



**Club Information**

Rotary Club of Downtown Gainesville, Florida #27544 chartered September 18, 1990  
 Charter President J. Ben Rowe  
 Our in person meetings are temporarily (we hope!) suspended..  
 Please join us Virtually on Wednesday's at Noon - See ZOOM link information in bulletin  
 Club Website:  
<https://downtowngainesvillerotary.org/>

**Club Meetings**

Temporary Virtual Zoom Meetings  
 Every Wenesday at Noon  
 Please find link in our Club News

**Club Leaders**



Diane Marie Robar  
 President  
 RYLA



Brenda Chamberlain  
 Membership Chair  
 Club Director  
 President-Elect



Jennifer Watson-Reddish  
 Secretary



William S. Combs  
 Treasurer



Stephanie Esposito  
 Social Media and Public Relations  
 Chair



Albert Anthony Losch Jr.  
 Bulletin Editor



Joseph E. Lowry Jr.  
 Club Director



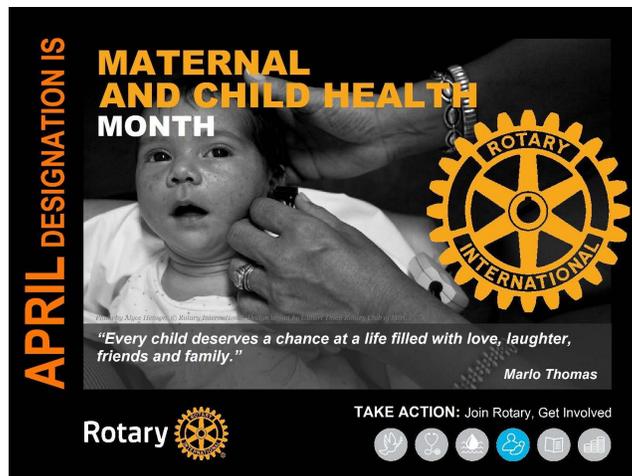
Clay Martin III  
 Club Director

Megan Olson  
 Club Director

**Welcome**

**Welcome to the  
 Virtual Rotary Club of Downtown Gainesville**

**APRIL ROTARY THEME**



**Zoom Meeting Link**

**Welcome to the Rotary Club of Downtown Gainesville  
 Join us for our Virtual Zoom meeting (temporarily) at noon Wednesday**

Topic: Downtown Gainesville Virtual Rotary Meeting  
 Time: 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)  
**Now online Wednesday's at Noon**

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.  
 Weekly: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/482134526?pwd=VC8xYmcyY2VRZFduOUU1Vc2xqYUhhVzZ09-HqkX9ikqR\\_ySjMICdkQwTSOMhoB7RdKM-B](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/482134526?pwd=VC8xYmcyY2VRZFduOUU1Vc2xqYUhhVzZ09-HqkX9ikqR_ySjMICdkQwTSOMhoB7RdKM-B)

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/482134526?pwd=VC8xYmcyY2VRZFduOUU1Vc2xqYUhhVzZ09>

Meeting ID: 482 134 526  
 Password: 621885  
 One tap mobile  
 +13126266799,,482134526#,,1#,621885# US (Chicago)

:

**ITS A ROTARY THING!**



**NOTABLE ROTARIANS**



**Luciano Pavarotti**  
Operatic Tenor  
Rotary Club of Modena

Pavarotti was an operatic tenor, world famous both in his own right and as part of the acclaimed Three Tenors.

He was a humanitarian who gave many huge concerts for charity, aid and relief for disasters.

**ROTARY MINUTE VIDEO**

Binish Desai began working on an eco-friendly brick made out of recycling and waste when he was 11 years old.

The former Rotary Youth Exchange student, inventor, and entrepreneur credits Rotary with giving him the support to pursue his dreams.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tlwvVzXcnpk>

◆ Rotary has been running in my veins ever since I was born, ◆ he says. His grandfather was an honorary Rotarian, and since 1994 his father has been a member of the Rotary Club of Valsad, the same club Desai joined in 2015.

As ever, he has grand ambitions. ◆ It's easy to become a Rotary member, but it's very difficult to become a Rotarian, ◆ he says. ◆ I wanted to be a Rotarian. ◆

**Event Calendar**



~ ~ ~ ~ ~ DETAILS FOR ALL EVENTS ARE LOCATED WITHIN THE BULLETIN ~ ~ ~ ~ ~

<p><b>Now through MAY 21st</b></p>	<p>GOC Invitation to visit their new location. Details and sign up sheet in bulletin</p> <p><a href="https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Fuda3wJv-KniJhPHF2Y6Ky6HJw_IL4N16XedzyRHPwc/edit?ts=60490ed4#gid=0">https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Fuda3wJv-KniJhPHF2Y6Ky6HJw_IL4N16XedzyRHPwc/edit?ts=60490ed4#gid=0</a></p>	<p><a href="mailto:buell.brett@gmail.com">buell.brett@gmail.com</a></p>
<p><b>Ongoing First Monday</b></p>	<p>GRACE MARKETPLACE volunteer orientation sign up .</p>	<p><a href="https://gm.volunteermatrix.com/">https://gm.volunteermatrix.com/</a></p>
<p><b>April 30 1 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Rotary - Diversity, Equity &amp; Inclusion seminar Celebrate Diversity</b></p>	<p><a href="https://www.rizones33-34.org/infinite-possibilities/">https://www.rizones33-34.org/infinite-possibilities/</a></p>



