



ROTARY REMINDER

ROTARY CLUB OF AUSTIN



CLUB NO. 63. DISTRICT 5870. AUSTIN, TX.

VOLUME 56, ISSUE 32

MARCH 5, 2019

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FUTURE PROGRAMS

3/12 AND 3/19—NO MEETINGS
AT ST. DAVID'S BECAUSE OF
SXSW AND SPRING BREAK!!!

***3/19—Semi-Annual Cluster
Meetings (Various Locations)

3/26—Claire England, Executive
Director for CTAN (Central Texas
Angel Network)

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

3/13—Downtown Austin
Breakfast Cluster Meeting,
Magnolia Café (on Lake Austin
Blvd.), 7:00 a.m.

3/13—EAFK Knighting
Ceremony, Hart Elementary
(8301 Furness Drive), 8:30 a.m.

See the Social Circle Update
(on page 4) for additional dates

This Week's Program



SETH HOPKINS

Executive Director Booth Western Art Museum

Seth Hopkins is the Executive Director of the Booth Western Art Museum in Cartersville, Georgia, a position he has held since 2000.

Since 2003, he has also served as the Executive Director of Georgia Museums, Inc., which operates the Booth Museum, Bartow History Museum and Tellus – Northwest Georgia Science Museum. Prior to entering the museum profession Hopkins worked in the fields of journalism, public relations, and telecommunications management.

Under his guidance the Booth Museum grew from an initial vision of a 30,000 square regional art center, to a world class, 120,000 square foot Smithsonian Affiliated museum. The Booth is now the largest permanent exhibition space for Western art in the country. Similarly, Hopkins led the team that transformed the 10,000 square foot Weinman Mineral Museum into the 125,000 square foot Tellus Science Museum, also a Smithsonian Affiliate. *Southwest Art Magazine* included Hopkins on its list of 10 prominent people who are “making noteworthy contributions to the art world.”

Hopkins holds an undergraduate degree in journalism from Syracuse University. While in college he participated in the Army ROTC program and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant upon graduation. Hopkins then attended the Infantry Officer Basic Course at Ft. Benning, Georgia and follow on special weapons courses. He has completed courses in art history at Kennesaw State University, Georgia State University and the University of Wyoming, as well as museum studies courses at West Georgia State University.

Story continues on page 4.

RECAP FROM LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

Rick Timmins — Opportunity Zones & Real Estate Development

February 26, 2019

Reported by Bobby Brown

Greetings and salutations! **Bobby Brown** here, your February *Rotary Reminder* reporter, reminding you that today, February 26, is another beautiful day to be a Rotarian! The blue bonnets and other Texas wildflowers are starting to bloom (thanks in many ways to Claudia Alta Taylor "Lady Bird Johnson's" National Wildflower Research Center). Spring has sprung early, sort of like how Rotarians are always springing into action to help all of mankind!

Today our outstanding **President Julie Benkoski** called the meeting to order right at noon. The pledges were led by our great **Past President Sara Pantin**. The Invocation was given by our wonderful **Past President Barry Curlee**. The *Four Way Test* was delivered by our brilliant **President Elect Nominee Richard Payton**. With the *Membership Minute* to be delivered later in the program by the legendary **Past President Mary Bird Bowman**. I say, with complete reverence and respect, we should have our own Rotary President's Day!

Our Greeter today was **Chris Forrest**; Host was **Carl Noble**; Photographer was **Vlad Bahrencu**; and our Sergeant-at-Arms was **Jon Yates**.

Hooray for our latest Blue Badge Rotarian who completed his Red Badge duties in record time--**Tarby Bryant**. Tarby's fantastic sponsors are **Past President Ron Mullen** and **Andy Swanson**. Congratulations!

Jon Yates reminded us that we still need volunteers on April 1-5 for *Books For Me*! Sign up and your life will get a little closer to being completely fulfilled as you watch a young child realize the gift and joy of reading.

As I mentioned earlier, this week we have another Rotary legend in our presence. The legendary First-Woman-President in the Rotary Club of Austin, **Past President Mary Bird Bowman**, gave our *Membership Minute*. It doesn't take a full minute for a legend to deliver a message that I won't soon forget, "In Rotary sometimes you lead and sometimes you get led...you always get friends for life". Mary Bird joined Rotary as part of the first wave of women to become Rotarians back in 1987 as a tribute to her Rotarian Father And Rotarian Grandfather.

