



# Rotary



## The Rotary Club of Macon

❤️ **THROBS**

*Published Weekly Since 1914*

**May 19, 2025**

*Morning Music Club's Maerz Award Winners*



Once a year, our club is treated to musical performances by one or more of the winners of the Maerz award. This year's competition was held March 7<sup>th</sup> at Vineville United Methodist Church, and the winner of the \$4,000 Maerz award was French horn player Caleb Pope of Perry High School. Caleb will be out of the country but hopes to perform for us in the future.

The super talented pianist we'll hear at our May 19 meeting is Ka Wai Hui ("Bonnie"), a student at Stratford who has studied under Ian Altman. She is this year's winner of the \$2,000 Peggy Timberlake award (Peggy chaired the Morning Music Club's Maerz Scholarship Competition for twelve years).

This will be a program best appreciated in person!

### Zoom Link

Click here for the recording of our May 12 meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/2ycxxluv>

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

#### **May, 2025**

20	Joint Board Meeting
26	No Meeting – Memorial Day

### June, 2025

2	No Meeting	
9	Mercer Medical School	Dean Jean Sumner
16	AI (Artificial Intelligence)	Brandon Haddock
17	Joint Board Meeting	
23	Changing of the Guard – VENUE TBA	
30	No Meeting	

### July, 2025

7	No Meeting	
14	Ending Hunger, American Heart Assoc.	Carla Howard, Kelly Mitchell & Bennett Smith
15	Board Meeting	
21	Accessible Playgrounds	Natalie Mackay
28	Georgia Power	Patrick Harris, Region Executive

### August, 2025

4	Big Brothers, Big Sisters	Betsy Fitzgerald
11	50 Years of GNTV	Rev. David Wood
18	Rescue Mission	Pat Chastain, CEO
19	Board Meeting	

## New Member Approvals

Your Board has approved the membership applications of Mark Walhimer and Matt Kitchell. Mark succeeded former member Susan Welsh as Executive Director at MAS and would hold the classification of Museum of Arts & Sciences. Matthew Paul Kitchell is replacing John Patterson as Head of School at First Presbyterian Day School (FPD) and would hold the classification of Private School – Christian.

Members have 10 days to make comments in writing to President Danny Gibson.

## MEETING May 12, 2025

Attendance: 58.2% - 61 in person, 21 Zoom, plus 3 guests

Raffle \$325, CART \$37

Club Membership: 158, including today's inductions

President Danny Gibson rang the bell to begin the meeting and reflected on Mother's Day, noting that today's flowers are in honor of mothers. He then invited Past President Albert Reichert to lead the singing and pledge.

Albert always chooses something a bit out of the ordinary, and this time it was *Vive la Compagnie*. About half the members sang along! Past President Elbert McQueen offered the prayer, which gave thanks for a week in which we celebrated mothers and witnessed the remarkable transition of the leadership of the Catholic Church through the selection of our fellow American, Robert Prevost as Pope Leo the 14<sup>th</sup>. He also offered thanks for the life of Malcolm Burgess.

President Danny then noted that today's meeting was originally set aside for us to hear from GRSP student João Vilela, but João returned to Brazil a few days ago. Those who attended the Spring Social

heard from him for the last time this year. Nevertheless, the program had a packed agenda.

Danny then welcomed our guests, which included a visiting Rotarian from Vinings, three pending members, and the principal and student from Howard High School.



Howard High Principal Michael Scott said he was elated to be here today. "This is my second year being able to join you all and to feature one of our students. And I want to say I really appreciate the opportunity for us to showcase the phenomenal things we have going on via our phenomenal students." He then introduced his student, Jayla Evans.

Jayla said she is a graduating senior who will be attending Georgia State University to study business administration with a minor in economics. At Howard, she is a member of the Beta Club, the National Honor Society, and president of a crochet club. She also plays softball and does track and field. Jayla already has her own crochet business, called ACOS, or A Couple of Stitches, that makes sustainable hats and bags for young adults.