**Carl Smart**  
Club Director



**Perry Pursell**  
Sergeant-at-Arms



**Jim Jimbo E. Skiles III**  
Speaker Chair



**Chessie Flanders**  
Past President



**Mary Kate Walker**  
Assistant Governor

**Birthdays**

- John Henry Anderson  
April 30th
- Matt Bowman  
May 1st
- Jennifer Watson-Reddish  
May 1st
- Megan Olson  
May 9th
- Ray Snook  
May 11th
- Rebecca W. Hunt  
May 13th

<b>MAY 24 - 28th</b> <b>ONLINE</b>	CONNIE ROWE Rotary Auction	Perry Pursell p2venture@aol.com
<b>ONGOING</b> <b>Tues, Thurs</b> <b>and Sat. 11</b> <b>am-4 pm</b>	Donations to Grace Marketplace	

### Speaker Coordinator Schedule

#### APRIL SPEAKERS:

- April 7 Jamar Hebert, 100 Black Men of Greater Gainesville
- April 14 Brittany Coleman, Sexual Assault Awareness
- April 21 Harold Theus, Fire Chief; Community Paramedic Programs
- April 28 Dr. Paul Ortiz, African-American history in Florida

Please be sure to let Jim Skiles know of your speakers as soon as you schedule them.  
 \*\*\*If you are the speaker coordinator, please send your speaker the Zoom link for our meeting.  
 It is recurring weekly to make it easy.

Coordinator	Jim Skiles	352-538-0293	
April	Carl Smart		
May	Robar/Skiles		
June	Stepanie Esposito		
JULY	Bob Taylor		
August	Matt Bowman		
September	Perry Pursell		
October	Brett Buell		
November	Becky Hunt		
December	Al Losch		

Jim Skiles is the Chief Speaker Coordinator- please have all speaker submissions in to Jim and social media chair Stephanie Esposito as soon as you have confirmation .

Jim's email: - jimskiles3@gmail.com  
 Stephanie's email: Stephanie\_Esposito@mbhci.org

### SILENT AUCTION!

By Perry Pursell

## ONLINE AUCTION

### MAY 24 - 28TH

!!!!

**WWW.DOWNTOWNGAINESVILLEROTARY.ORG**

Connie Rowe Rotary Club of  
Downtown Gainesville

**SILENT AUCTION**

**MAY 2020**



LET'S HAVE SOME FUN!

GET READY, CLUB MEMBERS. THIS YEAR, WE WILL BE HAVING OUR ANNUAL AUCTION...ONLINE!

TO MAKE IT FUN AND INTERESTING, WE NEED ALL KINDS OF ITEMS ... AND WE NEED *EVERYONE* TO CONTRIBUTE!! GIFT CERTIFICATES, GIFT BASKETS, IGUANAS, NEW CAR (THANKS, JIMBO), ART WORK, LEFTOVER TIMESHARES, etc.

....

Nothing's too big! Nothing's too small!! Not sure of what to donate and would like some ideas?!?! Contact us at the email below and we will help you get some creative juices flowing!

Feel free to reach out with any questions.

LET'S ALL MAKE THIS AUCTION A SUCCESS!

YOU KNOW WHAT WE HAVE HAD IN THE PAST, SO PLEASE JOIN IN AND DONATE AN ITEM...OR TWO.

Now that you have your item ready:

What do you do????

- snap a photo of it
- write a brief description
- indicate retail value
- provide the minimum to bid (if necessary)
- email it to Perry Pursell and his super assistant Shasta!

Please use the email below for any questions!!

[p2venture@aol.com](mailto:p2venture@aol.com)

[shasta@mmparrish.com](mailto:shasta@mmparrish.com)

[DONATE ITEM AND/OR ASK A QUESTION](#)

**DID YOU SEE THIS?**

**Are you ready to show off your Rotary pride on your vehicle?**

**The NEW Florida Rotary Tag is AVAILABLE for Pre-Order Online!**



After seven years of hard work by Rotary District Leaders across the state of Florida, in September 2020, a long-awaited bill that effectively created a new Florida specialty license plate featuring the Rotary logo was signed.

The new tag will help fund Rotary Youth Programs across all Florida Rotary Districts and it is already available for pre-purchase. Click on the link bar below to buy your tag voucher online or visit your local tag agency in-person to purchase it directly through them throughout this state of Florida.