Can you believe it? Last Saturday's *Rise Against Hunger* service event, led in part by **Ann Marie Ellis**, packaged 32,616 meals! Now that 32,616 meals, my dear fellow Rotarians, was done in two shifts consisting of two hours each. These meals feed our fellow hungry human souls around the world, and that is certainly something to be proud of! Participation was increased by 50% over last year, and the event packaged 50% more meals than last year. Please consider donating money to the cause. The *Rise Against Hunger* event may have been over-budget, but it was very successful! And that last statement, my friends, is part of who Rotarians are.

Julianne Shively reminded us that tickets are still available for the Austin Rotary Club Foundation's Celebration Dinner on Thursday, March 7, at the Chez Zee. Thanks to **Anthony Gonzales and Brinker Capital** for sponsoring this year's 6:30 Happy Hour/Cocktail Reception!

President Julie reminded us that there are no regular weekly lunch meetings at St. David's on March 12th or 19th. The Spring Semi-Annual Cluster meetings will be held March 19th, however. She also announced that memorial visitation and funeral services for our beloved **Rod Simonsen** will be held (visitation) on Friday, March 1 from 5-7 p.m. at Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home on 3125 N Lamar Blvd; and (funeral) on Saturday, March 2 at the Church of Latter-day Saints on 1000 E Rutherford Lane. *Story continues on page 6.*

ROTARY BIRTHDAYS

The following people are celebrating their birthdays this week:

John Oberg (March 3rd)

Bruce Golden (March 5th)

Bill Davies (March 8th)

Jeff Fazio (March 9th)

Please join us in wishing them a VERY happy birthday!

PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS—OPEN REVIEW PERIOD

Per the request of the Board of Directors, all prospective/transferring members will now be posted in the *Rotary Reminder* (newsletter) for an open review period by all members. We've received the following 12 Proposed Member Applications for consideration:

John "Jay" Boisseau (sponsor is Harold Ingersoll)

Calvin "Clay" Boykin (sponsor is Tom Howard)

Rupal Chaudhari (sponsor is Mark Johnson)

Mark Ellsworth (sponsor is Jill Johnson)

Russell Gana (sponsor is Jill Johnson)

Gary Gerstenhaber (sponsor is Bruce Golden)

Courtney Hall (sponsor is Harold Benkoski)

Krystle Kelley (sponsor is Diane Ventresca)

Robert "Bob" LeBlanc (sponsor is Tarby Bryant)

Carl Mehlman (sponsor is Heather Toolin)

Francis "Nick" Hesselsweet (sponsor is Barry Curlee)

Alison Michels (sponsor is Jill Johnson)

Please notify **Jack Wolfe**, Membership Review Committee Chair, if you have anything you'd like to share about any of these prospective members.

SOCIAL CIRCLE UPDATE

***Wednesday, March 13—Downtown Austin Breakfast Cluster Meeting
at Magnolia Café (on Lake Austin Boulevard) at 7:00 a.m.***

***Wednesday, March 13—EarlyAct FirstKnight (EAFK) Knighting Ceremony
at Hart Elementary (8301 Furness Drive) at 8:30 a.m.***

***Thursday, March 21—RCA MasterMind Group Meeting
at Mimi’s Café (Arbor Walk) at 7:00 a.m.***

***Thursday, March 28—RCA North Breakfast Cluster Meeting
at Waterloo Ice House (on Burnet Road) at 7:00 a.m.***

******SAVE THE DATE!!! — Friday, March 29 — SAVE THE DATE!!!******

***Wine Tasting Party hosted by Diane and Zach Ventresca
at their home (2125 Peoria Drive, Leander) at 6:30 p.m.***

***See flyer on page 8 for more information
and be sure to RSVP with Diane!***

SETH HOPKINS — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

He received a Master’s degree in Museum Studies from the University of Oklahoma in 2005. While at OU he completed his Master’s Thesis: *Andy Warhol Played Cowboys and Indians*, under the direction of faculty advisor Byron Price. Among the nearly 100 exhibitions Hopkins has curated or co-curated are *Ansel Adams: Before and After*, *Blazing the Trail: 50 Years of the Cowboy Artists of America*, *Selling the Sizzle: The Art of Movie Posters* and *American Spirit Remembered: The Art of Mort Kuntzler*.

