



The Rotary Club of Macon



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Macon Chose ME

On March 25 we welcome photographer DSTO Moore, a Macon-based photographer who specializes in capturing intimate portraits and human moments. DSTO has created themed photo series such as Macon Music, We are Pleasant Hill, Macon Hidden Gems, and the My Bike Photo Series for Bike Walk Macon. His name means “Don’t Stop Trying, Overcome.”

Today he’ll be showing and speaking about his *Macon Chose Me* project. He spent two years documenting how people who aren’t originally from Macon ended up here and why they love it.



Link for Zoom Recording

Click here to view the recording of our March 18 meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/22vc7g5v> Our audio technician has made some improvements and the music is much better this time, but still not quite a substitute for live!

FUTURE MONDAY PROGRAMS AND CLUB EVENTS:

April, 2024

- 1 No meeting
- 8 Speaker TBA
- 27 Rebuilding Macon service project

MEETING March 18, 2024

Attendance: 53.4% - 50 in person, 15 Zoom, plus 15 guests

CART \$12.40, Raffle \$66

Club Membership:144

President Stephanie Folsom rang the bell to start the meeting and welcomed members and guests. After thanking pianist Jackie Riley, she asked Past President Albert Reichert to lead the singing and pledge.

Albert usually chooses something out of the ordinary, and today's selection was another treat. He said that yesterday was St. Patrick's Day and this week is Cherry Blossom and the theme of both is comradeship, so today's song was *Vive la Compagnie*. Members joined in singing the chorus "Vive la vive la vive l'amour, Vive la compagnie."

Gary Abbot offered a prayer about the gift of service and impact of Rotary in the community and the very far corners of the earth.

Stephanie then welcomed our many guests which included two guests of members, two students from FPD, and the Principal, College Counselor and one student from Tattnall Square, as well as our eight musicians.

Four members celebrate birthdays March 12-18, including Chris Blake whose birthday is today. Both Ashley McDaniel and Frank Wood celebrate their first anniversary with our club.

It was then time for CART brags, which benefit Alzheimer's research. We had some good ones!



Matt Shoemaker introduced our visiting STAR students. This week we had two schools represented – Tattnall Square Academy and First Presbyterian Day School, better known as FPD.

Our own John Patterson is Head of School for FPD, but he turned the mic over to Matt Kitchell, who is High School Principal. Matt said that Senior student Henry McClure is a man of humanities who will be going to Washington and Lee, while Faith McClure is more STEM-focused and will be entering Georgia Tech to study mathematics. Both students came up and spoke very highly of their experiences at FPD.

John Abernathy, Principal and coach at Tattnall Square, then introduced his student Anna Hilliard. Anna has been very active in many school clubs including one she founded on mental health awareness. She also plays basketball and was just named Homecoming Queen. She will be going to the University of Georgia in the fall.



President Stephanie then reminded the members we have two Service Projects coming up on the first and last Saturdays in April. The first, on April 6 from 9:30am to noon, is a Pleasant Hill Neighborhood Cleanup in conjunction with Keep Macon-Bibb Beautiful and Community Schools United. This takes place at the L.H. Williams Recreation Center, [325 Pursley Street](#), and lunch is offered to participants. You can [sign up online](#) or on the sign-up sheets available at this and subsequent meetings.

The second is our own club's workday with Rebuilding Macon. This year, we will be working Saturday, April 27. Two shifts are available – 8:00am to 11:30am and 11:30am-3:00pm. End times are approximate, and you can sign up to work either or both shifts. You are also welcome to drop by the job site any time, since even 30 minutes can make a difference. The location is still pending but will be announced in April. To sign up, click [this link](#) or use the sign-up sheet in person.

Stephanie then offered a friendly reminder about dues. She said if you are questioning if you have paid dues, please check your email. The invoices come from Cecil and may originate from a dacdb.net address.

Finally, Stephanie said it's time for another special music program organized by George Lee. George then introduced the performers. The first was Harper McCoy, a harpist who is only 11, has been playing since she was four, and performed with the Atlanta Symphony at age seven. Harper performed *Valse in E-flat*, Opus 83 by Marie-Auguste Durand.

The club was next treated to selections by the Middle Georgia Flute Choir, which consists of six musicians plus conductor Bastien



Millo, who sometimes joins in to make it seven. The group performed nine pieces made popular by plays and films, beginning with the 1939 piece *Over the Rainbow*.



Other pieces included the popular *My Favorite Things*, *As Time Goes By*, and *Moon River*. The audience got to participate by snapping fingers to *The Adams Family*.