We need to sell a minimum of 3,000 pre-sale vouchers for production.

For information about these tags, please use THIS link :

<http://floridarotarytag.com/>

**COME SEE OUR NEW PLACE!**

By Brett Buell

**GAINESVILLE OPPORTUNITY CENTER INVITATION!**



Hi everyone,

As many of you know, the GOC moved into a new building last year. Due to COVID, it has been difficult to have visitors. We would like to invite you to come see us. We all wear masks, and social distance. We check everyone's temperatures when they come to the door.

If you would like to come visit from 10:30-2pm M-F, please fill your name in on the sheet. If you have technical difficulties, shoot me an email and I will add you. We are located at 1210 NW 14th Ave, and my cell phone # is 352-872-3232.

There are so many people from different walks of life who need support to help get their voices heard. Thank you for supporting the GOC by understanding what we are doing and why it matters.

Brett

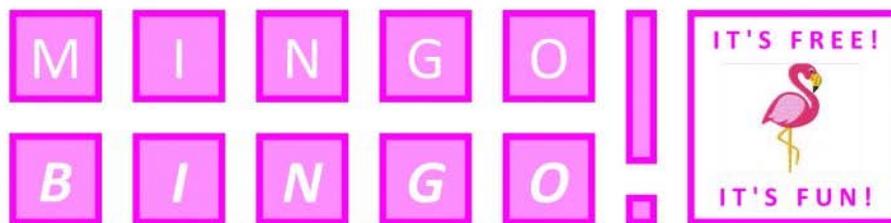
Please use the following link to sign up

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Fuda3wjv-KniJhPHF2Y6Ky6HJw\\_IL4N16XedzyRHPwc/edit?ts=6085da37#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Fuda3wjv-KniJhPHF2Y6Ky6HJw_IL4N16XedzyRHPwc/edit?ts=6085da37#gid=0)

Here is a schedule of available days/times.

	10:30: AM	11:30 AM	12:00 PM	12:30 PM	1:30 PM	2:00 PM	
Mon 4/26							
Tue 4/27							
Wed 4/28							
Thu 4/29							
Fri 4/30							
Mon May 3							
Tue May 4							
Wed May 5							
Thu May 6							
Fri May 7							
Mon May 10							
Tue May 11							
Wed May 12							
Thu May 13							
Fri May 14							
Mon May 17							
Tue May 18							

**MINGO BINGO!!!**



**What is Mingo Bingo?**

**A New Twist on an Old Idea To Encourage Rotarians To Become More Engaged!**

**Who Can Participate?**

**Mingo Bingo is for All Rotarians in District 6970!**

**How Does it Work?**

**Participate in Rotary and Earn Points! Track Your Score on the Mingo Bingo Card!**

**Is There a Cost?**

**Just Like the Center Square on the Score Card, Mingo Bingo Is Free!**

**What's in it for Me?**

**Obviously Fame And Admiration Throughout the Rotary World... But if That Isn't Enough: All Rotarians Who Earn at Least 25 Points will Receive a Rotary Mingo Pin to Wear on a Snazzy New Mingo Polo! The Free Space is Worth 3 Points so Everyone is off to a Good Start!**

**Top Points Earners Eligible for a Random Drawing for Great Prizes:**

**\$500 + 1,000 Paul Harris Fellowship Points**

**\$250 + 500 Paul Harris Fellowship Points**

**\$100 + 250 Paul Harris Fellowship Points**

**This Sounds Awesome! How Do I Register?!**

**No Registration Required! Complete as Many Tasks as You Can & Keep Track with the Mingo Bingo Scorecard. Finished? Review Progress with Your President, an Assistant Governor or any Club Officer, and then Submit to [districtawards@rotary6970.org](mailto:districtawards@rotary6970.org) before May 15, 2021.**

**It's that simple!! Refer To Our Website for Updates! [www.rotarydistrict6970.org](http://www.rotarydistrict6970.org)**

M	I	N	G	O
1 POINT EACH!	1 POINT EACH!	1 POINT EACH!	2 POINTS EACH!	2 POINTS EACH!
INVITE A VISITOR TO ROTARY	POST SERVICE ACTIVITY TO FACEBOOK PAGE	WATCH VIDEO OF VIBRANT CLUB SEMINAR	ATTEND VIBRANT CLUB SEMINAR 10/24/2020	SPONSOR A NEW MEMBER
SERVE AT CLUB LEVEL IN LEADERSHIP	ATTEND OR WATCH INFINITE POSSIBILITY SESSION	TAKE A MEMBER YOU DON'T KNOW OUT	BE A PAUL HARRIS SUSTAINING MEMBER	SERVE AT DISTRICT LEVEL IN LEADERSHIP
WATCH OR ATTEND A ROTARY WORKS SESSION	PARTICIPATE IN A ROTARY SERVICE PROJECT	<b>FREE</b> <b>3</b> <b>MINGO</b>	BE A PAUL HARRIS SOCIETY MEMBER	BENEFACTOR OR REQUEST SOCIETY MEMBER
HELP WITH EARLYACT, INTERACT OR ROTARACT	PARTICIPATE IN A ROTARY FUNDRAISER	MENTOR A NEW MEMBER OR ROTARACTOR	COMPLETE A ROTARY.ORG TRAINING MODULE OR ATTEND PETS	ATTEND DISTRICT TRAINING ASSEMBLY
ATTEND ANOTHER ROTARY CLUB'S MEETING	ATTEND ROTARY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE	ATTEND ANOTHER ROTARY CLUB'S EVENT	CHAIR OR CO-CHAIR FUNDRAISER OR SERVICE PROJECT	REGISTER FOR ROTARY INT'L CONVENTION