Hopkins twice served as a juror for the annual Arts for the Parks exhibition in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and has also judged the annual Cowboy Artists of America Show and Sale in Phoenix, Arizona and the Coors Western Art Sale in Denver, Colorado. He has had articles published in *American Art Review*, *Western Art Collector*, and *Persimmon Hill*.

In 2010 he was honored with the prestigious Flourish Award, given annually to a leader who has helped the arts flourish in Georgia. He recently served a two year term as President of the Museums West Consortium, a group including the 15 largest and most important Western museums.

Hopkins is a native of Dexter, Maine and currently resides in Cartersville, Georgia with his wife Joyce, son Stephen, step-son Alex, step-daughter Ansley and daughter Hadley.

IN RECOGNITION FOR THEIR SERVICE TO OUR CLUB

We'd like to take a moment to recognize and thank the hard working members of our *Hospitality Committee* who helped us before last week's meeting (on February 26, 2019).

***Myron Burse, Bill Davies,
Chris Forrest, Pauline
Gubbels and Carl Noble***

Thank you all for your service! If you'd like to assist the Hospitality Committee at any of our weekly luncheons, please contact **Myron Burse** (or Jennifer Olsen).

PRESIDENT JULIE'S THOUGHT OF THE DAY—FROM 2/26

*“When you reach the end of your rope,
tie a knot in it and hang on.”
~~ Franklin D. Roosevelt*



WITH DEEP REGRET...IN MEMORIAM

We're sorry to report the loss of another of our beloved Rotary Club of Austin family, **Rod Simonsen**, who passed away on February 20th.

Please join me in keeping **Helga** (Rod's wife) and their family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time of grief.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS RECEIVED

The **Austin Rotary Club Foundation (ARCF)** sincerely appreciates the receipt of memorial donations from **Gaines & Leslie Bagby, Bob & Mary Bird Bowman, Stanley Bullard, Barry Curlee** and **Joseph Hang** in honor of **Jack Mayo**; and thanks **John Fox** for the Polio Plus memorial donation he made in Jack's honor.

The **ARCF** also sincerely appreciates the receipt of memorial donations from **Gaines & Leslie Bagby** and **Bob & Mary Bird Bowman** in honor of **Bill Gaston**.

Finally, the **ARCF** sincerely appreciates the receipt of a memorial donation from **Stanley Bullard** in honor of **his son, Michael**.

LAST WEEK'S RECAP—CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Our guest speaker, **Rick Timmins**, was introduced by our newest Rotarian **Tarby Bryant**. Mr. Timmins is a good man and Austin resident who wears many business "hats". Besides being a partner at Mid-City Development, Mr. Timmins has personally invested in 44 start-up companies since 2009. He is also a board member with several private, public and non-profit companies.

As a leader and innovator in major companies like Cisco and Motorola, Mr. Timmins brings a great wealth of experience to Mid-City Development, a company that develops commercial and residential properties. All our ears perked up when we were introduced to the concept of "Opportunity Zones" with tax deferral and exemption possibilities.

These Opportunity Zones are designated to encourage investment and development in economically distressed communities. Mid-City Development has constructed many properties in the Austin area, and many of them are designated Opportunity Zones by the Tax Reform Act of late 2017 and early 2018 (go to the U.S. Treasury website to view the designated sites). Mr. Timmins told us that investors can defer/reduce capital gains tax on qualified Opportunity Zone Fund investments.

Our guest speaker next Tuesday is **Seth Hopkins**, Executive Director for the Booth Western Art Museum.

A shout-out to two of our great newsletter advertiser sponsors--**Scott Rider** of Rider Construction Group, LLC, and **Reggie Nisbett** of Greater Texas Water Company. Thank you, gentlemen!

President Julie closed with the Thought of the Day: "When you reach the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on."--Franklin D Roosevelt.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR DAWSON ELEMENTARY'S EARLY ACT FIRST KNIGHT (EAFK) PROGRAM!!!



VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE DAWSON ELEMENTARY EAFK KNIGHTING COMMITTEE!! It's an easy assignment—Just show up for the knighting ceremonies and be a role model for the kids! That's it!

The ceremonies are on **Friday, April 12** and **Friday, May 17** from 1:30-3:00.

