

# Rotary



## Club of Carmel GEARBOX Newsletter

### Club Meeting

Carmel  
Woodland Country Club  
Friday at 11:45 AM

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### Events & Speakers

May 7th  
[Fields Market Garden Volunteer and Tour Event](#)

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

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

May 21st  
[Board Meeting](#)

### May 8th Meeting Off Site

SPECIAL NOTICE: Off-Site Meeting

*This week's meeting will be held at the [Fire Buffs Museum](#) at 210 1st Avenue SW in Carmel, Indiana*



Upcoming Speaker: We're honored to welcome Mayor Sue Finkam on May 8th, 2026. As mayor, Sue brings a focus on fiscal responsibility, community growth, and enhancing quality of life, drawing on her background in business leadership and public service. She will share insights on Carmel's continued development, strategic vision, and the collaborative efforts shaping one Carmel into one of the best places to live and work in the country.

### Carmel Rotarians Pack Snack Packs for Seeds of Caring

Carmel Rotarians turned out in a big way for the club's special service project meeting held May 1, 2026 at the Farmhouse Restaurant inside Niemann Harvest Market. Community Service Committee Co-Chairs Beth Sexton and Carolyn Shaw reported on the outstanding ways club members have volunteered for the club's many local service projects. Members saw a moving video featuring kids talking about their own food likes and dislikes then learning that 1 in 5 children face hunger. Club members then decorated paper lunch bags with words of encouragement and cheerful designs and filled each with bagged snacks and a bottle of water. In all, members assembled 200 "Snacks Packed with Kindness" for Seeds of Caring to distribute to our neighbors in need.

May 22nd  
**NO WEEKLY  
MEETING -  
Memorial Day**

May 26th  
**Merciful Help  
Center: Food Pantry**

May 29th  
**WEEKLY MEETING -  
Mickey Mauer**

### 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  
Lebron  
CarmelFest  
Chair



Natalie  
O'Hara  
Webmaster



Peter  
Primason  
Community  
Grants Chair



Katie L.  
Smardo  
CarmelFest  
Treasurer



Kumiko K.  
Brunson  
Club  
International  
Service  
Chair



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







Pictured: Carmel Rotarians Packing Snack Bags

## Volunteers Needed for Fields Market Garden

Please join us at Fields Market Garden

*To help wrap up our District Grant, we are hosting a volunteer night and garden tour at  
Fields Market Garden  
Thursday, May 7  
from 5:30pm to 7:00pm*

Bring family and friends to volunteer or tour at the garden - tasks may include planting, weeding, mulch moving, and cutting flowers. Check out the spring veggies, early flower crop, new greenhouse, headhouse, and picnic area!

This is a great opportunity to see first hand the impact of our club's District Grant money that funded perennial plants and new garden pathways to help create a welcoming community space.



RSVP to Carolyn Shaw or Beth Sexton, your community service co-chairs.

*Let's pack the garden!*

## **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.



[atistage.org](http://atistage.org) | 317.843.3800



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.

