

Recommended speakers as of 6 May 2024.

Contact Kasia Yuska, kasiarotary@gmail.com with additions and comments,

[The Arizona Heroes Memorial](#) is designed to be a hallowed place honoring those outstanding individuals, past and present, who dedicated their lives to ensure our American values. The Memorial will be honoring U.S. veterans, first responders and healthcare workers. It will be open to the public in the Fall 2024 at Naranja Park in Oro Valley, AZ. The memorial will be a dedicated space in which to remember and learn about our heroes.

Contact: Lisa Hopper at lmhopper@aol.com or go to <https://azheroesmemorial.org/speakers-bureau>

[Treasures for Teachers Tucson](#) - Treasures 4 Educators (T4TT) is a 501c3 organization that focuses on supporting educators with the materials they need in the classroom for free to low cost through repurposed items that are donated by the public. As a donation based operation, they accept items from retiring teachers, businesses, industries and individuals that would otherwise end up in a landfill. T4TT aims to alleviate financial burden on educators who often spend over \$1000 annually of their own money on classroom supplies. By repurposing and reusing items, we provide teachers with items to expand their learning at a minimal cost and the public with a sustainable way to dispose of their unwanted items.

Contact: Adrienne Ledford at adrienne@t4teachers.org

The [El Rio Health Foundation](#) is looking to expand its Mission of Hope youth mental health services in Tucson to 1,000 youths. El Rio currently provides medical services for 16,000 kids, ages 10-18 and 36,000+ children overall. They began depression screening for kids 12 and older during pediatric visits and the results are alarming - 23% of youth screened, ages 12- 21, responded positive for depression. The Mission of Hope currently serves 600 youth in Tucson and needs help to expand to 1,000 in 2025.

Contact: John Fung at john.fung@elrio.org

Suggestions from Kay Phillips of Sierra Vista Sunrise Rotary:

PDG Michael Drake- Polio Plus

Kristi Halvorson- Rotary Foundation

Steve Wittenhoef- TRVFA

We also had the **presidents of the other clubs** in our town speak with our club, in the spirit of collaboration and fellowship. I was surprised at how many Rotary clubs in the same city don't communicate with each other.

We also had our **Executive AG** speak with our club. Our club had a few new members and even some of our more seasoned members weren't aware of what the AGs actually do. Both kinds of programs were informative.

[Make-A-Wish Arizona](#): Rob LaMaster is a member of the Rotary Club of Tucson and the Southern AZ Regional Director of Make-A-Wish.

In 1980, a worldwide movement began in Phoenix, Arizona with a 7-year-old's wish. Chris Greicius was battling leukemia and his mom, Linda, wanted to bring a spark of joy back into his life. She led a group of inspired individuals on a mission to grant his wish of "catching bad guys." Chris became Arizona's first honorary police officer, rode in a helicopter, and earned his motorcycle officer's wings. For a moment in time, Chris put aside his illness and experienced, once again, the excitement and wonders of simply being a kid. Sadly, Chris passed away four days later and was buried in his beloved policeman uniform. But not before making a profound impact on an entire community who witnessed how a single wish could transform the life of a child and their family. It was at this moment that Make-A-Wish was born.

After 44 years since Chris's story, Make-A-Wish has grown to 58 chapters across the United States and its territories, and has 40 affiliates in nearly 50 countries on six continents. Since then, Make-A-Wish has collectively granted more than 585,000 wishes worldwide, making it the largest wish-granting organization.

Established in 1980, Make-A-Wish Arizona is the founding chapter of this inspiring movement and has granted nearly 8,000 wishes. Linda, who continues to devote her time to the mission, shares, "...I am still amazed and inspired how one little boy's dream to be a policeman has touched the lives of so many." As we seek to bring this spark of joy to other children battling critical illnesses, it is our vision to grant the wish of every eligible child. **Contact: Rob LaMaster, Regional Director, Southern Arizona at rlamaster@arizona.wish.org**

CIC Tucson

The [Community Investment Corporation \(CIC\)](#), is an economic development nonprofit dedicated to empowering Pima County residents and the surrounding area. In 2024, CIC was named the region's "Vital Nonprofit" by the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona and was honored by the Tucson Metro Chamber of Commerce for "Best Innovation" related to their character-based lending programs for small businesses.

CIC Executive Director Danny Knee will enlighten your club as to how his organization promotes economic inclusion for all members of Southern Arizona, regardless of socioeconomic status. Specifically, he will demonstrate how CIC ensures that more people in our community can buy homes and get the funding they need to start, sustain, and grow their small businesses.

CIC has also launched a new program, "Countdown to Kinder" that assists parents of pre-school age children with the transition from Pre-K to Kindergarten and with Kindergarten preparedness. Their work is based on a survey of over 1,200 Arizona parents conducted in conjunction with U of A and on research linking early childhood readiness with more positive education, health, and social outcomes.

CIC is hoping to find additional partnerships to share their free one-on-one services and resources as well as volunteers to help them with data collection.

You may contact Danny at dannyk@cictucson.org.

Gayle Petrillo, Author

Topic: Overcoming Fears, Phobias and Self-Doubt

firstimpressions602@gmail.com

Everyone has been burned, physically and/or emotionally. Having overcome many struggles after suffering a traumatic scalding as a 2 1/2 year old, Gayle overcame fears, phobias (rational and irrational), body image issues, a lack of self-confidence including imposter syndrome, and turned her obstacles into opportunities. So many of us experience one or more of these symptoms at some point in our lives, and Gayle shares her story of how she succeeded, but only after keeping her accident a secret for over 65 years. Keeping secrets for any length of time keeps us from being fully present and authentic. When we share our stories, we heal and help others heal by providing courage, empowerment, inspiration and motivation. Her story will resonate with your audience.

Rotary members will be able to purchase her newest book, **“Becoming Visible”** and 10% of sales will be donated to the Rotary chapter.

Gayle Petrillo, MBA

Executive and Career Coach

www.firstimpressions1.com

YOU NEVER GET A SECOND CHANCE TO MAKE A FIRST IMPRESSION - MAKE IT A GREAT ONE!

AUTHOR and SPEAKER

BECOMING VISIBLE: Overcoming Trauma-Based Fears, Phobias and Self-Doubt

www.booklocker.com/13819

THE ACCIDENT

<https://booklocker.com/11593>

(My Stories as a Burn Survivor)

Iskashitaa Refugee Network

Barbara Eisworth, Executive Director

Iskashitaa works to integrate United Nations refugees into the Southern Arizona community. Their mission includes educating the public, enhancing the local food system, minimizing food waste, and boosting food security.

<https://www.iskashitaa.org/home1>

(520) 440-0100

information@iskashitaa.org