Primary grades are from 1:30-2:15 and Intermediate grades are from 2:30-3:15. Both are held in the cafeteria at Dawson Elementary School (3001 S. 1st).

You can help with one or both time frames for each ceremony. It's a fun event

watching the kids and their parents being recognized for outstanding character traits and meeting a real knight! If you're interested in helping, please contact **Mary Reynolds**.

OPERATION VACATION

What better way to celebrate the month of love than by passing that love to our military by bringing them to Austin for a fun complimentary weekend with all the trimmings?!? The Rotary Clubs of Austin and Killeen sponsor a program called *Operation Vacation*, in partnership with the Austin Hotel Lodging Association and County Line.



Janak Family

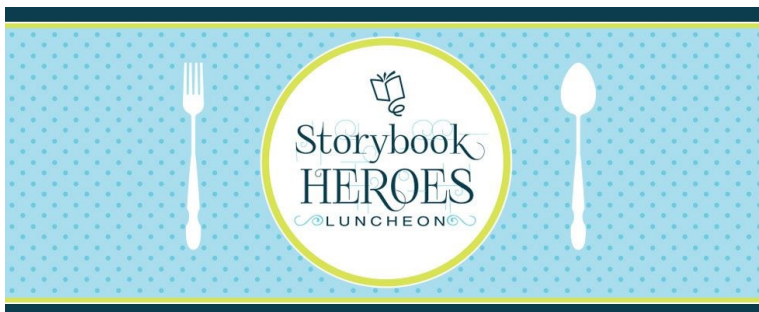
Each month we honor a military family from Ft. Hood for an R&R weekend in Austin, but since February is the month of sharing love we selected two families this month! Specialist **Koban Janak and his wife Jesus and son Kole (2)** were hosted at the Hampton Inn Oak Hill; and **Corporal (E-4) Logan Pitt, his wife Amber and daughter Adalee (5 mo)** were hosted at the Austin Hilton.

Both families had an incredible BBQ dinner on Saturday night and received passes to Austin Park-N-Pizza. This is our way of thanking our soldiers and their families for their service to our country. It is one of our most rewarding Rotary projects! ~**Mary Reynolds**



