

Rotary



Club of Carmel GEARBOX Newsletter

Club Meeting

Carmel
Woodland Country Club
Friday at 11:45 AM

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Events & Speakers

April 24th
WEEKLY MEETING - Brandy Jemczura

April 27th
Cheftacular Community Impact Event - Reserve your seat by April 17

April 28th

Rotary Club of Carmel Leadership Connection Scholarships Awarded

Carmel Rotarians held their annual recognition luncheon to honor the six recipients of the 2026 Rotary Club of Carmel Leadership Connection Scholarships. These exceptional high school seniors each received a \$2,000 scholarship toward their post-secondary education, a personal tablet computer, and an inscribed plaque. The awards were presented by club president Doug Willard and program chair Louise Jackson, whose remarks included guiding principles for future decision-making. The scholarship recipients were selected through a competitive application process reviewed by a committee of Rotarians, educators, and community leaders.

To be eligible for the scholarships, the students must have participated in both the Rotary Club of Carmel Leadership Day of Service, performing hands-on charitable acts to those in need, plus the Rotary Club of Carmel Leadership Day, an immersive learning experience about leadership, entrepreneurship, business models, and the importance of giving to others from the fruits of their labors. Carmel Rotary Leadership Connection is the club's signature youth leadership initiative created to bring together business leaders and high school students from the wider Carmel area to help the students develop confidence, character, and a deeper understanding of leadership through real-world interaction with community leaders and hands-on service experiences.

Each student selected demonstrated a meaningful reflection on their Carmel Rotary Leadership Connection experience through their leadership, personal growth, how they can positively impact others, and a clear commitment to continued growth. Their applications highlighted resilience, initiative, and a desire to make a lasting impact in their communities. Unlike traditional scholarships focused solely on academics, this program emphasizes growth, leadership, and personal reflection.

The 2026 recipients are a strong and diverse group of future leaders who exemplify the program's core values. Five students received the Carmel Rotary Leadership Connection Scholarship: Cheryl Yu, Carmel High School; Zach Flint, Carmel High School; Anthony Garcia, Christel House; Kane Lomax, Pike High School; and Halla Wilburn, Christel House. A sixth student, Carter Buhr of Carmel High School, received the Dr. Rick Markoff Rotary Club of Carmel Leadership Connection Scholarship, named for and presented by the program's founder. After receiving their awards, each student spoke about the program's impact on them personally, shared their experiences and future plans, reflected on their participation in the program, and then answered questions from Carmel Rotarians and the many guests present. Rotary Club of Carmel Leadership Connection continues to showcase what's possible when young people are given the opportunity to lead, reflect, and grow.



[Merciful Help Center: Food Pantry](#)

May 1st
[WEEKLY MEETING - Club Meeting](#)

May 1st
[Rotary Club Ignite Night Suite Experience - Register by April 17](#)

May 2nd
[Children's TherAplay HORSEPOWER](#)

May 8th
[WEEKLY MEETING - Mayor Sue Finkam](#)

May 15th
[Weekly Meeting - Samantha Wodecki](#)

Club Leaders



[Doug Willard](#)
President



[Nancy S. Heck](#)
President-Elect



[Dubbie Buckler](#)
Secretary



[Tyler E. Smith](#)
President-Nominee
Vice President
Club Vice President



[Greg Pilling](#)
Treasurer



[Donna Gray](#)
Club Comm. Officer
Club Public Image Chair
Webmaster



[Monica Frauhiger](#)
Club Admin Chair



[David I. Hollander](#)
Membership Chair



[Louise M. Jackson](#)
Leadership Connection Chair



[Robert Wright](#)
Swanay Sergeant-at-Arms



[Sue M. Westermeier](#)
Rotary Foundation Chair

[Stanley](#)

Pic 1: Rotary Club of Carmel Leadership Connection Founder Dr. Rick Markoff



Pic 2: Rotary Club of Carmel President Doug Willard watches as scholarship recipients Cheryl Yu, Kane Lomax, Zach Flint, Halla Wilburn, Anthony Garcia, and Carter Buhr answer audience questions.



