



*"Where you can catch
that Southside Spirit!"*

Events

No Events found

Club Leaders



Bob Sullivan
President



Tim A. Douglas
President-Elect



Jeremy J. Nichols
President-Nominee



Maria Mercedes
Abalos
Secretary



Parker Ray Smith
iPast President



Kathryn Diane
Boyer
Bulletin Editor



Brett J. Brough
Interact Club
Sponsor
Treasurer
Webmaster
Past President
Youth Services
Chair



Michael L. Buchert
Sergeant@Arms



Kwashie Klu-Duvor
Sergeant@Arms



Leisa Gebetsberger
TRF Chair



Michael W. Skates
Club Membership
Chair

Birthdays

Donald R. den Daas
March 17th
Jordan Taylor
March 27th
David Cobb
April 4th
Leisa Gebetsberger
April 8th

Years of Service

Our Motto:

Having fun doing good in the community!

Our Mission:

Southside is home to the rowdiest Rotarians in Tulsa. We impact communities locally and around the world, provide leadership within our district, and mentor the next generation of Rotarians.

Rotary International Vision Statement 2020:

Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves

This Week's Program - 3.20.25 - Grady Nichols



"Night Music", produced by St. Paul Peterson and featuring Ricky Peterson, Lenny Castro, and some other amazing musicians proves to be one of Grady's funkiest songs yet in his expansive career. The new single and music video is dedicated to David Sanborn and the impact that he had on Grady's desire to be a saxophonist. He was and is undoubtedly Grady's biggest influence. Sanborn's TV show "Night Music" was ahead of its time and featured an impressive who's who of musicians getting together and jamming for, on a lot of occasions, the first time. This led Nichols to name the song "Night Music" as the spirit of the song reflects what happened on the TV show every week.

Having also been a huge fan of the Peterson brothers — coming to know of Ricky through his extensive touring with Sanborn and discovering his other projects; St. Paul Peterson — Grady knew Paul was at one time a protégé of Prince and fronted the group, The Family, and was a big fan. St. Paul also toured with Kenny Loggins, the Steve Miller Band, Donny Osmond, and countless others including David Sanborn.

Flash forward to the late 90(s), Grady was in L.A. hunting for a producer for his next project which is when he first started working with Jeff Lorber. Nichols went to see David Sanborn in concert, and it was the "Songs From The Night Before" tour, which was a record Ricky produced. And low and behold who was on bass, St. Paul Peterson! Grady got to visit with the brothers backstage after the show and became an even bigger fan! Paul really liked that Grady knew about his work with The Family, and they had a great conversation. Working with both on this song is a full circle moment bringing it all together!

Grady has recorded a significant amount of music over the years with longtime collaborators like Jeff Lorber, Grammy winner Bill Champlin, Chris Botti, Dove Award winners Andy Chrisman, Rachael Lampa, and Chris Rodriguez. Grady has performed onstage with Peter Cetera, the Beach Boys, Leigh Nash of Sixpence None the Richer, Kenny Loggins, Kirk Whalum, and Bob James. Being called a great singer on the saxophone, Grady approaches playing the sax to sound like a singer. Maybe this explains why Grady has opened for music royalty like Luciano Pavarotti, Ray Charles, Huey Lewis and the News, George Benson, Al Green, the Righteous Brothers, the Temptations, and so many more. It doesn't hurt to mention that Grady's most famous song, "London Baby", which has a new rendition on his recent LIVE record, was on the Billboard Jazz Charts for six months! Nichols' follow-up Christmas record featuring legend Michael Omartian and orchestral genius

Dean P. VanTrease
06-30-1997
28 Years
Russell D. Robinson
07-19-2007
18 Years
Jordan Taylor
07-29-2010
15 Years
David Cobb
07-14-2011
14 Years

David Hamilton reached number two on the smoothjazz.com holiday charts. Grady views himself as a saxophonist who plays many varying styles. He is frequently told "I never liked jazz until I heard you" as his music captures the hearts and ears of everyone that listens. Now put on your headphones or crank the dial on your stereo and get ready to make some noise with the great saxophonist himself, Grady Nichols!