INQUIRE: DDISTRICT6970WARDS@ROTARY6970.ORG

To get your own MINGO BINGO card, click on this link

<https://rotarydistrict6970.org/mingo-bingo/>

Watching one of the videos from the VIBRANT CLUB seminar or from the District Training event is an easy way to gain some MINGO BINGO points. Not to mention that you may learn something interesting! :)

VIBRANT CLUB : [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCva7kUSS\\_50FbhiZxwFbuGA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCva7kUSS_50FbhiZxwFbuGA) ((scroll to the right to access the Vibrant Club links))

DISTRICT TRAINING: <https://rotarydistrict6970.org/district-training-assembly-2020/>

Also, these links will take you to MINGO BINGO seminar points:

Rotary Works <https://www.rizones33-34.org/rotary-works/>

Infinite Possibilities <https://www.rizones33-34.org/infinite-possibilities/>

### Club Member Recognition

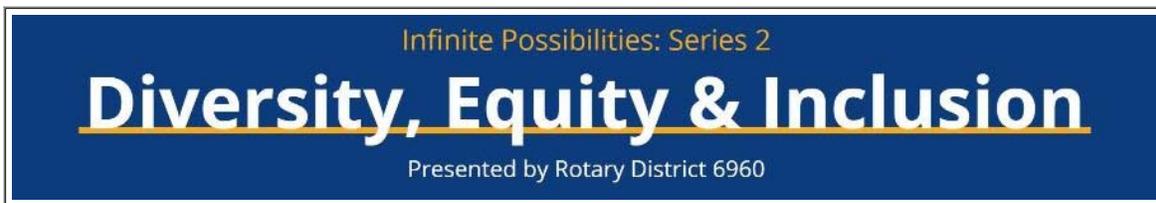


CONGRATS to Downtown club member Marina for being part of the Santa Fe College International Studies and Education team which was recently awarded the 2021 Senator Paul Simon Award for Comprehensive Internationalization. Santa Fe was one of only 8 colleges and universities in the United States to be recognized for its work on international Education. Even more impressive, Santa Fe is the first community college in Florida to be selected for this prestigious award. Great job, Marina, to have contributed to the success of this department!

## FINAL SESSION: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion seminar

Shared by District 6960

use this link to register: <https://www.rizones33-34.org/infinite-possibilities/>



[Register NOW](#) for the first session, **Strength in Diversity**, with a very special host, **Valarie Wafer, Rotary International Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Task Force Chair**, who will lead an esteemed group of panelists through discussions on how strength lies in differences, not similarities. Joining Valerie are Joshua Innis, Paul Amoury and Rea Vrandecic.

As we bring major Rotary International speakers to the forefront, we have every confidence you will find each one-hour webinar well worth your time and attention. The following is our series schedule:

[Register NOW](#) for **Infinite Possibilities** ♦ **Strength In Diversity**,

**April 30, 2021** ♦ **Celebrate Diversity**, with special guest speakers **Rotary International President Holger Knack, Rotary International Director Peter Kyle and Anna Ekbeck**.

- [Register NOW](#) for **Infinite Possibilities** ♦ **Celebrate Diversity**, 1:00 pm EDT April 30, 2021 for **Infinite Possibilities - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion**

We look forward to seeing you there!

**USE THIS LINK TO REGISTER FOR THESE WEBINARS:** <https://www.rizones33-34.org/infinite-possibilities/>

**Darryl Keys**  
Governor, District 6960

**Cyndi Doragh**  
Chair, Infinite Possibilities



## UPDATING YOUR CLUB INFORMATION

### UPDATING MEMBER PROFILE:

**Billy Brame** recently shared with the club about his experience when checking his club/personal information on our District membership platform. We used to use ClubRunner for club administration. Now we are with DACDB (District and Club DataBase).

When we moved our records from Clubrunner to DAC, some club member information apparently did not transfer over. **Billy** found a few areas in his club member file that needed updating and tweaking. He generously drew up a ♦how to♦ document to help you navigate the site and check your information. It is not not hard to do, especially with his very clear directions.

It is up to each club member to personally take a few minutes and verify/update their information as you are the only ones who can do so. Here is the link to Billy's "how to" information. ((BIG thanks to Billy for taking the time to compose and share with club members!!))

