

the HUB

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ROTARY CLUB 21
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the HUB NEWSLETTER



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2008-2009 ROTARY HUB

Thank You President Homer

This edition of the HUB is dedicated to honoring our President and for thanking our members for their "Service Above Self" through their contributions and service through Rotary. We are doing this a little differently this year.

We hope you like it!

Tom McDonald & The HUB Committee

Meet "Princess Karis"



For those of you who were not present at the meeting on March 26, 2009, let me introduce you to Karis Clark. Karis was recommended for the Vocational Service Award by her counselor at Ferris, Pamela MacIness and was presented by Amy Higgins.

Karis has been essentially homeless since she was 13 years old. She and her brothers had been kicked out and the parents signed away parental rights to all three children, leaving them all to fend for themselves on the streets. Karis has spent a night or two on park benches and many nights in a variety of homes for the last four years. Last year she changed residences 8 times.

Karis has not had any one to shelter, protect her, cherish and love her as we do our own children. Karis is amazing. Despite this horrible situation, she has chosen to excel and has kept her grades up and will attend Eastern Washington University. Details are still being worked out, but we are hoping for a full ride. Karis dreams of becoming a teacher.

The above photo is of Karis on her Prom Night thanks to President Homer & First Lady Phyllis who have welcomed her into their home where she now has a safe and healthy place to stay. Many other Club Rotarians also kicked in to make this a magical moment for her. Besides Prom, which so many of our kids take for granted, Club #21 Rotarians have offered and will deliver upon resources and services to help Karis meet her goals of attending school and making a difference in the lives of children as a teacher.

Karis would like to thank Homer & Phyllis. She appreciates everything they have done for her and is very grateful to be blessed enough to have them in her life.



Homer Todd

AND A MESSAGE

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Transitions. I've made one this month. Moving from 69 to 70. It's not as scary as I thought it would be when I was 20! My long time buddy, Lou Sutcliffe, is facing a transition as well. His diabetes induced neuropathy is bad enough that he has to wear a plastic support for his lower leg and foot. He knows that he has limited time for trips and new adventures, so he's

Continued on Page 4

★ Upcoming Programs ★

All meetings are held at The Spokane Club unless otherwise noted

- June 04 Club 21's Foundation**
Jason Miller, Guest Speaker
- June 11 Empire Health Foundation**
Mike Senske, Guest Speaker
- June 18 Sustainable Energy Solutions**
Roger Woodworth, Avista, Guest Speaker
- June 25 Year In Review**
Homer Todd
- July 02 Incoming President**
Debbie Rauen
- July 09 International Justice Mission**
Brian Cress, Guest Speaker

This Rotary Club Newsletter

"The HUB" is brought to you by . . .

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★ Make-Up Opportunities ★

All meetings at Noon unless noted

- MON** • **Spokane North** - The Red Lion, 303 W. North River Dr.
- **Spokane Valley Sunrise** - Shari's Restaurant, 320 N. Sullivan - **7 AM**
- TUES** • **Spokane Daybreak** - The Spokane Club, 1002 W. Riverside - **7 AM**
- **Spokane Valley** - Mirabeau Park Hotel, 1100 N. Sullivan
- **Spokane West** - Holiday Inn - Airport, 1616 S. Windsor Dr.
- **Cheney** - China Buffet
- **Rotaract** - Crescent Court Bldg., 707 W. Main, Suite 500 - **6 PM • 1st & 3rd Tues.**
- WED** • **Spokane East** - Timber Creek Grill Buffet, Argonne Village
- **Spokane Hillyard** - N.E. Community Center, 4001 N. Cook
- THU** • **Spokane Club #21** - The Spokane Club, 1002 W. Riverside Ave.
- **Spokane Aurora N.W.** - The Cathay Inn, 3714 N. Division
- **Deer Park** - Pizza Factory, Hwy. 395 & 'H' Street
- **Liberty Lake** - George Gee Auto Dealership, 21502 E. George Gee Avenue
- FRI** • **Spokane South** - The Spokane Club, 1002 W. Riverside Ave.

Visit one of these clubs or any other club 14 days prior, or 14 days after our regular Thursday meeting to keep up your attendance requirements. (If you are doing make-ups, please remember to call, mail or Email [rotaryspokane21@nwadv.com] the Rotary office to report them.)

Profiles in Rotary

MEMBER PROFILE: PAULA NORDGAARDEN



By Dan Austin

When you look at Paula Nordgaarden's office building, the Director of Wishing Star, it seems regular enough. The front door is painted a tasteful blue with yellow trim. Paula has planted flowers to the right of the door, that are the same colors. It's when you walk inside that things seem, well, un-regular. Molly greets you with a crotch sniff. Molly job-shares the front desk duties with Sarah. Did I mention Molly is a Labrador Retriever? Sarah is Molly's mom. I am then greeted by Paula. This time with your basic handshake. As I wipe the dog spit off my pants I hit Paula with my first, of many, insightful questions. "So, what's with the dog?" Paula explains that her job is to lift people up. She looks for what people value and she honors that. Sarah of course valued Molly who was having a difficult time of staying home alone in an empty apartment. Hence the job sharing role. In the past, other staffers have brought their children to work because of day care issues. Paula sometimes refers to her office environment as a zoo. Albeit a happy and healthy zoo.

Paula has been the Executive Director of Wishing Star for four years. This foundation grants wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses between the ages of three and twenty one. Paula and her staff believe that once a Wishing Star family, always a Wishing Star family. They continue to support the families long after the child's wish has been granted.

