

Club Meeting

Downtown
Gainesville
Meets at Hilton UF
Conference Center
1714 SW 34th
Street
Gainesville, FL
32607
Time: Wednesday
at 12:00 PM

Club Leaders



**Brett
Buell**
President



**Diane
Marie
Robar**
President-Elect
Vice
President



**William S.
Combs**
Treasurer



**Leslie W.
Wooten**
Secretary



**Michael
Ekbladh**
Sergeant-at-Arms



**Stephanie
Esposito**
IPast
President



**Shelby
Bobbett**
Club
Director



**Marta M.
Hartmann**
Club
Director



**Megan
Olson**
Club
Director



**Jim
"Jimbo"
E. Skiles
III**
Club
Director
Speaker
Chair

Welcome

Welcome to the Rotary Club of Downtown Gainesville



Rotary theme for April



Four Way Test



April 16th speaker

By Marta M Hartmann



Ellen Siegel The Climate Leadership Engagement Opportunities Institute

Presentation: **Climate Action and the Four Way Test.**

A Miami investment manager for over 30 years, Ellen sold her firm and her home and moved to Gainesville, Florida, where she now studies climate science at the University of Florida and trains climate speakers in the science, seriousness and solutions to the current climate crisis.

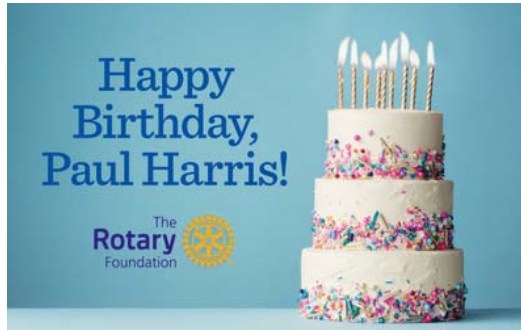
With a BA in Education from the University of Pennsylvania and an MA in Social Psychology from Goddard College, Ellen is here representing The CLEO Institute, Florida's leading climate literacy and advocacy non-partisan non-profit organization.

She created and facilitates Climate Conversations for the University of Miami's and University of Florida's Lifelong Learning Institutes. Her passion is to amplify the message: warming is real, it's bad, together we can fix it!

april birthdays

Our club does not have any members with April birthdays.

However, there is a very important Rotarian who WAS born in this month



April 19th marks the 157th anniversary of the birth of **Paul Harris, the founder of Rotary**. Born in Racine, WI, in 1868, he moved to Vermont at age three to live with his paternal grandparents. He attended college at Princeton University and received a law degree from the University of Iowa in 1891, but did not practice his profession right away, instead working a series of odd jobs.

In 1896 Harris opened a law office in Chicago's main business district. There, he began to consider the benefits of forming a social organization for local professionals. He found he was able to make "acquaintances, but not real friends" and wondered if others in the city had the same thoughts and if they, too, were searching for fellowship.

Inviting three clients and local businessmen to join him, Harris organized the first Rotary club meeting "in fellowship and friendship" on Feb. 23, 1905. "I laid before them a very simple plan of mutual cooperation and informal friendship," he later said. "They agreed to my plan." The name Rotary was chosen because meeting sites were to be rotated among the members' offices. The date of that first meeting would later be designated World Understanding and Peace Day.

Although their initial goal was to engage socially, Harris soon realized that Rotary members needed a greater purpose. The original club Constitution of 1906 had three objects: promotion of business interests, promotion of good fellowship and advancement of the best interests of the community. This third object – bettering community interests – would in time become the Rotary creed of "Service Above Self."

From its humble beginnings, the Rotary idea steadily grew. By 1910 there were 16 clubs creating an organization called the National Association of Rotary Clubs. Fittingly enough, Paul Harris was selected as its first president and served two years. The movement soon spread beyond the U.S. Today – as Rotary International – it reigns as one of the largest service organizations in the world, with over 46,000 clubs and a global membership of nearly 1.4 million men and women.

