

INDUCTION: **SHARON VIK**  
November 5, 2009



## THE NAME, “ROTARY INTERNATIONAL”

The name of this organization is Rain City Rotary. We are a provision club of *Rotary International*. RI is not the Elks. Nor is RI the Daughters of the American Revolution, Kiwanis, Lions, the Republican Party, NASA, nor Riverdance. RI is not local. The name is not Rotary America. Nor is it Rotary Western Hemisphere, or Rotary Capitalists, or Rotary Old White Guys, or Rotary Parochial, or Rotary Rich People, or Rotary The-Way-Things-Used-To Be. Rotary International means its name.

First, this organization is a **Rotary**. Paul Harris, Rotary’s founder, was lonely and not feeling all that constructive a human being as a lawyer. So he called some friends and started meeting. They moved their meeting from one office to the next, and so “rotated” meeting places. They built a public restroom. They made plans. They did things. The name “Rotary” encapsulates the fact that Rotary is about friendship, and about doing something constructive. The name “Rotary” also captures the fact that it is entirely possible to live one’s entire life without actively creating friendships or doing anything much that is constructive. Paul Harris thought he needed friends to be the best Paul Harris possible. We believe that here in Rain City Rotary too. We believe we humans are communal animals; we just function better in affectionate, interactive groups. Rotary’s 105 years of experience confirm these convictions.

Second, this organization is Rotary **International**. Rotary encompasses 33,790 clubs spread through 200 nations and geographical regions with more than 1.2 million members. The countries and membership numbers in each country are listed on the back of this sheet. Less than 30% of all Rotarians are Americans. Almost 1% of all Rotarians are Swiss. 4% are German. 5% are Korean. 7.7% are Japanese. 8.5% are Indian. 3.6% are British. And there are forty-six Rotarians in Afghanistan. It is Rotary *International*. What’s more, Rotarians reach out. They collaborate with humanitarian organizations worldwide: World Health Organization, United Nations, World Vision, UNICEF, Center for Disease Control, Habitat for Humanity, and thousands of non-governmental relief organizations. Rotary is **inter**-national. Rotary finds humans to be human, regardless of their various religions, colors, preferences, wealth or poverty, and prejudices.

**Rotary is humanity seeking its best self.**

*Welcome to Rotary International, Sharon Vik.  
And Welcome to Rain City Rotary.*

BRAD LANCASTER  
Membership Chairperson