

Rotary



Club of Daytona Beach

Club Leaders

Rosaria C. Upchurch
President

Michael R. Leonard
President-Elect

DJ Lebo
Secretary

Edward D. Paterniti
Treasurer

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Amy Workowski
Club Admin Chair
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Matthew Metz
Club Director

Joyce Shanahan
Club Director

Linda Webster
Club Director

Dean P. Kurtz
iPast President

Michael Pepin
Assistant Governor

Account Leaders

Richard Cooper II
District Governor

Carolyn Mudgette
Lt. Governor

Jeffrey Eliot Michelman
DG-Elect

John D. Tabor
DG-Nominee

Richard E. Turnbull
iPDG

James D. Kocmoud
District Communications

Speaker for Monday July 26 - Daytona Beach Fire Chief Dru Driscoll



Daytona Beach resident, Dru Driscoll, has had family roots in the city since 1947. After graduating from Seabreeze High School and attending college and the fire academy, he returned to the city and began employment with the Daytona Beach Fire Department in 1999. Working his way through the ranks, he eventually became Fire Chief in 2013. Chief Driscoll operates 7 fire stations and 113 employees serving the citizens of Daytona Beach. In February of 2019, Dru Driscoll was also appointed as Deputy City Manager for the City of Daytona Beach. Dru Driscoll lives in Daytona Beach with his two daughters ages 18 and 20.

Zoom Link for July 2021 Meetings

By Amy Workowski on Friday, July 9, 2021

Zoom Login For Those That Cannot Attend

Officer
Katherine Batenhorst
District Membership Chair
William J. Griffin
District Membership Chair
Jeanette M. Loftus
District Rotary Foundation Chair
David Mathew Hartzel IV
District Public Image/PR Chair
Karen Lickiss Weiss
District Secretary
Billy D Larson
Sgt. At Arms
William F. Larson
Sgt. At Arms

Birthdays

Michael Orfinger
August 5th



Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84699253103?pwd=dDR2TDQ1azZsdDFON29kTk9PTXZJZz09>
Meeting ID: 846 9925 3103
Passcode: 967943

Minutarian Week 3 - July 19, 2021

minutarian
RICH *Coop* COOPER
DISTRICT GOVERNOR 6970



Welcome to week three of our Rotary year!

I'm excited about this week because I get to start doing my official club visits which is, of course, the best part of this job. I have many of your clubs on my calendar already. If you haven't had a chance to schedule a visit, please send me two or three dates this week to schedule a visit between now and the end of our Rotary year. Sooner is better, and I'll most likely be available for at least one of the dates.

I am very proud to say that the majority of the clubs in our district have their presidents-elect designated for next year. It's very important to have a president-elect assigned as early in the year as possible. This allows the incoming president to experience an entire Rotary year with the knowledge that they will be leading the club the following year. Please remember to have them listed in DACdb, Rotary Club Central, and ensure they have created a rotary.org account.

Let's Each One Bring One.

Rotary International President Shekhar Mehta has an initiative he hopes will increase Rotary's membership worldwide. He's asking each member to bring a non-Rotarian or previous Rotarian to a Rotary meeting, service project, or social event.

The objective is to expose more people to Rotary. We may not always get a member out of this initiative, but more people will learn about what we do, and that's always a positive thing.

This year, let's each one bring one. Rotary is too awesome to keep to ourselves.

Have a great Rotary week, everyone!

Service Above Self,
Coop

MOAS Celebrates 50 Years at the Current Location

Daytona Beach's Museum of Arts & Sciences celebrates 50 years in its Nova Road location

[Eileen Zaffiro-Kean](#)

The Daytona Beach News-Journal



CELEBRATE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MUSEUM OF ARTS & SCIENCES

WHEN: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday

WHERE: The Daytona Beach Museum of Arts & Sciences, 352 S. Nova Road

WHAT'S HAPPENING: Food trucks, 1970s laser rock concerts and star shows in the Lohman Planetarium, music from DJ Jukebox Bully, and tours of the Tuscawilla Nature Preserve. Visitors can also sign a free-standing memory wall that will go on display in the lobby of the museum for the rest of the year.

COST: The event is free for members or with paid museum admission.

DAYTONA BEACH ♦ A few years after World War II ended, three local women opened a children's library in a vacant military barracks building that stood on what is now the eastern edge of the Daytona State College campus.