Pic 3: Rotary Club of Carmel President Doug Willard; President-Elect Tyler Smith; scholarship recipients Halla Wilburn, Zach Flint, Anthony Garcia, Kane Lomax, Cheryl Yu, Carter Buhr; CRLC Chair Louise Jackson; CRLC Founder Dr. Rick Markoff



Lebron
CarmelFest
Chair



Natalie
O'Hara
Webmaster



Peter
Primason
Community
Grants Chair



Katie L.
Smardo
CarmelFest
Treasurer



Beth Sexton
Community
Service
Chair



Carolyn M
Shaw
Community
Service
Chair



Julie
Standish
Club Youth
Services
Chair



Arnold
Elston
Past
President
iPast
President

Lyra Lee
Club Social
Chair



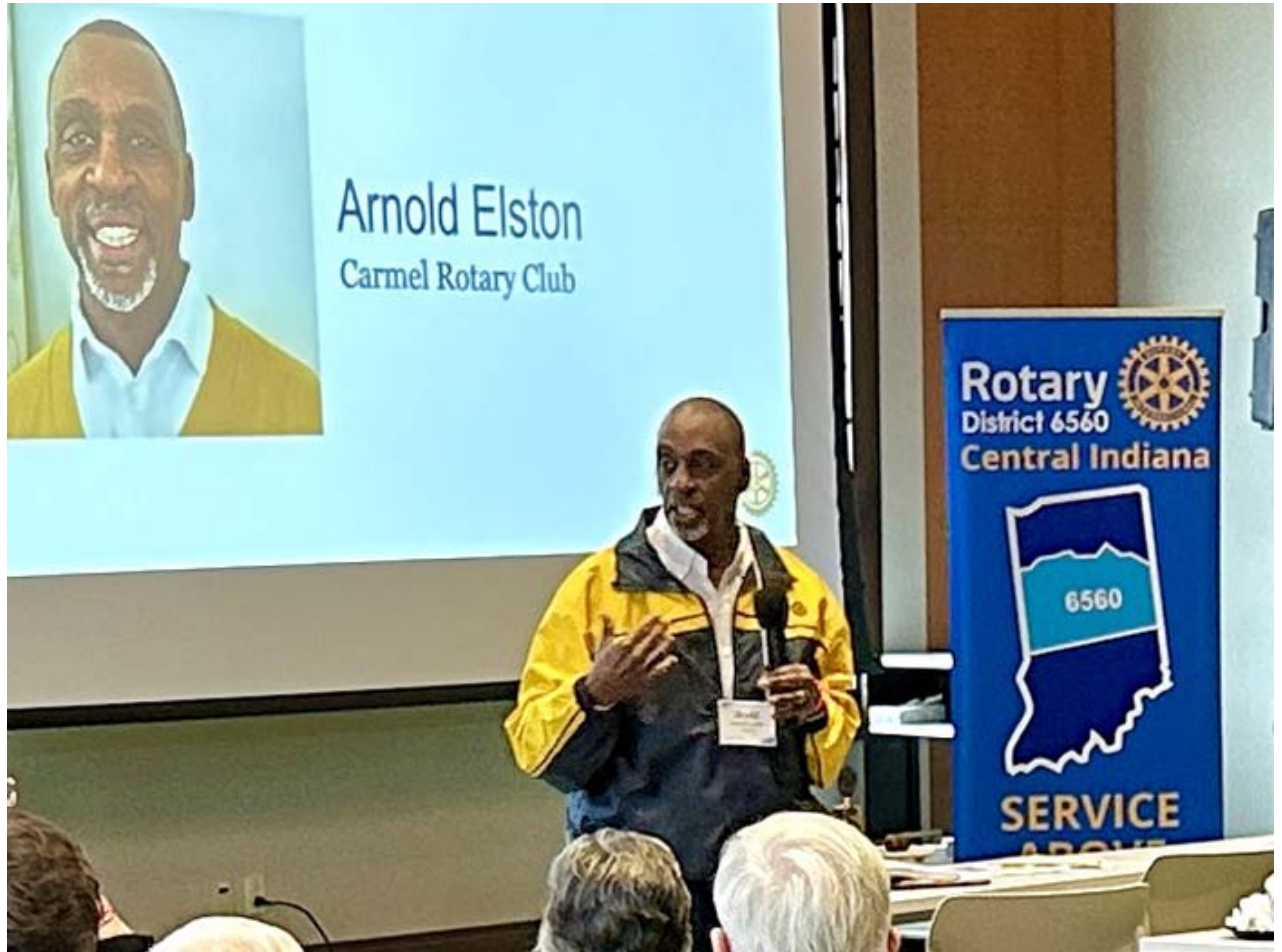


TANAKA
Pasipamire
Kaleso
Club Social
Chair



Rotary District 6560 Elects Elston District Governor Nominee

Five Rotary Club of Carmel leaders attended the Rotary District 6560 Conference held Saturday, April 18, 2026 at the Girl Scouts of Central Indiana Headquarters in Indianapolis. Conference attendees heard remarks from Rotary District 6560 Governor Ryan Henry and Rotary International Director Brian Hall of Covington, LA. Student Zoey Geral delivered her 3rd place winning speech from the Rotary Speech Contest. Several clubs across District 6560 shared successful service projects and creative fundraiser ideas, including Carmel Rotary Immediate Past President Arnold Elston who showcased CarmelFest. A panel of three Rotary Global Grant Scholars spoke during the luncheon about the global impact they hope to achieve through their post graduate research made possible by the Rotary Foundation scholarships. Culminating the conference, Arnold Elston was elected District Governor Nominee, tantamount to the district's second vice president. Elston is now poised to be elected District Governor for the Rotary FY July 1, 2028 - June 30, 2029.



Pic 1: Attending the District 6560 Conference (L to R): Club Administrative Chair Monica Frauhiger, Vice President Nancy Heck, Immed Past Pres Arnold Elston, President Doug Willard, Secretary Dubbie Buckler