Pitt Family

STORYBOOK HEROES LITERACY LUNCHEON—APRIL 26TH

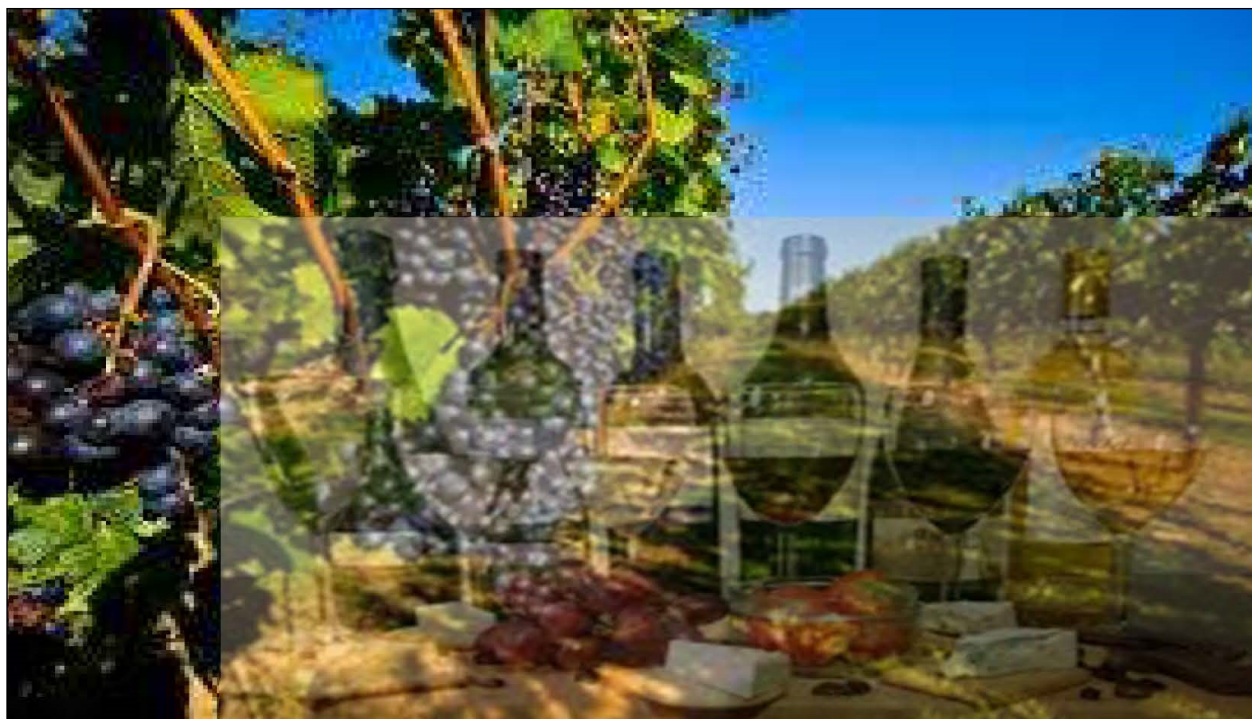


BookSpring’s 2019 Storybook Heroes Literacy Luncheon is on **Friday, April 26** from 12-1:30 at the Renaissance Hotel at the Arboretum.

We still have 6 seats available on our second Rotary Club of Austin table, and tickets are \$150 each.

Checks can be written to ARCF and sent to Jennifer in the Rotary Office, but reserve your seat now with **Mary Reynolds**. Come join us in support of literacy in Austin!

WINE TASTING PARTY HOSTED BY DIANE & ZACH VENTRESCA COMING UP ON FRIDAY, MARCH 29TH



Pick Your Favorite Wine

(any wine!)

and bring it to *Diane and Zach Ventresca's* house at

6:30 PM Friday March 29th

RSVP:

Preferred://evite.me/mCEtebxZuT

or: diane.ventresca@gmail.com

It's a Rotary Wine Party!

Join your friends at

2125 Peoria Drive

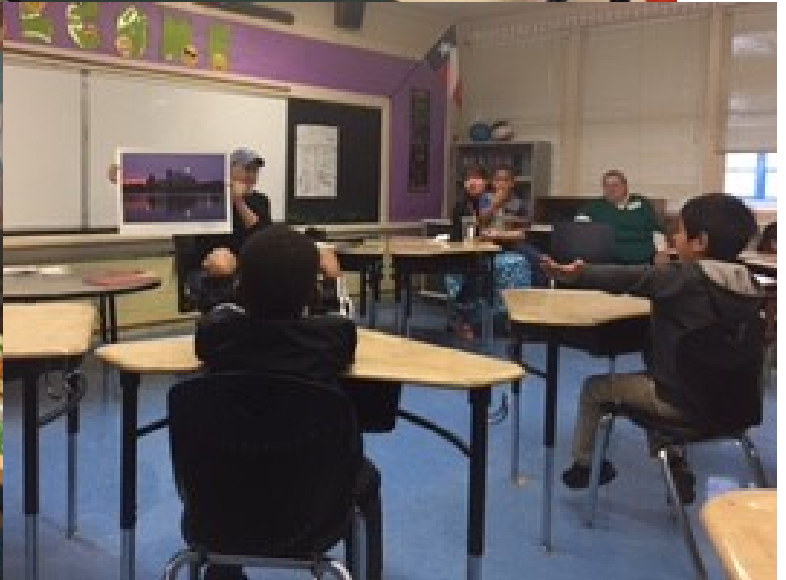
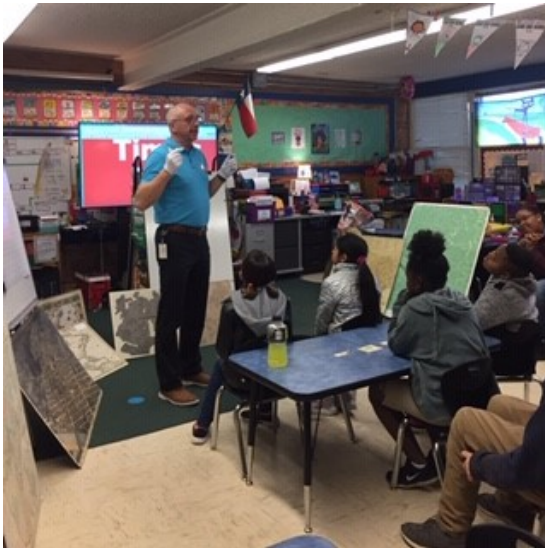
Leander, TX

Gate Code: 4565

Phone: 512-550-4083

There will be appetizers to pair.