In 1947, upon the death of Paul Harris, memorial gifts poured into the nonprofit Rotary Foundation in his honor. To cement the founder's legacy, in 1957 the concept of Paul Harris Fellow recognition was proposed for Foundation contributors. Those making a \$1,000 donation – either once or multiple times – are designated Paul Harris Fellows and receive a distinctive medallion, lapel pin and attractive certificate signifying their financial commitment for Rotary International's peace, education and humanitarian work. Currently there are over 1,500,000 Paul Harris Fellows worldwide.



Another important April date



End Polio Now

APRIL 14 On 12 April 1955, history was made when Dr. Jonas Salk announced the successful testing of his experimental polio vaccine. That same day, the vaccine would be licensed, and we know it today as the inactivated polio vaccine (IPV).

In 1955, more than 10 million children received one or more injections of the Salk vaccine. Within one year, polio cases and deaths in the US had been nearly halved, a trend that continued and made a vision of polio-free world a possibility.

Learn more about this remarkable achievement from someone who was there for Jonas Salk's historic achievement, Dr. Peter L. Salk: <https://endpol.io/3G10WjF>



LUNCH link



The Rotary Club of Downtown Gainesville has officially moved to our new meeting space - the Hilton UF Conference Center, located at 1714 SW 34th Street. Most of our meetings will be held in the Shula's private dining room.

HOWEVER , occasionally Hilton may move us to a different meeting space due to previous bookings and scheduling of the Shula dining room. This will be the case for us for the rest of April.

Please make note of the (temporary) changes for our April meetings :

April 16th - LIVE OAK meeting room. This is located in the conference center of the hotel (south wing), which is to the left of the space we met in last week. There will be signage posted in the hallway.

April 23rd - LIVE OAK

April 30th - the entire hotel is booked for a conference and we will meet at **Dockside** again.

Lunch are buffet style, and in order for Hilton to prepare the right amount of food for our group each week, they've asked us to send them a headcount by 9 AM every Tuesday morning.

Please click the lunch link below and let us know whether you'll be attending this week's meeting or not. If you're bringing a guest, please include their name(s).

We really need everyone to respond on time so everything runs smoothly—thank you!
And you don't have to wait until Tuesday to submit your link... earlier responses are better!

Lunch link: <https://forms.gle/F1uYD8GB8ZrAv33k8>

See you Wednesday!

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY this Saturday/19th



OUR CLUB CAN DO ITS PART TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP !

From Brett:

You are invited to our next road cleanup which will be Saturday April 19 at 9am.

We will be walking from the roundabout at Depot Park (Depot Ave and Main Street) down to where the Winn Dixie used to be (16th Ave) and back. It usually takes about one hour.

Some of our friends from the Monday Club will be joining us.

We will have grabber sticks and trash bags.

Hope you can make it.

Brett

AND afterwards, you're invited to attend the county-wide event at Massey Park:

The Great American Cleanup

What: The Great American Cleanup

Where: Massey Park Recreation Center, 1001 NW 34th St., 32607

When: Saturday, April 19, 2025

Cleanup Time: 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Lunch provided : 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

This spring, Keep Alachua County Beautiful (KACB) invites everyone to take action and make a difference by participating in the 34th Annual Great American Cleanup! This community-wide effort includes a series of local cleanup events throughout the season, allowing volunteers to take part at their convenience. The main event will take place on Saturday, April 19th, at Massey Park (1001 NW 34th St., Gainesville).

Since 1991, Keep Alachua County Beautiful has mobilized families, students, environmental groups, and community organizations to improve local spaces through thousands of hours of volunteer work. Over the years, more than 50,000 volunteers have removed over two million pounds of trash & litter from our streets, parks, and natural areas.

