



Rotary
Little Rock



Rotary Club 99: Tuesday, April 16, 2024

11:30 a.m. Buffet Opens | 12 p.m. Program Begins
Great Hall, Clinton Center

Business & Professional Leader of the Year: Elizabeth Smiley Glasbrenner, Co-founder, President, CEO, Smiley Technologies, Inc.

Join us on Tuesday as we recognize **Elizabeth Smiley Glasbrenner** as our 2024 Rotary Business and Professional Leader of the Year. We will also recognize our annual college scholarship recipients.

Elizabeth will join her father, **Walter Smiley**, who was honored with this prestigious award in 1989 for his role as founder of Systematics Inc., one of Arkansas' first technology-based corporations, which was purchased in 1990 by ALLTEL Corp. This will be Club 99's first father-daughter duo to be awarded the Business & Professional Leader of the Year, and the third multi-generational recipient.



Elizabeth Smiley Glasbrenner is a distinguished figure in the fintech sector, with her entrepreneurial spirit and leadership at Smiley Technologies Inc., a company she co-founded with her brother. Her journey in the business world is deeply rooted in her family's legacy, being the daughter of Walter Smiley, a pioneer in bank data processing. Elizabeth's stewardship as President and CEO since 2015 has propelled the company to significant growth, earning it national recognition including the Certified Evergreen company status by Tugboat Institute, Forbes Small Giants winner, and a place in American Banker's™ Best Places to Work in Fintech list multiple times. Additionally, her entrepreneurial excellence was highlighted by being inducted into the inaugural class of the Forbes Next 1000, showcasing her as one of the nation's most promising entrepreneurs.

Beyond her professional achievements, Elizabeth's educational background with a bachelor of science in business administration from Washington University in St. Louis has laid a strong foundation for her business success. Her commitment extends beyond the boardroom into her community, where she has a passion for giving and philanthropy.

laid a strong foundation for her business acumen. Her commitment extends beyond the boardroom into her community, where she has a passion for service and philanthropy, demonstrated through her involvement in various nonprofits, foundations and the development of corporate giving programs. She currently serves as the Board President for Camp Aldersgate where her daughter attends camp on a regular basis.

Elizabeth is married to a world-class athlete and motivational speaker, Jeff Glasbrenner. They have two children, Grace (18) and Gavin (16). Grace has a rare seizure disorder that manifests as 100+ seizures a day. While this challenge has been daunting for Elizabeth and her family, it also forces her to be very present and spend genuine time away from other obligations. Elizabeth often talks about how this balance has helped her focus at the right times on the right things.

Elizabeth's unique blend of leadership, vision for customer service excellence, mother and wife to a unique family and dedication to community service makes her a stand-out among our state's leaders. Her ability to drive strategic directions, coupled with a genuine interest in community welfare and her modesty in acknowledging her accomplishments, encapsulates what makes Elizabeth a truly effective business leader.

Zoom Login for April 16, 2024

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87386508935?pwd=bG9UMGdmUU5rcGtjZjZxWEZxUHc1QT09>

Meeting ID: 873 8650 8935

Passcode: 674581

One tap mobile

+13052241968,,87386508935#,,,,*674581# US

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This Week at Club 99

Midtown Little Rock Economic Development Update

Thank you to **Past President Sonya Murphy** for stepping in to lead the meeting this week! We appreciate your continued service to our Club!

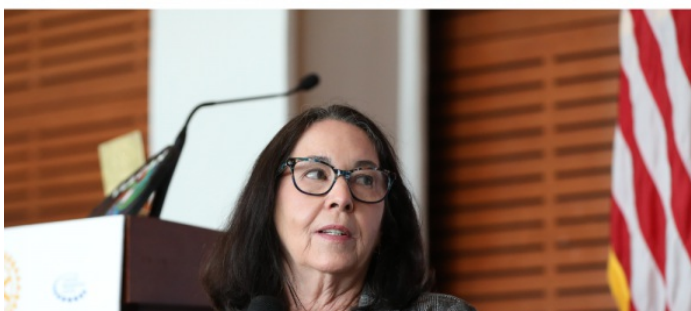
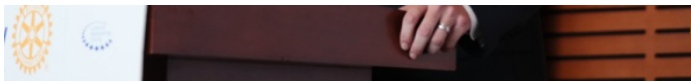
This week, **Club 99er and Little Rock City Director Capi Peck** led a discussion on Little Rock's Midtown area, starting with the question, "Where IS Midtown?" to establish its boundaries. **Howard Levine**, managing partner and co-founder of **Second Horizon**, which purchased **Park Plaza Mall** last year, highlighted immediate improvements to the property, including safety enhancements such as parking lot bumpers to reduce burnouts, and increased community engagement. Levine also shared that since acquiring the property, they have hosted 30 events with 25 local partners, and the mall is now 90 percent occupied.

Club 99er Jessica Flake Dearnley, CEO and co-founder of **Flake & Company**, said plans are underway at Flake's property, **Pavilion in the Park**, to develop an event center, delayed briefly due to last year's tornado but now back on track. **Little Rock City Director Kathy Webb** said **Purple Cow** is expected to reopen in mid-summer, and **Pulaski County Title**, owned by **Club 99er Billy Roehrenbeck**, recently reopened one year after the tornado.

Director Peck also made a very important announcement: Trio's Restaurant's beloved strawberry shortcake is now available. She also offered a secret tip to 99ers: order the banana delight "Capi's way." We will be there this week, Director Peck!