President Danny then acknowledged the members celebrating birthdays or club anniversaries from May 1 through this week. Bill Epps' birthday was May 2, followed by Charlie Jay, Keisha Callins, Richard Frazier, and George McCanless, who celebrates on the 17<sup>th</sup>. For Charlie Jay's birthday May 15, he plans to walk a mile for each decade of life, but it wasn't said which decade he is in.

Patrick Harris has been with the club one year, Jeff Ruggieri three years, Gary Wheat eight, and Kathy McCollum for nine years. Mack Minton has been with the club 42 years, and while he hasn't attended in a while, Danny said Mack's grandson reports he is doing well. Finally, Ed Olson received applause for his 45 years of service. Danny addressed the three new incoming members and told them this is something they can aspire to.

CART brags came next. It was the first opportunity members had in two weeks, and they didn't disappoint. Albert Reichert said that his son was just married and has moved back from Africa. They arrived in Atlanta with seven bags and two dogs and it took a truck to get it all to their house at Lake Sinclair. They were married there by our member Lanier Anderson, and photographs were done by Milton Heard.

Robbo Hatcher's daughter just got her doctorate in occupational therapy and will be working in Philadelphia. Jim Crisp reported on the District Conference that he, President Danny and President-Elect Rebecca attended at Jekyll Island. Another highlight reported by Ivey Hall was the dedication of three more Habitat houses.







President Danny called on Bruce Riggins to give a vocational talk. Bruce is one of the newer members of our club, and he said he could explain what he does very briefly. He owns Cicero's Movers, a moving and storage company in Macon. He said 90% of their relocation work is for military but they also do commercial. Bruce inherited the company from his father 20 or 21 years ago, so it has seen a lot of change. The current climate with the government is a bit tough these days.

Bruce also opened Churchill's on Cherry, an upscale cigar lounge downtown. To hear him tell it, he opened the lounge so he would have a place to smoke his cigars inside and not bother his wife! Bruce has also enjoyed participating in downtown and seeing its exciting growth.

President Danny noted that Bruce has moved his office twice and also his lake house. He also said he'd love to come to the cigar lounge if it has good enough ventilation to make the smoke on his clothes undetectable.



Danny then introduced the return of what used to be a standard feature at our meetings – Rotarians in the News. This would normally be done by Vocational Chair Billy Fickling, but since he was out of town Jeff Wilhelm presented it. Jeff said many of our members have been in the news lately. Kaitlynn Kressin was nominated in the Georgia Trend “40 Under 40”. Josh Rogers was posthumously awarded the Mary Gregory Jewett Award from the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation. Billy Fickling was named a Rising Star of Manager Research by Citywire. David Thompson won Double Golds for his Heirloom whiskey at Longleaf Distillery. Also newsworthy were Karla Redding-Andrews and Justin Andrews for the Otis Redding Center for the Arts, Seth Clark for the Ocmulgee Mounds National Park and Preserve initiative, and Gary Wheat for the world kazoo record attempt. Megan Blight was named to the “5 Under 40” by Macon Magazine, and Dan Sims was noted for his three-year contract extension with the Board of Education.

The next item on our packed, club business agenda, was the induction of three new members. President Danny asked James Fritze, Nathan Lott and Scott Chamlee to come up.



James Fritz was introduced by Alex Morrison as a vital figure in Macon's community revitalization. Currently President and CEO of NewTown Macon, James played a major role in doubling NewTown's assets and strengthening its financial structure. A Macon native, UGA "Double Dawg," CPA, and former executive at Charter Medical, James also has entrepreneurial experience. He's described as a steady leader, mentor, and proud husband and grandfather.

Nathan Lott, introduced by Bowen Shoemaker, is the new Executive Director of the Historic Macon Foundation. Originally from New Orleans, he brings deep experience in historic preservation and environmental advocacy, with past leadership roles in New Orleans and Virginia. He's hands-on, whether applying for tax credits or doing physical work at events, and is known as a thoughtful, service-oriented leader. He has two teenage children and a strong academic background in preservation.