Throughout a career spanning over two decades, Nichols has crafted ten highly acclaimed albums and performed extensively, opening for such luminaries as Luciano Pavarotti, Ray Charles, Al Green, Wayman Tisdale and The Beach Boys. A riveting live act, his repertoire runs the gamut from his own original songs to pop/rock classics and Motown hits. His songwriting and musicianship have earned him the respect of his peers, and his albums have featured such acclaimed guest vocalists as Chicago's Bill Champlin, Leigh Nash of Sixpence None the Richer, Andy Chrisman of 4Him and award-winning songwriter Zac Maloy.

"Tony Bennett once told me that what he tries to do as a jazz vocalist is sound like an instrumentalist and I thought, 'Wow, I'm going to do the opposite of that,'" Nichols says of his approach to his artistry. "I'm going to sound like a vocalist. Obviously, as a horn player, you've got to have chops, practice technique and study the greats, but I also spent a lot of time picking vocalists that I liked and analyzing their phrasing and how they approach a lyric., and then Then I tried to approximate it as much as I could with how I would play that lyric. I try to communicate an emotion and state the melody as such that it sounds like somebody is singing it."

That creative philosophy combined with his natural musical gift has made Nichols one of the most respected musicians in the country. A 2016 recipient of the Golden Hope Award, Nichols has also received the Legacy Tribute Award from the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame and the Outstanding Achievement in Jazz honor from the prestigious Charlie Christian Music Festival. It's all been much more than Nichols ever expected to come from his childhood obsession with the sax.

"Growing up on a farm in Arkansas, I really should have been a country artist," Nichols admits with a grin. "Most guys who play jazz didn't have a barn, so I'm kind of coming at this from a different place than I think a lot of instrumentalists are. Most sax players are traditionally West or East Coast guys. Everything you've experienced in your life comes out in your music and I love the saxophone."

A chance meeting with Sanborn during his college years cemented Nichols desire to become a professional sax player. "What I loved about Sanborn was he talked a lot about having your own sound," he recalls. "We had a great conversation. It wasn't like a musician to fan discussion. It was player to player and he was just very encouraging. At the time I was like 19 or 20, and that really made a huge impression on me musically. It set me on a course of discovery. 'What's my voice? There already is a David Sanborn or a Kenny G,' so I really worked on trying to find my own sound, my own voice so that if you heard a few notes, you would know it was me."

Nichols succeeded in establishing his own unique sound. In 1996, he recorded his first album, *Between You and Me*. "I did four studio cuts and the rest was from a live performance because there really is nothing that could replace what playing in front of a live audience does to you, the energy and how much fun it is," he enthuses. "Playing live versus recording in a studio is just two different mentalities. Right after I released the first album, Tulsa got a jazz station and at the time they were very hungry for people who did this kind of music. I had just put out this record, so they started playing me. I got management and then we started expanding where we got played and did another record and it did pretty well on radio, also."

Nichols' career continued to gain momentum. He's played the most prestigious venues in the country and in the studio, he has worked with such noted producers as Chris Rodriguez, Jeff Lorber, Michael Omartian, Zac Maloy and David Hamilton. He's made frequent forays onto Billboard's Jazz chart with entries like "London Baby!" riding the chart for six months, and his Christmas collection, *Falling in Love with Christmas*, peaking at No. 2 on the smooth jazz.com holiday charts.

Rotarian of the Day - Mercedes Abalos

Mercedes Abalos was born and raised in La Serena, a city in the northern part of Chile. During her junior year, she served as the President of the Student Council at the school she had attended since the 3rd grade. In the middle of her senior year, she came to Tulsa as an exchange student and graduated from Memorial High School. She never imagined she would return to live in Tulsa. During her high school years, she played basketball for both the city and her school, which allowed her to travel all over the country.

Mercedes holds a degree in Science and Medical Technology from the University of Chile, an Executive MBA from IEDE, Spain, and a degree in National Security from the Political and Strategic Academy of Chile, along with other minor degrees in the administration field. She taught Biochemistry and Medical Biochemistry at the University of Chile in La Serena for 10 years. During this time, she also volunteered for AFS as the Local Representative, helping many students travel to the United States and other countries around the world, and arranging for families to host students for a year or two months.



After teaching for 10 years, Mercedes decided to work for the city as the Head of the Educational Department.

Over the course of 30 years, she held various positions, including Head of Social, Emergency and Disaster, Housing, City Clerk, City Council Coordinator, City Manager, and for many years, she acted as the substitute Mayor.

