











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
-  **Diana Marie Bokar**
President-Elect
Vice President
-  **William S. Combs**
Treasurer
-  **Leslie W. Woolen**
Secretary
-  **Michael Ekblad**
Sergeant-at-Arms
-  **Stephanie Esposito**
Past President
-  **Shelby Bobbitt**
Club Director
-  **Maria M. Hartmann**
Club Director
-  **Megan Olson**
Club Director
-  **Jim Jimbo**
Club Director
Speaker
Chair

Welcome

Welcome to the Rotary Club of Downtown Gainesville



Earth Day



Rotary theme for April

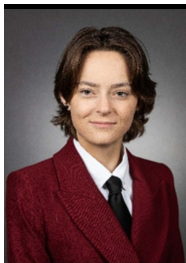


Four Way Test



April 23rd speaker

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



Presentation title: Composting for Change: Community-Led Solutions to Sustainable Waste Management.

Katya Kasprzak from Barnstable, Massachusetts, is a senior at the University of Florida-IFAS majoring in environmental management in agriculture and natural resources in the Department of Soil, Water, and Ecosystem Sciences. Her academic preparation and experience include compost systems, soil science, and sustainable agriculture.

Currently, Katya is a manager of the UF-IFAS Compost Cooperative and Gardens, a researcher at the Bioenergy and Sustainable Technology Lab, an environmental management intern at the Natural Area Teaching Laboratory, and Vice-president of the UF's Agronomy-Soils Club.

In her free time, she is a freelance artist, and enjoy various creative endeavors.

Another important April date



End Polio Now

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/3G1OWJF>



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 23rd - DOGWOOD - This meeting room is in the conference section (south wing) of the Hilton. There will be signage to direct you.

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!

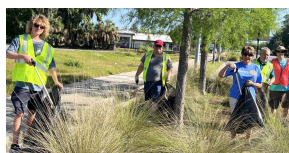
Lunch link: <https://forms.gle/F1uYD8GB8ZrAv33k8>

See you Wednesday!

Service Day

Alachua County observed THE GREAT AMERICAN CLEAN UP day on April 19th.

Club members Brett, Ed, Ray and Diane (along with John Barli from the Greater Gainesville Club, Diane's grandson Matthew, SF Rotaractor Jacob, and GOC friends Reid Schrieber and Joel Andreasen)) on hand to help clean up "OUR" road (Main Street from Cade Museum to SW 16th Ave).





MYSTERY MEETING!

By Leslie W. Wooten



Hmmm.... what does Leslie have in store for us at the May 7th meeting?

ALL SHE WILL SAY IS :

"FOR A REALLY DIFFERENT MEETING,

BRING YOUR BOX OF CAKE MIX (you pick the flavor)

TO THE MAY 7TH MEETING

SEE YOU THEN FOR AN ALL-NEW PROGRAM!!





SAVE THIS DATE!

By Stephanie Esposito



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 (SSHC) serves a population of over 59,000 people in need of medical care.*

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



SCIENCE NIGHT



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!!





6



7



UPCOMING EVENT CALENDAR



additional information for these events may be found in this newsletter

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 State College	see details below
May 29th	Club Event Wine Tasting Auction	Details TBA Stephanie, Shelby and Francine
Friday, June 6th and Saturday, June 7th	District Conference Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort	details for conference and hotel registration https://www.dacdb.com/Register4/index.cfm?EventID=77817641
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/](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/](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 Amella!

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 Sherry-Lee Country Ball while networking with Rotary members across the district!

Saturday Seaside

- 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.

REGISTER TODAY AT: <https://bit.ly/3Rfrs0k>
Registration closes for the conference on June 2nd. Reserve your hotel at this 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

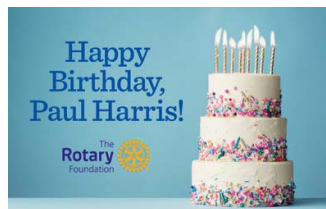
April 16th: Ellen Siegel The Climate Leadership Engagement Opportunities Institute

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

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

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.



PUPS day

By Jim "Jimbo" E. Skiles III



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

1. Create or sign into **MY ROTARY** account.
2. 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

SPONSORS

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

SIGNATURE EVENTS

Grandstand Spectacular: June 23. Performances of a marching band, Indigenous hoop dancing, world-class country music, horseback relay races and fireworks show. Let's fill the stadium with cowboy hats.

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

Rockin' The Big Four Roadhouses: June 23. 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 Patch Showcases: 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 R171841

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 Blocks: 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*)

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 his 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	JOINED	CLUB SERVICE	TRF
Walt Barry	1/1/2003	PP 09-10	* 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 Marlin	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; Speakers,director	* MD @ BR PHF8
Carl Smart	3/1/2019	PP 2022-23	*PHF
Ray Snook	4/1/2012	PPT6-17 AAG	* PHF3
Francine Vincent	07/24/2024		
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



Florida Blue
Robbie Carstens 352-457-1928 robbiacarstens@fla.com

LAKE AREA
DENTAL



ITS A ROTARY THING!

DOGGOODERY!