

Rotary



Club of Little Rock

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

Great Hall, William J. Clinton Presidential Center

11:30 a.m. Buffet Opens 12:00 noon Program Begins

100 Things to do in Little Rock Before You Die

Co Authors, Gretchen Hall and Cecil Anderson



Gretchen Hall began working at the Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau (LRCVB) in 2001. Her career began in the Operations division as an Event Coordinator; she provided leadership within the Little Rock hospitality industry with her work in celebrating the Grand Opening of the William J. Clinton Presidential Center and Park as well as the 50th Anniversary of the Integration of Little Rock Central High School. She later became the Director of Merchandising and Communications and managed the public relations, communications and marketing initiatives. She was named the bureau's President and CEO in May 2011.

As the official destination marketing organization for the City of Little Rock, the LRCVB also manages public meeting facilities including the Statehouse Convention Center, Robinson Center, Ottenheimer Hall, First Security Amphitheater, and five downtown public parking facilities. The LRCVB has 125 full-time employees, and another 70 part-time and seasonal staff. During her tenure, Gretchen managed the \$70 million renovation and expansion of Robinson Performance Hall and Conference Center, which closed July 2014 and reopened in November 2016.

Travel and tourism is one of the largest economic industries in the state of Arkansas, and Little Rock serves as the state's capital and is the largest hub for tourism.

Gretchen serves on the board of directors for Destinations International, is the President of the Heart of Arkansas Regional Tourism Association, past President of the Arkansas Travel Council, Chair of the Arkansas Association of CVBs, President of Sk Arkansas, an executive committee member of the Downtown Little Rock Partnership, serves on the board of directors for the Little Rock Regional Chamber of Commerce, and the Global Leadership Committee for Destinations International. She is also a member of the US Travel Association and Little Rock Rotary Club 99.

In 2016, Gretchen was awarded *Top of the Rock* by the Downtown Little Rock Partnership; an annual award given to an organization, business or individual that has demonstrated extraordinary advancement for downtown Little Rock. In 2017, she was honored as Smart Meetings magazine's *Smart Women in the Doers* category as well as receiving the Arkansas Diamond Award from PRSA Arkansas Chapter and given the Distinguished Alumna Award by Lyon College. Most recently she was named the Arkansas Tourism Person of the Year at the 2019 Governor's Conference.

Gretchen was a scholarship athlete in basketball while earning a Bachelor of Arts degree from Lyon College and later a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Arkansas Little Rock. She is a Certified Meeting Professional and Certified Destination Management Executive. She loves sports and volunteers as a basketball coach at Holy Souls School and the Penick Boys and Girls Club. She is also a published author, as the co-author of *100 Things to do in Little Rock Before You Die 2nd Edition*.



Celia Anderson, A TEDx speaker who is known for her ability to connect with all walks of life, Celia has traveled to hundreds of conferences and events internationally delivering messages of hope and wisdom. Her original school wide presentation G.A.M.E.T.I.M.E (Gaining A Meaningful Education To Insure Maximum Elevation), motivates students to get in the game of life and resonates with this generation.

Celia wowed readers in 2009 with her debut novel, Love, Ocean and again with the sequel Daddy's Home in 2010. In 2011 she was published in Remembrances in Black: Personal Perspectives of the African American Experience at the University of Arkansas, by Dr. Charles F. Robinson and Dr. Lonnie Williams. In this novel, she writes about her personal experience at the University of Arkansas. In fall 2016, she shared her third book 100 Things To Do In Little Rock Before You Die with the world, then co-authored the 2nd edition in 2018. Her next project Authentic Black Spaces is due to be published in 2020.

She also holds a Master's Degree from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville which speaks volumes about her commitment to education. She is quoted as saying her love for higher education, books, and competitive spirit are what drive her most. Summer 2011, she traveled with Africa Reads to teach English in Rwanda at Kicukero Primary School, she names this as a life changing experience that she is most proud of.

The former basketball player for the Arkansas Razorbacks, not only played in a Women's Final Four in 1998, she played professionally in Greece before going on to work for New York Times bestselling author the late E. Lynn Harris. In the acknowledgments of his novel I Say A Little Prayer, Mr. Harris list Celia as a brilliant young writer whom the world will soon discover. Her years of dedication and hard work landed her first publishing deal with Random House in a compilation of short stories alongside Mr. Harris. Celia has presented at the Congressional Black Caucus and been inducted into the Multi Ethnic Sports Hall of Fame, for using her sports platform to empower her community.

