



# The Rotary Club of Macon



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**May 6, 2024**

***No Regular Meeting – Spring Picnic!***

Our annual Spring Picnic will be held Monday, May 6, from 6:00pm at the new Macon Atrium Health Amphitheater. If you haven't seen it yet, this is your chance! And if you have been before, this is a great opportunity to see it without a large crowd. Use the West Gate entrance, which is marked by a sign on the side nearest the mall.

There is no cost or registration for members to attend. Please come, and bring your spouse or significant other (but not both).



**MACON**



**Atrium Health  
AMPHITHEATER**

## Link for Zoom Recording

Click here to view the recording of our April 29 meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/22cp56xm>

## **FUTURE MONDAY PROGRAMS AND CLUB EVENTS:**

### **May, 2024**

6	No Meeting – Spring Picnic at the Macon Amphitheater from 6:00pm	
13	Rhythm & Rally/Sports Tourism	John Roberts and Ann Starley
20	Macon Film Festival	Justin Andrews
21	Board Meeting, Fountain of Juice	
27	No Meeting	

### **June, 2024**

3	Fall Line Brewing Co.: Growing a business in a pandemic	Kaitlyn Kressin
10	Macon Black Pages and the Rising Tide	Alex Habersham

## MEETING April 29, 2024

Attendance: 56.1% - 55 in person, 19 Zoom, plus 9 guests

CART \$197, Raffle \$38

Club Membership: 144

President Stephanie rang the bell to start the meeting. After thanking pianist Jackie and reminding those in attendance of our 110 years of service, she invited Jeffery Monroe to lead the singing and pledge. Jeffery showed off his vocal range, and tested the limits of all who joined in with *The Star-Spangled Banner*. Jonathan Alderman then offered an inclusive prayer that reminded us of the importance to vote.

Stephanie then welcomed our nine guests, which included Assistant District Governor Steve Bell, before offering birthday wishes. Six Rotarians had birthdays this week, including Wayne Gullatt and Matt Heller who were celebrating today. Ethiel Garlington has ten years of service with the club, and John O'Shaughnessey has 24.

It was then time for CART brags, and Stephanie led off by saying she had the honor of representing our club at the District Conference on Jekyll Island, where our club won the coveted "Golden Bucket Award" for contributing the most to CART in the 2023-24 year. We donated \$11,665.73, which is wonderful. However, we are lagging behind this year and have only raised \$2,169.03. If we can raise \$5,000 we have a match from a very generous member, but we have only until the end of June. Please see the article below for information on how you can donate to this very worthy cause. Members did step up with quite a few brags.

Josh Rogers thanked all who came out Saturday for the Rebuilding Macon work day. He said the crew painted an entire house. Josh was initially disappointed to learn the homeowner was blind and therefore not able to appreciate the new appearance until one of the volunteers said it was really about the man who lived there. That homeowner knows he's not alone in the world and there is a community to help.

Debra Rollins said that Rebuilding Macon just had 800 Future Farmers of America join with 800 other local volunteers to complete 21 houses in ten days. That was just a few of the brags, and these are just some of those who gave them:



Matt Shoemaker then introduced our guests from Rutland High School, Principal Wendy Pooler and STAR student Imanol Pizana-Hernandez. Imanol, who was wearing his FFA jacket, is the class valedictorian and FFA President. Imanol plans to attend Georgia Tech to major in mechanical engineering. One day he hopes to work for NASA in the Artemis Project department to help humanity live on the moon.



President Stephanie then thanked again the 11 Rotarians (and also Albert Reichert's dog, Ella) who came out Saturday to work on the Rebuilding Macon house. She reminded the members that we don't have a regular meeting next Monday but will have our annual Spring Picnic at the Macon Amphitheater from 6:00-8:00pm. We should enter through the west entrance, which is the one closest to the mall. Entertainment and heavy appetizers will be provided. The event is free for members and guests and no reservation is needed.

At the party we will also unveil the Peace Pole. Andrew Eck, who is installing the pole, sent Stephanie a picture and she said it looks amazing. It will be a presence that will last for many years. Donations are still requested and you can follow the link provided later in this newsletter.

Stephanie spoke again of the recent District Conference. Each year the District Governor creates a citation list, which is a document that rates each club and how it performs and achieves set goals created by the District Governor for that year. At the end of year, at District Conference, clubs are ranked Bronze, Silver or Gold based on the number of points they collected throughout the year.

The Citation Document is broken up into the following sections: Leadership, Membership, Public Image, Foundation, International Service, Community Service, Vocational Service, Youth Service, and District Conference Celebration. Stephanie then proudly announced that our club had won Gold, and she thanked the members for working so hard this year. Stephanie brought along a "friendship board" with pictures of the various community service projects we were involved with.

Before bringing up GRSP student Vendela Danfors, Stephanie said Danny Gibson asked her to announce that a host family is still sought for the next GRSP student, who is Victor from Brazil. She continued by saying that today's program is a double header. Not only will we hear from Vendela but afterwards will be entertained by vocalist Lore Thomas, one of the winners of the Maerz Music Scholarship competition.