[https://dacdb.com/Rotary/Accounts/6970/Club/27554/Instructions%20on%20updating%20your%20Member%20Profile%20\(1\)\(1\).docx](https://dacdb.com/Rotary/Accounts/6970/Club/27554/Instructions%20on%20updating%20your%20Member%20Profile%20(1)(1).docx)

## GRACE MARKETPLACE VOLUNTEERS

By Cheryl Poe

Downtown Gainesville Rotarians have generously given their time to volunteer at the Grace Marketplace Clothes Closet over the past several years. Due to the pandemic, we have not been able to help for the past year...but that's about to change and we will once again be able to volunteer with them.

Grace Marketplace now requires all volunteers to participate in a volunteer orientation before they help at Grace. These online orientations will be offered on the first Monday of each month, 6 - 7 pm.

The next orientation is MAY 3rd.

Here is the link to sign up for the orientation:

<https://gm.volunteermatrix.com/>

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

**Always great to volunteer with fellow Rotarians! Megan Olson** needed some help at the **Culver's** booth to hand out ice cream at the recent Food Festival at Celebration Point.... lots of people, lots of fun!

**Megan and Scoopie**



**BIG THANKS to Becky Hunt and Rogers Rotary Scholarship House residents Chloe, Brittani and Bernadine for coming out to help!!**



**Megan, Bob and Diane ... served up the last bit of ice cream by 3 pm!**



**CONGRATULATIONS TO MATT, DAVID AND CARL !!!**

**100 Black Men of Greater Florida Gainesville induct founding chapter members**



Calls for change in black communities in our area have been marked by events like protests and workshops meant to educate people. Matt Bowman and Jamar Hebert heard that call and turned it into action by cofounding the Gainesville chapter of the 100 Black Men organization. The intent of the group is to provide collaboration and mentorship that will uplift young black men in the community.

On March 27, 2021, thirty six African-American men from all walks of life were inducted as founding chapter members of 100 Black Men of Greater Florida, Gainesville.

◆It is mentoring, it is economic empowerment, it is being visible in the community, ◆ said Vice President of the group, Matt Bowman. ◆And we◆re not trying to reinvent the wheel. Gainesville is a great community and we◆re going to work to help make it better.◆

**Congratulations to Matt, David and Carl for being among the first inductees into this innovative, exciting and life altering group!!**



## SANTA FE RIVER CLEANUP

The Rotary theme for March is Clean Water...so of course Rotarians are going to want to do their part to help !

On Saturday, March 27th, several Rotarians participated in the Santa Fe River CleanUp. THANKS to Jimbo, Marina, Marta, Brett, Diane and Bob for their help in this service project. Thanks also to GOC members Amber and Amanda and Jimbo's friend, Jim.

No one fell out of their canoe, lots of trash got picked up and it was a GREAT day!...

Jimbo Skiles, Diane Robar, Marina Jordan, Marta Hartman and Jimbo's friend, Jim, all decked out and ready to clean up some Santa Fe River



Jimbo and Jim paddling off into the wilds



Brett and Amber heading out to find some trash in the river



Brett, Amber and Ashley getting ready to do their part in the River Cleanup



**Our fearless, intrepid explorer Jimbo!**



??????

### **ROADSIDE CLEANUP**

**BIG THANK YOU** to the members of the Downtown Rotary Club (Megan Olson, Ed Emery, Ed Book and Brett Buell), Gainesville Opportunity Center and Santa Fe Rotaract Club for volunteering to clean up "OUR" stretch of road on Saturday, March 13th . Sure do appreciate you all coming out on a Saturday morning to help beautify our city!





### BOCCE MARCH 13th

The first annual BOCCE BALL championship was held on Saturday, March 13th. Congrats to first place winner Greater Gainesville club !



**THE COVETED BOCCIE CHAMPION AWARD**



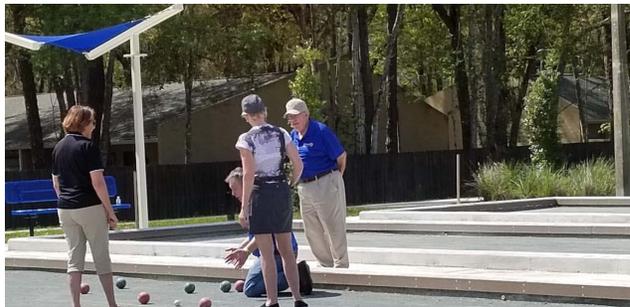
Cheryl, Rob and Brett showing off their Certificate of Participation



Never too young to learn how to play BOCCE! Megan and Ed sharing helpful hints to Megan's daughters.



Ed , Diane and Becky with some of the students currently living in the Rogers Rotary Southern Scholarship House. Bernadine, Chloe and Ariel had never played Bocce ball before but were pretty good at it by the time they left.