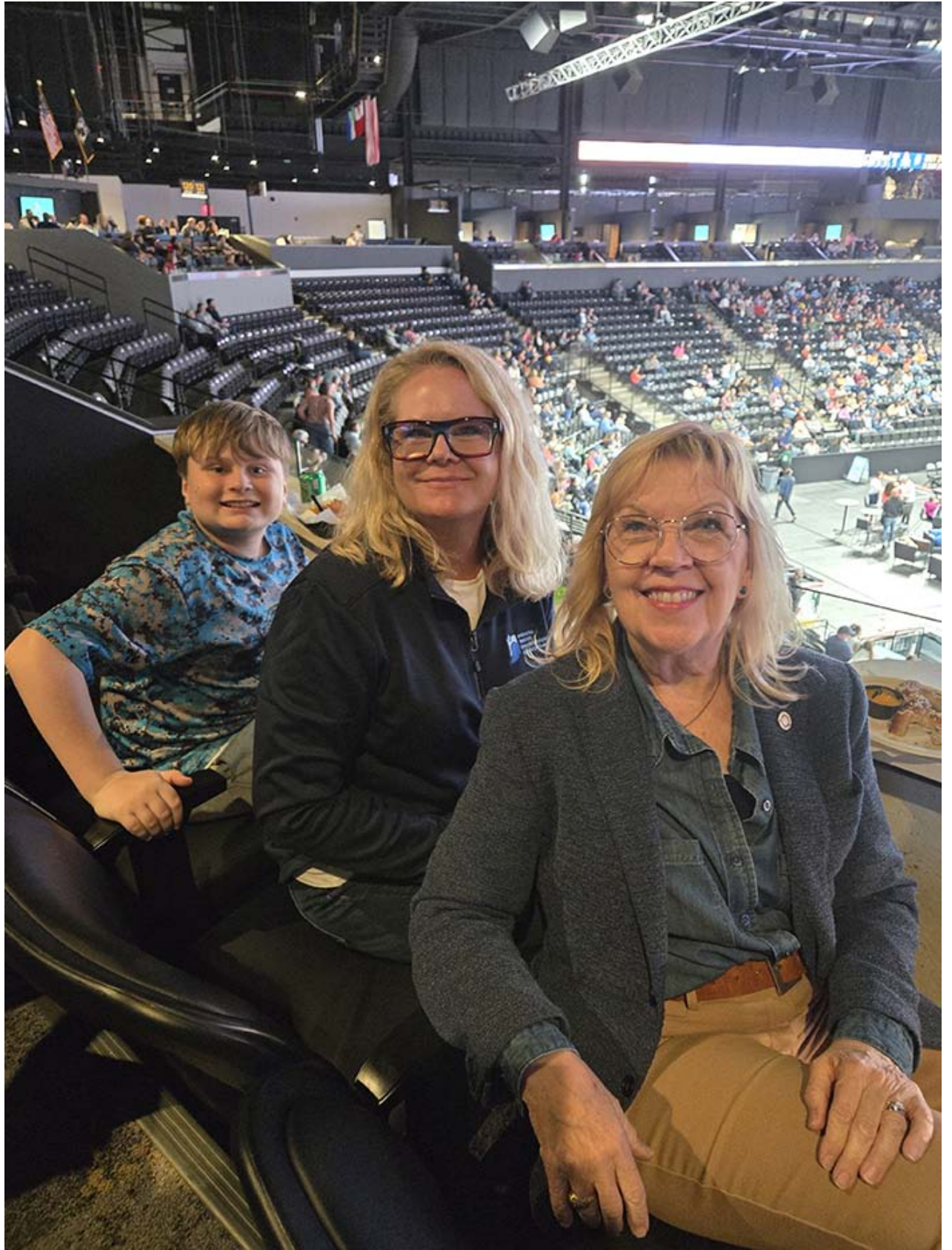
## Rotary Club of Carmel Supports Japan SpringFest

Rotary Club of Carmel was a gold sponsor of Japan SpringFest held Sunday afternoon, May 3, 2026 in Civic Plaza and celebrating the opening of the Kawachinagano Japanese Garden at City Hall. The club had a bannered tent staffed by volunteering members who promoted Rotary Club of Carmel and had a great time connecting with hundreds of people among the larger-than-expected crowd attending the jam-packed festival. Kay Brunson donated mochi candy as the club's giveaways to those visiting the tent. Club volunteers included Robert Buell, Dubbie Buckler, Margaret Davidson, Monica Frauhiger, Ramesh Joshi, Tatyana Komarova, Sue Maki, Tyler Smith, Kelvin Okamoto, and festival team member Kay Brunson.



Pictured L to R: Robert Buell, Monica Frauhofer, Sue Maki, Dubbie Buckler, Ramesh Joshi, and Kelvin Okamoto

## Carmel Rotarians Enjoy Indy Ignite Volleyball











### Rotary Club of Carmel Sponsors Cheftacular

Many Carmel Rotarians bought their own tickets to attend *Cheftacular 2026, an Evening of Culinary Excellence*, in support of Carmel High School's culinary arts students. In its 8th year, Cheftacular was held Monday evening April 27, 2026 at the Carmel High School Fieldhouse. Rotary Club of Carmel was a gold sponsor of the event, spearheaded by Carmel Rotarian Chaya Reich. Rain didn't dampen the large crowds attending this popular charity event and culinary arts competition featuring exclusive dishes crafted by 16 teams of CHS Culinary Arts students paired with area professional chefs teams. A silent auction also supported CHS Culinary Arts, the Cheftacular Scholarship, and Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank.