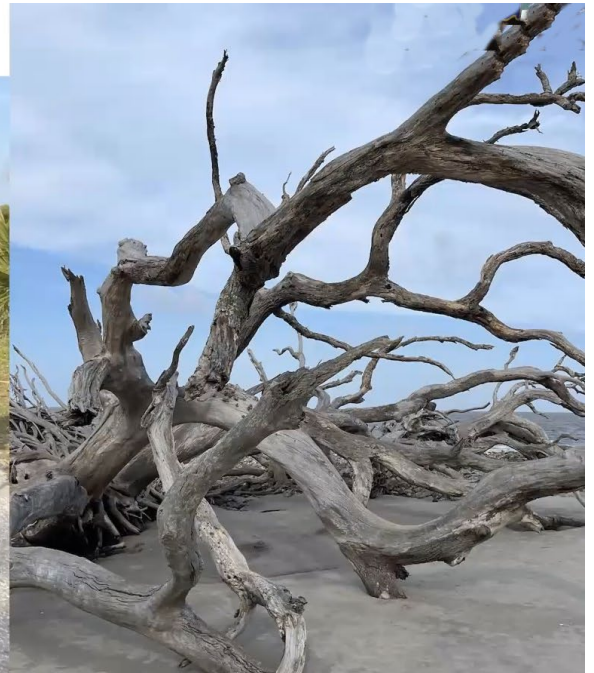
Vendela began by saying that on the 6<sup>th</sup> of August last year, she was on a plane to Georgia, and never imagined to experience such a wonderful year. She thanked Rotary for giving this to her. She brought a PowerPoint presentation to help summarize her stay. It consisted of six parts: travels, events on campus, her art work and study, the host family, her impression of the southern U.S., and her GRSP experience.

Her travels included some beautiful falls in Alabama, the University of Georgia, Savannah, Miami Beach, Chicago, the small town of Pelham, Jekyll Island and more.

In Chicago, she visited the Art Institute, which particularly interested her since she is also an artist. Of course, most of her time was spent at Wesleyan College, and she showed pictures of some of the



# Jekyll Island



activities and events there. There are many international students at Wesleyan, so several festivals were celebrated. Vendela got to share some of her Swedish culture.

Vendela showed some of the art she has been making, which includes painting, jewelry, ceramics, and drawing. She covered a lot, and you can go back to see the full presentation at <https://tinyurl.com/22cp56xm>

Vendela especially loved staying with her host family, the Shoemakers, and getting to know others in our club. She will leave Georgia with many wonderful memories of the southern hospitality she enjoyed here. It was a very emotional ending that the members appreciated.

The second part of our double header program was a performance by Lore Thomas, a baritone who is a senior at Veterans High School in Kathleen Lore was introduced by Reese McCurry, Children's Minister at Vineville United Methodist Church and President of the Morning Music Club. She explained that the Morning Music Club has been around since 1912 and has offered scholarships since 1957. They have begun a new program called Partners in Education to





help fund and provide private music lessons to Bibb County school students who have been designated as musically gifted by their band and school teachers.

The Maerz Music Scholarship is offered to students in Bibb County and all contiguous counties. Lore Thomas was one of the scholarship winners this year. He will soon be going to Georgia Southern University to study Music Education. His voice teacher was Marie Roberts. He was accompanied on piano by McKinley Starks.

Lore treated us to three musical selections. The first, *Le Charme* by Ernest Chausson, was composed in 1879. He said it's a French piece about a man who realizes later in life that he's fallen in love with a girl he's known for a while. This was followed by *Tonight at Eight* from the Musical *She Loves Me*. The final piece was *Guido's Song* from the musical *Nine* by Maury Yeston. Lore delivered a powerful performance and received a standing ovation.



It was then time for the lottery drawing. The pot was \$342, but ticket winner Amy Rauls drew the King of Diamonds, not the Queen of Hearts, so it rolls over and will be larger at our next meeting.

The meeting ended with recitation of the Four Way Test.



## CART Appeal

Our club has a \$5,000 challenge match each year and we've always been able to meet that challenge. However, with just a little over two months to go in the fiscal year, we are less than half way to that

goal. We collect money in the blue buckets at each meeting, but also rely on donations by check or online.

Founded in 1995 by Roger Ackerman, a Rotarian in Sumter, SC, The CART Fund (Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust) is a non-profit grassroots organization that provides "seed" money for cutting edge, high impact research grants to help find a treatment or cure for Alzheimer's Disease. 100% of donations goes directly to that research.

There are three ways to donate, and the most visible is by putting cash in the blue bucket on each table. You may also write a check payable to the Rotary Club of Macon and put "CART Fund" on the check. Thirdly, you can donate online at <https://mycartfund.org/login.cfm>. For online donations you will need to enter our Club number 4202 and District number 6920. This requires logging in to DACdb, if you have trouble please contact Steve Allen or use this [alternate link](#). Online donations qualify as tax-deductible (but ask your accountant!)

## Peace Pole Donations

As mentioned above, our club is erecting a peace pole at the new amphitheater and it will be unveiled at next week's Spring Picnic. Peace Poles have been erected throughout the world, and they are structures that convey the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in four or more languages. Our member Andrew Eck has created the pole itself, which is about eight feet tall with each side about nine inches wide. Our pole will include the languages of English, Japanese, Muscogee and braille. Several area artists have been commissioned to complete the project. The club approved \$5,000 and donations from members are very appreciated. [Please click here to make your donation.](#)



Do you have a recent accomplishment? Have your or your organization won an award or otherwise been recognized? We want to know, and to recognize your achievement at a meeting. We also need members to share a short vocational talk at a meeting. Please email Gary Wheat, our Vocational Service Chair, at [gwheat@visitmacon.org](mailto:gwheat@visitmacon.org)

## -- Donate to Rotary Foundation --

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

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, POLIO PLUS FUND, WORLD FUND, or DISASTER RESPONSE FUND, then just follow easy steps to make payment. Checks payable to Rotary Foundation can also be given to the club and we will forward the payment.

**Approved Makeups-Family of Rotary Events:**  
**Reminder - Makeups can only be used two weeks before or after a missed meeting**

Anytime          Rotary Project 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.

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*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](mailto: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!*