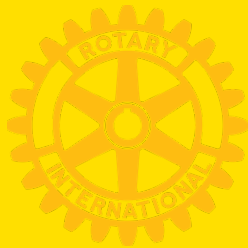


# Rotary



# Club of Tampa

Friday, March 29, 2024

## Upcoming Events

April 2nd

### **Bloodmobile on site**

April 2nd

### **Club Luncheon Meeting**

**Speaker:** Ron & Renee Vaughn

**Subject:** Reflections on 30

Years of Transformative

Leadership

April 9th

### **Club Luncheon Meeting**

**Speaker:** Rebecca Nagy, Ph.D.

**Subject:** My Love Affair with

the Art of Ghana

April 16th

### **RCT Lunch-Around Day**

April 23rd

### **Club Luncheon Meeting**

**Speaker:** Dr. Charles McGraw

Groh

**Subject:** The Rotary Club

a Live Wire Lot: Tampa and

Popular Culture in 1914

April 30th

### **RCT Tour and Lunch at the**

**Humane Society of Tampa**

**Bay**

**Speaker:** Humane Society of

Tampa Bay

**Subject:** Lunch, Tour, and Pet

Time!

May 7th

### **Club Luncheon Meeting**

**Speaker:** Judge (ret) E.J.

Salcines

**Subject:** The Angel of Rotary

International

May 14th

### **Club Luncheon Meeting**

**Speaker:** Brian Auld, President

**Subject:** It's baseball season!

Updates from our Tampa Bay

Rays

## Happy Birthday!



[Carolyn V. Wilkinson](#)

April 5th

## Your Leaders



[Kathleen Luzier](#)

[Bogolea](#)

President



[Paige Niehaus](#)

Secretary



[Charles V. Williams](#)

Treasurer



[Asif Khan Hakeem](#)

Sergeant-at-Arms

## Celebrate our Service Above Self Honorees on Tuesday



The Rotary Club of Tampa is honored to welcome Ron and Renee Vaughn, winners of this year's club **Service Above Self award** for their decades of transformative leadership in Tampa. Several of our club members have had the opportunity to work directly with each of them, and their reflections make for an especially insightful and joyful celebration.

Meet these two icons and look back at their legacy of leadership at our April 2 luncheon.

[Guests are welcome! Click here to register so we are expecting you.](#) Members attend at no charge, and guests pay \$25 to join us. Members do not need to preregister any longer. PLEASE arrive by 11:45 so we can start on time. [Attend on Zoom by clicking here.](#)

**Ron Vaughn** has served the University of Tampa UT since 1984, and became president in 1995. Under his leadership, the University entered a period of growth and expansion unlike any in its 90-year history. President Vaughn has overseen more than 50 significant capital projects on the downtown UT campus, seen enrollment dramatically increase, along with student test scores, educational programming, and more. He has also been active in the community as a board member for the David A. Straz Center for the Performing Arts, the American Red Cross, The Tampa Hillsborough Economic Development Council, the Florida Aquarium among others.

**Renee Vaughn** is the founder and president of the Williams Consulting Group, a public relations consulting firm. Prior to that, she was a senior administrator for the City of Tampa, where she represented the city or mayor on about 50 arts and cultural boards and committees. She is a member of numerous nonprofit organizations, including several where she has served as chair or president.

## Welcome New Rotarians!

What a special day when we welcome four new members to the Rotary Club of Tampa! We are grateful to their proposers for bringing these talented and engaging new members to our club.



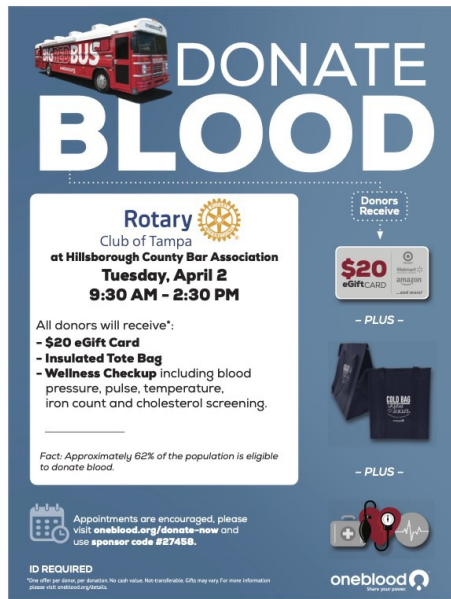
**Alexandra Karamitsios** is from Boston where she studied education and communications at Boston University while playing on their D1 soccer team. She met her husband, Guillermo (also a Rotarian!) at school. Alexandra has family roots in Greece and fell in love with Greek food and culture while visiting her grandparents there. After teaching in Miami for a while, she started a Greek doughnut business called Meli Gourmet Greek Doughnut in 2020. Later she moved to Tampa with her husband and is now a real estate agent in Tampa. In her free time, she likes playing sports, cooking, traveling, exploring nature, and spending time with family and friends.

