

Rotary



Club of
Downtown Gainesville



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
RYLA



Brenda Chamberlain
Membership Chair
Club Director
President-Elect



Jennifer Watson-Reddish
Secretary



William S. Combs
Treasurer



Stephanie Esposito
Social Media and Public Relations
Chair



Albert Anthony Losch Jr.
Bulletin Editor



Joseph E. Lowry Jr.
Club Director



Clay Martin III
Club Director

Megan Olson
Club Director

January 20th MEETING CANCELLED

In honor of the inauguration of Joe Biden as the 46th President of the United States, our weekly meeting will be cancelled so that club members will have the opportunity to watch this event as it takes place at noon.



Welcome

*Welcome to the
Virtual Rotary Club of Downtown Gainesville*

FAMOUS ROTARIANS

While he was Archbishop Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Buenos Aires, Pope Francis was named an honorary member of Rotary ♦ making him the first known pope to receive and accept a Rotary club membership.



Carl Smart
Club Director



Perry Pursell
Sergeant-at-Arms



Jim E. Skiles III
Speaker Chair



Chessie Flanders
iPast President



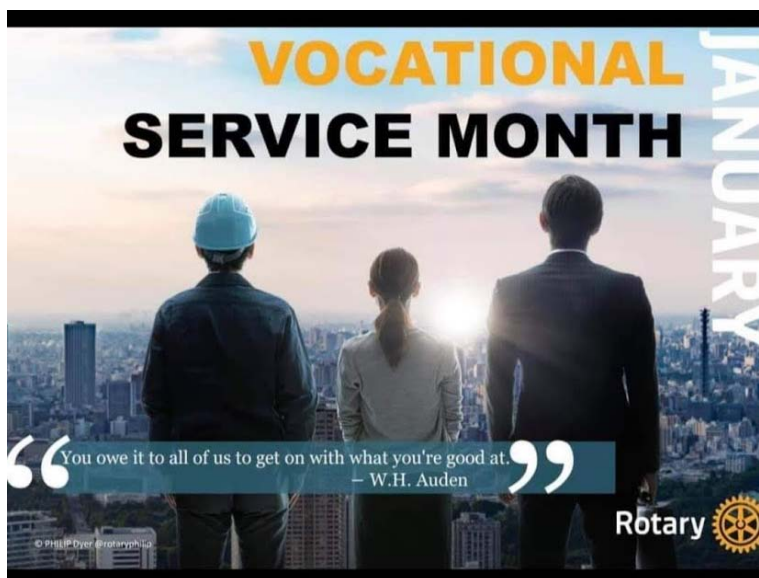
Mary Kate Walker
Assistant Governor

Birthdays

William Webb "Billy" Brame
January 22nd



JANUARY ROTARY THEME



Rotary video

Here is last week's Rotary video minute if you missed it

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OKGNsUIJNJ4>

ITS A ROTARY THING!



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/j/482134526?pwd=VC8xYmcyY2VRZFdUOU1Vc2xqYUhhVZz09>
HqkX9ikqR_ySjMICdkQwTSOMhoB7RdKM-B

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/482134526?pwd=VC8xYmcyY2VRZFdUOU1Vc2xqYUhhVZz09>

Meeting ID: 482 134 526
Password: 621885
One tap mobile
+13126266799,,482134526#,,1#,621885# US (Chicago)
+16465588656,,482134526#,,1#,621885# US (New York)

:

Rotary - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion seminar

Infinite Possibilities: Series 2

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:

[Register NOW](#) for **Infinite Possibilities ♦ Strength In Diversity, 1:00 pm EST January 29, 2021**

- February 26, 2021 ♦ **Embracing Our Differences**, hosted by Rotary International Director Stephanie Urchick, with featured speakers Past RI President Barry Rassin and Rotarian Brian Rusch of District 5150 in California.
[Register NOW](#) for **Infinite Possibilities ♦ Embracing our Differences, 1:00 pm EST February 26, 2021**
- 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 Ekbäck.
[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!

Darryl Keys
Governor, District 6960

Cyndi Doragh
Chair, Infinite Possibilities



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 10am-6pm**. 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!

GRACE | needs list

We don't need:

- Clothing with stains or holes
- Used or open toiletries
- Electronics not in working condition
- Food containers without lids
- Prepared food
- Children's items

We regularly need:

- Blankets
- Jackets
- Reading Glasses
- Ink Pens
- Deodorant
- Mouthwash
- Razors
- Pillows
- Washcloths
- Bar Soap
- Tampons & Pads
- Shaving Cream
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
- Bug Spray
- Sunscreen
- Pet Water Bowls
- Dog Leashes
- Dog Collars
- Sheet Sets
- Towels
- New or Gently Used Shoes & Clothing
- Furniture

The newest little member of our Rotarian family

Introducing Gavin Perry Machado, born December 2nd, first grandson for Perry and Olga. Here it seems that Perry is regaling Gavin with one of his (in)famous fishing tales... and Gavin already looks a little skeptical...



LAW ENFORCEMENT DAY

January 9th was Law Enforcement Day. We appreciate our Law Enforcement Officers who go above and beyond daily!

We want to recognize our own AWESOME Chief Ed Book. Thank you for your selflessness in the field and always putting Service Above Self, even when you're not in the field.

You are special not just today, but everyday!



Downtown Rotary friends at Rotary Generation park

Downtown Rotary friends at Generation Park, proudly showing off the Rotary logo which is inscribed on the tennis and the pickleball courts...



