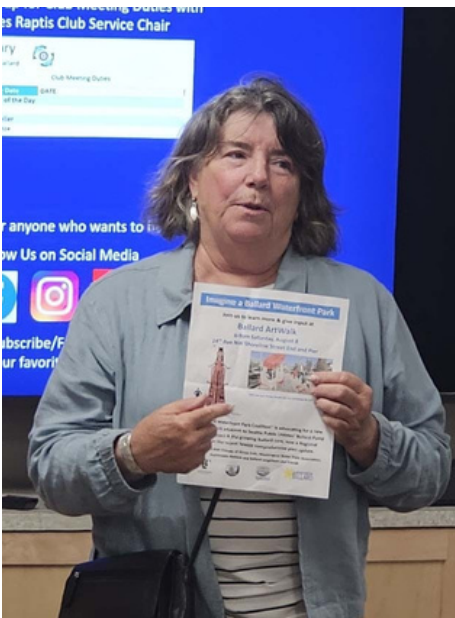


to speak about their impressive global grant to address a need for water among the Maasai in Kenya.

We also had one of our scholarship recipients, Matthew Domarotsky, give a brief talk. In all it was a lively meeting!

Meeting Pix







August 18th Program: Melissa Coughlin and Swoon City Bookstore



The August 18th club meeting featured program speaker, Marissa Coughlin, owner of Swoon City Bookstore in Ballard. Marissa was introduced by Programs Chair David Rice, who discovered her store while strolling through the recent Seafood Fest in Ballard. He said that she grew up in Anchorage, and that her grandparents are from Magnolia. She decided to move to the Seattle area, and after working for a time, decided to branch out into a new career as an entrepreneur. The Swoon City Bookstore has been here in Ballard since October, so not even a year.

Marissa described her bookstore as a women's lifestyle bookstore, combining romance books, crafting classes, and other women-focused items and activities. She shared her journey of becoming a romance book enthusiast and the inspiration behind opening Swoon City. She highlighted the importance of community and her bookstore's unique events in attracting customers. Various community events have been hosted at Swoon City, including book crawls, author talks, and writing clubs. She emphasized the importance of supporting local authors and artists, with over 25 local artists teaching crafting classes at the store. The recent Ballard Book Crawl as well as other community initiatives have been very successful. Marissa also highlighted the store's focus on hyper-local products, including books, crafting kits, and jewelry made by Washington-based creators.

She answered questions about her business, including the number of employees and the challenges of running a local bookstore. Club members expressed their appreciation for Marissa's efforts and the unique combination of books and crafts.

Rotarians Give Blood



The August 4th club meeting coincided with a Bloodworks Northwest mobile blood drive at the Leif Erikson Lodge, and a few Rotarians and friends took the opportunity to donate blood. At least two club members (James Raptis and Kathleen Linscott) donated blood after the conclusion of our club meeting. As they were leaving, David Rice's wife Joan arrived to donate. The Bloodworks NW staff were efficient and thoughtful, and we thank them for this easy opportunity to donate!



Bookstore location: 1716 NW Market St, Seattle, WA 98107
Bookstore Hours: 11:00 am-5:30 pm Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday; 10:00 am-6:00 pm Saturday; 10:00 am-5:00 pm Sunday
Website Link: [Swoon City: Romance Book Store & Craft Shop in Ballard, Seattle](#)

August 8th Pop-Up Art Walk



Lynnwood Rotarians Present Global Grant in Kenya

The pier at 24th Ave NW Street End Park

Andree Hurley helped organize a Pop-Up Art Walk at 24th Ave Street End Park on August 8th in order to raise awareness for a potential expanded waterfront park in the area. Three Ballard Rotarians (in addition to Andree) attended the event: Stan Miner, Derick Pasternak and Nancy Pasternak. There was a tent and table with illustrations of the concepts for the park, as well as tables and displays for several artists and their works. It was a beautiful sunny evening for all participating and attending this event. Andree also arranged for artisanal sandwiches to be provided by Stackhaus, a catering company that crafts wonderful sandwiches that showcase the local flavors of the Pacific Northwest.



The sunflowers that Andree planted are thriving in the space that used to be full of invasive blackberries.



A few of the artists' table



At the August 4th meeting, dressed in authentic Maasai garments, three Lynnwood Rotarians presented their global grant that will supply water to a community in Kenya.

