

## 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 30th, speaker

By Marta M Hartmann



**Elliot P. Douglas, Ph.D.**

**Presentation: Community-Engaged Engineering: Lessons from the Flint Water Crisis**

*Elliot P. Douglas, Ph.D.*, is a Fellow member of the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE), Department Head and Professor in the Department of Environmental Engineering Sciences, and Professor in the Department of Engineering Education at the University of Florida. His research focuses on engineering problem solving and engineering ethics education. He has also published and conducted workshops on qualitative research methods. He is currently on the American Society for Engineering Education Board of Directors and was elected as the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) Vice President for Finance for a two-year term starting in June 2025. He has also served as Associate Editor of the Journal of Engineering Education and program officer for engineering education at the U.S. National Science Foundation.

## 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 30th lunch link



Here's the lunch link for this week (April 30th)

**PLEASE REMEMBER** that we will be meeting at Gators Dockside .

The Hilton is unavailable to us as there is a conference scheduled which is utilizing all meeting and dining spaces.

We will be returning to the Hilton as of May 7th.

This lunch menu for Dockside is more abbreviated so that the kitchen can more quickly get our lunches out.

Please submit your response by 9 AM WEDNESDAY. (When we get back to the Hilton, we will be requesting a response by Tuesday 9 AM)

Thanks,  
Diane

<https://forms.gle/F1uYD8GB8ZrAv33k8>

### MYSTERY MEETING!

By Leslie W. Wooten

**NEXT WEEK , EVERYBODY!!**



**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!!**



## Follow up to

Katya Kasprzak, manager of the UF-IFAS Compost Cooperative and Garden, presented a very interesting and information talk on composting on April 23rd. . In case you did not get the pamphlet or want more information, here is the link:.

<https://soils.ifas.ufl.edu/experiential-learning-laboratory/students/compost-cooperative-and-gardens/>

**Compost Cooperative and Gardens - Experiential Learning Lab, Dept of Soil, Water, and Ecosystem Sciences, UF IFAS - University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences - UF/IFAS**

University of Florida, IFAS-SWES  
**COMPOST COOPERATIVE  
AND GARDENS**

The Compost Cooperative and Gardens (CCG) is an outreach program dedicated to promoting sustainability at the campus and community level.

Organized by Dr. Ann Wilkie, the CCG was started to educate about the importance of food waste composting and provide participants with the opportunity to compost. The CCG hosts workshops to teach both the UF and Gainesville community how to compost their food waste and to appreciate the value of recycling by turning this waste into natural fertilizers.

The CCG operates composters to help the UF community recycle food waste, and closes the nutrient loop by using the resulting compost to grow organic food in a student-run garden.

By promoting eco-friendly practices, the CCG fosters environmental awareness and responsibility while offering participants a space to relax, study, and enjoy nature. The cooperative also hosts gardening days to share the benefits of composting.

The CCG hosts student orientations every Friday at 5:00pm. The orientation for the CCG will provide you with an in depth introduction to the cooperative, ensuring that you have the knowledge necessary to compost effectively and understand your role in creating a greener planet!

To sign up, you can head to our website ([soils.ifas.ufl.edu/experiential-learning-laboratory/students/compost-cooperative-and-gardens/](https://soils.ifas.ufl.edu/experiential-learning-laboratory/students/compost-cooperative-and-gardens/)) or scan the QR code. You can also visit our Instagram page (@uf.ccg), where you will find our orientation form.

## SAVE THIS DATE!

By Stephanie Esposito



## UPCOMING EVENT CALENDAR



additional information for these events may be found in this newsletter

May 3rd	Rotary Leadership Institute Daytona StateCollege	see details below
May 29th	Club Event Wine Tasting Auction	Details TBA Stephanie, Shelby and Francine
Friday, June 6th and Saturday, June 7th	<b>District Conference</b> Daytona Beach Oceanfront Resort	details for conference and hotel registration <a href="https://www.dacdb.com/Register4/index.cfm?EventID=77817641">https://www.dacdb.com/ Register4/index.cfm? EventID= 77817641</a>
June 21-25, 2025	ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION Calgary	

## Upcoming District Events

### 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](mailto: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

## 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) ) were on hand to help clean up "OUR" road (Main Street from Cade Museum to SW 16th Ave).