Speaker Coordinator Schedule

JANUARY SPEAKERS:

- January 6: Dr. Brenda Smith - Vocal Pedagogy Professor at UF: **"To Breathe is to Sing"**
- January 13: Jon DeCarmine - Director of Gracemarketplace
- January 20: Dave Melosh - VP of Heartwood Stage and coordinator of Farmers' Market at Heartwood (Downtown)
- January 27:TBA

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 | |
| January | Cheryl Poe | | |
| February | Lowrys | | |
| MARCH | | | |
| April | Carl Smart | | |
| May | Bob Taylor | | |
| June | Stepanie Esposito | | |
| JULY | | | |
| August | Matt Bowman | | |
| September | Perry Pursell | | |
| October | Brett Buell | | |
| November | Becky Hunt | | |
| 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

We need YOU!

By Jim ♦ Jimbo ♦ E. Skiles III



THANKS to those of you who have stepped up and taken a month. We only need 2 more Rotarians to help out as the months of MARCH and AUGUST are the only ones still available. You know that our speakers are a valued part of each meeting and we have learned, laughed, become more educated and always enjoyed their presentations. Each of us in the club has a unique set of interests, talents and connections that we could share with our fellow Rotarians, via a speaker. It is not difficult to do. Jimbo can always give suggestions and help. We need YOUR help, especially if you have never done it or have not helped in the past couple of years. A special THANK YOU to everyone who supplied a speaker during the past year!! Here is the link to sign up:

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

hmmm....

what do YOU think about having an online auction? 😊

ROTARY GENERATION PARK

If you missed seeing the virtual park celebration for Generations Park on November 21st - here it is:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NmGaM_h5d8g&feature=youtu.be

The City of Gainesville's Wild Spaces & Public Places Program, the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department and the Rotary Clubs of Gainesville Foundation are thrilled to announce that the large renovation project at Northside Park is complete and the park is now open to the community. The park is located at 5701 NW 34 Blvd. adjacent to the Senior Recreation Center.



Over five years in the making, Northside Park is a vision-come-to-life. The Northside Park improvement project is a shining example of what can be accomplished through unwavering commitment and thoughtful collaboration with our neighbors. Rotarians Brenda Chamberlain, Cheryl Poe, & Joe Lowry Jr test out the Teeter Totter w/DGE Rich Cooper



All 4 Gainesville Rotary clubs & Santa Fe College Rotaract Club were represented, along with Rotary family & friends DGE Rich Cooperr and PDG Wes Eubank. Representing Downtown Club were Ed Book, Joe Lowry Jr (and Lacey), Brenda Chamberlain, Megan Olson(& family), Becky Hunt, Cheryl Poe, John Sanchez, and Rob Ogelsby.



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

MEMBERS MOMENT

Fellowship is one of the most enjoyable aspects of being a Rotarian. Unfortunately, during this time, our ability to interact with and get to know our fellow club members has been sorely curtailed. It's great that we can continue to meet via ZOOM, but it's certainly not the same as all being together...

As a way to keep the "getting to know you" spirit going, we have added a Member Moment feature. It will be a way for us to learn a little more about each other. Stephanie Esposito will be contacting each of you in the near future to get YOUR story!

MEMBER MOMENT



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...

BRENDA CHAMBERLAIN MEMBER MINUTE



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 than 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!



MEMBER MOMENT

BECKY HUNT

Profession: Following 30 years in the hospitality field a year and a half ago began a new career a Development Officer at Southern Scholarship Foundation.

Years in Rotary: 24 years

Why Rotary? Rotary project to eradicate polio. A friend in elementary school here in Gainesville died of polio. The Four Way Test was an excellent guide for me as a professional business woman.

What you might not know about Becky is...Bet you didn't know I was an accomplished actress I've performed as a California Raisin, Village People Police Officer and Cyndi Lauper, as well as screen time in a major motion picture.

CARL SMART MEMBER MINUTE



MEMBER MOMENT

CARL SMART

Profession: Assistant County Manager, Public Safety and Community Services

Years in Rotary: 2.5 years

Why Rotary? Rotary is a great organization for providing assistance to the many persons in our community.

What you might not know about Carl is...I am a minister at my church, Mount Zion AME Church in Hawthorne.

Joe Jr Member moment



MEMBER MOMENT

JOE LOWRY

THIS PHOTO IS OF HIM LEAPING INTO 40' SKY DIVING!

Profession: Managing Partner of Lowry Financial Advisors

Years in Rotary: Since December 2004

Why Rotary? I belong to Rotary because I love regular people coming together to do good in their community and the world. We benefit from connections with those of different backgrounds and Rotary can help bring people together.

What you might not know about Joe is...I served as a Spanish-speaking mission of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in San Diego and Imperial County, CA for two years (1998-2000).

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

BILLY BRAME

Profession: Architect... I am in my fifth year of retirement after having a 42 year career at my old firm, Brame Heck Architects. The firm is still active after 109 years here in Gainesville.

Years in Rotary: 44 yrs... joined the Greater Gainesville Rotary Club in 1976.

Why Rotary? I feel privileged to be part of an organization dedicated to Service throughout the world.

What you might not know about Billy is... Every Saturday and Sunday for over 16 years I join three of my neighbors for a walk ranging from 6 to 10 miles. Equal parts physical and social. (Also love to hike in the mountains.)

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!!





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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Charter President J. Ben Rowe
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