

Club Information

Rotary Club of Downtown Gainesville, Florida #27544 chartered September 18, 1990

Charter President J. Ben Rowe Our in person meetings are temporarily (we hope!) suspended.

Please join us Virtually on Wednesday's at Noon - See ZOOM link information in bulletin

Club Website:

https://downtowngainesvillerotary.org/

Club Meetings

Temporary Virtual Zoom Meetings Every Wenesday at Noon Please find link in our Club News

Club Leaders



Diane Marie Robar President



Brenda Chamberlain Club Director President-Elect



ennifer Watson-Reddish ecretary



William S. Combs



Stephanie Esposito ocial Media and Public Relations



Albert Anthony Losch Jr. Bulletin Editor



oseph E. Lowry Jr. Club Director



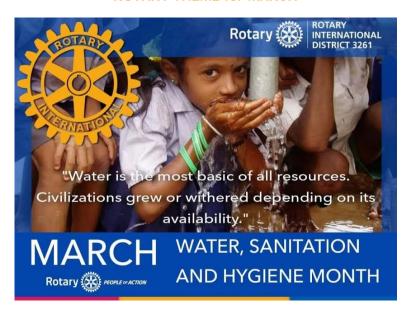
Clay Martin III Club Director

Megan Olson

Welcome

Welcome to the Virtual Rotary Club of Downtown Gainesville

ROTARY THEME for MARCH



Zoom Meeting Link

Welcome to the Rotary Club of Downtown Gainesville Join us for our Virtual Zoom meeting (temporarily) at noon Wednesday

Topic: Downtown Gainesville Virtual Rotary Meeting Time: 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Now online Wednesday's at Noon

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system. Weekly: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/uZwvduqsqzksnLXgB5WICgWAgDnJJUfBXw/ics?icsToken=98tyKu2grDopHtGXtlztRbAtA53-b-HqkX9ikqR_ySjMICdkQwTSOMhoB7RdKM-B

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/482134526?pwd=VC8xYmcyY2VRZFdUOU1Vc2xqYUhVZz09





<u>Carl Smart</u> Club Director



<u>Perry Pursell</u> Sergeant-at-Arms



Jim 🍫 Jimbo 💠 E. Skiles III



Chessie Flanders iPast President



Mary Kate Walker Assistant Governor

Birthdays

Clay Martin III March 3rd Neal Peter Cohen March 9th Stephanie Esposito March 19th William S. Combs March 20th

Meeting ID: 482 134 526 Password: 621885

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,482134526#,,1#,621885# US (Chicago) +16465588656,,482134526#,,1#,621885# US (New York)

NOTABLE ROTARIANS



CHARLES WALGREEN (1873 - 1939) , founder of Walgreen Drugs, was a member of the Chicago club and for years insisted the 4-Way Test hang in every store.

Rotary is Everywhere!

The 1st pictures coming out of Mars and thankfully there's a local club!

They don't meet until next week though



Speaker Coordinator Schedule

MARCH SPEAKERS:

- March 3 Akito Kawahara "The Insect Effect"
- March 10 Dr. Fari Moni The Impact of Rotary (she is the Rotarian featured in the video we saw about the building of schools in Afghanistan)
 March 17 Rachel Slocumb, Ocala Wetland Recharge Park
- March 24 Dr. Nam-Kyu Parks , The Effects of Light on Sleeping"
 March 31 Jean and Keith Best, Promoting Peace

Please be sure to let Jim Skiles know of your speakers as soon as you schedule them.

***If you are the speaker coordinator, please send your speaker the Zoom link for our meeting. It is recurring weekly to make it easy.

Coordinator	Jim Skiles	352-538- 0293	
MARCH	Jim Skiles		
April	Carl Smart		
May	Bob Taylor		
June	Stepanie Esposito		
JULY			
August	Matt Bowman		
September	Perry Pursell		
October	Brett Buell		
November	Becky Hunt		
I			

December Al Losch

Jim Skiles is the Chief Speaker Coordinator- please have all speaker submissions in to Jim and social media chair Stephanie Esposito as soon as you have confirmation .

Jim's email:- jimskiles3@gmail.com

Stephanie's email: Stephanie_Esposito@mbhci.org

ROTARY MINUTE from February 24th



The first four Rotarians. From left: Gustavus Loehr, Silvester Schiele, Hiram E. Shorey, Paul P. Harris.