Paula has earned a M.ED and a Masters in Social Work. She has worked with abused and neglected children, at-risk youth, injured workers, and countless classes of children as a substitute teacher. She was a single

mom with three kids and now has 5 grandkids. She wanted everyone to know that her son, who is in his 30's, still holds the bi-county rushing record. She is first and foremost a strong advocate for children. She says it took her 21 years of schooling and raising children and helping with grandchildren to become the person she wanted to live with the rest of her life.

Always the goal setter, and single for 21 years, she decided to write her vision of a husband. It read, "I feel like a lavender in the full sun of life and I seek a heather or perhaps a dianthus who will reach out his roots to me but never overshadow me."

Now you non-poetic, non-romantic types will read this as some sort of ad promoting garden plants or perhaps fertilizer. But not so. Mr. Right (AKA Garry) had placed his personal ad. She read his ad and took a chance of a heather or dianthus. They have been wonderfully married for 5 years.

Here are a few quotes from Paula's staff:
 "She knows what is important in life."
 "She is like a mother figure."
 "She makes you do better and with more passion."
 "Paula is too much to put in one sentence."

Her dad was a Rotarian. She says she was raised as a Four Way Tester. I guess you probably already knew that by now.

~ Dan Austin

HOMERIC HOMAGE

Homer? You mean the soft spoken guy who can't carry a tune and has no sense of humor?

Homer: Any guy who can bring a smile to your face, warmth to your heart and trust to your soul all at once, is a guy I like to hang around.
 ~ Rich Kuhling

I surely enjoyed Homer's year as President of Club 21... he's a great leader and an innate speaker. Homer, you're a hero and THANKS!!
 ~ Laurie Kriet

With a classification of "Religion-Retail", great minister humor without having to go to church, and a deep dedication to service, compassion and fun, Homer has done an excellent job. And, he came to watch us play and he said I was a really great drummer in public. So, he is perceptive and wise as well.
 ~ Steven Schneider

I respect and admire Homer for many of attributes. He is kind, hard-working and graceful. His sense of humor is very helpful in times of challenge. He has been a great leader as well as a helper. I appreciate Homer very much.
 ~ Dave Kliever

Homer's repertoire includes, but is not limited to, jokes (sometimes bordering on funny), magic tricks, laughing, listening, taking in a homeless student, etc. Underlying all of his actions, the foundation of Homer if you will, is a selfless servant of others. In Rotary we call that Service Above Self.

~ Dan Austin

Homer, who likes to be called Homie, after his hero Homer Simpson, recently found out that they are both follicly challenged.....Dooohf !!!
 ~ Bob Mulder

I appreciate Homer's steadfast ease of handling our club. His confidence as a presenter and great quips are enjoyable for all. I also appreciate his optimistic view in handling our Club and does not get rattled at even the toughest of issues. Thanks Homer for your being such a great servant! Blessings,
 ~ Paul Viren

I knew that Homer's year was going to be "Magic"! Leave it to Homer to expand on RI's efforts to eradicate Polio. I never knew a minister could be such a cool guy! Thanks for a great year, Homer.
 ~ Scott Millsap

Homer has been a great leader during his presidency. He always makes newcomers feel truly welcome and a part of the group. I can say he certainly did this for me when I was a new member! He is an inspiration to get others to be involved in Rotary and its projects and committees. Thanks Homer!
 ~ Lisa Dickinson

When I think of a great leader, I think of: (1) Someone who works tirelessly to better the organization; (2) Someone who makes an extraordinary effort to get to know the members of the organization, and has the ability and willingness to recognize their talents, delegate to them and give credit where credit is due; and (3) Someone with a sense of humor to make meetings entertaining and to lighten the mood when we start to take ourselves too seriously. Homer has met and exceeded in each of these areas and has been a great Rotary 21 President.

~ Mike Church

A really great man is known by three signs... generosity in the design, humanity in the execution, moderation in success; thus Homer epitomizes a REALLY GREAT MAN.
 ~ Tom McDonald

President Homer, Your warmth and sense of humor have made this past year a memorable one for all of us in Club 21. You have been a true Servant-Leader. The quote from the parable of the talents is most appropriate: "Well done thou good and faithful servant."
 ~ Dave Troyke

birthdaycorner June

KYLE SMITH	JUN 03
BARBARA CRUZ	JUN 04
JEFF OYLER	JUN 05
HOMER TODD	JUN 05
CHARLIE WATSON	JUN 06
MIKE FLEIG	JUN 07
MARCUS RICCELLI	JUN 07
JEFF BRYANT	JUN 07
SHARON HELMAN	JUN 08
JOHN PILCHER	JUN 08
TEDDIE GIBBON	JUN 10
DEE MARTIN	JUN 11
PAUL NOLAN	JUN 11
LARRY STANLEY	JUN 11
DICK PIERSON	JUN 12
BOB LARSON	JUN 13
TERRY JUDGE	JUN 13
BILL BRANDENBURG	JUN 13
KATHLEEN LANGENHEIM	JUN 14
TIM MCCANDLESS	JUN 15
CHRISTINA SCEVA	JUN 18
MAX GALLOTTI	JUN 19
FRANK STOREY	JUN 20
DEB HARPER	JUN 20
BRADY CASS	JUN 20
LEE PENNELL	JUN 22
SCOTT JONES	JUN 24
PATRICK O'NEILL	JUN 25
BUD HENLEY	JUN 25
JIM KALAMON	JUN 26
RAY BETTS	JUN 29
DAVE TROYKE	JUN 29
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