After one of the women died and donated an extensive collection of seashells to the library, the small educational refuge for kids evolved into a children's museum that included fossils, a recreated Native American midden and a replica of a cave with early cave paintings and arrowheads.

When Jean Smith, Thelma Bentley and Esther Bates dove into the museum project in the late 1940s, they

never dreamed that their tiny White Street children's museum would turn out to be the birthplace of the 102,000-square-foot [Museum of Arts & Sciences](#) that now houses more than 30,000 objects and is backed by nearly \$50 million in endowments.

Since July 25, 1971, the museum has been headquartered a few miles from its original location on a lush piece of forested property just west of Nova Road. This weekend the Smithsonian-affiliated museum is celebrating its 50th year operating in that location just south of Tuscawillia Park.

"It's a good time to be looking back on what we achieved," said Andrew Sandall, who has overseen a string of large projects since he became the museum's executive director in 2012. "We're standing on the shoulders of giants. It all came from three ladies who thought children would benefit from extra resources outside of school, and we're still going."



The museum's 50th anniversary bash runs from 11 a.m. ♦ 5 p.m. Sunday. Those joining the party are invited to come decked out in '70s attire and ready to dive into '70s-themed fun.

There will be food trucks, 1970s laser rock concerts and star shows in the Lohman Planetarium, more music from DJ Jukebox Bully, and tours of the Tuscawillia Nature Preserve. Visitors can also sign a free-standing memory wall that will go on display in the lobby of the museum for the rest of the year.

The event is free for members or with paid museum admission.



The path to 352 South Nova Road

In the museum's earliest days at the corner of White Street and Second Avenue, it was located near the Mary Karl Vocational School. It began more than 70 years ago as the Halifax Children's Museum.

The volunteer-run museum incorporated in 1955. In 1962, the museum was chartered by the state of Florida and the name changed to the Museum of Arts & Sciences. A simple sign with that new moniker hung over the top of the front door of the no-frills building.

In the mid-1960s, those running the museum began to contemplate bigger and better things for their little operation. They explored the idea of relocating to a spot within the 90-acre Tusawilla Park, and museum officials secured an option on 10 acres of that city-owned park land.

Not long after that, Daytona State College told the museum operators they had to clear out of the old barracks building to make way for the growing school's expansion. As museum leaders scrambled to put their objects and displays in storage, they hunted for a new headquarters and found one on the east side of the Halifax River.

It became their second location, and it came with a very interesting history. It was a two-story red brick house at 137 N. Halifax Ave. that had been owned by Fulgencio Batista, the Cuban dictator who was overthrown by Fidel Castro and fled his country before sunrise on Jan. 1, 1959.

Before he became a dictator, Batista served as an elected president of Cuba from 1940-1944. After finishing his term, Batista moved to Florida and bought property on the east bank of the Halifax River in Daytona Beach where St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church now stands.

In 1952 he returned to Cuba to run for president, but three months before the election he seized power again in a military coup.

When Batista flew out of Cuba at 3 a.m. on New Year's Day 1959, he and his supporters were accused of taking as much as \$700 million in fine art and cash with them. Batista eventually settled in Portugal, and some of his country's paintings and other artwork remained in the Daytona Beach riverfront homes he and his aunt had lived in.

Batista gave his house to the Greek church, and in 1957 he donated his artwork and aunt's house next door

to the city. He gave the city a \$5,000 annual stipend so the house could become a Cuban art museum.

The city had been operating the museum out of Batista's aunt's house for a decade when the Museum of Arts & Sciences was in search of a new home in 1967. A deal was made to allow the Museum of Arts & Sciences to move in and operate the Cuban Museum until a permanent headquarters could be lined up.



When the Museum of Arts & Sciences moved to the new Nova Road building, an agreement was struck with the city for the museum to take ownership of the Cuban art collection. The deal included a provision for Batista's aunt's house to be sold to raise money for a Cuban art exhibit space in the new museum that was being built on the Tuscawilla Park site.

The aunt's house sold for \$80,000, and it's now the site of a riverfront condominium building.

'An important cultural part of our community'

The new museum cost \$275,000 to construct. A total of \$60,000 came from the Junior Service League, a women's civic leadership and social activism group now called the Junior League of Daytona Beach.

The largest benefactor for the 1971 museum construction was the Root family, which has gone on to donate millions to the museum in the decades since.

"The museum is such an important cultural part of our community," said Preston Root, who's retired now from the family business and still lives in the Daytona Beach area.