Speakers included Debbi Bodal, Jacinta Silakan, and David Spicer. Also present was Trond Bodal.

There are many challenges faced by the Maasai community in Kenya, including lack of running water and electricity. The project plans to drill a borehole to provide a consistent supply of clean water, which will improve community health and reduce the physical burden on women and girls who currently have to travel long distances every day to collect water. It will improve health and educational opportunities for girls. The impact of water shortage on the community is significant, including reduction of early marriages, human-wildlife conflicts and health issues. The community's involvement will include land management and financial contributions. There will be training on water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and collaboration with non-governmental organizations for project oversight.

The project overview described the depth required for the borehole (300 meters) and the need for solar power to pump water. There will be a kiosk for community water access, training on maintenance, and the use of beehives to deter elephants and harvesting of honey for maintenance funds. The community land management committee will oversee the project, ensuring sustainability and community engagement.

The project has raised \$172,000, but currently faces a deficit of \$1,700, with plans to submit a Rotary International application for additional funding.

August 11th Club Meeting



Several topics were covered at the August 11th club meeting on Zoom, with Nancy Pasternak as the key speaker, presenting her foundation's work in India and current project.

The foundation, Prosperity Rings, provided microcredit loans for 17 years. During that time, Nancy worked with people in India and saw them develop fabulous enterprises. Nancy collaborated 9 years ago with David Mansingh to establish a computer center for women entrepreneurs there, so that they could expand their businesses. David Mansingh is CEO of SHWET (Santhana Human Welfare & Educational Trust), and he worked with an academy in the state of Tamil Nadu to help women increase their computer skills. So now it is time to update the computers. In the past 18 years, 2,434 students have

received diplomas and certificates for job placement. Their lives in this rural community have been immeasurably improved.

The project budget is \$4,700 to update these computers and to purchase new chairs. They have received contributions from Bellevue, Ballard, Kirkland, and Lynwood Rotary clubs, with West Seattle Rotary also likely. So the project is on track to receive \$5,000 and the next task will be to transfer the funds. Thank you, Nancy, for your continued efforts to help so many!



Derick provided an update on the malaria project in Guinea, which has treated 3,665 children. There were a couple of schools where hardly any children had malaria, as few as 2%, and there were two schools where over 40% of the children had malaria but had no symptoms and did not know they had it. Overall, about 13%-14% of this particular population had silent malaria, and now they have all been treated. Remaining tasks for this project are the education of the parents and teachers in malaria prevention.

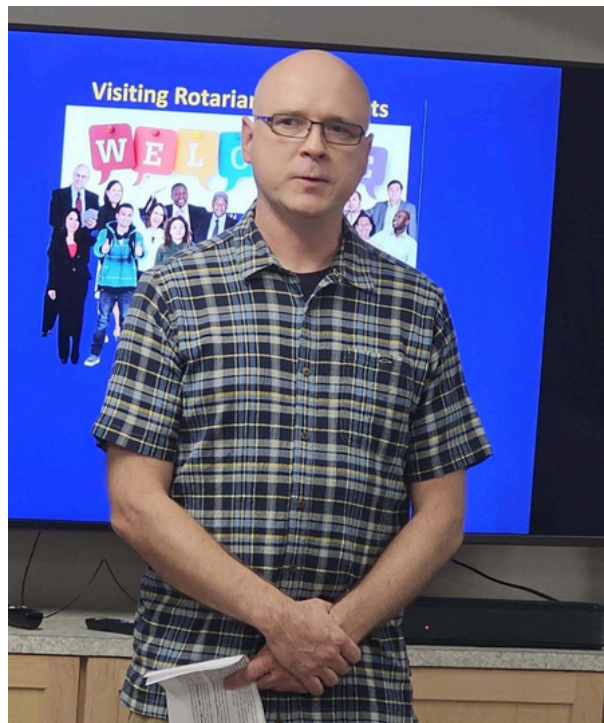


On murals and fundraisers...

At the Zoom meeting, Wil informed the club that he is working on a club project to create a mural in Ballard as a way to add art and bring Ballard's attention to Ballard Rotary. He has worked with the Ballard Public Art Committee of the Ballard Alliance, where he learned the process of getting a mural on a building. Part of the costs would be covered by Val's Peace Committee budget. But then Val suggested a pinball fundraiser, which is a pinball tournament with business sponsors, teams, prizes for raffles, etc. At the last board meeting, Wil created an ad hoc committee to help plan the event for this Rotary year, which would be a public-facing event, something that excites and energizes young people and people of all ages. The goal is to raise at least \$2,000. It sounds awesome!