Diane, Dana (Greater Gainesville club) and Rob watch while Brett carefully determines who is going to get the points.



Everybody having fun!

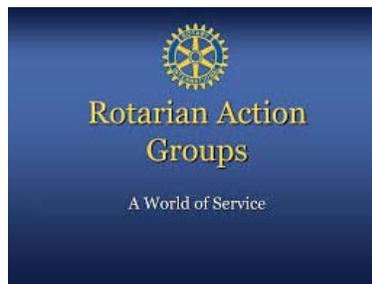


Master Bocce-ers Rob and Ed do their thing



Greater Gainesville members Donny and Dana came out to show their prowess in bocce ball!

## Rotarian Action Group



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1M\\_IIIY6bIq](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1M_IIIY6bIq)

### What are Rotarian Action Groups?

#### Rotary Action Groups support causes around the globe

Rotarian Action Groups help Rotary clubs and districts plan and carry out community development and humanitarian service projects in their area of expertise. The groups are organized by Rotarians and Rotaractors who are proficient, and have a passion for service, in a particular field.

Each group functions independently of Rotary International establishing its own rules, dues requirements, and administrative structure. Membership is open to Rotarians, their family members as well as participants and alumni of all Rotary and Foundation programs

By joining a Rotarian Action Group, you can engage in meaningful service activities outside our own club, district, or country.

For more information, see <https://my.rotary.org/en/take-action/empower-leaders/rotary-action-groups>

Here is a list of the categories of current Rotarian Action Groups:

**AIDS and Family Health** [www.rfha.org](http://www.rfha.org) **Alzheimer's and Dementia** <http://adrag.org/>  
**Blindness Prevention** <http://www.rag4bp.org>  
**Blood Donation** <http://ourblooddrive.org/>  
**Clubfoot** [www.rag4clubfoot.org](http://www.rag4clubfoot.org)  
**Dentistry** <http://www.ragdvt.com>  
**Diabetes** <http://www.ragdiabetes.org>  
**Disaster Assistance** [www.dna-rag.com](http://www.dna-rag.com)  
**Endangered Species** <http://www.endangeredrag.org>

**Environmental Sustainability** <http://www.esrag.org>  
**Food Plant Solutions** <http://foodplantsolutions.org>  
**Health Education and Wellness** [www.hewrag.org](http://www.hewrag.org)  
**Hearing** <http://www.ifrahl.org>  
**Hunger and Malnutrition** <http://www.alleviatehunger.org>  
**Literacy** <http://www.litrag.org>  
**Malaria** <http://www.remarag.org>  
**Mental Health** <http://ragonmentalhealth.org>  
**Microfinance and Community Development** <http://ragm.org>  
**Multiple sclerosis** <http://rotary-ragmsa.org>  
**Peace** <http://www.rotarianactiongroupforpeace.org>  
**Polio Survivors and Associates** <http://www.rotarypoliosurvivors.com>  
**Population and Development** <http://www.rifpd.org>  
**Preconception Care** <http://www.raghphc.org>  
**Slavery** <http://ragas.online>  
**Water and Sanitation** [www.wasrag.org](http://www.wasrag.org)

**How about YOU?**



Have YOU submitted your MEMBER MOMENT yet? We have had a great response from several members to this request but there are still a few we have not heard from.

In these days of COVID restrictions, we really have missed being able to socialize with one another.

The MEMBER MOMENT is just a quick way to keep fellowship going it's a way to let other members know a bit more about you, just like they would if they were sitting across from you at Paramount Grill.

It will only take a quick minute to complete the following questions and send them back to Stephanie at

[Stephanie\\_Esposito@mbhci.org](mailto:Stephanie_Esposito@mbhci.org)

Here are the questions:

- Your profession.
- ◆ Years in Rotary.
- ◆ Why Rotary.
- ◆ What people may not know about you.
- ◆ A fun photo

And that's it! Again, please return your answers to Stephanie, as she is our talented techie who will transform your answers into a dazzling Member Moment.

**GRACE NEEDS LIST**

By Cheryl Poe  
Yes, It's OFFICIAL.

GRACE MARKETPLACE is now taking donations at the front gate.

Donations will only be accepted on **Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays between 11am - 4 pm**. Our truck will be parked outside of our gate during these times. You can place your items right on the truck and get a receipt from staff. Send us a message if you have any questions!