South Sudan

Jacob Atem, a fellow Rotarian who is from South Sudan, had sent area Rotary clubs this request for help with a devastating outbreak of cholera : *My name is Dr. Jacob Atem, and I am a member of the Rotary Club of Gainesville. I recently returned from South Sudan, where a devastating Cholera outbreak has been ongoing since last year, claiming the lives of children, women, and the elderly. I have shared this heartbreaking situation with our District 6970, hoping that Rotarians in our district can come together to support the people of South Sudan during this crisis. One of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps managed by the Southern Sudan Healthcare Organization (SSHCO) serves a population of over 59,000 people in need of medical care.*

In response, our club sent \$1000 to help.



Southern Sudan Healthcare Organization



The SSHCO team for the cholera emergency response loading their van to deliver supplies to the Maar Clinic. The items include 6 tents, 10 handwashing containers, 3 bags of maize flour, 6 boxes of hand soap, 11 portable water containers, and 1 thermos flasks. Funds were provided by Rotary clubs.





Club members Leslie, Scott, Jimbo, Billy, Bob and Diane along with SF Rotaractors Annia and Michelle, joined with team members from The Fla. Museum of Natural History to bring a fun and interesting SCIENCE NIGHT to students from Rawlings Elementary.

Each volunteer manned a "science" station, where we demonstrated/explained/enabled a student to learn something interesting about a wide variety of topics. There was a wonderful turnout of kids and parents! Some stations helped the kids to create simple handmade experiments to take home... lots of smiles and happy faces everywhere.

THANK YOU , LESLIE, for organizing this extraordinary evening!! And thanks to Mark for lending a very helping hand!!





UPCOMING EVENT CALENDAR



APRIL 19th	Great American CleanUp 9:00 AM "Our" Road Clean Up	
April 26th	District Assembly Mantanzas High School 3535 Pirate Nation Way, Palm Coast, FL 32137	Registration at 7:30 am; Assembly start time 8:30 am Continental Breakfast included \$25 per person Info & registration: https://dacdb.com/Calendar/Event.cfm? EventID=77819490&CalClubID=0
May 3rd	Rotary Leadership Institute Daytona StateCollege	see details below
May 29th	Club Event Wine Tasting Auction	Details TBA
June 21-25, 2025	ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION Calgary	

Upcoming District Events

DISTRICT ASSEMBLY & WORKSHOPS

April 26th, 8:30am – Noon

Matanzas High School, Palm Coast, FL Saturday,

Complete details for registration at

<https://www.dacdb.com/>

Register4/index.cfm?EventID= 77819490

ROTARY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (RLI)

- Saturday, May 3rd

Classes 8:00am to 3:00pm

Daytona State College

1155 County Road 4139

DeLand, FL 32724

Questions? Contact RLI Director Rich Cooper at coop.rotary6970@gmail.com or (386) 747-7075

2025 DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Friday, June 6th and Saturday, June 7th

Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort

Complete details for conference and hotel registration

<https://www.dacdb.com/>

Register4/index.cfm?EventID= 77817641

District 6970

We've got a great **District Conference** planned for Friday and Saturday **June 6th and 7th** -- and you're invited! Kick off the weekend Friday evening with a delicious Low Country Boil patio while enjoying fellowship, fun, and family-friendly games with Rotarians from across the district!

Start Saturday off with an eye-opening breakfast, be inspired all day by motivational speakers and impactful presentations, and join Northeast Florida Rotarian for a power lunch and leadership insights that will energize your Rotary journey. Then, cap it all off with our District Awards Dinner, and dance the night away with the big band music of Crescendo Amelia!



**Celebrating the Magic of
Rotary District 6970
District Conference**

WHEN:
June 6 & 7th

WHERE:
Hilton Oceanfront Resort, Daytona Beach, FL

WHY ATTEND?

- Connect with fellow Rotary members.
- Gain fresh ideas and inspiration.
- Celebrate achievements and have a blast!
- We encourage you to bring the family and enjoy all that Daytona Beach has to offer: beaches, shopping, museums, and Daytona Lagoon water park, just to name a few!

WEEKEND EVENTS:
Get ready for an inspiring and celebratory weekend at the District Conference!