Pic 2: Arnold Elston elected Rotary District 6560 Governor Nominee

CarmelFest 2025 Parade Float Award Winners

At the Rotary Club of Carmel meeting held April 17, 2026, CarmelFest Awards Chair Susan Gath presented plaques to two parade float winners. The Carmel Lions Club was awarded the CarmelFest 2025 Nonprofit Most Patriotic Float Award, and Michele Diekmeyer received the CarmelFest Commercial Sponsor's Choice Award for her company Fringe & Form. Diekmeyer also was a keynote presenter at the She L.E.A.D.S. conference of which Carmel Rotary was a sponsor. Congrats to both winners!



Pic 1: CarmelFest Awards Chair Susan Gath, Carmel Lions Club members Amber and Matt Best, Carmel Rotary Pres Doug Willard



Pic 2: CarmelFest Awards Chair Susan Gath, Michele Diekmeyer, Carmel Rotary Pres Doug Willard

Please Welcome Potential New Member Jared Shum



by David I. Hollander

Jared is the Head of Investor Relations at Focused Capital, a private real estate firm. He leads investor engagement, communications, and capital strategy. Jared has dual bachelor degrees in Economics and Political Science from Stanford University. He earned his Master degree in Public Administration in International Development from the Harvard Kennedy School. He is currently the Head Coach for the University High School Swimming and Diving Team. He also is an Assistant Coach for the Carmel Swim Club. He has served on multiple nonprofit boards and he has held leadership positions in student organizations during graduate school. Jared loves to mentor young people, build their confidence, and help them develop both as athletes and individuals. He is drawn to Rotary because of its commitment to service, leadership, and local impact. Some of his multiple hobbies include alpine skiing, golf, weight lifting, martial arts, pickleball, reading, travel, and musical theatre.