## 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.







## 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!!





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## Another important April date



### End Polio Now

 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).

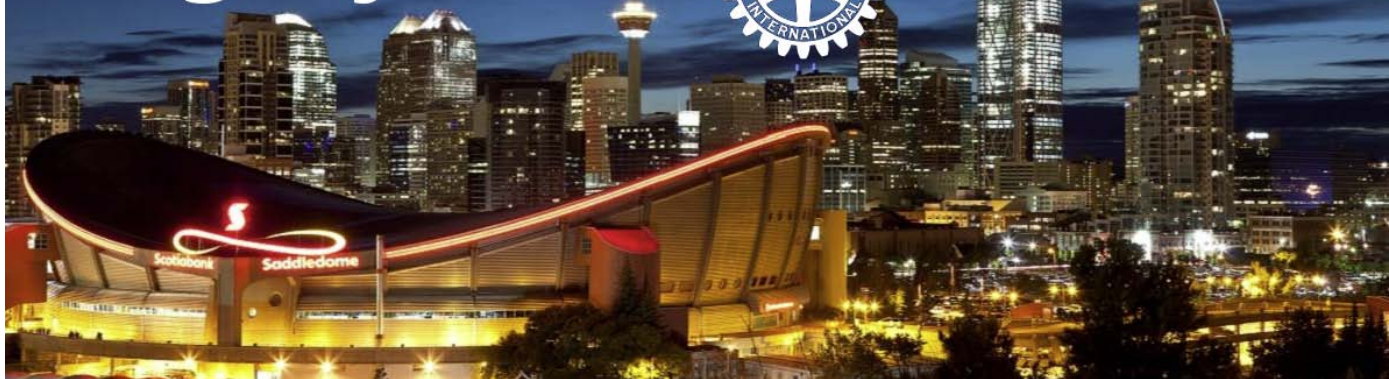
In 1955, more than 10 million children received one or more injections of the Salk vaccine. Within one year, polio cases and deaths in the US had been nearly halved, a trend that continued and made a vision of polio-free world a possibility.

Learn more about this remarkable achievement from someone who was there for Jonas Salk's historic achievement, Dr. Peter L. Salk: <https://endpol.io/3G1OWjF>



## Some Calgary info

# Calgary 2025



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 **R3YT9E41**

**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*)

**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
<i>Shelby Bobbitt</i>	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
<i>Haydee Britton</i>	03/8/2023		
<i>Brett Buell</i>	9/1/2015	President 2024-25	* PHF+1
Brenda Chamberlain	1/1/2019	PP 2021-22	*PHF
<i>Billy Combs</i>	4/1/1992	PP 97-98, Treasurer	* MD / BR PHF8
<i>Michael Ekblad</i>	7 26 2023	Sgt At Arms	
Ed Emery	9/1/2015		* PHF
<i>Stephanie Esposito</i>	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
<i>Marta Hartmann</i>	05/2021	Director	
Becky Hunt	1/1/1996		* PHF 8
<b>Jim Islam</b>	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
<i>Megan Olson</i>	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
<i>Diane Robar</i>	10/1/2014	PP 2020-21; AG 1, 2, ,AG, PE	* PHF+1
<b>Ben Rowe (d.)</b>	n/a	Charter President	* MD
<i>Jim Skiles</i>	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	PP16-17 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



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BIKE SHOP  
SINCE 1993



*Florida Blue*   
Robbie Carstens 352 4947-1938 [robbiecarstens@me.com](mailto:robbiecarstens@me.com)

**LAKE AREA  
DENTAL**



ITS A ROTARY THING!

**DOGOODERY!**