Weekend Highlights

Friday Night Kickoff

- Enjoy a tasty Low Country Boil while networking with Rotary members across the district!

Saturday Sessions

- Get inspired by motivational speakers and discussions that energize your Rotary Journey.
- Awards Dinner & Celebration
- End the weekend with a night of recognition, live entertainment, and dancing!

Sunday morning (if interested)

- Join the Rotaract members in a beach cleanup

Full-Event Registration
\$125

Hotel Rooms
\$189
per night

Connect with Rotary Members!

Don't Miss Out! Register today and be part of this unforgettable Rotary experience!
REGISTER TODAY AT: <https://bit.ly/3RfzoLk>
(Registration closes for the conference on June 2nd. Reserve your hotel at the discounted rate by May 10th)

Rotary
District 6970

Speakers for the month

APRIL Speakers provided by Marta Hartmann

April 2nd: Carlos Gonzalez, Keep Alachua County Beautiful Executive Director

April 9th: Alison Adams, UF Community and Environmental Sociology Professor

April 16th: Ellen Siegel The Climate Leadership Engagement Opportunities Institute

April 23rd: Katya Kasprzak, UF-IFAS Compost Cooperative and Gardens

April 30th: Elliot P. Douglas, UF Environmental Engineering Sciences Professor

SAVE THIS DATE!

By Stephanie Esposito



**YOU ARE INVITED TO ROTARY
DOWNTOWN GAINESVILLE**

**WINE AND BEER
PAIRING PARTY
& AUCTION**

THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2025, STARTING AT 5:30 PM
ARBOR GREEN COMMUNITY CENTER
NEWBERRY, FL 32669

\$30 for 1 ticket
\$50 for 2 tickets
Mocktails available
Purchase now by visiting:
<https://square.link/u/YEFtrQn>

SCAN ME



Everybody loves puppies!



GOC Ride day

By Brett Buell



Another successful Bike Day for GOC! Lots of sunshine, participants and FUN!





Some Calgary info



Are you going? Have you registered? Made travel arrangements? (if you need some help with airlines, check with Bob) . These annual Rotary International Conventions are held all over the world so when we have one scheduled **relatively** close by, it's a great opportunity to attend...along with at least 25,000+ of your fellow Rotarians!!

CALGARY 2025: RI CONVENTION CHEAT SHEET

HOC Website: <https://rotarycalgary2025.org/>

REGISTRATION

- Create or sign into [MY ROTARY](#) account.
- Follow the [HOW TO REGISTER](#) guide, includes: how to register, add a guest, register a child, Rotary Convention ticketed events, payment

Non Rotarians: can register themselves by going through registration process and need to create a MyRotary account

Last day for any registration discount : March 31, 2025

SCHEDULE

- General Sessions: Opening Ceremony seating information will be communicated to registrants about 2-3 weeks before the Convention.
- The House of Friendship will be open Saturday-Wednesday, 21-25 June 2025

SPEAKERS

BREAKOUT SESSIONS: Monday-Wednesday, 23-25 June 2025

SIGNATURE EVENTS

Grandstand Spectacular: June 21. Performances of a marching band, Indigenous hoop dancing, world-class country music, horseback relay races and firework show. Let's fill the stadium with cowboy hats.

White Cowboy Hat: Pickup Saturday in House of Friendship before show.

Rockin' The Big Four Roadhouse: June 22. History of Canadian music from the 60's to 2025.

New Blood with The Calgary Civic Symphony: June 22. Blackfoot music, dance and drumming with contemporary music. Follows the story, "The Indian in the Child," as told through Peter Gabriel.

Western Ranch Showcase: June 24. Western hospitality, live entertainment, and the chance to experience the timeless traditions of the Old West.

Home/Host Hospitality: June 23. Memorable evening of local hospitality and international fellowship. Deadline: April 20.