April Volunteer Opportunity

Use the link below for more information & to sign up to participate in this event through April 26, 2026.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/anywhere-book-drive-thru-42626-registration-1983991169997?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>



APR

A dark purple rectangular banner with the word "APR" in large, white, sans-serif capital letters.

LITERACY AWARENESS

Book Drive

Find out how you're never too young to make a difference while collecting new and used children's books.

Sarah Diaz is Our Guest Speaker April 24

Sarah Diaz, MSW serves as the inaugural Site Director of [Seeds of Caring](#) in the greater Indianapolis area. Seeds of Caring creates service, social action and community building projects for kids ages 2-12 and the grown-ups who care for them. Sarah comes to Seeds of Caring after 5 years leading the development of healthy living programming for youth at the Girls Inc. National Resource Center and a 13 year stint leading health promotion and violence prevention efforts at Butler University. Sarah lives with her family in midtown Indy, and when she's not

leading Seeds of Caring you can find her cheering on her 3rd and 6th grade sons from the sidelines of soccer fields and basketball courts all over town. Sarah's commitment to community care started at an early age and was modeled by her parents whose chosen careers were as a public school educator and a community mental health professional. Sarah leans into Seeds of Caring's deeply held belief that we're *all* going to be able to give help sometimes and we're *all* going to be in a position to need help at other times -- and she gives what she can with gratitude for the support she has received along the way!



Carmel Rotary Night - May 6, 2026

Tickets - only \$25 a person (50% off)

For tickets, call - 317-843-3800

SUNSET BOULEVARD

CARMEL ROTARY NIGHT!
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

Tickets only \$25! Use code **ROTARY25** online, in person and on the phone.

THE STUDIO THEATER
AT AlliedSolutions CENTER

atistage.org | 317.843.3800

actors theatre
of indiana
Artistic Support Provided by Christel DeHaan

CARMEL UNITED BANK PEDCOR CURRENT BIER BLDG CO. Sign City WALLERSTEIN Bird and Meg Osborne Cornelius Martin and Kate Marvet John and Camille Murphy

Book & Lyrics by Don Black & Christopher Hampton

Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber

Based on the 1950 Film "Sunset Boulevard" written by Charles Brackett, Billy Wilder & D.M. Marshman Jr.

Directed by Michael Blatt

Synopsis:

Sunset Boulevard revolves around the former star of the silent screen era, Norma Desmond. Aging and largely forgotten for years, she lives in her dilapidated mansion in Hollywood with her butler and chauffeur, Max. Lost in her memories, she is stirred into

action when struggling screenwriter, Joe Gillis, suddenly enters her home and her life. Joe is down on his luck and struggling to escape debt collectors. Norma offers him a room and board if he agrees to edit her incomprehensible script of Salome, a movie she has written and in which she wants to star as the teenage seductress. Norma is convinced that she is still as beautiful and in demand as ever. This misguided belief is sustained by Max, who writes fake fan letters to her and shields her from the realities of the much changed, modern-day movie business. Buoyed by Joe's presence in her house, she lavishes him with gifts and soon declares her love for him. Her obsession with the young writer further reveals her increasing mental instability, leading to tragic consequences.

Volunteer Opportunity!

Rotary Tent Volunteer Sign up 5/3/2026 Sunday at Japan SpringFest by Kawachinagano Japanese Garden

Volunteer Sign up is needed for the Rotary Tent to pass out brochures and talk to people about Rotary Club and RYLA.
When: On May 3, 2026 Sunday we will have a Rotary Tent at 2026 Carmel Japan SpringFest at City Hall Parking lot by Kawachinagano Japanese Garden
9:30-11:30 Tent set up Tent, Table and chairs
Pick up Rotary pop-up tent and set up at the designated location

11:30 - 1:30 (event)
1:30-3:30 (event)
3:30-5pm Event (event)
5pm Tear down tent and return to the storage

Contact Tyler Smith
Tsmithrotary3398@gmail.com
Kaybrunson7@gmail.com

Join Rotary at Japan Spring Fest on May 3rd

ATTENTION ROTARIANS - We are sponsoring this event on May 3rd 12-5 and would love to see you there! Volunteers are needed to help promote Rotary at our tent.

