

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 Wednesday 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

Welcome

Welcome to the
Virtual Rotary Club of Downtown Gainesville

ROTARY THEME FOR FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY



"Peace is not the absence of conflict but the presence of creative alternatives for responding to conflict – alternatives to passive or aggressive responses, alternatives to violence."
Dorothy Thompson

PEACEBUILDING AND CONFLICT PREVENTION MONTH

TAKE ACTION: Get Involved, Join Rotary

Rotary 

ITS A ROTARY THING!

DOGGOODERY!



Carl Smart
Club Director



Perry Pursell
Sergeant-at-Arms



Jim Jimbo E. Skiles III
Speaker Chair



Chessie Flanders
Past President



Mary Kate Walker
Assistant Governor

Birthdays

Clay Martin III
March 3rd

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)

:

Event Calendar



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

|                                               |                                                                                               |                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| FEBRUARY 13                                   | SPRING CLEAN UP                                                                               | RUM ISLAND,<br>Ft. White, FL                                                                                            |
| FEBRUARY 25                                   | FARM TO TABLE fundraiser for GRACE Marketplace                                                | <a href="http://farmtotablegnav.com">farmtotablegnav.com</a>                                                            |
| FEBRUARY 26<br>1 pm                           | <b>Rotary - Diversity, Equity &amp; Inclusion seminar</b><br><b>Embracing Our Differences</b> | <a href="https://www.rizones33-34.org/infinite-possibilities/">https://www.rizones33-34.org/infinite-possibilities/</a> |
| March 26<br>1 pm                              | <b>Rotary - Diversity, Equity &amp; Inclusion seminar</b><br><b>Investing in Equity</b>       | <a href="https://www.rizones33-34.org/infinite-possibilities/">https://www.rizones33-34.org/infinite-possibilities/</a> |
| April 30<br>1 PM                              | <b>Rotary - Diversity, Equity &amp; Inclusion seminar</b><br><b>Celebrate Diversity</b>       | <a href="https://www.rizones33-34.org/infinite-possibilities/">https://www.rizones33-34.org/infinite-possibilities/</a> |
| ONGOING<br>Tues, Thurs and<br>Sat. 11 am-4 pm | Donations to Grace Marketplace                                                                |                                                                                                                         |

## FAMOUS ROTARIANS



**Sir Winston Churchill, who was Prime Minister of England from 1940 to 1945 and then again from 1951 to 1955, was a member of the Rotary Club of London.**

### MEMBER MOMENT



#### MEMBER MOMENT

### BOB ROBAR

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.

### SAVE THE DATE!!!



**CUPID'S SPRING CLEANUP at RUM ISLAND  
FEBRUARY 13TH. time TBD  
JUST ONE HOUR OF YOUR TIME  
TO HELP MAINTAIN THE BEAUTY OF ONE OF OUR LOCAL SPRINGS.  
MORE DETAILS TO COME.**





## Rotarian Action Group



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1M\\_IIIY6bIg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1M_IIIY6bIg)

## 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](http://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](http://www.rag4clubfoot.org)

**Dentistry** <http://www.ragdv.com>

**Diabetes** <http://www.ragdiabetes.org>

**Disaster Assistance** [www.dna-rag.com](http://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](http://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.ragphc.org>

**Slavery** <http://ragas.online>

**Water and Sanitation** [www.wasrag.org](http://www.wasrag.org)

## Let's Support Grace Marketplace!

### GRACE Marketplace 1st Annual Farm to Table Gathering to End Homelessness

It's **#FarmtoTableFriday** and our dinner menu has been set!!  
All four-courses were crafted by Bert Gill of Blue Gill Quality Food and Mildred's Big City Food  
Vegan options will be announced in the coming weeks.  
(Pricing below)



Please refer to [farmtotablegny.com](http://farmtotablegny.com) for information on purchasing tables, tickets, and event sponsorships.

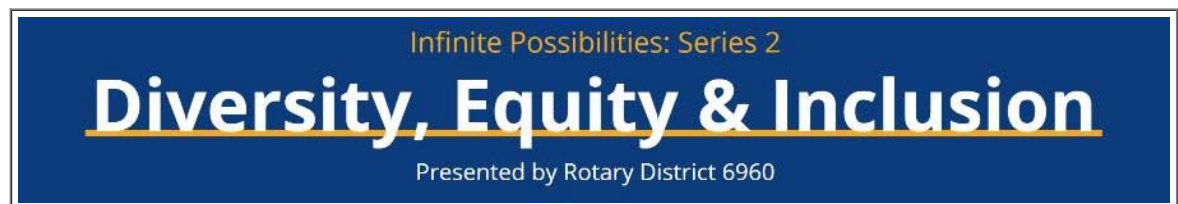
A pair of tickets, either in-person, or at home, is \$250. A half-table (four seats) is \$500, and a full table (8 seats) is \$1000. Anyone who comes in person will *only* be seated with the people they come with, as part of our many COVID precautions.

Sponsorships start at \$2500 (Gold level). At that level, the sponsoring organization gets 12 seats and recognition throughout the event. We also have platinum and one title sponsorship available. All of the information is on the site above.

## Rotary - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion seminar

Shared by District 6960

use this link to register: <https://www.rizoness33-34.org/infinite-possibilities/>



[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 Ekböck.  
[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

**Rotary**



**Rotary**



## Speaker Coordinator Schedule

### FEBRUARY SPEAKERS:

- February 3 : Dave Melosh - VP of Heartwood Stage and coordinator of Farmers' Market at Heartwood (Downtown)
- February 10 tba
- February 17 tba
- February 24 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 |  |
| February     | Lowrys            |              |  |
| <b>MARCH</b> |                   |              |  |
| April        | Carl Smart        |              |  |
| May          | Bob Taylor        |              |  |
| June         | Stepanie Esposito |              |  |
| <b>JULY</b>  |                   |              |  |
| 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](mailto:jimskiles3@gmail.com)**

**Stephanie's email: [Stephanie\\_Esposito@mbhci.org](mailto:Stephanie_Esposito@mbhci.org)**

## 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!

# 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

**We need YOU!**

By Jim ♦ Jimbo ♦ E. Skiles III



THANKS to the club members who have signed up to provide speakers for the 2021 meetings. STILL NEED a couple of Rotarians to help for the two months that are still open - MARCH and AUGUST. PLEASE help:

Here is the link to sign up:

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

## **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...





hmmm....

what do YOU think about having an online auction? 😊

## 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.**



## 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!!

A photograph of Stephanie Esposito, a woman with dark hair and sunglasses on her head, smiling and holding a colorful parrot. The background shows an outdoor setting with trees and a wooden structure.

**Rotary**  **Rotary Opens Opportunities**

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**MEMBER MOMENT**

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**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.

## 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**  
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