

Rotary

Club of the Classic City of Athens



February 9, 2026

Speaker: Todd L. Platek



Todd L. Platek began his life of Sinophilia studying Mandarin in the summer of 1967 at Columbia University in a Ford Foundation program for New York City high school students, and was graduated from Stuyvesant High School in 1970. He majored in Chinese Studies at George Washington University and spent several years in Taiwan in the mid-1970's and early 1980's, and China in the mid-2000's. He obtained his MBA at Columbia University in 1979 and JD at Brooklyn Law School in 1986, and continues to practice corporate law for American and foreign organizations. When not practicing law or writing, Todd can

be found wandering the woods, lakes and rivers in North Georgia with his wife, Elana, and their Labrador Retriever, Selkie.

Todd's novels, G88 and Rise of the Great Blue Heron, imagine one scenario for how mankind's problems might be resolved, and the struggle between adherents and opponents of that scenario.

Nominations Open for 2026 Vic Chesnutt Songwriter of the Year Awards

Let a favorite songwriter know that nominations for the 10th Annual Vic Chesnutt Songwriter of the Year Awards are open until March 1. To be considered, songs must have been recorded in 2025. Judges will then select finalists who will perform their original compositions at 8 p.m. on Thurs., April 23, at the Morton Theatre. To celebrate a decade of honoring the artistry of local songwriters, this year's event will include a reception for past finalists and will feature an exclusive performance by Futurebirds, a rock and roll band formed in Athens. Futurebirds has often shared the stage with Widespread Panic and Drive-By Truckers and has performed at the Bonnaroo Festival.

Plan to attend this celebration of Athens' musical traditions. To learn more about the event or how to nominate a song for consideration, go to www.vicchesnuttaward.com.

February Service Opportunities

Friday, February 20th: Our Daily Bread

Two Shifts:
Prep: 10:30 - 11:45 am

Club Meeting

The Classic City of Athens
Meets at Epting Catering
1430 N. Chase Street
Athens, GA 30601
Time: Monday at Noon

Birthdays

Selena Blankenship
February 5th
Reed Sheats
February 20th
Becky Engel
February 21st
Mark Christopher
Bowen Sr.
February 25th
Michelle Elizabeth
Roberts Kelterborn
February 25th

Club Leaders



Heather J. McElroy
President



Laura Iyer
President-Elect
Club
Fundraising
Chair



Candace Crew
President-
Nominee
Service Projects
Chair



Tammy Tate Gilland
Club Director
Secretary

Christine S.

Serving: 11:45 am - 1:00 pm

Saturday, February 21st: Habitat for Humanity Build

One Shift (12 spots):

9:00 am - 3:00 pm (Lunch is provided)

*Youth are welcome, but must be 16 or older and accompanied by a parent!

Please email Candace Crew at shirleycandace.ces@gmail.com to sign up to help with these projects.

Environmental Committee Battery Collection

Recycle your Lithium Batteries the easy way! The Environmental Committee will locate a recycling receptacle on the meeting room entrance table each week for members' use. As we learned several weeks ago, Lithium batteries cause dangerous fires when put in the regular trash or not recycled properly. The Environmental Committee asks that you deposit only Lithium batteries in the container and they will take care of taking them to the Center for Hard to Recycle Materials (CHaRM).

Meeting Volunteers

Feb. 9

Greeter - Ellen Bryson

Inspiration and Pledge - Marilyn Appleby

4 - Way Test - Tammy Dalton

Feb. 16

Greeter - Deborah Gonzalez

Inspiration and Pledge – Reed Sheets

4 - Way Test – Laura Iyer

Rotary Facts

February 3, 1905 was the very first Rotary meeting in Chicago. The meeting was organized by Paul Harris with friends Sivester Schiele, Gustavus Loehr, and Hiram Shorey. The purpose was to create a club to develop fellowship among business leaders and to help improve the community.



Waite-Morgan
Club Director
Treasurer



Jordan Bowen
Membership
Chair
iPast President



Dean Cruz
Membership
Retention Chair



Marilyn Appleby
Bulletin Editor



Libba Beaucham
Public Image
Chair



Tammy Dalton
Family of Rotary



Elizabeth
Harden
McIntyre
Laws of Life
Contest Chair



PDG Gerry
Taylor
Rotary
Foundation
Chair
Club Conference
Chair



Mark
Christopher
Bowen Sr.
Sergeant-at-Arms



Becky Engel
CCO-Club
Comm. Offcr



Michelle
Elizabeth
Roberts
Kelterborn
Club Admin
Chair



Carey
McLaughlin
Club Programs
Chair



Blair Dorminey
International
Service Chair



Tomas Eduardo
Ramirez
Youth Services
Chair