On February 23, 1905, Paul Harris held the first Rotary club meeting in Chicago. Here is a special video, in honor of our our 116th birthday

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z1dxvQD3ryQ

FIELD TRIP to new SANTA FE BLOUNT campus

On Saturday, February 27th, Rotarians were invited to a Fun and Fellowship gathering to tour of the site of Santa Fe College's new Blount Campus. This building will be located on the northwest corner of West University Avenue and North Sixth Street, the former home to the SF College Center for Innovation and Economic Development. Parrish-McCall builders have been making steady, significant progress on the new three-story 87,366 square-foot facility that will become the Blount Hall

The new facility is on track to open to students in the spring of 2022 and will become the new home for the college susiness and IT degree programs. Blount Hall will offer students a full array of student services including admissions, financial aid, academic advising as well as a library and study spaces for both small and larger groups of students. The college so downtown expansion will also provide a convenient location for underserved communities in and around the City of Gainesville to greater access to higher education opportunities in high-demand, high-wage fields of study.

Proposed new BLOUNT HALL facility











Event Calendar



~~~~ DETAILS FOR ALL EVENTS ARE LOCATED WITHIN THE BULLETIN ~~~~~

MARCH 6 10 -12 pm	Rotary Generations Recreation Bocce Ball Challenge Northside Park	Ed Book bookgainesville@aol.com
MARCH 6 2:00 - 4:00 PM	Eastside Vaccination Information Walk We will start at 2 p.m. and meet at the T.B. McPherson Center (1717 SE 15th Street, Gainesville). You will be sent to a neighborhood from there with a list of neighbors over 65	Register and information: https://forms.gle/sVEKibykp74wsZyPA
MARCH 6 2:00- 4:00 PM	Newberry Vaccination Information Walk We will start at 2 p.m. and meet at Oak View Middle School. Newberry Mayor Jordan Marlowe is going to accompany the groups. You will be sent to a neighborhood from there with a list of neighbors over 65.	Register and information https://forms.gle/ 2wkecnqh3133RwuNA
March 10, (Wednesday) 9:30am - 10:30am a.m.	Catholic Charities Weekend Hunger Backpack Program	Register at https://Registrations.DACdb.com/Register/index.cfm? EventID=77521510&NoCaptcha
March 26 1 pm	Rotary - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion seminar Investing in Equity	https://www.rizones33- 34.org/infinite-possibilities/
March 27 8:30 - 11:30 AM	SANTA FE RIVER CLEANUP with CURRENT PROBLEMS AND KINGS OF THE SPRINGS. Rescheduled from February 20th To reserve a A KAYAK OR CANOE call/text352-467- 9865 or emailing TJ Pyche pychetj@gmail.com	High Springs Canoe Outpost, 21410 US-441, High Springs, FL 32643
April 30 1 PM	Rotary - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion seminar Celebrate Diversity	https://www.rizones33- 34.org/infinite-possibilities/
ONGOING Tues, Thurs and Sat. 11 am-4 pm	Donations to Grace Marketplace	

VACCINE INFORMATION WALKS

Let's join our fellow Rotarians and help with this effort!



FROM TJ: thanks to everyone who came out to help with the first vaccine information walk With more than 40 volunteers, we were able to knock on more than 500 doors.

Interested in helping out with our next walk? There are TWO neighborhoods we will be distributing vaccine information to. One is the eastside neighborhoods, the other is in Newberry.

Saturday, March 6th, from 2 pm to 4 pm: East Gainesville Vaccine Information Walk

We will start at 2 p.m. and meet at the T.B. McPherson Center (1717 SE 15th Street, Gainesville). You will be sent to a neighborhood from there with a list of neighbors over 65.

Sign up at https://forms.gle/ otJ7QGzpYZLhxbwX6.

Saturday, March 6, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.: Newberry Vaccine Information Walk

We will start at 2 p.m. and meet at Oak View Middle School. Newberry Mayor Jordan Marlowe is going to accompany the groups. You will be sent to a neighborhood from there with a list of neighbors over 65.

Sign up at https://forms.gle/ 2wkecnqh3133RwuNA

CALLING ALL BOCCE-ERS AND FANS!!

NORTHSIDE PARK

SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 2021

10 AM � 12 PM

Rotary Generations Recreation Bocce Ball Challenge



SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

Due to rising waters, the February 20th event had to be postponed. The rescheduled date is MARCH 27th

WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

WANT TO HELP CLEAN UP OUR WATERWAYS?

HERE'S YOUR OPPORTUNITY







Come JOIN US on Saturday, MARCH 27th , in a joint river clean up sponsored by the Kings of the Springs , Current Problems and the Rotary Surfers fellowship. Both Kings of the Springs and Current Problems have been recognized by our club with a Wes Skiles Water Stewardship award . Both are local organizations , actively dedicated to keeping our area's rivers, creeks and other waterways clean.