Root's family amassed its wealth with the Root Glass Company founded 122 years ago that made glass jars and bottles. Root's great grandfather designed, patented and manufactured the original Coca-Cola bottle in 1915.

The family business is now the Root Company, a commercial real estate operation based in Ormond Beach.

Two decades ago, the Root family donated its large collection of Coca-Cola memorabilia to the museum that's inside a wing also housing the 1948 Lincoln convertible Root's parents drove on their honeymoon along with fully restored passenger train cars his family traveled in.

Root volunteers at the museum quarterly to give tours of the 24,000-square-foot Root Wing filled with his family's donated collections.

"My family is still hugely supportive," he said. "The museum is respected throughout the Southeast. It brings gold star recognition to Daytona Beach."



MOVING DAY FOR MUSEUM—Benny Miles gets an assist from his daughter, Linda, a student at S. Ridgewood Elementary School, in moving a painting out of the Museum of Arts and Sciences' former home at 137 N. Halifax Ave. The Museum moved Saturday to its new quarters in Tuscawilla Park. It is tentatively scheduled to be opened the second week in July. Museum staff members helped members of the Museum's Guild in packing all the artifacts for the trip to the new facility.
NJ Photo by Larry Reich

Those at the museum's groundbreaking ceremony in September 1970 could not have imagined how the facility would grow and evolve over the 50 years that have elapsed since.

A ground sloth, planetarium and Chinese art

The museum, a nonprofit that now has a \$3 million annual budget, includes the 13-foot-tall skeleton of a giant ground sloth that lived 130,000 years ago and was excavated in South Daytona in the mid-1970s. The sloth's remains were discovered in October 1975 at the bottom of a retention pond in Reed Canal Park, and workers spent two and a half years searching for the bones.

There is also the Kenneth Worcester Dow and Mary Mohan Dow Gallery of American Art, a 4,000-square-foot exhibition that includes 300 years of American painting, sculpture, pewter, silver, period furniture and decorative arts.

The Cuban Foundation Fine and Folk Art Museum contains one of the largest collections of Cuban art outside of Cuba. The gallery includes paintings, pre-Columbian Taino pottery and Spanish Colonial artifacts in silver, rare woods, and tortoiseshell.

The William and Helena Schulte Gallery of Chinese Art showcases 84 objects including large interpretive panels on Chinese history and society, T'ang and Wei horses, Han and Ming tomb figures, Ch'ing gemstone carvings, and Ming blue and white objects.

There is also a 9,300-square-foot children's museum named for Charles and Linda Williams that houses more than 15 interactive exhibits geared especially toward children that demonstrate various principles of science, engineering and physics.

The L. Gale Lemerand Wing includes the Cuban art, prehistory of Florida displays, exhibits on African Art, weaponry from around the world, and rotating temporary and traveling exhibitions.

The 94-seat Lowell and Nancy Lohman Family Planetarium has a 40-foot-diameter dome structure and offers star shows and full-dome HD movies of all types and genres.

Outside the museum there's an educational environmental complex located in a Florida coastal hydric hammock that's a habitat for numerous endangered species of flora and fauna. The preserve includes more than a half-mile of boardwalks and nature trails as well as an education center and interactive learning stations.

In a separate building on the museum property is the Cici and Hyatt Brown Museum of Art. It's home to the most extensive collection of Florida art in the world with more than 2,600 oil and watercolor paintings dating back to the early 1800s.



'It was great fun'

Cici Brown clearly remembers the seashell collection that was the highlight of the children's museum in the old military barracks building. But that's not where she first saw the massive collection of shells.

Brown moved to Daytona Beach in December 1965, and she didn't get involved with the museum until 1971 just after the new building opened. That was the year she joined the Junior Service League.

"You put on your little yellow uniform one day a week and you did your placement," she said.

Her assignment in the summer of 1971 was to catalog the beautiful collection of shells from all over the world.

"I learned all about them," Brown recalled.

She went on to become a regular volunteer at the museum, and later became a board member, board president and philanthropist for the facility.

"I learned a lot and I just fell in love with it," Brown said. "I never got paid, but I spent a lot of time out there."

Brown remembers going to the pit where the giant ground sloth was being unearthed piece by piece, and how excited everyone was.

"It was huge," she said. "It was great fun."

She also remembers cleaning the paintings that Batista brought from Cuba.

"I remember one that was so dirty at first, and then it was so gorgeous," Brown said. "It was glorious. I stood there in total shock."