Pre and Post Tours: Spectacular tours in and around Alberta and the Rockies, including unique Indigenous tours. Trips are offered in every direction, with spectacular scenery around us

TRAVEL

Airline Discounts

- Westjet: **up to 25%** off select fares for travel to Calgary, Alberta between 1 June 2025 and 15 July 2025
- Air Canada: Variety of discounts on select roundtrip flights from Friday, June 13, 2025 to Thursday, July 14, 2025 with CODE **R3YT9E4I**

Direct Flights scroll to bottom of page for direct flight travel info.

VOLUNTEERING: Volunteers of all kinds make for a successful convention.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) (\$120/2 Bed, \$210/4 Bed)

- Use code **CRIC2025** when booking
- Transit (free with registration) from SAIT to Convention Center 15 minutes. No RI shuttle buses
- Located on Light Rapid Transit (LRT)

Mount Royal University (MRU): (\$60/2 or 4 bed, \$119 Hotel Suite)

- Book directly through MRU residence services. Indicate Rotary Conference when booking.
- Parking \$5/night, transit (free with registration) from MRU to Convention Center is a 30 minutes. No RI shuttle buses
- City Transit Bus Connected

Rotary's Official Hotel Block: Official Hotel Options within the RI block. Check back often.

Non-Rotary Hotel Block: Non-Official Hotel Options

FYI, the upcoming Convention schedule

2025 21-25 June – Calgary, Canada

2026 13-17 June – Taipei, Taiwan

2027 5-9 June – Honolulu, Hawaii (tentatively selected)

2028 27-31 May – Minneapolis, Minnesota (tentatively selected)

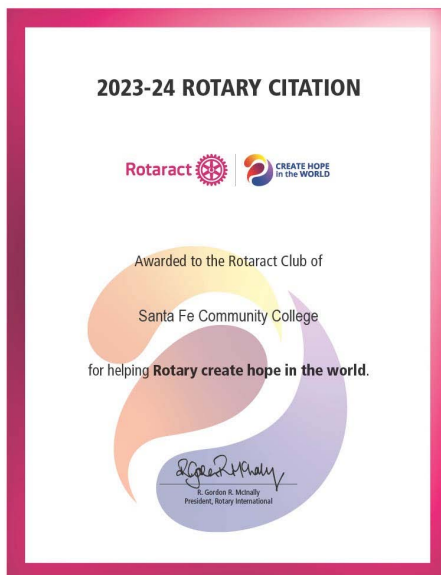
2029 – TBD

2030 25-29 May – Chicago, Illinois (tentatively selected)

CONGRATULATIONS to SANTA FE ROTARACT CLUB

The Rotary Citation for Rotaract Clubs, known as the Club Excellence Award for Rotaract Clubs, recognizes clubs which support our Action Plan by completing activities which help increase our impact, expand our reach, enhance participant engagement, and increase our ability to adapt.

By taking action toward achieving the required number of selected goals. Rotaract clubs engage their members, stay relevant in their communities, and run more efficiently. A welcoming and engaging club also reflects the values of Rotary. When clubs work to achieve these goals, they also contribute to the overall health and culture of Rotary for generations to come.



WAG update



At our January 8th meeting, Jacob and Jimbo updated the club on the status of the South Sudan WAG Global Grant. It's a lot of work and there are many, many moving parts to coordinate ... BUT with the support of so many, both in and out of Rotary, we feel confident that this goal will be achieved.

PLEASE, if you have not already contributed, it's time to get behind this project and let's make it happen!! Our club is the sponsoring club behind the grant. We hope that every member of the Rotary Club of Downtown Gainesville will pledge some amount to help us reach our financial goal.

You can make out a check to our club, designating the WAG Grant #GG2460746 in the memo section.

If you would like a charitable receipt, make the check out to the YORK Foundation with the same identifying information so that it is appropriated correctly.

Checks should be sent to
Rotary Club of Downtown Gainesville

P O Box 358387
Gainesville, FL 32635-8387

THANK YOU for your participation and support!