This will be a joint service project with the Downtown Rotary, Gainesville Rotary and Rotaract Clubs for a Santa Fe River Cleanup on Saturday, MARCH 27th, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

If you would like to reserve a canoe or kayak (no charge), please contact TJ Pyche text 352-467-9865 or email @

Meet at the High Springs Canoe Outpost, 21410 US-441, High Springs, FL 32643.

If you sign up, please make every effort to come or find someone who is willing to replace you. There is a cost associated with this, but the organization graciously covers it.

Masks will be required when you are near others.j

DID YOU SEE THIS?



How cool is this??

Pre-order your Florida Rotary tag now! We need to sell a minimum of 3,000 pre-sale vouchers for production.

http://floridarotarytag.com



Rotary - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion seminar

Shared by District 6960

use this link to register: https://www.rizones33-34.org/infinite-possibilities/

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

Presented by Rotary District 6960

Register NOW for the first session, Strength in Diversity, with a very special host, Valarie Wafer, Rotary International Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Task Force Chair, who will lead an esteemed group of panelists through discussions on how strength lies in differences, not similarities. Joining Valerie are Joshua Innis, Paul Amoury and Rea Vrandecic.

As we bring major Rotary International speakers to the forefront, we have every confidence you will find each one-hour webinar well worth your time and attention. The following is our series schedule:

 $\underline{\textit{Register NOW}} \ \textit{for Infinite Possibilities} \ \boldsymbol{\diamondsuit} \ \textit{Strength In Diversity},$

- March 26, 2021 Investing in Equity, hosted by District 6960 Governor Darryl Keys, with featured speaker Xavier Ramey, fellow Rotarian from Chicago.
 - Register NOW for Infinite Possibilities Investing in Equity, 1:00 pm EDT March 26, 2021
- April 30, 2021 Celebrate Diversity, with special guest speakers Rotary International President Holger Knack, Rotary International Director Peter Kyle and Anna Ekb ck.
 Register NOW for Infinite Possibilities Celebrate Diversity, 1:00 pm EDT April 30, 2021 for Infinite Possibilities Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

We look forward to seeing you there!

USE THIS LINK TO REGISTER FOR THESE WEBINARS: https://www.rizones33-34.org/infinite-possibilities/

Darryl Keys Governor, District 6960 **Cyndi Doragh** Chair, Infinite Possibilities



Rotarian Action Group



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1M_IIIY6blg

What are Rotarian Action Groups?

Rotary Action Groups support causes around the globe

Rotarian Action Groups help Rotary clubs and districts plan and carry out community development and humanitarian service projects in their area of expertise. The groups are organized by Rotarians and Rotaractors who are proficient, and have a passion for service, in a particular field.

Each group functions independently of Rotary International establishing its own rules, dues requirements, and administrative structure. Membership is open to Rotarians, their family members as well as participants and alumni of all Rotary and Foundation programs

By joining a Rotarian Action Group, you can engage in meaningful service activities outside our own club, district, or country.

For more information, see https://my.rotary.org/en/take-action/empower-leaders/rotary-action-groups

Here is a list of the categories of current Rotarian Action Groups:

AIDS and Family Health www.rfha.org Alzheimer s and Dementia http://adrag.org/

Blindness Prevention http://www.rag4bp.org

Blood Donation http://ourblooddrive.org/ Clubfoot www.rag4clubfoot.org

Dentistry http://www.ragdv.com
Diabetes http://www.ragdiabetes.org Disaster Assistance www.dna-rag.com

Endangered Species http://www.endangeredrag.org Environmental Sustainability http://www.esrag.org Food Plant Solutions http://foodplantsolutions.org Health Education and Wellness www.hewrag.org

Hearing http://www.ifrahl.org

Hunger and Malnutrition http://www.alleviatehunger.org

Literacy http://www.litrag.org
Malaria http://www.remarag.org
Mental Health http://ragonmentalhealth.org

Microfinance and Community Development http://ragm.org

Multiple sclerosis http://rotary-ragmsa.org Peace http://www.rotarianactiongroupforpeace.org

Polio Survivors and Associates http://www.rotarypoliosurvivors.com

Population and Development http://www.rifpd.org Preconception Care http://www.raghphc.org

Slavery http://ragas.online
Water and Sanitation www.wasrag.org

