

# Rotary



# Club of Stuart-Sunrise

## Club Meeting

Stuart-Sunrise  
Meets at Banyan Creek  
Country Club  
1701 SW Crane Creek Ave  
Palm City, FL 34990  
Time: Thursday at 07:30  
AM

## Speakers

### February 29, 2024

[Candace Tedesco](#)  
Caring Cafe at Aliceâ€™s  
Restaurant, ARC of the  
Treasure Coast

### March 07, 2024

[District Governor Doug  
Heizer](#)

### March 14, 2024

[Nils Weibull](#)  
SCORE- nationâ€™s  
largest network of  
volunteer, expert  
business mentors.

### March 21, 2024

[Lisa Rhodes](#)  
Education Foundation of  
Martin County

## Birthdays



Volney Bayley  
February 27th



Gene L.  
VanCuren  
March 21st

## Club Member Anniversaries



Gene L.  
VanCuren  
03-12-1984  
40 Years



Richard P. Zurich  
03-12-1984  
40 Years



Rex A. Sentell  
03-01-1986  
38 Years



Susan Dawson  
Whittington  
02-22-2007  
17 Years



Linda Weiksnar  
03-13-2020  
4 Years

## Rotary News for February 22, 2024

By Susan Dawson Whittington

We had a late start this morning because the gate was a little backed up but we made up for it after President Elect Tom called the meeting to order and Sue led us in prayer.

Today is George Washington's birthday and the anniversary of Elvis Presley's first hit, Heartbreak Hotel.

Visiting Rotarians: Carrie Straub, Rusty Brink, and Fred Strauss.

Guests: Adriana Mancini, Jaxon Browne and Noa Vignone (speakers) and Jacquie Mancini.

Dave, Ken and Nils have birthdays this week and Sue celebrated a Rotary anniversary- 17 years.

We wish the best to our three Rotarians recovering from medical procedures: Dave Geller, Beth Brownell and John Robitaille. JD and HB were absent this week doing JROTC presentations as part of our club Honor Flight scholarship program. We will hear reports and updates at next week's meeting.

Charles's golf tournament raised \$27K, lots of happy dollars for beer (we haven't collected the credit card tips or our share of the booty but we have deposited over \$1,000 in cash tips).

PE Tom had an Ironman certificate for Susan Shirley who worked the fair every night. Unfortunately, Susan was not there to collect it - she was allegedly still resting from all her hard work at the fair.

Our speaker today was Adriana Mancini, president and founder of Citizens4H2O (formerly Students4H2O), and Communications Coordinator for Water For South Sudan. Adriana was speaking about Waterfest, which is being held in Memorial Park in Stuart from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 23. Our club is a sponsor of this event.

Citizens4H2O partnered with Publix Supermarkets Charities for an initiative to collect plastic bags for proper recycling, and they have collected over 300,000 bags so far. ANYONE WHO BRINGS A PLASTIC BAG TO WATERFEST WILL RECEIVE A RECYCLABLE PUBLIX BAG.

Waterfest is free and open to the public, and will feature the majority of Martin County's public schools and other participating groups. Each booth will have an activity centered around water education.

(Editor's Note: Our club will be in the booth with the Face Painter again this year.)

Complete information on Citizens4H2O can be found on their website:  
<https://www.students4h2o.org>

Adriana introduced Jaxon and Noa who are officers for Citizens4H2O at Clark Advanced Learning Center. They explained that Citizens4H2O is based on the United Nations Global Goals:  
<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

They do joint projects with our Interact Club. They are specifically working on their booth for Waterfest and will sell Mudlove bracelets at their booth. These are bracelets with specific messages on them and the proceeds are used to fund the club's projects. They also focus monthly on a local community project - this month they are collecting items for care packages (canned food items, toiletries, etc.) for the homeless clients who use LAHIA (Love and Hope in Action) services. (Editor's Note - this is an organization we have served consistently in the past.)

Adriana invited all of us to become members of Citizens4H2O. More info to come.

50/50 was won by Dangerous Dave Shoaf.



## District News





**The Next District Governor in the Chain:**

Rotary District 6930 is pleased to announce the selection of Mr. Owen Robinson, a distinguished member and current president of the Rotary Club of West Palm Beach, as the newly appointed District Governor for the 2026-2027 term. In his new capacity, Mr. Robinson is set to oversee 43 Rotary clubs across the southern, south-central, and southeast regions of Florida. With a commendable 17-year tenure within the Rotary organization, Mr. Robinson brings a wealth of experience and dedication to his new role. Having served 13 years with the Cary McGregor Rotary Club in District 7710 and the last 4 years with the West Palm Beach Rotary Club in District 6930, Mr. Robinson has demonstrated exemplary leadership as President and Membership Chair within the club.



Mr. Robinson’s commitment to Rotary values is exemplified by his status as a multiple Paul Harris Fellow, PolioPlus Society member, and Sustaining member. His extensive Rotary service includes roles as Assistant District Governor, International Project Chair, and District Trainer. Notably, Mr. Robinson has played a key role in spearheading international projects in Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Africa, Turkey, and the Bahamas.

In his capacity as District Governor, Mr. Robinson aims to voluntarily engage and inspire the District 6930 members, emphasizing the promotion of Rotary values within local communities. With a forward-thinking approach, he envisions building upon the progress of past District Governors, fostering a culture of service above self, and cultivating a diverse and unified District.