This week's panel discussion also extended to broader topics, including more about the Midtown area and general discussions on the future of malls. Watch the full meeting [here](#).







Welcome New Members

Club 99 welcomed **Charlie Kreps**, commercial lending officer with First Security Bank, sponsored by **Chris Shenep** and **Juli Brandenberger**, as our newest member. Welcome to the fun, **Charlie!**





Members Caught Having Fun This Week



Who's Having Fun This Week

This week we featured all the fun Club 99er **Stacy Wilson** is having in the outdoors - from hiking to kayaking to hanging out on her farm and running, running, running!

Watch Stacy's fun video [here](#).

Special Events and Meetings

UPCOMING SOCIALS

Burgers with a Side of Pickle(ball)

Friday, April 19, 2024

5-8 p.m.

Location: Newpickleball courts at the Little Rock Athletic Club

Chair: Laza Razafimanjato

Calling ALL Club 99ers ... you are NOT going to want to miss this fun! Whether you are an elite pickleball player (we're looking at you, Past President Kenny Gibbs) or don't even know what a pickleball looks like, this event is for you! We'll have friendly competitions, beginner lessons and a cheering squad on the sidelines, so whether you play or not, join us for Burgers with a Side of Pickle(ball) and some yummy adult beverages!

Our event chair, Laza Razafimanjato has put together a fun evening, see the schedule below. This is going to be a not-to-be-missed Fabulous Friday Night with fellow Rotarians! Family and guests welcome!!!

[registration link]

5 - 5:15 p.m.: Welcome and Info for the evening

5:15 - 5:30 p.m.: Burgers and Beverages Available

5:30 - 6 p.m.: Exhibit Match

6 - 8 p.m.: Open Play

On teaching court(s),

6 - 6:30 p.m.: Pickleball Lesson (for novice players only)

6:30 - 8 p.m.: Open Play

Family Hike and Cookout

June 8, 2024

More details to come, but mark your calendar now!

AFFINITY GROUP GATHERINGS

BOOK CLUB

APRIL

Friday, April 19

Noon - 1 p.m. Lunch Provided

Location: The Witherington Residence, 1122 Hilltop Road, Alexander

â€œThe Loudest Duckâ€ by Laura Liswood, Senior Advisor, Goldman Sach

Host: Maha Witherington

MAY

Monday, May 6, 2024

3 p.m.

Location: Arkansas Business Publishing, 114 Scott St., Little Rock, AR 72201

â€œLincoln on Leadership: Executive Strategies for Tough Timesâ€ by Donald Phillips

Host: Mitch Bettis

WOMEN OF ROTARY

APRIL

Friday, April 26

Location: Zoom

Host: Kathleen Lawson

MAY

Friday, May 31

Location: Zoom

Host: Lena Hayes

JUNE

Friday, June 28

Location: Zoom

SERVICE

APRIL

Drug Take Back

Saturday, April 27

9 a.m. - noon

Park Plaza Mall Parking Lot

Chair: Courtney Little

MAY

Gibbs Magnet International Fest

Friday, May 3

5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Gibb Magnet School

Service Chair: Dan Parker

International Fest is a vibrant celebration of cultures from around the world, featuring various activities, games, and entertainment. To ensure the event runs smoothly and is enjoyable for all attendees, Gibbs Magnet is seeking volunteers to help with manning games and monitoring inflatables during the specified time frame.

Volunteers from the Rotary Club have always played a crucial role in the success of community events. Your involvement will not only contribute to the smooth operation of the International Fest but also showcase Club 99's commitment to community service.

Volunteers can register at the following link: <https://bit.ly/GibbsVolunteers>

Upcoming Programs

April 2024

APRIL 2024

16 Club 99 Business and Professional Leader of the Year and College Scholarship Presentations

23 Kicking It with the Little Rock Rangers

30 Arkansas LEARNS Act with Secretary of Education Jacob Oliva and Panelists

2023-2024 Club Leadership

**Rotary**
Club of Little Rock

2023-2024 Leadership Team

Board of Directors

**Natalie Ghidotti**
President
natalie@ghidotti.com

**Jason Chacko**
President-Elect
jason.chacko@morganstanley.com

**Mitch Bettis**
President-Elect Nominee
mbettis@abpg.org

**Denver Peacock**
Past President
denver@peacockgrp.com

**Molly McNulty**
Secretary
molly.mculty@arcourts.gov

**Don Cole**
Treasurer
dcole@methodistfamily.org

**Drew Harper**
Treasurer-Elect
drew.harper@oak.com

**Wendy Wood**
Sergeant-at-Arms
paul.wendy.wood@gmail.com

**Suzanne Peyton**
Foundation Chairman
speyton@clintonairport.com

**Viji Kuruvilla**
Club Director
vijik@lexicon-inc.com

**Lena Hayes**
Club Director
lena.hayes@baptist-health.org

**Sue Owens**
Club Director
owensebo@gmail.com

**Nate Coulter**
Club Director
coulter.nate@gmail.com

**Tanya James**
Club Director
tjames@arvest.com

**Kevin Newton**
Club Director
kevinnewton@cbmconstruction.net

**T. Martin Davis**
Club Director
tmartind@swbell.net

**Jessie Wilson**
Club Director
jessie.wilson@dalecarnegie.com

**Greg McCarroll**
Club Director
gmccarroll@my100bank.com



littlerockrotary.com