

# 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



### Welcome

Welcome to the  
Virtual Rotary Club of Downtown Gainesville

Please note:



Joseph E. Lowry Jr.  
Club Director



Clay Martin III  
Club Director



Megan Olson  
Club Director



Carl Smart  
Club Director



Perry Pursell  
Sergeant-at-Arms



Jim & Jimbo & E. Skiles III  
Speaker Chair



Chessie Flanders  
iPast President



Mary Kate Walker  
Assistant Governor

## **Birthdays**

Diane Marie Robar  
January 13th

Wednesday, December 16th, will be the last meeting for us until next year

Stay **SAFE & Healthy.**  
See You in **2021.**

(JANUARY 6, 2021 TO BE EXACT)

ITS A ROTARY THING!



**Downtown Rotary friends at Rotary Generation park**

GREAT to see Rotary friends today at the new Rotary Generations Park at our end of the year social. Here we are proudly showing off the Rotary logo which is inscribed on the tennis and the pickleball courts...



**Wes Skiles W2W check presented to Darcie MacMahon for Fla. Museum**

Darcie MacMahon accepting the \$3000 donation from the Rotary Club of Downtown Gainesville. These funds were collected during the club's 8th annual Wes Skiles Water Stewardship / Wine to Water Awards. The donation will go toward helping to fund the new exhibit at the Fla. Museum of Natural History entitled The Story of Water. Photo taken at the Rotary Generations Park.





### Casey Fitzgerald

A big THANK YOU and congratulations to Casey Fitzgerald for not only winning the Individual category of our Wes Skiles Water Stewardship Awards but also for donating his Award check toward the Museum Fund. As his donation was the single largest one received, he was presented with this beautiful print (thank you, FRACTURE) of this year's official W2W photo.

Pictured here with Darcie MacMahon, Fla. Museum, and Diane Robar, President of Downtown Rotary



### BOCCE BALL reigns

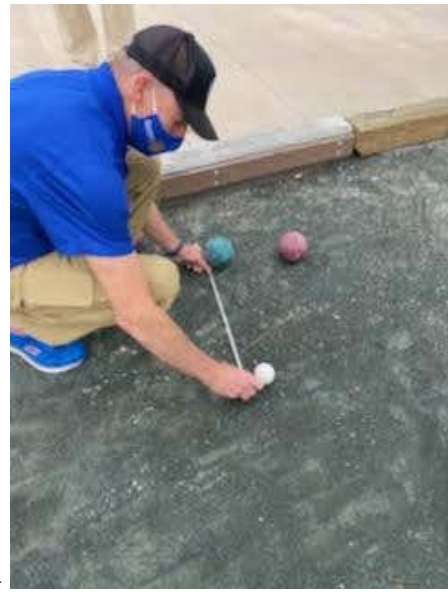
Bet you didn't know your club has so many bocce ball aficionados.

**Overall winning team - Rob and Marina!**



Check out the techniques and smooth style of these players...





MERRY EVERYTHING



SEASON'S GREETINGS!





As the holiday season quickly approaches, people everywhere are preparing for their celebrations. While, for many, just one holiday comes to mind when thinking of the December season, there are many other reasons for all people to celebrate this time of year.

## Mawlid al-nabi

December 11-12



This Islamic holiday honors the birth of the Prophet Muhammad, who founded Islam. Sunni and Shiites celebrate by reading the prophet's teachings.



## Hanukkah

December 24- January 1



This holiday is the eight day Jewish celebration of lights. A candle on the menorah is lit each night of the eight days to celebrate.



## Christmas

December 25



One of the most well known of the winter holidays, Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ in the Christian religion. To celebrate, many attend church services, spend time with loved one, and exchange gifts.



## Kwanzaa

December 26- January 1



A celebration observed by many members of the African American community to recognize their cultural heritage and traditional values.



### SALVATION ARMY RED KETTLE volunteers

BIG THANK YOU to the Downtown Rotarians who volunteered to help with the Salvation Army Red Kettle drive this year. We helped on two days.

Some mighty fine bell ringing going on!!

