

## Rotary Meeting: Monday, April 15, 2019



### Dr. Sylvia Whitlock

#### First Woman Rotary Club President

Dr. Sylvia Whitlock, Rotary's first female Club President will share her firsthand account of how women won the right to become Rotarians.

Dr. Whitlock was born in New York City but was educated, through high school, in Kingston, Jamaica. After returning to New York City she earned a B.A. in Psychology from Hunter College. Sylvia worked for the United Nations, as a Statistical Clerk before moving to California to start a career in Education.

She has also earned a Master's Degree, cum laude, in Education from Cal Poly, Pomona, a Ph.D., cum laude, in Education, from Claremont Graduate School, a Master's Degree, in Marriage and Family Therapy, from Azusa Pacific University, and began a second career as a therapist. She is licensed by the Board of Behavioral Sciences in California.

In 1982, while an Elementary School Principal in Duarte, CA, she was invited to join the history-making "Ex-Rotary Club of Duarte". Sylvia became President of that club in 1987, the year the United States Supreme Court ruled that the club be reinstated, thus making her the first woman in the Rotary World to head a club as President.

She has served as President twice, Secretary, Treasurer, and Foundation Representative. At district level, she chaired the Four Way Test Speech committee for six years, the Ambassadorial Scholarship Committee for six years, receiving a Service Award from DG Don Aikin, and Simplified Grants for two years. She has been an assistant governor, presenter in Governors Institutes, and speaker in Rotary Clubs conventions and meetings, here and overseas, including South Africa, Jamaica, Washington and Texas.

**New Member Proposal:** The following applicant has moved through the application process and been approved for publication and consideration by the general membership. If no objections are filed in writing within 10 days, the applicant shall be declared elected to membership. Until notified by the Rotary Office, the applicant HAS NOT completed the membership process.

**Benjamin L. Wagonfield, Tax Partner**

RSM US, LLP

Sponsor: Angie Adams



**WE NEED YOU –  
Saturday, April 27  
7:30 - 3:00 pm**

Rotary is about service and we need YOUR service participating in our Habitat project. We will be helping to landscape the new home for Sharee Clay, and her three children.

**Park Preserve Community, 512 Ewing Drive, Nashville, TN 37207**

**Go to [nashvillerotary.org](http://nashvillerotary.org), Click signup genius tab, click on the Habitat tab, sign up there and complete the necessary volunteer form.**

#### ASSISTING AT ROTARY THIS WEEK

Speaker Introduction: LAQUITA STRIBLING

Invocation: MEREDITH LIBBEY

Registration: HOWARD KITTELL

Greeters: ANGIE ADAMS / LAUREN PAYNE

Scanners: SUSAN HUGGINS / LYDIA LENKER

Parking Vouchers: DEBRA GRIMES



### Calling All Gardeners

#### Cheatham Place Community Garden Project with Lutheran Services of TN

**Sat., May 4 - 8:30—Noon  
Sign Up Today**

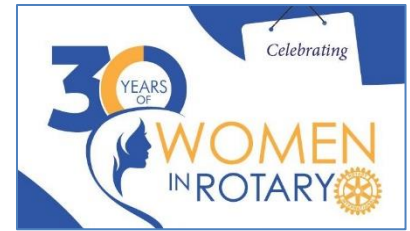
Go to [nashvillerotary.org](http://nashvillerotary.org),  
Click signup genius icon,  
Click Lutheran Services icon

#### GET INVOLVED IN ROTARY

- Apr 19 VOLUNTEER: Second Harvest Backpack Project, 1-3 pm, 331 Great Circle Rd.
- Apr 22 ROTARY: Technology Panel - Moderator Milt Capps, Publisher Venture Nashville Connections, Panelists: LeShane Greenhill, Julia Polk, Michael Brody-Waite, Kerry Schrader
- Apr 27 VOLUNTEER: Habitat for Humanity Landscape Project, 7:30 – 3 pm
- Apr 29 ROTARY MEETING CANCELLED
- May 4 VOLUNTEER: Lutheran Services TN Garden Project, 8:30-Noon, MDHA's Cheatham Pl.
- May 6 ROTARY: Senator Bob Corker
- May 10 VOLUNTEER: Project CURE, 1-3 pm, 2300 Clifton Avenue
- May 13 ROTARY: Dr. Shawn Joseph, Director, Metro Nashville Public Schools
- May 20 ROTARY: Lucy Kempf, Executive Director, Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County Planning Department
- May 21 ORIENTATION for New Members, 5:15 pm, hosted by Past President Lady Bird
- May 27 NO ROTARY MEETING – Memorial Day Observed

## Timeline of women in Rotary

- 1950** - An enactment to delete the word “male” from the Standard Rotary Club Constitution is proposed by a Rotary club in India for the Council on Legislation meeting at the 1950 Rotary Convention.
- 1964** - The Council on Legislation agenda contains an enactment proposed by a Rotary club in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) to permit the admission of women into Rotary clubs. Delegates vote that it be withdrawn. Two other proposals to allow women to be eligible for honorary membership are also withdrawn.
- 1972** - As more women begin reaching higher positions in their professions, more clubs begin lobbying for female members. A U.S. Rotary club proposes admitting women into Rotary at the 1972 Council on Legislation.
- 1977** - Three separate proposals to admit women into membership are submitted to the Council on Legislation for consideration at the 1977 Rotary Convention. A Brazilian club makes a different proposal to admit women as honorary members. The Rotary Club of Duarte, California, USA, admits women as members in violation of the RI Constitution and Standard Rotary Club Constitution. Because of this violation, the club’s membership in Rotary International is terminated in March 1978. (The club was reinstated in September 1986.)
- 1980** - The RI Board of Directors and Rotary clubs in India, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States propose an enactment to remove from the RI and club constitutions and bylaws all references to members as “male persons.”
- 1983-86** - In a lawsuit filed by the Duarte club, the California Superior Court in 1983 rules in favor of Rotary International, upholding gender-based qualification for membership in California Rotary clubs. In 1986, the California Court of Appeals reverses the lower court's decision, preventing the enforcement of the provision in California. The California Supreme Court refuses to hear the case, and it is appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.
- 1987** - On 4 May, the U.S. Supreme Court rules that Rotary clubs may not exclude women from membership on the basis of gender. Rotary issues a policy statement that any Rotary club in the United States can admit qualified women into membership.
- The Rotary Club of Marin Sunrise, California (formerly Larkspur Landing), is chartered on 28 May. It becomes the first club after the U.S. Supreme Court ruling to have women as charter members.
- Sylvia Whitlock, of the Rotary Club of Duarte, California, becomes the first female Rotary club president.
- 1988** - In November, the RI Board of Directors issues a policy statement recognizing the right of Rotary clubs in Canada to admit female members based on a Canadian law similar to that upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.
- 1989** - At its first meeting after the 1987 U.S. Supreme Court decision, the Council on Legislation votes to eliminate the requirement in the RI Constitution that membership in Rotary clubs be limited to men. Women are welcomed into Rotary clubs around the world.



The response to the decision was overwhelming: By June 1990, the number of female Rotarians had skyrocketed to over 20,000. By 2010, the number of women was approaching 200,000. Currently, over there are over **277,000 female Rotarians**.



**ROTARY CLUB OF NASHVILLE**  
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