JUST ONE MONTH LEFT!! Can you please help?

By Jim & Jimbo & E. Skiles III



THANKS to the club members who have signed up to provide speakers for the 2021 meetings.

JULY is the only month still needing a "speakerfinder". We could really use your help with this!

Here is the link to sign up:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4fa4ac2aa2fd0-speaker

ITS A ROTARY THING!



How about YOU?



Have YOU submitted your MEMBER MOMENT yet? We have had a great response from several members to this request there are still a few we have not heard from.

In these days of COVID restrictions, we really have missed being able to socialize with one another.

The MEMBER MOMENT is just a quick way to keep fellowship going to sa way to let other members know a bit more about you, just like they would if they were sitting across from you at Paramount Grill.

It will only take a quick minute to complete the following questions and send them back to Stephanie at

Stephanie_Esposito@mbhci.org

Here are the questions: Your profession.

- Years in Rotary.
- Why Rotary.
- What people may not know about you.
- A fun photo

And that it! Again, please return your answers to Stephanie, as she is our talented techie who will transform your answers into a dazzling Member Moment.

GRACE NEEDS LIST

By Cheryl Poe Yes, It's OFFICIAL.

GRACE MARKETPLACE is now taking donations at the front gate.

Donations will only be accepted on **Tuesdays**, **Thursdays**, **and Saturdays between 11am - 4 pm**. Our truck will be parked outside of our gate during these times. You can place your items right on the truck and get a receipt from staff. Send us a message if you have any questions!



TRIVIA FUND



Aside from not being able to enjoy fellowship with our fellow Rotarians each week, another repercussion of having to meet virtually is that our Trivia fund, sadly, has no means by which to be replenished. Trivia serves two purposes for our club. First, it is an enjoyable part of each meeting as we either learn something new or, even better, we know the answers and are able to add more points to our final score. But even more importantly, Trivia enables our club to give back to the community, via charitable donations made by the club members who have scored the highest number of Trivia points at the end of the Rotary year.

If you would be interested in helping this tradition to continue, please continue to the Survey Monkey link below. In the Survey, you will be asked to indicate how much you would like to donate. Since we do not have meals being charged to our invoices, it may be an opportune time to consider reallocating some of those monies to this effort.

THE DONATION AMOUNT YOU CHOOSE WILL BE BILLED TO YOUR QUARTERLY CLUB INVOICE IT IS NOT A WEEKLY DONATION AMOUNT. (ie, if you select \$25, you will see only one \$25 charge on your next Rotary invoice). This donation will continue for subsequent billing cycles, unless and until we are able to return to in person meetings or you notify Billy Combs you wish to discontinue the donation. (A donation of \$25 would be the equivalent of dropping around \$2.00 in the kitty each week.)

Thanks!

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BQNGFXP

WE ARE



Our District

We are 63 clubs, two satellite clubs, 15 Rotaract clubs and 44 Interact clubs strong, serving 31 Northeast Florida communities in 12 counties with over 3,300 men and women. Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

ESTABLISHED 1915

MEMBER MOMENT



Profession: Semi-retired Travel Agent

Years in Rotary: 29

Why Rotary? I have always felt very blessed in life and felt a strong need to give back somehow. I served our club as President in 2000-2001 and have attended 10 Rotary International Conventions.

What you might not know about Bob - Being a Military Brat, I attended 10 elementary and 4 high schools. One of the two I went to in Italy was in an Italian girls school, but that's another story! I worked for 25 years with Eastern Air Lines in Miami, Roanoke, Sarasota and Gainesville. I was Chief Agent here when Eastern suddenly declared bankruptcy in 1991. But I hit the ground running, starting two travel agencies, one of which was chosen by Florida Trend Magazine as one of the two best Florida Travel Agencies. I married Diane 8 years ago and we have traveled to 15 different countries together ranging from Hungary to New Zealand.







MEMBER MOMENT

RAY SNOOK

Profession: General Manager at Gainesville Raceway for Centerplate, an international food & beverage management company.

Years in Rotary: Members since April 2012

Why Rotary? Rotary has provided an opportunity give back to the community and to participate in international projects. I enjoy the club speakers and member fellowship.