Scott Chamlee, introduced by Andrew, is the Executive Director at Jani-King. Raised in Stockbridge and educated at Mercer, Scott's journey to Macon involved personal trials, including losing both parents and supporting his wife through breast cancer. He joined Jani-King in 2017, the same year he was married. He's sold over 40 franchisees and helped people fulfill their dream of business ownership. Scott currently oversees Macon and Tallahassee. He's also a proud pet parent and former competitive weightlifter. His leadership reflects resilience, purpose, and a commitment to giving back.



Danny then said that one of the greatest pleasures he has as President is recognizing members of our club who are Paul Harris Fellows. Jim Manley and Lanier Anderson were asked to join Danny on stage, along with Foundation Chair Marcus Tripp. Danny said the Paul Harris recognition has many ties to Georgia. The idea of establishing the Rotary Foundation was first raised at the 1917 Rotary convention



in Atlanta, and the good work it does stretches around the globe. Paul Harris recognition begins with \$1,000 in total giving, and subsequent thousands earn the next levels. Jim Manley was awarded Paul Harris +1 and Lanier Anderson Paul Harris +2. Marcus presented them with the pins.



President-elect Rebecca Grist came up to express her excitement about the “changing of the guard” meeting June 23, in which the new officers and board are sworn in. The church is holding VBS that day, so our usual meeting space won’t be available. Members will be notified as soon as possible about the location of that meeting.

Rebecca also asked the members to complete a brief questionnaire she placed on the tables. This questionnaire about how to improve our club will be helpful as she prepares for the new Rotary year ahead.

In his closing announcements, President Danny remarked about how great the Spring Picnic/Social was at the new Otis Redding Center. He thanked Karla and Justin for inviting us, and asked for Gene and BJ Dunwoody to stand up. Gene organized the event, and the two of them tended the bar throughout the evening.



For our Habitat home honoring Josh Rogers, the footers will begin on May 19. We won't be meeting the two Mondays after that, so members are encouraged to sign up to work at the house. We will have a stud signing day where members can sign their names that will remain in the walls, and that date will be announced soon. If you haven't sent your check to the Community Foundation yet, that needs to be done right away.

Danny remarked on how wonderful the District Conference was, and encouraged members to attend one if possible. At the Jekyll event, our club was awarded the Golden Bucket award for having the most CART donations in the district.

Danny then called attention to his tie, which was the colors of the current Rotary theme, and after playing a song called *The Auctioneer*, offered to auction off the matching scarf, which was signed by Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick. After some back-and-forth, the winning \$200 bid, which will go to the Rotary Foundation, went to President-elect Rebecca Grist.

The CART raffle pot was up to \$2,673, with only seven cards left in the deck. New member Krupal Patel had the winning ticket but didn't draw the Queen of Clubs. That means at our next meeting there will be a one-in-six chance of drawing the winning card, which should be worth around \$3,000.

As always, the meeting concluded with recitation of the Four Way Test.

## 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. These online donations qualify as a tax deduction (but ask your accountant). 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**. (This link requires logging in to DACdb. If you have trouble with that, use <https://mycartfund.org/NewUser.cfm> instead.) All donations to CART go to support cutting-edge research on Alzheimer's.

## Approved Makeups-Family of Rotary Events:

**Reminder - Makeups can only be used two weeks before or after a missed meeting  
(There are no meetings in December)**

Anytime	Rotary Project or Rotary Committee meeting
Anytime	Volunteer at Macon Volunteer Clinic
Anytime	Viewing of Monday meeting recorded on Zoom - See current or past <i>Throbs</i> 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. **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.

## *Club Membership Applications*

*Our club continues to grow! To sponsor a prospective candidate to join our membership, contact Membership Chair Gene Dunwody [gdunwodyjr@dunwodybeeland.com](mailto:gdunwodyjr@dunwodybeeland.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 the Membership Chair to send the candidate an invitation to apply online. Applications are reviewed by the Board and then announced in Throbs, after which any member can express an objection.*

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