'We got it off the ground'

Leila Gosney was also an early leader of the museum after the current building opened. Gosney was on the building committee, she was the museum board's first president, and she remained on the board for 25 years.

"We had bare walls and bare floors," recalled Gosney, who lives in Ormond Beach. "We didn't have much money. But we got it off the ground. It was a wonderful time to be on the board."

She remembers the Nova Road museum starting in a smaller structure than stands now with space for the Cuban art, natural history exhibits, a planetarium, a changing art exhibit area, a lobby and offices.

The original building was designed to be made up of a series of interlocking hexagonal pods that could be added to easily as the museum continued to grow, with a small link-block between the three original pods that acted as the visitor entrance and an exhibit space, Sandall said.



The museum bought five of the 88 acres around Tuskawilla Park the city had purchased in 1948, and leased several more acres on the site. The museum secured the highest piece of property in the low-lying area.

"With the museum back then being much more focused on natural history and science, many of the original ideas for the museum focused on it being partly a visitor center for people exploring the Tuskawilla Preserve and also a home for the collections they had acquired on White Street," Sandall said.

"The entire section of Tuskawilla we sit on today is around 90 acres and has been owned entirely by MOAS since the last parcel was gifted to us by the city in 2012 to allow us to build the Cici and Hyatt Brown Museum of Art up at the far end of the site right on Nova Road," he added.

Gosney still remembers the grand opening of the museum on Nova Road.

"We had a party under a yellow tent with a piano player," she said.

She remembers tickets were \$100, a tidy sum in 1971. Now she and other museum pioneers are looking forward to the anniversary party this weekend and wondering where the time has gone.

Brown said it's been "very exciting to be part of the museum for so long."

And she's happy to see the museum in solid financial shape because of the multimillion-dollar endowment gifts from many generous donors, the largest of which are from her and her husband, J. Hyatt Brown.

"I love that place and always have," Cici Brown said. "I just consider it to be part of my life. I'll never forget that museum."

“Ultimately, if all facets of society come together, no challenge—including the global pandemic—is insurmountable.”

Shekhar Mehta



Empowering girls, supporting COVID-19 management key focus: Rotary chief



Kolkata-based entrepreneur and social worker Shekhar Mehta has taken over as the global president of the service organisation Rotary International (for 2021-22) on July 1. A Rotary member since 1984, he has pioneered programs like **◆Saving Little Hearts◆** and helped conduct over 1500 life-saving heart surgeries across South Asia among others. Rotary has played a key role in eradicating polio in India and in most parts of the world and the organisation continues to play an important supporting role in management of COVID-19 pandemic. Mehta's focus objective is also empowerment of girls.

Only the fourth Indian to be global president of Rotary, Mehta shares his goals and plans of the 115-year-old organisation for the next year exclusively with THE WEEK.

What contributions of the Rotary International to India's development and progress will you like to highlight as its global president?

Rotary, a 115-year-old organisation, celebrated 100 years in India in 2020, and we are proud to reflect on the positive impact we **◆**ve had in the country as well as look ahead to the next 100 years.

As a founding partner of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), Rotary has been a key driver behind efforts to eradicate polio worldwide for more than 30 years. Thanks to these efforts, India was certified polio free seven years ago (as part of the World Health Organization's South-East Asia region); Africa (as part of the WHO African region) was also certified wild polio-free in 2020; and wild polio only continues to circulate in Afghanistan and Pakistan. One of the most successful public-private partnerships for global health to date, the GPEI has reduced polio cases by 99.9 percent, and Rotary has contributed more than US\$2.2 billion to fight polio.

Now, Rotary continues to play a pivotal role in helping India maintain its polio-free status. Also, the polio eradication program infrastructure created by Rotary and its GPEI partners is already being used to address other health challenges and diseases, including the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our work also extends to fostering peace, fighting illiteracy, poverty and disease, ensuring communities have clean water, sanitation and hygiene and more.

What are the major contributions of Rotary in India during the COVID-19 pandemic time?

The response to the COVID-19 pandemic requires solidarity and collective efforts from public and private sectors across the world. Last year, when India was battling the first wave, Rotary members across the 4000+ clubs all over India had raised Rs 105 crores and donated it to the PM Cares Fund for relief work. Another Rs 150 crores were spent on the ground levels towards providing ventilators, face masks, food, sanitizers and PPE kits to the hospitals and people. The organization has since donated beds and medical refrigerators, facilitated the transportation of millions of vaccine doses and helped in vaccinating people across India.