Scholarship Recipient Matthew Domarotsky



More information will be announced as plans become solid. Wil reports that a location has been secured on the exterior wall of Slim Goodie's Last Chance, on the first block of Ballard Avenue where it splits off from Market Street. There is a big parking lot there, and the mural would be located on the south-west wall of the parking lot. The mural would only take up a portion of the wall; it is a long wall. The folks at Slim Goodies plan to have all of the wall decorated with murals, all community-related, so Ballard Rotary, something baseball-themed, and so on. Plus they are willing to contribute to pay the artist's fee. Speaking of which, Wil has secured an artist, one who has done work around the Ballard Food Bank, and his work has been mentioned in the New York Times recently. He also did a recent Jimothy piece that he auctioned online for \$6,000.

August 18th Club Meeting

The August 18th club meeting at the Leif Erikson Lodge was a busy one!

A scholarship recipient, John Beasley, gave a brief presentation, complete with photos of his time at Seattle Maritime Academy. See the adjacent article.



We also had an exchange of flags with a couple visiting from the Rotary Club of Chennai Aristo in Chennai, India, which is in Rotary District 3233. Arun Arunachalam and his wife Raji Rajashree are in Seattle visiting family and took the opportunity to visit Ballard Rotary. They exchanged their club's flag with our president Wil Barrett, who presented them with the Ballard Rotary flag.

Arun described his club's projects and initiatives, including donating auto rickshaws to women drivers, and working with residents of three institutions: a home for senior citizens, an institution that takes care of people who are physically challenged, and an institution which houses about 150 children with mental illness.

More Meeting Pix

At the August 4th club meeting, Matthew Domarotsky gave a brief talk on his goals as the recipient of a Ballard Rotary scholarship to Seattle Maritime Academy. He shared his career transition from a job as an engineer, where workforce reductions are increasing, to the maritime industry, where he hopes to leverage his leadership and technical skills. His choice was inspired by his family's naval background, who served in the Navy and were avid boaters, and his recent sailing certification from Windworks Sailing Club in Shilshole. He will start at Seattle Maritime Academy in September, where he will focus on the deck program. He thanked the club for the scholarship, saying that he feels that if he works hard then things will turn out well.

Congratulations, Matthew, and we wish you all the best!

Scholarship Recipient John Beasley



At the August 18th club meeting, John Beasley gave a brief talk on his goals as the recipient of a Ballard Rotary scholarship to Seattle Maritime Academy and who has completed his schooling. First, he thanked Ballard Rotary for the scholarship, which he used to complete the engineering program, graduating this June. He shared photos of his time at Seattle Maritime Academy, describing some of the classes as requiring 12-hour long days. In addition to engineering classes, his program included STCW training (Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, an international convention setting minimum qualification standards for seafarers), fire training, and water survivalability training.

Part of his program required that he work with the huge 14-cylinder diesel engines that are used on Washington ferries. On some of the engine parts, they have to put a ton of force (2,100 lbs of force) to crank down the bolts. Now that he has graduated, John looks forward to long-distance open-ocean hauling in the commercial shipping industry. He no longer has family ties in Seattle to keep him here, so he looks forward to time on the ocean, which he expects will be relaxing.

Best wishes for achieving your goals, John!



August 18th was Stan Miner's birthday!



Alex of StackHaus and Andree Hurley



Delicious, gourmet sandwiches from StackHaus

Helping our Rotary Neighbors in Fire Areas



As you know, our Rotary neighbors in District 5080 have been suffering from devastating wildfires impacting communities across much of Washington and British Columbia. Thousands of people have been displaced, homes and property have been lost, and communities are facing a long road of cleanup and recovery. And when our Rotary neighbors need us, we answer the call.

Rotary District 5080 has established its Disaster Relief Fund to support the cleanup and recovery efforts that will be needed in the weeks, months, and even years ahead. The easiest way to help right now is to make a donation directly through District 5080 at District5080.org.

And through funding from Rotary International and our District 5030 Disaster Relief Fund, District 5030 purchased a fully equipped Disaster Response Trailer for Disaster Aid USA to be based here in District 5030. But since it is needed in eastern Washington, our brand-new District 5030 Disaster Response Trailer is being deployed where it is needed most—to help our Rotary neighbors in District 5080.