## GRACE *needs list*

**We don't need:**

- Clothing with stains or holes
- Used or open toiletries
- Electronics not in working condition
- Food containers without lids
- Prepared food
- Children's items

**We regularly need:**

- Blankets
- Jackets
- Reading Glasses
- Ink Pens
- Deodorant
- Mouthwash
- Razors
- Pillows
- Washcloths
- Bar Soap
- Tampons & Pads
- Shaving Cream
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Toothpaste & Toothbrushes
- Bug Spray
- Sunscreen
- Pet Water Bowls
- Dog Leashes
- Dog Collars
- Sheet Sets
- Towels
- New or Gently Used Shoes & Clothing
- Furniture

**TRIVIA FUND**



Aside from not being able to enjoy fellowship with our fellow Rotarians each week, another repercussion of having to meet virtually is that our Trivia fund, sadly, has no means by which to be replenished. Trivia serves two purposes for our club. First, it is an enjoyable part of each meeting as we either learn something new or, even better, we know the answers and are able to add more points to our final score. But even more importantly, Trivia enables our club to give back to the community, via charitable donations made by the club members who have scored the highest number of Trivia points at the end of the Rotary year.

If you would be interested in helping this tradition to continue, please continue to the Survey Monkey link below. In the Survey, you will be asked to indicate how much you would like to donate. Since we do not have meals being charged to our invoices, it may be an opportune time to consider reallocating some of those monies to this effort.

THE DONATION AMOUNT YOU CHOOSE WILL BE BILLED TO YOUR QUARTERLY CLUB INVOICE IT IS NOT A WEEKLY DONATION AMOUNT. (ie, if you select \$25, you will see only one \$25 charge on your next Rotary invoice). This donation will continue for subsequent billing cycles, unless and until we are able to return to in person meetings or you notify Billy Combs you wish to discontinue the donation. (A donation of \$25 would be the equivalent of dropping around \$2.00 in the kitty each week.)

Thanks!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BQNGFXP>

## WE ARE



### Our District

**We are 63 clubs, two satellite clubs, 15 Rotaract clubs and 44 Interact clubs strong, serving 31 Northeast Florida communities in 12 counties with over 3,300 men and women. Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.**

**ESTABLISHED 1915**

## MEMBER MOMENT



### MEMBER MOMENT

## BOB ROBAR

Profession: Semi-retired Travel Agent

Years in Rotary: 29

**Why Rotary?** I have always felt very blessed in life and felt a strong need to give back somehow. I served our club as President in 2000-2001 and have attended 10 Rotary International Conventions.

What you might not know about Bob - Being a Military Brat, I attended 10 elementary and 4 high schools. One of the two I went to in Italy was in an Italian girls school, but that's another story! I worked for 25 years with Eastern Air Lines in Miami, Roanoke, Sarasota and Gainesville. I was Chief Agent here when Eastern suddenly declared bankruptcy in 1991.

But I hit the ground running, starting two travel agencies, one of which was chosen by Florida Trend Magazine as one of the two best Florida Travel Agencies. I married Diane 8 years ago and we have traveled to 15 different countries together ranging from Hungary to New Zealand.

## MEMBER MOMENT



## MEMBER MOMENT

# RAY SNOOK

Profession: General Manager at Gainesville Raceway for Centerplate, an international food & beverage management company.

Years in Rotary: Members since April 2012

Why Rotary? Rotary has provided an opportunity give back to the community and to participate in international projects. I enjoy the club speakers and member fellowship.

What you might not know about Ray - In my 30 year career I have worked a wide range of events, a nine week season at Saratoga Race Course , hematology convention in Miami, Ozfest in Wisconsin, and Belmont Stakes. Other diverse events include World Cup, Frank Sinatra, Grateful Dead, Hank Williams Jr, and Sesame Street. Each event is a learning experience and has made for an interesting career.

## OCT 21 MEMBER MINUTE



## MEMBER MOMENT

# JIM SKILES

Profession: "Graduated" from being an Independent Insurance agent 5 years ago.

Years in Rotary: 22 years

Why Rotary? My granddad, Dad and lifetime mentor Howard Hall all were men that demonstrated giving back to the community. Rotary offered the best combination of service to others and networking with other business leaders. Howard was my sponsor and Ben & Connie Rowe were already friends so the new Downtown Club where my office was located was a natural fit.

What you might not know about Jim - Following graduation from UF and a couple years of work as the Youth Director for First Baptist Church Gainesville, Sharon and I were married and were headed to Southern Seminary in Louisville, KY for my Masters degree. At the last moment, we decided to stay in Gainesville to help build and manage Sensation Basin Skateboard Park and Sharon began her teaching career. Interesting to note, Ben & Connie's 3 boys were in my youth group at FBC and Howard Hall insured the Skateboard Park. Hmm, see the path?

## MEMBER MOMENT Megan Forbes



## MEMBER MOMENT

# MEGAN FORBES

Profession: Director of the University of Florida English Language Institute (ELI)

Years in Rotary: Rotarian since January 2001, Rotary GSE Team member 1999-2000.

Why Rotary? Rotary provides an opportunity for service and fellowship in our local community, while also being engaged in the international efforts of Rotary and the Rotary Foundation. Plus, our Club rocks!

What you might not know about Megan -I'm a Foreign Service Kid. Prior to moving to the US to attend university, I grew up in Jamaica, the Yemen Arab Republic, Bangladesh, and Pakistan.