Today, Rotary's India COVID-19 Task Force is supporting local governments and authorities with setting up oxygen plants, COVID-19 care facilities, and supplying medical equipment like ventilators, oxygen concentrators, etc., to regions most in need. During the recent second wave, when the national capital region was hit especially hard, Rotary members worked around the clock to ensure help in the form of plasma, oxygen cylinders, medicines and ICU beds through a helpline established for the purpose.

Our members are now working to flatten the COVID-19 curve not only by providing essentials, but also by supporting the vaccination drive led by the central government, and supporting those who have been impacted across communities.

What more could be looked forward to in this regard now that the Global President is an Indian?

Continuity has been a hallmark for Rotary and that's what makes the organisation special. While a new president is elected every year, our core values remain constant. My vision for Rotary is to be able to make meaningful contributions across the causes we support through passion, perseverance and positivity.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, a primary goal is to end vaccine hesitancy by taking inspiration from our learning with polio. In addition to educating people, Rotary members will also continue to support the COVID-19 vaccine centres they've helped to establish across states as they aid local governments with ongoing immunization efforts. Health experts predict that a third wave is inevitable, and likewise, our efforts to help those in need will also be inevitable.

Another goal during my presidential year is to focus on empowering girls and ensuring they have access to education, resources, services, and opportunities so that future generations of women leaders will have the tools they need to thrive. There are many obstacles that girls face in different parts of the world, and as the leader of a global organization, I will ensure that we work to mitigate those barriers to success.

But underprivileged children, especially girls, are falling out of education ambit during the pandemic. What are your specific plans in this regard?

Around the world, girls are disadvantaged and discriminated against. In India, a significant percentage of girls drop out of the school by Class 7 or 8 as they're separated from their male peers as a result of stigma around menstruation. According to the recently released Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+) report by the Ministry of Education, in India the number of girls dropping out of school in the upper primary classes (6-8) was higher than that of the boys in 2019-20. Historically, they've also faced a host of other societal challenges related to early marriage, child labour, etc., so there is much to be done to improve their lives, above and beyond the impacts of the pandemic.

As noted, during my presidential term, I will focus on empowering girls by improving age-grade appropriate learning inside the classroom, teachers' training, e-learning and skill development and by enhancing the overall school infrastructure and services.

Across India, Rotary has helped set up hundreds of schools for the underprivileged children; many of these schools are now also catering to children who've lost their families during COVID-19.

What is your comment on the overall role of the non-government sector in assisting during crisis situations like the COVID-19 pandemic in India?

Even when there is no crisis, public/private institutions and civil society have an important role to play in coming together for the public good. However, in times of crisis, the most vulnerable and marginalized populations carry a disproportionate share of the hardship and are often left out of response and recovery efforts. So, that is why it's imperative that the non-government sector and philanthropic organizations like Rotary respond quickly and collectively to situations like the COVID-19 pandemic. Just as we did with polio, we're able to help facilitate and support government efforts and fill gaps by addressing critical and immediate needs, as we also help to lay the groundwork for longer-term COVID-19 recovery and future global health response efforts.

Ultimately, if all facets of society come together, no challenge—including the global pandemic—is insurmountable.

What are your other key action points as global president of Rotary International?

Within the organization's overarching objectives, my goals are to: diversify membership, empower girls through education and skill development, focus on protecting the environment, remain dedicated to our top goal of polio eradication, support the Government of India around Rotary focus areas like maternal and child health, water sanitation and hygiene, disease prevention, education and more.

Although these goals are necessary to drive our overall growth, I must stress that membership growth is fundamental to achieving all other goals and objectives.

What personal experiences from your 37 years association with Rotary do you cherish most?

I have always been inspired by Rotary's motto, "service above self". Service, to me, is about thinking of others before I think of myself, and our motto has taught me to care for and share with others. Some of the most life-changing experiences have been where I was able to assist a family with a heart surgery for their child with a congenital heart disorder or when I

was actively involved in the on-ground rehabilitation efforts for those displaced in Andaman and Nicobar Islands after the 2004 Tsunami.

Quote for the Week July 26, 2021

It's All About Perspective



Club Meeting

Daytona Beach
Meets at Palmetto Club
1000 S Beach St
Daytona Beach, FL 32114-6202
Time: Monday at 12:15 PM