After a rousing applause, it was time for our raffle. Julie Petherbridge drew the winning ticket but picked the Jack of Spades, so the \$207 pot rolls over to next week.

As always, we concluded with the Four Way Test.



Ride Needed

Our GRSP student, Vendela Danfors, is in need of a ride to Athens going up on Friday, March 29 and returning Sunday, March 31. If you can help, please contact Matt Shoemaker at matt.shoemaker@jonescork.com or 478-745-2821 (office).

Rotary Friendship Exchange

Rotary District 6920 is part of a Rotary Friendship Exchange with District 4895 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The exchange for our district members took place last fall when five Rotarians spent two weeks in a cultural immersion in Buenos Aires. Rotarians accepted District 6920 members into their homes and clubs, and lifelong friendships were made.

In exchange, District 6920 is accepting six Rotarians from District 4895 April 19-28. Rotarian Dana Park from the Wednesday Club is looking for Rotarians to house and transport our guests from Buenos Aires.

If you are interested, President Stephanie Folsom asks you to either reach out to her or contact Dana Park. Dana's email is dana@theparkgroup.net.



Last Call!

If you've been thinking about attending the District Conference, now is the time to register! The deadline for early registration and hotel discounts is March 22.

Rotary District 6920's District Conference will be held at the Jekyll Island Convention Center April 26-28. Complete information can be found at <https://www.rotarydistrict6920.org/dc-2024/>



Do you have a recent accomplishment? Have you or your organization won an award or otherwise been recognized? We want to know, and to recognize your achievement at a meeting. Please email Gary Wheat, our Vocational Service Chair, at gwheat@visitmacon.org

Donate to Rotary Foundation and CART

Club members can make donations to The Rotary Foundation or the CART Fund online line using credit cards or EFT. These can be made in memory of, honor of, or personal donations. They can be setup as recurring or one-time. Follow these easy steps:

The Rotary Foundation: Go to <https://rotary.org/>. If you have never signed in you will need to register so it credits your Paul Harris Fellow account and our club. You may need our District number 6920 and club number 4202. Once registered you can SIGN IN to MY ROTARY then click DONATE button in upper right. Check the area ANNUAL FUND, DISASTER RELIEF FUND, or POLIO PLUS to donate, then just follow easy steps to make payment.

CART FUND: <https://mycartfund.org/Login.cfm> follow the online instructions. You will need our **Club number 4202** and **District number 6920**.

Approved Makeups-Family of Rotary Events:

Reminder - Makeups can only be used two weeks before or after a missed meeting

Anytime Rotary Project (such the two April events listed above) or Rotary Committee meeting
Anytime Volunteer at Macon Volunteer Clinic
Viewing of Monday meeting recorded on Zoom - See current or past *Throbs* link

HOW TO MAKE UP MISSED MEETINGS

Please make up missed meetings to help our club's attendance percentage rank with District 6920 and Rotary International. Our attendance is reported each month to the district and is required to be reported before the 15th of the following month. **Members are encouraged to maintain an attendance average of 60%.**

Missed meetings must be made up **14 days before or after the meeting you miss.**

See list above of approved makeups. You can make up from the comfort of your home or office online at <http://rotaryclubone.org/>. They will email a notice of the makeup to the Club Administrator and you will be credited. Also, attendance at another Rotary Club is a great option when you are traveling!

When you make up using the **Zoom link** of our meetings listed in meeting summary above or makeup in person at another club please send an email immediately afterwards to the Club Administrator, steve@eggmedia.com so your makeup can be recorded. Do not expect the club you visit to report to our club.

Excused Absences

Members have the opportunity to receive a board approved Excused Absence during a long-term family, health, or business crisis. When a member realizes they have a situation that will keep them from attending Monday meetings for an extended period they can contact the Club Administrator or President with the reason. This contact needs to be immediate and not after the crisis. The board can approve a beginning and ending date and attendance is excused on club and district level. Short term absences are best made up online.

Club Membership Applications

We are purpose-driven leaders of influence and action. To sponsor a prospective candidate to join our membership, contact Membership Chair Charles Olson EOlson200@msn.com or any member of the Board of Directors to ensure a vocational classification is available for your candidate.

Once the Classification Committee approves the classification, invite your new member candidate to a weekly meeting. If the candidate expresses interest in joining our club, then ask Membership Chair Charles to send the candidate an invitation to apply online. Once the new member candidate completes the application, Board members review the application. Then, new member candidates are presented for formal approval at the monthly Board meeting. Once approved by the Board, new member candidates are announced in Throbs. Unless there is objection by any existing member, the new member is scheduled for orientation and formal induction. All members of our club need to think about who would make good Rotarians!

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