[SIGN UP HERE](#)
JAPAN SPRINGFEST



Come celebrate the spring season and all things Japan at the Carmel Japan Spring Fest. Sample tasty Japanese foods, enjoy local Japanese cultural performances, take photos with Cosplayers, and experience Japan through various family-friendly activities.

You'll also get a first look at the updated Carmel Japanese Garden, plus learn all about our sister city in Kawachinagano, Japan!

Free to attend.

Visit the Facebook event [at this link](#) for up-to-date details.

[Sign up to volunteer](#)

Rotary Family Event- Ignite Volleyball

<https://square.link/u/Oz5tsRtv>

Rotary



Club of Carmel
Rotary Family Fun Night!



IGNITE VOLLEYBALL SUITE EXPERIENCE!!!

Fishers Event Center
11000 Stock-Dale Street, Fishers, IN 46037

Friday May 1st @7pm

Cost: \$55.95 per person
(Includes Ticket, Food & On Court Flag Experience)

<https://square.link/u/Oz5tsRtv>

Parking is available at Fishers Event Center for General \$10 & VIP \$20



Membership Challenge

Rotary 

8 in 8

MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE

MARCH 1 – APRIL 30

**The goal is simple: add eight
new members in eight weeks.**

Any Rotary or club in Zones 30 and 31 that
meets the goal qualifies—plain and
simple.

**To add extra motivation, clubs that
successfully add eight new members
during the challenge period will be entered
into a drawing for \$1,000 to host a member
social event in May or June.**

Event must include members bringing guests.

GET INVOLVED!

Theraplay Needs Volunteers

Come Join fellow Rotarians to help support Children's Theraplay at their annual Horsepower Event.
When: Saturday, May 2, 2026 from 9am-2pm
Where: 9919 Towne Road, Carmel, IN 46032



Please email Ranj Puthran (ranjitputhran@allstate.com) to sign up to volunteer. More details to come as we get closer to the event!

Check Request Form

<https://forms.gle/WnHuUVemxDZGdiwe6>

Rotary Members - Are You New to DACdb?

DACdb is the database that houses details for Carmel Rotarians, the Carmel club, and District 6560. If you are new to DACdb or need a refresher, then go to the newly created link titled 'How to's on DACdb' on the website's left navigation bar, under Club Links.

From here you can learn how to:

- Login
- Change Your Password
- Update Your Contact Information
- Enter a Make Up

***If you have previously logged into DACdb but don't remember your password, then contact Andrea Rice to have your password reset. You can directly email her by clicking on the 'Member Directory' link on the left navigation bar of the website. Once the page opens, scroll to Andrea's name and click on it. Fill out the requested information, including a note to reset your password. Click 'Send Mail'.

Important Links

[Carmel Rotary Website](#)

[District 6560 Website](#)

[Carmel Rotary Facebook Page](#)
[Rotary International Website](#)

Carmel Rotary Zoom Link

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87091303825?pwd=ZjBGekNaYkczTOVZdnhDYjhidUtsQT09>

Meeting ID: 870 9130 3825

Passcode: 4waytest

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,87091303825#,,,,*73005176# US (New York)

+13017158592,,87091303825#,,,,*73005176# US (Washington DC)

Dial USING YOUR ACTUAL PHONE by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
Meeting ID: 870 9130 3825
Passcode: 73005176
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kH5bJHKI5>