Celia continues to write and speak internationally. She teaches at Northwest Arkansas Community College, works for Experience Columbus and prides herself on being the best mother in the world to her only daughter, Gabrielle Simone, who is also a published author.

Upcoming Programs

Club Meeting

Little Rock
Meets at Great Hall
William J. Clinton
Presidential Library
1200 President Clinton
Avenue
Little Rock, AR 72201
Time: Tuesday at
11:30 AM

In This Issue

[Tuesday, May 7, 2019](#)

[Upcoming Programs](#)

[Inquiring Minds Want To Know](#)

[Rotaract Golf Tournament 2019](#)

Club Leaders



[James K. Gibbs](#)
President



[Henry C. Kelley Jr.](#)
President-Elect



[Eilon Cockrill](#)
Secretary-Elect



[Jeff L. Hildebrand](#)
President-Nominee



[Sonya Schmidt](#)
iPast President



[Kristina K. Bolhouse](#)
Secretary



[Cynthia Van Vekhoven](#)
Treasurer



[Cody Griffin](#)
Treasurer-Elect



[Kelley Bass](#)
Sergeant-at-Arms



[Jason Chacko](#)
Club Director
Membership Chair



Meetings are held in the Great Hall of the William J. Clinton Presidential Library, unless otherwise noted
 Buffet line open at 11:30 a.m. Meetings begin at 12:00 noon

May 2019

- 7 100 Things to do in Little Rock, Celia Anderson, Author, Gretchen Hall, Co Author
- 14 Cybersecurity in a Digital World, MWL Attorney and FBI Cybersecurity Division
- 21 Bonnie and Band Performance & Interview, Bonnie Montgomery, Singer/Musician
- 28 MEMS, Jon Swanson, Executive Director

Inquiring Minds Want To Know



The membership engagement committee invites you to share accomplishments and significant happenings in members' lives. It has become our tradition to acknowledge these items from the podium at the last meeting of the month. Report your own or report on behalf of another member - just report!

Rotaract Golf Tournament 2019

Rotaract Club of Little Rock is hosting their 8th Annual Golf Classic on May 10, 2019 benefiting P.A.R.K. Every single year, all proceeds of the tournament go directly to P.A.R.K., which is an after school and summer program based here in Little Rock, Arkansas and operates Monday through Friday throughout the entire year. Students enter the program in the 8th grade; P.A.R.K.'s role is a 5- year commitment to the students to help ensure graduation from high school, as well as individual growth. They provide a safe environment for students to complete academic requirements as well as support with homework, tutoring in all courses, recreation activities, leadership development, and involvement in community services. Most students are high risk because they have GPA's of 2.5 or less before they enter the program. These individuals have high academic potential, despite their current poor performance in school. They are often ineligible for school sports and clubs due to their academic performance. They typically end up on the streets after school and during the summer if they do not enter the program. Most students have no educational vision of attending college, but often will become first generation college students. Almost all of the kids are the first in their family to go to college, which then sets a precedent for their siblings, cousins, etc. They are 20+ years into it now and they have former students with Master's Degrees, PhDs, and coming back to serve the kids who are there now. PARK is 100% donor-funded and needs our help! <http://www.positivekids.org>

Events

- May 7th [Rotary Club of Little Rock - Weekly Meeting](#)
- May 21st [Rotary Club of Little Rock - Weekly Meeting](#)
- June 4th [Rotary Club of Little Rock - Weekly Meeting](#)

- May 14th [Rotary Club of Little Rock - Weekly Meeting](#)
- May 28th [Rotary Club of Little Rock - Weekly Meeting](#)



Rick Fleetwood
Club Director



Rocky W Goodman
Club Director



Anne T. Mourning
Club Director



Nathaniel Noble
Club Director



Christian O'Neal
Club Director



Rachel O'Neal
Club Director



Suzanne Peyton
Club Director



Thomas Pownall
Club Director



Elizabeth G. Clogston
Rotary Foundation Chair



Natalie Ghidotti
Club 99 Foundation Trustee
Club Programs Chair



Christopher Robert Bahn
Public Image Chair



Keith Hughes
Youth Exchange Chair



Nathaniel Thomas Rutledge
Club 99 Foundation Trustee



Cynthia VanWinkle
Club 99 Foundation Trustee



Greg Flesher
Club 99 Foundation Treasurer

Ardyth Neill
Club 99



Foundation
Chair



Alfred
Lewis
Williams
Club 99
Foundation
Trustee



Marie
Francine
Bruyneel
Assistant
Governor

Birthdays

Robert Palazzi
May 6th

Christian O'Neal
May 6th

Edmond Hurst
May 9th

Maxwell J. Lyons II
May 10th