PHOTOS FROM CAREER DAY AT PECAN SPRINGS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ON MARCH 26TH



PHOTOS FROM LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM (ON 2/26/19)



ST. DAVID'S PARKING GARAGE MESSAGE/INSTRUCTIONS

A message from President Julie about parking: Premier Parking/St. David's garage manager, Angel, will provide 50 parking spaces in the garage every Tuesday for our use. Once those spaces are taken and there are no other parking spaces members should either try to find parking on the surface lot on the church property, which may or may not have spaces available, **OR...**

Drive over to Premier's Trinity surface lot which is on Trinity and 8th, catty-corner to St. David's parking garage. (It's the corner lot that is very steep.) You may also start there, if you'd like. If you park there, go to the kiosk on that lot and punch in the numbers, **1905**. You will not be charged for parking in either the small, surface lot on the church campus nor the Trinity surface parking lot.

Please continue to use your laminated barcode to enter the parking garage and don't punch the button for a paper ticket. Our code is read by the parking system and an accurate count of members will be reported. If you have a guest coming, they *will* take a paper ticket and then they will need to ask the Hospitality Team, when they check in, for a one-time use QR code to exit the garage. If any of your guests park in Premier's Trinity surface lot then they will need to punch in the numbers **1905** at the kiosk, too.

I am deeply sorry for the frustration that many of you have felt, and we all continue to feel, due to the lack of sufficient parking. I'm open to any suggestions for alternative parking arrangements and hope we can focus on our weekly fellowship and continue to positively change our community and the world.

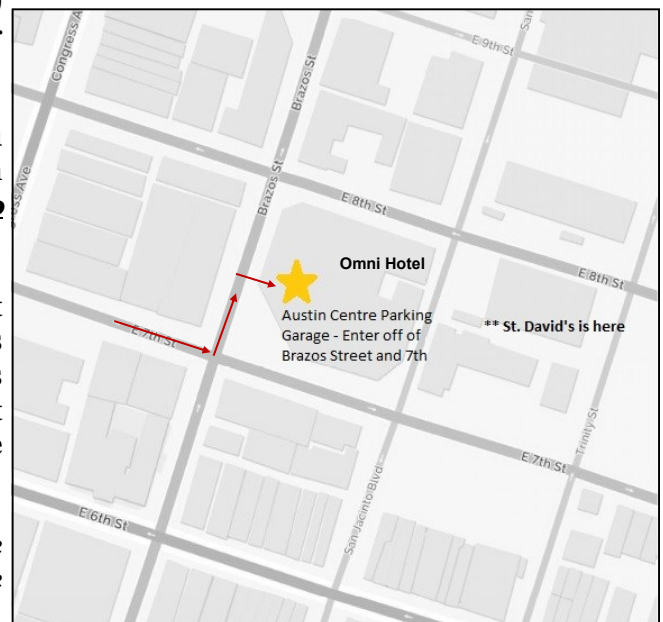
AUSTIN CENTRE—OVERFLOW PARKING REMINDER

As a reminder — we still have an agreement with Austin Centre (the building right across San Jacinto from the Church...think the Omni, but not — *see map image*) where they will try to provide overflow parking in their garage on (most) Tuesdays during our weekly lunches!

This garage is MUCH more expensive for us than when you park in St. David's garage, however, since they charge us in 20 minute increments (not a flat rate). **So please try to park at St. David's first.**

If you park in the Austin Centre garage, you MUST request a validation ticket from one of the Hospitality members when you check in at the meeting! Please note that this is ONLY AVAILABLE for a few hours each Tuesday (you can't park your car there all day for free nor can you park there for free on any other day of the week).

To enter the Austin Centre parking garage, come down 7th Street and turn left onto Brazos. The parking garage entrance is on the right.



*****If you park there, don't forget to ask the Hospitality Team for a complimentary validation voucher/ticket! YOUR LAMINATED BARCODES WON'T WORK IN THIS GARAGE!*****

SUPPORTERS OF THE ROTARY REMINDER (PAGE 1)



Rick Ravel
President, Certified Pedorthist

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rickr@karavelshoes.com

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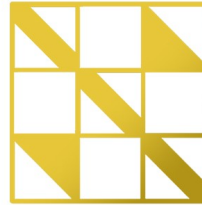
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