You can help!

To donate: District5080.org

To volunteer in person: visit volunteer.disasteraidusa.org and select "Northwest Fires Rotary 5080 Volunteer Opportunity."



No need to bring cash or credit card, if you use these handy links to pay for your club meeting payment needs:



Happy Bucks

<https://bit.ly/4a1tsQm>



Raffle Tickets

<https://bit.ly/4qw5y5z>



Lunch Ticket for 1

<https://bit.ly/4qOoJI1>

Just fill in your payment information, and then click the Pay Now button. Easy-peasy!



Tina Aure, manager at Leif Erikson Lodge, introduced Matt, their newest staff member who will help get the space ready for our meetings.

Share Your Thoughts About Ballard with Seattle.Gov!

Thanks to Andree Hurley for spreading the word about how the Seattle city government is seeking our input on Ballard! Take the survey on this official website to let the powers that be what you think of Ballard, what you like and what can be improved:

Ballard - Planning and Community Development | seattle.gov

Support Your Club



Brown Bear Car Wash is the official car wash of the Seattle Seahawks! Support our club by purchasing Brown Bear car wash tickets! The price is only \$10 (retail is \$12) so it is a bargain for you that benefits the club. Send your check to James Raptis, and he will mail your tickets to you. Or you can purchase the tickets at a club meeting, just ask James Raptis!



Buy a peace car flag and support Ballard Rotary! International Peace Day is September 21st, the perfect time to display these flags on your car. Peace car flags are available for the low price of \$10 each, with \$5 going to Ballard Rotary. The flag attaches to your car window, and when the window is closed, the flag flies just above the roofline of your car. Thank you to Rotary Club of Bellevue and Nancy Pasternak, who had the flags printed and made them available to us. To purchase, contact Derick Pasternak, by email or phone.



Purchase a Ballard Rotary baseball cap and wear it proudly, especially when participating in service projects! The cost is only \$20! To purchase, contact James Raptis.

Celebrate!



BIRTHDAYS: Heartfelt happy birthday greetings to the following club members celebrating their birthday in September. Be sure to give your congratulations to these wonderful members at our next club meeting!

Member	Birthday
Debbi Larson	5 September
Andree Hurley	6 September
Daniel Foe	10 September
Doug Warne	15 September
Frank Airey	19 September

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES: Congratulations to the following club members on the anniversary of joining Rotary Club of Ballard. May you remain members for a very long time to come!

Member	Years
Ed Robinson	Many!
Daniel Foe	14

Follow Us on Social Media

Be sure to Subscribe/Follow/Like Ballard Rotary on your favorite social media platform!



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BallardRotary>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/ballardrotary/>
Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/@ballardrotary>

Club Leadership 2026-2027



Please join us at our lunch club meeting at noon every 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Tuesday of the month. On the 1st and 3rd Tuesday we meet in person at Leif Erickson Hall, 2245 NW 57th in Ballard and the cost of lunch is \$20. The 2nd Tuesdays are online via Zoom. Use this Zoom link to join the meeting:

On 4th Tuesdays, join us for an informal after-hours social at 5:30 PM at familiar pubs and breweries in Ballard. Check the newsletter for the location! Excursions on 5th Tuesdays are changeable in location, and time, so check our FB page or our website.

CLUB LEADERSHIP

Board of Directors
President (2026-2027)
Wil Barrett
President-Elect (2027-2028)
TBD
Immediate Past President
Alana Morris
Club Service Chair
James Raptis
Secretary
Nick Rogness
Treasurer
Pete Scott
Community Service Chair
Nick Rogness & Terry Collings
Membership Chair
Fred Finkelstein
The Rotary Foundation Chair
Stan Miner
Public Image Chair
Kathleen Linscott
Peacebuilders Chair
Val Gaifoulline
Programs Chair
David Rice
International Chair and Grants Officer
Alana Morris & Derick Pasternak
Family of Rotary
William Barrett
Vocational Services Chair
[TBD]
Youth Committee Chair
Mark Stewart
Environmental & Sustainability Chair
Andree Hurley
Ballard Rotary Foundation Directors
Director: Stan Miner
Secretary: TBD
Treasurer: Pete Scott
Member: David Rice