Mercedes has been a Rotarian for 18 years and served as the President of the San Joaquin Rotary Club in La Serena, Chile. She retired from work after marrying an American and became a member of the Southside Rotary Club in 2012. Over the past years, she has held several posts in the club, including the Presidency in 2017-2018. Mercedes is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow. Her husband passed away four years ago. Last year, her friend Janice convinced Mercedes to consider getting married again. Janice spoke to Mike Buchar separately and encouraged them to meet. Now, they have been happily married for a month and will be traveling to Chile for their honeymoon in April.

The Board of Directors wants every member to have a say in the direction of this club. An electronic survey is often a very good way to allow input from everyone. We will hold the survey open for about 10 days before we close it. We will be sending reminders to those who have not yet responded. We are hoping for about a 90% response rate. It will take a few minutes to thoughtfully answer all the questions. Each question requires an answer, and while there are often several blank slots you do not have to use them all. If you have nothing new to add, simply enter N/A as your response. You must type something to advance the question.

Your Club Survey 2025

Survey Link: <https://www.IsMyRotaryClub.org/Survey/?SurveyID=1151>

2025 Club Survey

If you have a problem with the Survey Link, let Brett know. Once you have completed the survey, you will not be able to edit it or take it again.

March 25, we have scheduled a 'Mini Vision Session' with Clay Langly to helping us. We will be using some of the questions out of this survey. By the end of the evening, we will vote on the responses we have collected. This generates a consensus of directions for the club membership and the Board of Directors. More details to follow on the date of the meeting, location and food arrangements. Please save the date!



There are only 25 seats! Please reserve your place at Sigies Sausage Factory! One of Tulsa's best German restaurants.

8104 S. Sheridan Rd
Tulsa OK 74133
(918) 492-8988

<https://www.dacdb.com/index.html?EventID=77817704>

March 25, 2025 at 5:30 pm – 8:00pm

The club is supporting this event, and the evening buffet will be only \$13.00 per person. The buffet will be Schnitzel and Sausage with sides, and water, tea or coffee. Cash Bar.

We will use the evening for some fellowship, strategic thinking and Clay Langley will assist us to help finalize a consensus about moving forward defining the purpose of the club; getting a focus on what "giving service" means; what we want to put our "hands-on" when it comes to projects; strategies for recruiting, engaging, and

retaining new and existing Rotarians; and, finally, what should we do as a "Signature Fund Raiser".

IT IS DICTIONARY DELIVERY TIME!
Please try to get your dictionaries delivered!

Potential New Member -

Any objection to the proposal stating the reasons must be sent to the President of the Club within seven (7) days following publication.

Please turn in your proposals for membership to Secretary Mercedes Abalos.

Upcoming RODs

New Schedule for the Bulletin: Every effort will be made to see the bulletin being sent out on **FRIDAY!** If you are the ROD, you need to:

1) Send YOUR BIO and SPEAKER'S BIO WITH PHOTOS to Brett and Kathy, THE FRIDAY TWO WEEKS *BEFORE* you are ROD. (A potentially true biography will be generated if the share folder is empty)

2) Select someone to do the pledge and the prayer/affirmation. Please let President Bob Sullivan know who you've chosen in advance of the meeting.

Date	ROD	Presenter	Program
3/27/2025	Daniel Stinnett	Sheila Shook	Indian Nations Council Director
4/3/2025	Scott Robinson	Kyle DeGiulio	Senior Manager, Amazon
4/10/2025	Kathy Boyer	Jeremy Campbell	Motivational Speaker
4/17/2025	Lisa Morgan	Phil Richards	The Intersection of Commerce & the Judicial System
4/24/2025	Scott Gaffen	Kevin Harper	Food on the Move
5/1/2025	Kwashie Klu-Duvor	Travis Meyer	Channel 6 Meteorologist
5/8/2025	Michael Buchert	Rachel Rogers	Clinic Director of Valir Physical Therapy
5/15/2025	Naresh Jassal	Scott Reed	Off Site - Monterreau

Tulsa Southside
This Next week's meeting (March 20, 2025) is at
the Indian Nations Council of Scouting America
Thursday at 11:45 AM

Custom Text

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Club Meeting

Tulsa Southside
Meets at This weeks meeting is at the Indian Nations Council of Scouting America
4295 S. Garnett Road
Tulsa, OK 74136
Time: Thursday at 11:45 AM