**Patricc Petti** was born in Toledo and raised in Tampa, where he graduated from Tampa Prep & later Metropolitan State University of Denver. After college, he opened Cafe Toulouse, a French bistro on S. MacDill. He later sold the restaurant and went into telecommunications with GTE. After renovating several homes and lofts in Tampa, Patricc joined Charles Rutenberg Realty, helping people find the perfect home or sell their own for the past 20 years. He currently lives in South Tampa with his partner of 26 years, Brian Layton. Patricc is also involved with The Gasparilla Distance Classic, the Tampa Prep Alumni Association, Equality Florida and the Florida Orchestra. He loves to travel, run, hike, watch old movies, and meet new friends.

**Marc Pflieger** is originally from Northern New Jersey where he spent most of his childhood on the field or court. He is the youngest of 3 - his mother was a teacher and his father was a real estate broker. He's happily married to his beautiful wife Krystal and they find strength and support in their relationship. Marc believes in the power of integrity and perseverance. Marc is a licensed commercial real estate agent with Commercial Asset Partners. They specialize in servicing retail, office, industrial, medical, hospitality, investment and vacant land.

**Waqas Shabir** studied Computer Science and started his career in software consulting even before starting college. You've already experienced some of his work if you've ever used the Kayak.com or Indeed.com apps. He moved to Tampa and the USA in 2017, continuing work in software consulting, providing services to NREL. In 2019, he started Fosphorus, Inc. which provides custom software solutions, technical staff augmentation and business process outsourcing services. Waqas and his wife, Anim Arif, live in south Tampa.

## Donate Blood at Rotary this Tuesday



**DONATE BLOOD**

Rotary Club of Tampa  
at Hillsborough County Bar Association  
**Tuesday, April 2**  
**9:30 AM - 2:30 PM**

All donors will receive\*:  
- **\$20 eGift Card**  
- **Insulated Tote Bag**  
- **Wellness Checkup** including blood pressure, pulse, temperature, iron count and cholesterol screening.

Fact: Approximately 62% of the population is eligible to donate blood.

Appointments are encouraged, please visit [oneblood.org/donate-now](http://oneblood.org/donate-now) and use sponsor code **#27458**.

**ID REQUIRED**  
\*This offer good through 4/30/24. No cash value. Not redeemable. Gift may vary. For more information please see restrictions and terms.

oneblood

Rotarians! Spread the word and mark your calendar to make Tuesday, April 2 the day you save a life by donating blood. Appointments will be available from 9:30 - 2:30, and the OneBlood truck will be parked at Ferguson Law Center to make it easy. This is one more way we can serve our neighbors.

This opportunity is open to all, so spread the word! [Click here to make an appointment](#), and use sponsor #27458.

## RCT Lunch-Arounds on April 16 offer special ways to gather

This year we have introduced a new, alternative type of RCT meeting - the Lunch-Around! These are opportunities for members to host small groups, gather for committee meetings, and just get to know one another better. Our next event is coming up on April 16, and these members have opened their doors to you! Check out the variety of opportunities and RSVP today!

### Lunchtime opportunities include:

Lunch at Cogent Bank with Kevin Franzese: 1715 N Westshore Blvd. - 7 members

Lunch at Hakeem Investments with Asif Hakeem: 6800 N Dale Mabry Hwy - 7 members

Lunch at Clearview Business Solution with Matt Lane: 5801 Benjamin Center Dr #110 - 5 members

USF Rotaract Shark Tank - Help fund their trip to Ghana & tour the Honors College

### No day is complete without happy hour, so....

Happy Hour with the Presidents (pay your way) at Forbici with Kathleen Bogolea & Connie Gage. Do one of the lunches above AND this if you are inclined!

[Please RSVP so we know you can participate.](#) We will send you more details depending on which activities you choose. And thanks to our members for hosting! We look forward to seeing your pictures and posts from these events.



**Let's do Lunch!**

At our RCT Lunch-Around on April 16!

Share your business, home or favorite cause with your fellow members.

## Lunch at the Humane Society = Puppy and kitten time!



**RCT Lunch & Tour at**

Humane Society Tampa Bay Since 1912

April 30, 2024 11:30 AM - 1 PM  
3607 N Armenia Ave. Tampa 33607

Rotarians! The Humane Society of Tampa Bay is one recipient of our community service grant funding this year, so a field trip is in order! Join us on April 30 for an inside look at their amazing new facility that is dedicated to finding homes for thousands of animals each year, as well as educating the community on responsible pet ownership. Here is what you can expect....

11.30 AM - Arrive early if you can to build treat-toys for pets

Noon - Tour commences

12:30 - Lunch and presentation by HSTB leadership

After lunch - Puppy and kitten time!

[Registration is required so we have a meal for you - so click here to RSVP!](#)