Pictured L to R, Back Row: Donna and Matt Weaver, Kelvin Okamoto, Lisa Raven, Gary and Beth Sexton, Doug Willard, Stanley Lebron; Front Row: Dubbie Buckler, Monica Frauhofer, Judy Hagan, Tammy Haney, Chaya Reich, Julie Standish, Erin Husband, Carolyn Shaw, Ali Delgado-Watland; Not Pictured: Sue Finkam, Tara Washington

## **Rotarians at Children's TheraPlay Horsepower on Saturday, May 2**



L to R: Cindy Davis, Ranj Puthran, Tyler Smith and daughter Caroline Smith, Carolyn Shaw and Nancy Heck.

## May 15th, 2026 - Samantha Wodecki and Lori Steininger are Speaking

We're excited to welcome Lori Steininger and Samantha Wodecki of ICAN as our speakers on May 15th, 2026.

ICAN is an organization dedicated to unleashing abilities by providing expertly trained service dogs to individuals with disabilities. Lori, a former educator turned nonprofit leader, and Samantha, ICAN's Director of Philanthropy, will share how their work in community engagement, partnerships, and fundraising is expanding independence and opportunity for individuals and families across Indiana. Together, they bring a powerful perspective on how mission-driven collaboration can truly change lives.

*ICAN was a recipient of a Carmel Rotary Community grant this year.*



**Lori Steininger** serves on staff at ICAN, where she combines her passion for education, community engagement, and unleashing abilities through expertly trained service dogs. A graduate of Hanover College with a degree in Elementary Education, Lori taught elementary and middle school for many years before transitioning into the nonprofit world. She began her journey with ICAN as a volunteer in 2019, experiencing firsthand the life-changing impact of the mission. In 2023, she joined the ICAN team as a staff member, where she now works to expand awareness, strengthen partnerships, and grow support so more individuals and families can experience greater independence and opportunity.



**Samantha Wodecki** serves as Director of Philanthropy at ICAN, where she leads fundraising and community partnership efforts to expand access to expertly trained service dogs for individuals with disabilities. With a strong background in nonprofit development and relationship building, Samantha is passionate about connecting donors, partners, and community members to ICAN's mission of unleashing abilities and creating greater independence. She is proud to work alongside a dedicated team and volunteers who help change lives across Indiana every day.

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## May 29th Speaker is Mickey Maurer

We're excited to welcome Mickey Maurer, attorney, entrepreneur, and one of Indiana's most influential business and civic leaders. As Chairman of IBJ Corporation and founder of The National Bank of Indianapolis, Mickey has helped shape Central Indiana's economic and philanthropic landscape, while his initiatives like "Mickey's Camp" have raised millions for local charities. His lifelong commitment to service, leadership, and community impact closely reflects Rotary's mission of "Service Above Self," making his perspective especially meaningful for our club.



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## Check Request Form

<https://forms.gle/WnHuUVemxDZGdiwe6>

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## 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'.

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## Important Links

[Carmel Rotary Website](#)

[District 6560 Website](#)

[Carmel Rotary Facebook Page](#)

[Rotary International Website](#)

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## Carmel Rotary Zoom Link

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87091303825?pwd=ZjBGekNaYkkszT0VZdnhDYjhidUtsQT09>

**Meeting ID: 870 9130 3825**

**Passcode: 4waytest**

**One tap mobile**

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

**Dial USING YOUR ACTUAL PHONE by your location**

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+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**

## Gearbox Sponsors



**Greg Pilling**

NMLS # 873570 317-495-8042  
greg@currentmortgage.ai



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MORTGAGE**  
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**proud to protect  
Carmel**