The picture: This picture was taken at the end of the Celebration Half Marathon in January. Little did I know it was the last race I'd be running this year, thanks to COVID. Small things we took for granted...

## BRENDA CHAMBERLAIN MEMBER MINUTE



MEMBER MOMENT

# BRENDA CHAMBERLAIN

Profession: I am a database admin and community advocate for the homeless. I work for United Way of North Central Florida and I have been doing my current job for 6 years, though not all of those years were with United Way.

Years in Rotary: I have been in Rotary for 3 years doing various roles from sergeant at arms up to currently the president elect for the next rotary year.

Why Rotary? Rotary is all about service to others and that is my passion.

What you might not know about Brenda - What people may not know about me is that I was born in Japan and I spoke more Japanese then English up to the age of 3. My father was in the Navy for 23 years and to this day if you ask me where I'm from I'll tell you the Navy due to all the moving around.

## Member Minute Jennifer Watson Reddish

Here's the Member Minute featuring our club secretary, Jennifer



MEMBER MOMENT

# JENNIFER WATSON REDDISH

Profession: Branch Vice President, VyStar Credit Union

Years in Rotary: 2 years

Why Rotary? As a member of Rotary, you have the opportunity to build relationships and meet new people. I love what Rotary works to accomplish not only in our communities, but across the globe... making a difference everywhere.

What you might not know about Jennifer - I played tennis in high school! A little rusty now, but always up for a good match!

## Becky Hunt Member Moment

Becky has been a Rotarian for 24 years!



MEMBER MOMENT

# BECKY HUNT

Profession: Following 30 years in the hospitality field a year and a half ago began a new career a Development Officer at Southern Scholarship Foundation.

Years in Rotary: 24 years

Why Rotary? Rotary project to eradicate polio. A friend in elementary school here in Gainesville died of polio. The Four Way Test was an excellent guide for me as a professional business woman.

What you might not know about Becky is...Bet you didn't know I was an accomplished actress-I've performed as a California Raisin, Village People Police Officer and Cyndi Lauer, as well as screen time in a major motion picture.

## CARL SMART MEMBER MINUTE



**MEMBER MOMENT**  
**CARL SMART**

Profession: Assistant County Manager, Public Safety and Community Services

Years in Rotary: 2.5 years

Why Rotary? Rotary is a great organization for providing assistance to the many persons in our community.

What you might not know about Carl is...I am a minister at my church, Mount Zion AME Church in Hawthorne.

**Joe Jr Member moment**



**MEMBER MOMENT**  
**JOE LOWRY**

**THIS PHOTO IS OF HIM LEAPING INTO 40' SKY DIVING!**

Profession: Managing Partner of Lowry Financial Advisors

Years in Rotary: Since December 2004

Why Rotary? I belong to Rotary because I love regular people coming together to do good in their community and the world. We benefit from connections with those of different backgrounds and Rotary can help bring people together.

What you might not know about Joe is...I served as a Spanish-speaking mission of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in San Diego and Imperial County, CA for two years (1998-2000).

**Billy Brame Member Moment**

**Honoring Billy Brame in our Member Moment as the member of our club with the longest history of Rotary service....44 years, as a matter of fact! THANKS, BILLY, for your dedication to Rotary!**



**MEMBER MOMENT**  
**BILLY BRAME**

Profession: Architect... I am in my fifth year of retirement after having a 42 year career at my old firm, Brame Heck Architects. The firm is still active after 109 years here in Gainesville.

Years in Rotary: 44 yrs... joined the Greater Gainesville Rotary Club in 1976.

Why Rotary? I feel privileged to be part of an organization dedicated to Service throughout the world.

What you might not know about Billy is...Every Saturday and Sunday for over 16 years I join three of my neighbors for a walk ranging from 6 to 10 miles. Equal parts physical and social. (Also love to hike in the mountains.)

**Member Moment**

**Fellow Downtown Rotarians, meet your newest club member, Stephanie! She had been a member for a short time a few years ago; however, her work schedule at that time prevented her from being able to fully commit to the club. We are delighted to have her back with us!!**



Rotary  Rotary Opens Opportunities

#### MEMBER MOMENT

### STEPHANIE ESPOSITO

Profession: Director of Advancement,  
Meridian Behavioral Healthcare

Years in Rotary: New Member!

Why Rotary? She is passionate about giving back to the community and that this club focuses on the springs - Stephanie is an avid scuba diver in our local springs.

What you might not know about Stephanie is...she has also signed up to be a mentor this year with Take Stock in Children. Hopefully this still happens even with the pandemic (all up in the air)! She is also terrified of tree frogs.

## Club Information

**Rotary Club of Downtown Gainesville, Florida #27544 chartered September 18, 1990**  
**Charter President J. Ben Rowe**  
**Our in person meetings are temporarily (we hope!) suspended..**  
**Please join us Virtually on Wednesday's at Noon - See ZOOM link information in bulletin**  
**Club Website: <https://downtowngainesvillerotary.org/>**

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