



### Club Meeting

Oak Ridge  
Meets at DoubleTree by Hilton  
215 S. Illinois Avenue  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830  
Time: Thursday at 12:00 PM

Oaktarian 24-25 Vol  
LXXV, No. 29



### Club Officers



J.R. Hertwig  
President



Wendie Aurin  
Club Membership  
Chair  
President-Elect



Emily Rice  
President-Nominee  
Club Service Chair  
Community Service  
Chair



Judy Stone Wilson  
Club Executive  
Secretary



Cynthia S. Jeffers  
Treasurer



Chris Copelan  
Public Image Chair



Jeff Phillips  
Vice President



Elaine M. Bunick  
Club Rotary  
Foundation Chair



Nicole Eckert  
Club Youth Services  
Chair



Mark S. Watson  
Past President



Todd W. Bergener  
Vocational Service  
Chair

### THE Rotary Club of Oak Ridge



### Upcoming Events

#### Club Events

- **February 28th to March 2nd:** District Interact Conference, Ramsey's Resort and Conference Center, Pigeon Forge

#### District Events

- **February 9-13:** International Assembly
- **March 2:** District Interact Conference
- **March 21-22:** Mid-South Presidents-elect Training Seminar (PETS), Chattanooga Convention Center

#### Community Events

- **February 8th:** [Our American Roots](#) - Concert with Amythyst Kiah
- **March 18:** [Lunch for Literacy](#)



### Special Announcements

**Our American Roots Series Concert @ ORHS**



**David Rankin**  
Club Youth  
Exchange Officer



**Curtis Scott Jamison**  
iPast President

**Invocation Schedule**

February 6th Carroll Welch

February 13th Judy Wilson

February 20th Wendie Aurin

February 27th Jack Bailey

March 6th Todd Bergener

March 13th Tracy Boatner

**Upcoming Meetings**

February 6th

**OR Planning & Development Director**

**Speaker:** Wayne Blasius  
**Subject:** OR Planning & Development Director

February 13th

**CyberSecurity**

**Speaker:** Chris McCarthy  
**Subject:** CyberSecurity

February 20th

**Parliamentary Procedure**

**Speaker:** Beth Hickman  
**Subject:** Thought You Knew about Parliamentary Procedure?

February 27th

**Genealogy and the Amazing Things You Can Find**

**Speaker:** Mark Watson and Cyndi Jeffers  
**Subject:** Genealogy and the Amazing Things You Can Find

March 6th

**TBA**

**Speaker:** TBA

**Subject:** TBA

March 13th

**Historic Downtown Clinton**

**Speaker:** Katherine Birbeck  
**Subject:** Historic Downtown Clinton

**Birthdays**

Gary A. Riser  
February 8th

**Anniversaries**

No membership anniversaries this Week

The Oak Ridge Institute for Continued Learning and the Oak Ridge Breakfast Rotary Club are coming together to create the "Our American Roots" series. This free concert series will welcome donations and was created in hopes to help break down pervasive "us vs. them" mindsets. More information is available [here](#).

Grammy Nominee for "Black Myself" in 2020  
Named to NPR's Top 50 Albums of 2021  
Six-Time Performer at The Grand Ole Opry

# AMYTHYST KIAH

IN A CONCERT FREE TO THE PUBLIC  
Kicking off the 3rd season of *Our American Roots*




Photo by Kevin & King

On her new album *Still + Bright*, Tennessee-bred singer/songwriter Amythyst Kiah explores the vast expanse of her inner world: her deep-rooted affinity for Eastern philosophies and spiritual traditions, a near-mystical connection with the natural environment, the life lessons learned in her formative years as a self-described "anime-nerd mall goth." Kiah's second full-length for Rounder Records merges her revelatory storytelling with a darkly cinematic twist on the rootsy alt-rock of her 2021 breakthrough *Wary + Strange*—an LP that landed on Rolling Stone's list of the 25 Best Country and Americana Albums of 2021.

**February 8, 2025**  
**Doors open at 6:30 pm. Concert begins at 7 pm**  
**Oak Ridge High School Performing Arts Center**  
**FREE/No Reserved Seating**




The "Our American Roots" Series is produced by the Oak Ridge Institute for Continued Learning in partnership with the Oak Ridge Breakfast Rotary Club. This concert is made possible by grants from the Tennessee Arts Commission and Rotary District 6780. Periodic Tables of Oak Ridge is a sponsor.

**An opportunity to donate to the Scarborough 85 project will be available as you leave the performance center.**

**Note from Nicole Eckert:**

Bear Huggs are currently on sale. We need to sell 25 more to make our goal of 50. Cost is \$25 and for each bear purchased \$15 will go to fighting polio. Please help us reach our goal!

**Proposed New Member:**

Sandy Tinsley has been proposed for membership. Any objections should be sent to the club secretary Judy Wilson at [wilsonjs44@gmail.com](mailto:wilsonjs44@gmail.com).

<https://rotary-club-oakridge.terri Lynn.com/>






Candy will be available for purchase this week's meeting and you should bring copious amounts of cash. Valentine's Day is **less than two weeks**.

## Last Week's Program

### 5th Thursday Social

What a great night out with other club members. If you missed last Thursday's social you missed a great time. There were awesome conversations, great music, and as someone said "... the wine was very tasty...". So if you missed it, make plans to attend the next social.



## This Week's Program

### Wayne Blasius: OR Planning & Development Director

Wayne Blasius grew up in the Chicago suburbs before adopting East Tennessee as his home in

1977. Prior to his appointment with the City of Oak Ridge in September 2017, he led the East Tennessee Community Design Center from 2014-17; an organization he has served as a volunteer on and off over three decades. He had previously founded InSite Development Corporation in 2001, a real estate development/management firm that completed major downtown Knoxville historic rehabs such as the Phoenix and Mast General Store/Gallery Lofts. InSite also provided consulting services for Oak Ridge National Lab. Earlier in his career, Blasius served as supervising planner at MPC and Deputy Community Development Director for the City of Knoxville. In 1996, he left the City of Knoxville to join Denark Construction as Vice President/Business Development. Blasius earned a bachelor's degree in economics (with emphasis in environmental studies) from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, and a master of science in urban planning from UT-Knoxville. He received his Tennessee Real Estate license in 2007.

Community involvement is a strongly-held value for him. He has held board chairmanships with the Knoxville Central Business Improvement District, Big Brothers-Big Sisters, and Good Shepherd Counseling Center; and board memberships with Leadership Knoxville (including serving as chair of the Introduction Knoxville program committee), Knox Heritage, Nine Counties One Vision Downtown Plan Task Force, Knoxville Chamber Executive Committee, Pellissippi State Technical College President's Associates, Knox Housing Partnership Board; and as Dogwood Arts Festival Parade Co-chair. Blasius has previously held memberships with the American Planning Association, Tennessee-American Planning Association, the Urban Land Institute, and the American Institute of Certified Planners. He is honored to serve on the board of Oak Ridge Fund for Achieving Community Excellence (ORFACE).



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### This Month's Rotary Theme

FEBRUARY IS



**PEACEBUILDING &  
CONFLICT PREVENTION  
MONTH**

*"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other."*  
Mother Teresa

The  
**Rotary**  
Foundation



[www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)