Prez Mike rang the bell at exactly 7:00 am. (even in Hawaii), on this pre-Christmas Eve morning and welcomed everyone to the “Seattle Rotary Club”, apparently in reference to all the rainy weather that we have been experiencing for the past week.

Glenn’s “stand-in” for the Rotary Minute was Prez Mike. Mike gave us a brief historical timeline of the Rose Bowl Parade. Started in the late 1800’s, it was not until 1923 that Rotary first participated in the parade. This year will be the 32nd consecutive year that Rotary has entered a float.

Ashley, who was filling in for Robyn, introduced our visitors & guests. Mike Mahaney, Ashley’s better half, Past Fine Monster Jeff Manna, and visiting Rotarian Paul Brenner and his son Kevin from the Keystone State of Pennsylvania, were all in attendance.

“Who Wants to Be A Hundredaire” host Marvin welcomed (all the way from Silver Bell, AZ), contestant Ted, to answer questions on the topic “Surfing USA.” Ted was challenged to provide the names of the Top 10 websites most visited by Americans. Marvin again warned everyone of the “No Blurting” rule, but several answers slipped out anyway. A valiant effort was mounted, but Ted was to be denied. The final elusive answers needed to complete Ted’s list were: Wikipedia, Blogger, Twitter, and Craigslist. Next week’s contestant will be Frank, attempting to answer questions on the topic, “Mr. Wizard.” Study up on Chemistry and Physics? Nah, probably not...

Prez Mike started his announcements with a little trivia; on this date in 1823, the poem “A Visit From St. Nicholas” (now often better known as “‘Twas the Night before Christmas”), was first published.

Jim F. and Larry S. both discussed volunteer openings at Opportunity Village and reported on the fact that 4 or 5 days of bad weather has caused a loss of income and some weather-related damage. Anyone wishing to volunteer may just go to the Village any night through Jan. 1 (by 5 pm.) and sign in to help.

Jon updated everyone on the shelter visit planned for Christmas Eve. (Helpers are asked to meet at Jon’s house by 1 pm.). Jon also provided a story about a little girl, who earlier this week asked Santa to just bring her some bubble gum for Christmas. Another young girl also told Jon that she was surprised to see “that Santa was still alive.” (Out of the mouths of babes...) Inspired by charity and kind-heartedness, Jon also requested special donations for a needy family that he knew need some extra Christmas help. Also, any additional clothing donations for the shelter will be appreciated. After a short discussion it was agreed that the January 7th Rotary Round-Up will be group bowling at “The Strike Zone” inside Sunset Station Casino. If you do not want to bowl, that is OK. Just stop by and have fun socializing with the group. Families are welcome...!!

As a reminder, nominations for positions on the 2011-2012 Board of Director’s are still being accepted. (See Nelda, Robyn or Prez Mike).

The club has two projects scheduled in the upcoming weeks. The Adopt-a-Trail cleanup at the Pittman Wash Trail will be on Saturday, Jan. 15th (details and a map are on the website calendar) and the “Soupers Bowl of Caring” project will be on Feb. 5th (more info on this will be announced shortly).

(Continued on page 2)
Dave J. reported on a reply he received regarding a "care package" that the club recently sent. Dave received a letter from Lance Corporal Ryan G’s Dad. Ryan is stationed in Afghanistan and is due to return home in 5 months. Ryan’s Dad informed us that his son loves what he is doing and that he was grateful for our gift.

Fine Mistress Ashley had a long recognition list to complete during this Christmas week. Jerry G., who replied with an “Oh yeah, it is,” when reminded about his birthday, received a “reverse spin” and a gift of our “infamous” birthday serenade for his special upcoming day; a tradition that should be illegal. Jerry, George, and Larry B. also all have wedding anniversaries coming up on the 28th (but not to each other...).

Melinda, Al (remember him?), Larry B. and Dave J. were all late, but Ashley exempted Dave from a spin of “The Wheel” because he actually used our website to send out a mass email. When asked to name of the new reporter for the newsletter, Jim F. was quick to answer with, Rock “The Rookie”, earning a reverse spin for his correct answer.

Ashley collected a fist full of Happy Bucks and Dammit Dollars. Due to all the rain, Larry S. indicated that maybe we were really going to Pasadena to work on the Rotary “float” and he also paid a buck (and wore his Bears Santa hat) for the Bears winning the NFC North championship. Jim F. bragged about UNLV’s upset of Kansas State.

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Finally, Mike was proud of Indiana’s basketball team playing in Las Vegas (was there also mention of the bowling team being here too...?). Financial advisor by day and daredevil by night (or vice versa), our own Matt Shaughnessy was our guest speaker today. Matt was scheduled to discuss his love of skydiving, but managed to also incorporate his “Craft Talk” into the beginning of the program. Matt’s Rotary influence was born some 30 years ago when he was part of Rotary’s exchange student program to Australia. After that experience, he returned to the U.S. and graduated from BYU. Bitten by the travel bug, Matt proceeded to spend time in New Zealand, Australia and South Africa during the next few years. He made a living in the southern hemisphere by being a bartender, running a bar, (and possibly freeing Nelson Mandela from prison).

After spending several years abroad, he returned to Tucson, AZ to manage a Morgan Stanley office. In 2006, Matt moved to Las Vegas to manage another office and then he was recruited by UBS as a manager. Matt is married and has two children, ages 12 and 4.

When not following stocks and bonds, Matt works as an instructor at Skydive Las Vegas. Skydive Las Vegas specializes in providing a tandem parachuting experience for both tourists and locals. Nearly 10,000 people a year pay about $200 to be strapped to another individual and be pushed, pulled or shoved out of an airplane.