**Ranj Puthran**

**317-844-4683**

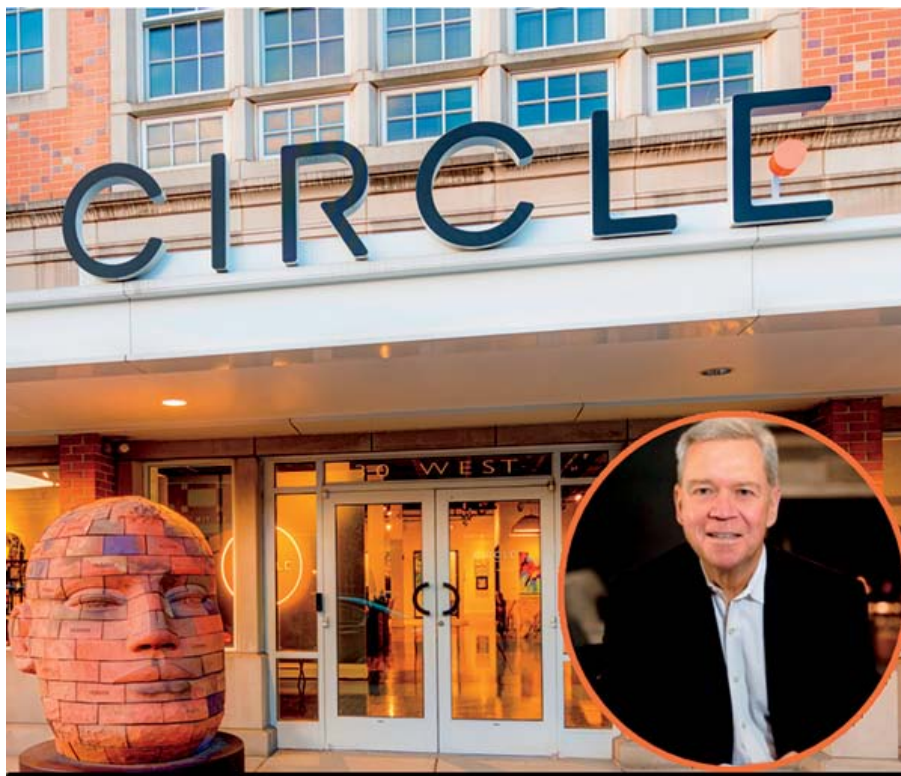
718 Adams St Ste B

Carmel

ranjitputhran@allstate.com



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**JAY O'NEIL**  
[jay@circle-re.com](mailto:jay@circle-re.com)  
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Your *Trusted* Realtor &  
 Carmel Rotarian for *36* Years

**Club Member Anniversaries**



[Thomas J. Dusing](#)  
33 Years



[Katie L. Smardo](#)  
14 Years



[Bryan Patrick Ferry](#)  
14 Years



[Peter Beering](#)  
13 Years



[David Haboush](#)  
12 Years



[Winston Long](#)  
11 Years



[Robert L. Brown](#)  
3 Years



[Carolyn M. Shaw](#)  
3 Years



[Julie Standish](#)  
2 Years



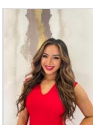
[Jennifer A. Piatt](#)  
2 Years



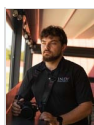
[Sharon M. Kibbe](#)  
2 Years



[Louise M. Jackson](#)  
2 Years



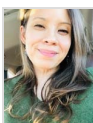
[Mika L. Takahashi](#)  
2 Years



[David A. Ryan](#)  
1 Year



[Emily F. Wuebkenberg](#)  
0 Years



[Chaya J. Reich](#)  
0 Years

**Birthdays**

[Mark Westermeier](#)  
May 4th  
[Greg Pilling](#)

[Brandon Weddle](#)  
May 5th  
[Sharon M. Kibbe](#)

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

May 7th  
[Michael Rothenberger](#)  
May 12th  
[David I Hollander](#)  
May 16th  
[Raju Chinthala](#)  
June 3rd

### Wedding Anniversaries

[Cristina Mazza Piccolo](#)  
May 8th  
[Richard F. Taylor III](#)  
May 25th

May 8th  
[Stephen C Possell](#)  
May 14th  
[Peter Primason](#)  
May 18th  
[Donna Gray](#)  
June 3rd

[Donna Gray](#)  
May 16th  
[Joel Thacker](#)  
June 2nd

May 11th  
[Sue Finkam](#)  
May 14th  
[Lynda Pitz](#)  
May 31st

[Robert Wright Swanay](#)  
May 18th