Downtown Gainesville Rotarians

MEMBER
Walt Barry

JOINED
1/1/2003

CLUB SERVICE
PP 09-10

TRF
* PHF4

Shelby Bobbitt	9/21/2022		
Ed Book	2/1/2009	PP 13-14 AG 1,2,AG	* BR PHF2
Billy Brame	7/1/1976	PP (RCGG)	* PHF+6
David Bridges	2/1/2019		* PHF
Haydee Britton	03/8/2023		
Brett Buell	9/1/2015	President 2024-25	* PHF+1
Brenda Chamberlain	1/1/2019	PP 2021-22	* PHF
Billy Combs	4/1/1992	PP 97-98, Treasurer	* MD / BR PHF8
Michael Ekblad	7 26 2023	Sgt At Arms	
Ed Emery	9/1/2015		* PHF
Stephanie Esposito	6/12/2020	PP 2023-24	* PHF
Randi Feliciano	7/24/2024		
Chessie Flanders	4/1/2017	PP 19-20, AG 1, AG2, AG	* PHF
Greg Fleming	3/1/1994	PP 05-06	* PHF3
Megan Forbes	1/1/2001	PP 04-05	* BR @ PHF6
Dan Frowick		PP 94-95	MD/HM
Scott Hansis	2/22//2023		PHF 1
Marta Hartmann	05/2021	Director	
Becky Hunt	1/1/1996		* PHF 8
Jim Islam	9/1/1990	PP 95-96	* MD PHF8
Marina Jordan	2/1/2019		* PHF
Pradeep Kumar	5/1/2018		* PHF+1
Judy Locascio	3/1/2002		* PHF+6
Al Losch Jr.	4/1/1992	PP 00-01	* MD @ BR PHF8
Joe Lowry Jr.	12/1/2004	PP (08-09) (17-18)	* BR @ PHF6
Joe Lowry Sr.	7/1/2013		* MD PHF8
Clay Martin	11/1/2016		* PHF
Rob Oglesby	5/1/2010	PP 14-15	* MD / BR PHF8
Megan Olson	2/1/2019	Director	* PHF+1
Cheryl T. Poe	1/1/2007	PP 15-16	* BR PHF6
Perry Pursell	6/1/2008	PP 12-13,	* PHF3
Bob Robar	11/1/1991	PP 01-02	* MD @ PHF8
Diane Robar	10/1/2014	PP 2020-21; AG 1, 2, AG, PE	* PHF+1
Ben Rowe (d.)	n/a	Charter President	* MD
Jim Skiles	12/1/1998	PP 03-04;	* MD @ BR PHF8
Carl Smart	3/1/2019	Speakers,director	
Ray Snook	4/1/2012	PP 2022-23	* PHF
Francine Vincent	07/24/2024	PP16-17 AAG	* PHF3
Zachary West	11/1/2013		
Leslie Wooten	10/1/2023		PHF3

* Paul Harris Sustaining Member (\$25 per quarter)

PHF Paul Harris Fellow (for every \$1,000 gift to The Rotary Foundation's Annual Fund, PolioPlus or an approved Foundation grant)@

Foundation Benefactor (provides for TRF at least \$1,000 in estate plan)

Paul Harris Society (Members who agree to contribute \$1,000 or more annually to TRF)

MD Major Donor to The Rotary Foundation (combined giving reaching \$10,000)

Italic Name : Board of Directors

BR Ben Rowe Rotarian of the Year

.Bold Name Charter Member 9/18/1990

Club Information

Rotary Club of Downtown Gainesville, Florida #27544

Chartered September 18, 1990

Charter President J. Ben Rowe

We currently are meeting at Hilton UF Conference Center 1714 SW 34th Street on Wednesdays at Noon

Club Website: <https://downtowngainesvillerotary.org/>

Our sponsors for W2W

Wes Skiles Water Stewardship Awards Sponsors



Perry C. Pursell
Commercial Real Estate Specialist
Coldwell Banker/
MM Parrish Realtors



CHAIN REACTION
BIKE SHOP
SINCE 1993



ITS A ROTARY THING!