Matt stated that out of 3.5 million “non-military” jumps each year, there are less than 30 fatalities. He pointed out that this is far less than fatalities on our highways, but is much more widely reported. A rather interesting admission by a company with a slogan, “Why Gamble With Your Money, When You Can Gamble With Your Life.”

Skydive Las Vegas provides only tandem jumping, which requires very little training. Jumpers must sign a waiver and then go thru about an hour of training. Most of the training revolves around keeping your hands to yourself, not grabbing hold of the instructor or his harness, and the proper procedures to prevent the instructor from landing on you.

Merry Christmas Everyone!
Since 1890, the Tournament of Roses has been ushering in the new year with a parade of spectacular floats and enthusiastic marching bands down the streets of Pasadena, California, USA. The Rotary Club became a part of the pageantry in 1923, when the Rotary Club of Pasadena entered a float in the 34th annual Rose Parade.

The club participated in three more Rose Parades – 1927, 1946, and 1966 – before making it an annual tradition in 1980. That year, recognizing the parade’s potential for promoting Rotary to an audience of millions worldwide, clubs in the western United States decided to sponsor a float in honor of the organization’s 75th anniversary. The Rotary Rose Parade Float Committee was later formed and continues to coordinate the fundraising for and construction of the float today.

Putting together a float is an ambitious undertaking, not least because parade rules dictate that the entire surface be covered with organic materials such as flowers, fruits and vegetables, or seeds. Hundreds of Rotary, Rotaract, and Interact club members from the United States, as well as Canada and Mexico, donate their time to build and decorate the float. Float themes have reflected Rotary’s efforts to eradicate polio, its commitment to service, and its humanitarian programs. The theme of the 1998 float, “Bringing the World Together,” celebrated the 50th anniversary of Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarships and highlighted the Foundation’s work to build peace.

The 2001 theme, “Recognizing Tomorrow’s Leaders,” celebrated the many young people Rotary has channeled into positive leadership roles through the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards program.

On 1 January, the Rotary Rose Parade Float Committee will celebrate 32 consecutive years in the parade with a float proclaiming the 2010-11 RI theme, Building Communities – Bridging Continents.

Rotary International does not fund the float; the Rotary Rose Parade Float Committee receives donations from individual clubs and Rotarians.

Leadership Awards program.

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50 Things Every Rotarian Should Know About Rotary

#25 - District Conference

Most Rotarians have never attended a Rotary District Conference. They have not experienced one of the most enjoyable and rewarding privileges of Rotary membership.

A district conference is for all club members and their spouses, not just for club officers and committee members. The purpose of a district conference is for fellowship, good fun, inspirational speakers and discussion of matters which make one’s Rotary membership more meaningful. Everyone who attends a district conference finds that being a Rotarian becomes even more rewarding because of the new experiences, insights and acquaintances developed at the conference. Those who attend a conference enjoy going back, year after year.

Every one of Rotary’s more than 500 districts has a conference annually. These meetings are considered so important that the Rotary International president selects a knowledgeable Rotarian as his personal representative to attend and address each conference. The program always includes several outstanding entertainment features, interesting discussions and inspirational programs.

One of the unexpected benefits of attending a district conference is the opportunity to become better acquainted with members of one’s own club in an informal setting. Lasting friendships grow from the fellowship hours at the district conference.

The District 5300 2011 Conference is scheduled for June 9-12, 2011 at the La Jolla Marriott, 4240 La Jolla Village Drive, San Diego, CA.
He puzzled and puzzled till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn’t before! Maybe Christmas, he thought, doesn’t come from a store. Maybe Christmas... perhaps... means a little bit more!

~ from How the Grinch Stole Christmas!

December Birthdays
* 11 - Jay Larsen
* 27 - Jerry Gardberg
* 29 - Kelly Thompson

Green Valley Rotarians
Missing on: December 23rd
Leigh Aurbach, Russ Bowler, Lauren Bruner, Rick Gilmore, Paul Goecke, Glenn Greener, Val Hatley, Susan Johnson, Stephanie Kurtz, Dave McGovern, Robyn Nelson, Marieliana Perrone, Jim Servino, Conrad Villanueva, Brian Whitaker and Andy Wright.

Visiting Rotarians - December 23rd
Paul Brenner - (PP) Hazleton, PA

Guests - December 23rd
Kevin Brenner - Son of Paul Brenner
Mike Mahaney - Guest of Ashley
Jeff Manna - Guest of Nelda

December Anniversaries
* 28 - George & Linda Baggott
* 28 - Larry & Pam Bettis
* 28 - Jerry & Fran Gardberg

GV Rotary Anniversaries
* 12 - Susan Johnson - 7 Years
* 12 - Larry Skaggs - 7 Years
* 17 - Andre Kindness - 1 Year
* 31 - Jerry Gardberg - 9 Years
* 31 - Christine Smith - 1 Year

Rotary Foundation Thought
This week’s Rotary Foundation Thought is about using District Simplified Grants to help communities in need.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, many Rotarians were interested in developing projects to alleviate the suffering and hardship of individuals in the affected communities. Many of the needed items, such as basic necessities and medical care, were provided through a District Simplified Grant (DSG).

District Simplified Grants (DSG) are one means by which Rotary districts can support short-term, humanitarian projects that benefit local or international communities. DSG funds can be used for disaster relief efforts as long as Rotarians clearly identify the proposed grant-funded expenditures and there is active Rotarian participation in the project. Clubs interested in receiving DSG funds must contact their district leadership.

Let’s learn more about our own district’s projects and how to get involved. For so many, life would be different if it weren’t for Rotary. Create world understanding and peace with your contribution to The Rotary Foundation.