What you might not know about Ray - In my 30 year career I have worked a wide range of events, a nine week season at Saratoga Race Course, hematology convention in Miami, Ozzfest in Wisconsin, and Belmont Stakes. Other diverse events include World Cup, Frank Sinatra, Grateful Dead, Hank Williams Jr, and Sesame Street.

Each event is a learning experience and has made for an interesting career.

OCT 21 MEMBER MINUTE





MEMBER MOMENT

JIM SKILES

Profession: "Graduated" from being an Independent Insurance agent 5 years ago.

Years in Rotary: 22 years

Why Rotary? My granddad, Dad and lifetime mentor Howard Hall all were men that demonstrated giving back to the community. Rotary offered the best combination of service to others and networking with other business leaders. Howard was my sponsor and Ben & Connie Rowe were already friends so the new Downtown Club where my office was located was a natural fit.

What you might not know about Jim - Following graduation from UF and a couple years of work as the Youth Director for First Baptist Church Gainesville, Sharon and I were married and were headed to Southern Seminary in Louisville, KY for my Masters degree. At the last moment, we decided to stay in Gainesville to help build and manage Sensation Basin Skateboard Park and Sharon began her teaching career. Interesting to note, Ben & Connie's 3 boys were in my youth group at FBC and Howard Hall insured the Skateboard Park. Hmm, see the path?

MEMBER MOMENT Megan Forbes





MEMBER MOMENT

MEGAN FORBES

Profession: Director of the University of Florida English Language Institute (ELI)

Years in Rotary: Rotarian since January 2001, Rotary GSE Team member 1999-2000.

Why Rotary? Rotary provides an opportunity for service and fellowship in our local community, while also being engaged in the international efforts of Rotary and the Rotary Foundation, Plus, our Club rocks!

What you might not know about Megan -I'm a Foreign Service Kid. Prior to moving to the US to attend university, I grew up in Jamaica, the Yemen Arab Republic, Bangladesh, and Pakistan.

The picture: This picture was taken at the end of the Celebration Half Marathon in January. Little did I know it was the last race I'd be running this year, thanks to COVID. Small things we took for granted...





MEMBER MOMENT

BRENDA CHAMBERLAIN

Profession: I am a database admin and community advocate for the homeless. I work for United Way of North Central Florida and I have been doing my current job for 6 years, though not all of those years were with United Way.

Years in Rotary: I have been in Rotary for 3 years doing various roles from sergeant at arms up to currently the president elect for the next rotary year.

Why Rotary? Rotary is all about service to others and that is my passion.

What you might not know about Brenda - What people may not know about me is that I was born in Japan and I spoke more Japanese then English up to the age of 3. My father was in the Navy for 23 years and to this day if you ask me where I'm from I'll tell you the Navy due to all the moving around.

Member Minute Jennifer Watson Reddish

Here's the Member Minute featuring our club secretary, Jennifer





MEMBER MOMENT

JENNIFER WATSON REDDISH

Profession: Branch Vice President, VyStar Credit Union

Years in Rotary: 2 years

Why Rotary? As a member of Rotary, you have the opportunity to build relationships and meet new people. I love what Rotary works to accomplish not only in our communities, but across the globe... making a difference everywhere.

What you might not know about Jennifer - I played tennis in high school! A little rusty now, but always up for a good match!

Becky Hunt Member Moment

Becky has been a Rotarian for 24 years!



CARL SMART MEMBER MINUTE

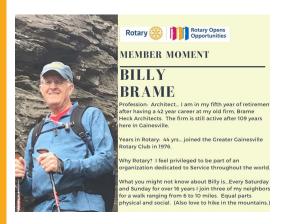


Joe Jr Member moment



Billy Brame Member Moment

Honoring Billy Brame in our Member Moment as the member of our club with the longest history of Rotary service....44 years, as a matter of fact! THANKS, BILLY, for your dedication to Rotary!



Member Moment

Fellow Downtown Rotarians, meet your newest club member, Stephanie! She had been a member for a short time a few years ago; however, her work schedule at that time prevented her from being able to fully commit to the club. We are delighted to have her back with us!!



Rotary Opens Opportunities MEMBER MOMENT

STEPHANIE ESPOSITO

Profession: Director of Advancement, Meridian Behavioral Healthcare

Years in Rotary: New Member!

Why Rotary? She is passionate about giving back to the community and that this club focuses on the springs - Stephanie is an avid scuba diver in our local springs.

What you might not know about Stephanie is...she has also signed up to be a mentor this year with Take Stock in Children. Hopefully this still happens even with the pandemic (all up in the air)! She is also terrified of tree frogs.

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