Gearbox Sponsors



Greg Pilling

NMLS # 873570 317-495-8042

greg@currentmortgage.ai



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NMLS # 2554422

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Carmel**



Ranj Puthran

317-844-4683

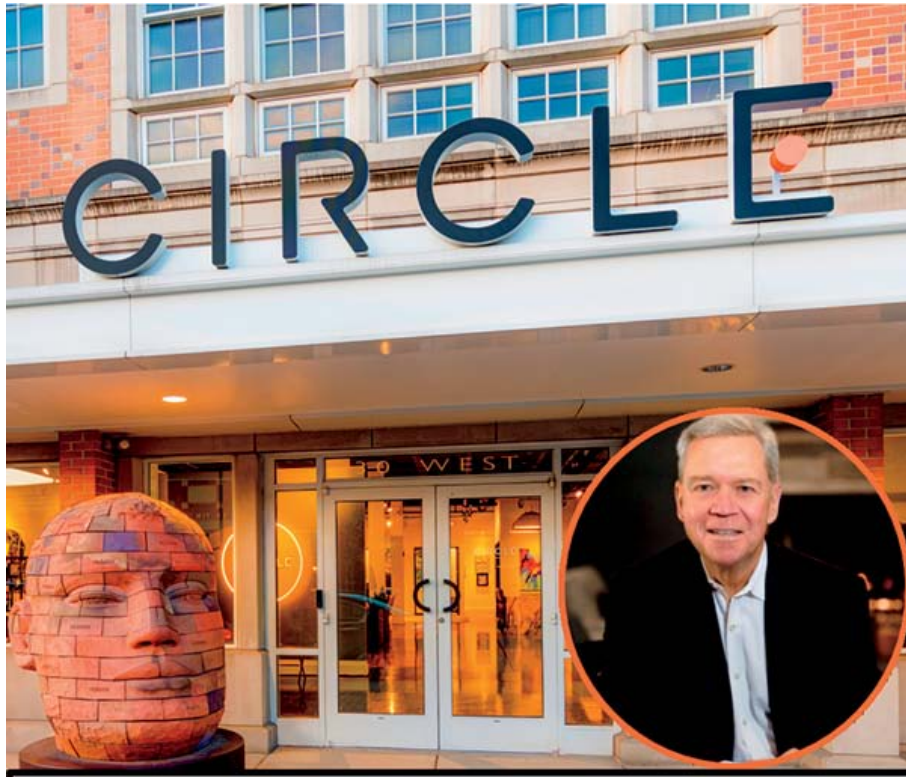
718 Adams St Ste B

Carmel

ranjitputhran@allstate.com



Subject to terms, conditions & availability. Allstate Fire and Casualty Ins. Co. & affiliates:
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JAY O'NEIL
 jay@circle-re.com
 +1 317 848 0008

Your *Trusted* Realtor &
 Carmel Rotarian for *36* Years

Club Member Anniversaries



[Kurt A. Rupenthal](#)
 37 Years



[Jerome Roberts](#)
 26 Years



[Katie L. Smardo](#)
 14 Years



[Doug Willard](#)
 6 Years



[Gail Bardach](#)
 3 Years



[Julie Standish](#)
 2 Years



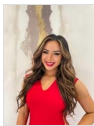
[Jennifer A Piatt](#)
 2 Years



[Sharon M. Kibbe](#)
 2 Years



[Louise M. Jackson](#)
 2 Years



[Mika L. Takahashi](#)
 2 Years



[David A. Ryan](#)
 1 Year

Birthdays

[Kim Gaskill](#)
 May 1st

[Mark Westermeier](#)
 May 4th

[Brandon Weddle](#)
 May 5th

[Brian A. Beck](#)
 May 7th

[Greg Pilling](#)
 May 7th

[Sharon M. Kibbe](#)
 May 8th

[Semiu Olanrewaju Bello](#)
 May 11th

[Michael Rothenberger](#)
 May 12th

[Stephen C. Possell](#)
 May 14th

[Sue Finkam](#)
 May 14th

[David J. Hollander](#)
 May 16th


[Peter Primason](#)
 May 18th

Wedding Anniversaries

[Kyle D. Maisano](#)
 April 22nd

[TANAKA Pasipamire Kaleso](#)
 April 29th

[Cristina Mazza Piccolo](#)
 May 8th



[Donna Gray](#)
May 16th

[Robert Wright Swanay](#)
May 18th