BECKY and ROB JENNIFER and JIMBO



MEGAN OLSON and daughter , CALLIE CALLIE and the ROBARS



ED BOOK and BRENDA PERRY and JOE Sr



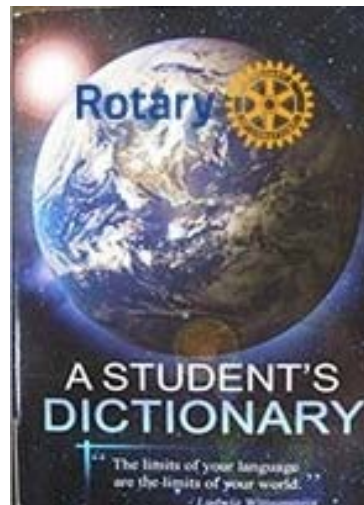
PAT





?????

## DICTIONARY 2020 PROJECT



Although we could not deliver the dictionaries in person to our 3rd graders this year, the combined Rotary Clubs of Gainesville were able to get them to the various schools in Alachua County for distribution. Around 2100 dictionaries will be given out.

Next year, 2021, our Downtown club will be in charge of this annual event.

**SPECIAL THANKS** to Carl Smart, Jennifer Reddish, Ed Book & the Robars for helping to label and distribute the dictionaries!!! Your help was greatly appreciated!

## 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/join/uZwvduqsqzksnLXgB5WICgWAgDnJJUfBXw/ics?icsToken=98tyKu2grDopHtGXtlztRbAtA53-b-HqkX9ikqR\\_ySjMICdkQwTSOMhoB7RdKM-B](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/uZwvduqsqzksnLXgB5WICgWAgDnJJUfBXw/ics?icsToken=98tyKu2grDopHtGXtlztRbAtA53-b-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)

:

## Speaker Coordinator

December 16th Craft talks

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
December	Al Losch	352-514-1214
January	Cheryl Poe	

**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)

hmmm....

what do YOU think about having an online auction? 😊

**We need YOU!**

By Jim ♦ Jimbo ♦ E. Skiles III



JIMBO is looking for a few good Rotarians to help supply speakers for the upcoming 2021 year. 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>

**END POLIO NOW Ride**

**NOVEMBER 21, 2020  
END POLIO RIDE**

5th Annual D-6970 Gainesville Area Rotary Ride to End Polio.  
Hosted by The Rotary Club of Greater Gainesville & coordinated by Rotarian Jan Bendik



Only 3 days out from shoulder surgery, Ed showed up to take the pics from the event! Fortunately, he chose to take pics BEFORE the ride so that everyone looked reasonably presentable . THANKS, Ed!



Santa Fe Rotaractor Hannah Oh did her part to End Polio





And there's Bob, heading off into the wilds of Patagonia



**ROTARY GENERATION PARK OPEN !! WOW!!**

**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](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.



# City of Gainesville



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.





## 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



## 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>

## MONUMENTAL ACCOMPLISHMENT

# African region declared free of wild poliovirus



Rotary and its GPEI partners celebrate a monumental achievement, say global eradication of wild polio is possible with the continued dedication and persistence of Rotarians

The World Health Organization (WHO) on 25 August announced that transmission of the wild poliovirus has officially been stopped in all 47 countries of its African region. This is a historic and vital step toward global eradication of polio, which is Rotary's top priority.

After decades of hard won gains in the region, Rotary and its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) ♦ WHO, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Gavi, the vaccine alliance ♦ are proclaiming the milestone an achievement in public health. They offer it as proof that strong commitment, coordination, and perseverance can rid the world of polio.

**to read more, please go to <https://www.rotary.org/en/african-region-declared-free-of-wild-poliovirus>**

## 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.

## TRIVIA AWARD WINNERS!!

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TRIVIA AWARD WINNERS! DOWNTOWN**

ROTARY IS PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO SUPPORT EACH OF YOU THROUGH OUR ANNUAL TRIVIA AWARD PRESENTATIONS!

DIANE RECEIVED THE MOST POINTS IN THE 2019-20 TRIVIA COMPETITION AND SELECTED FAMILY PROMISE AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE FIRST PLACE AWARD ( <https://www.familypromisegvl.org/> )



BOB ROBAR CAME IN SECOND PLACE AND CHOSE HANDS TO LOVE AS HIS AWARD RECIPIENT ( <https://www.handstolove.org/> )



AL LOSCH WAS ALSO A WINNER IN THE TRIVIA COMPETITION AND HE SELECTED GAINESVILLE OPPORTUNITY CENTER AS HIS AWARD RECIPIENT. ( [info@goclubhouse.org](mailto:info@goclubhouse.org) )



Gainesville Opportunity Center





## Holger Knaack, Rotary International President 2020-21



## Rotary 4-way Test



## Club Information

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