Beyond his Rotary commitments, Mr. Robinson is actively involved in community service initiatives, contributing his time and energy to causes such as feeding the hungry, toy drives, Children Home Society, Quantum House, and other philanthropic endeavors. His dedication has been recognized through prestigious awards, including the President’s Award, Rotarian of the Year, Emerging District Leader Honor, and Service Above Self Award.

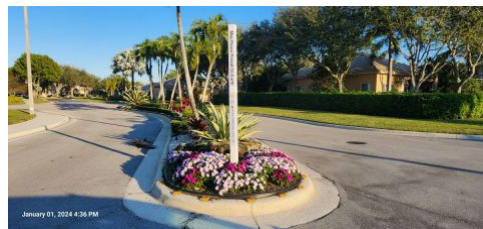
Educationally, Mr. Robinson holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering and a Master of Science in Information Technology. His entrepreneurial spirit is evident through the establishment and successful sale of various companies, and he currently serves as a Mortgage Loan Officer with Syntex Mortgage.

As a family man, Mr. Robinson is the proud father of one daughter, Andrea, and one son, Andrew. In his leisure time, he enjoys travel, quality family moments, literature, culinary pursuits, golf, dance, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle through regular physical activity.

Owen is eager to take on this new leadership role with an eye to both past and present: “I want to be a forward-thinking leader that helps to create a unified District where together we’re able to foster motto of service above self. Build on the progress of previous District Governors and continue building a diverse District.

**Peace Poles:**

One of Governor Douglas Heizer’s Douglas Heizer projects for this year is the installation of Peace Poles throughout the district. The first 10 have already arrived and will begin to be installed this month. The Peace Pole is a way of bringing people together to inspire, awaken, and uplift the world’s human consciousness.



Peace Poles are now recognized as the most prominent international symbol and monument to peace. They remind us to think, speak, and act in the spirit of peace and harmony. Stand as a silent visual for peace to prevail on earth.



**THURS, FEB 1ST @ 10 AM**

**PEACE POLE DEDICATION CEREMONY**

Join Rockledge Rotary Club for a Peace Pole dedication at Larry Schultz Park.  
A Peace Pole is an internationally-recognized symbol of the hopes and dreams of the entire human family, standing vigil in silent prayer.



The Rockledge Rotary Club of Florida cordially invites you to join us on Thursday, February 1st at 10 am for a Rotary Peace Pole Dedication at Larry L. Schultz Park in Rockledge. This dedication is open to the public to join. Dedication of a Peace Pole is a way of bringing people together to inspire, awaken, and uplift the world’s human consciousness. Peace Poles are now recognized as

for peace on earth.

**LOCATION:**  
LARRY L. SCHULTZ PARK  
2540 S FISKE BLVD, ROCKLEDGE



RockledgeRotary.com

Peace poles are now recognized as the most prominent international symbol and monument to peace. They remind us to think, speak, and act in the spirit of peace and harmony. Stand as a silent visual for peace to prevail on earth.

**Upcoming District Events:**

January 14, 2024 – Rotary International President will be here to recognize Foundation giving from District 6930.



May 2, 2024 - RYLA:



June 7 – 9, 2024 - District Conference



## Foundation News

### **A Foundation Message:**

*From Christine Steinkrauss*

I've been a Rotarian for 18 years and throughout those years I have been privileged to be part of, participate in and directly feel the impact of grants, both district and global, around the world and here in the USA. With my first club, which was a charter club in Panama, we had to learn very quickly how to write grants because there was no money available for any projects. It was exciting to know exactly how the money would help the community and fulfill a need. How building new latrines, laying pipe for a water source and furnishing a kitchen would help not just the one school but the village as a whole and we would be an integral part of it. The children did not have to be sent home because the latrines didn't work, and the kitchen couldn't function.

During the recent Grants Seminar, emphasis was put on inviting everyone to the table, laying out the various ways to approach a grant, making it accessible and understandable and sharing different projects various clubs had done, both locally and abroad. How proud everyone was to tell stories of their projects.

In Panama, when my club was working at a health clinic, a local woman with a big smile on her face first thanked me and then asked, "Why are you doing this?" and of course there's a simple answer.

So why were we painting the clinic walls and drawing elephants, birds and flowers in the pediatric section? Why did we fix and secure the disposal unit for used needles? Why did we buy much needed, but basic, medical equipment? Why did we buy thousands of books for a brand new, first-ever in the country, lending library? Why did my club in Mysore, India dig a well and put in a pump in a schoolyard, so the children had water all the time and why did we have the roof repaired over one classroom, so the students didn't have to sit outside in the dirt? Why is my club here in Vero Beach giving books to local Pre-K children to take home and trying to help young girls stay in school in India and the Dominican Republic with scholarships through district grants?

The simple answer - To Help - can be applied to all the above but there's more. To those who are helped there's a domino effect. They also want to help and be involved. They see the path open for more ways to improve their lives and others in their community. People see what can be accomplished with some help. They want to keep the water flowing, to keep reading, to stay in school, to do more. And the children are watching and learning. So we are also giving hope and inspiration along with water, latrines, books and education. Hope and inspiration aren't line items in the grants but perhaps they should be.

The Rotary Foundation makes all this possible through the grants it supports. We urge everyone to continue to make their contributions, and perhaps this time a little bit more, so smiles, hope and inspiration continue to happen whenever someone sees a Rotarian working on a project.

---