

# Rotary

## DOWNTOWN GAINESVILLE



### Club Meeting

Downtown  
Gainesville  
Meets at  
Paramount Grill  
12 SW First  
Avenue  
Gainesville, FL  
32601  
Time: Wednesday  
at 12:00 PM

### Club Leaders



Brett  
Buell  
President



Diane  
Marie  
Robar  
President-  
Elect  
Vice  
President



Haydee  
Britton  
Secretary



William S.  
Combs  
Treasurer



Michael  
Ekbladh  
Sergeant-  
at-Arms



Stephanie  
Esposito  
iPast  
President



Shelby  
Bobbett  
Club  
Director



Marta M.  
Hartmann  
Club  
Director

Megan  
Olson  
Club

### Welcome

*Welcome to the  
Rotary Club of Downtown Gainesville*



# THE MAGIC OF ROTARY

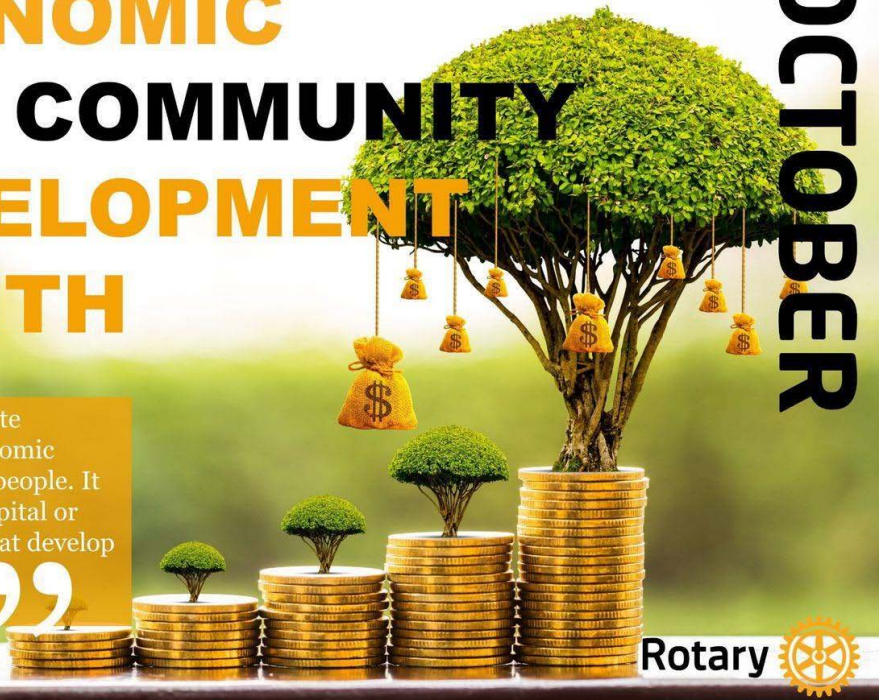
### Rotary theme

# ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT MONTH

OCTOBER

“The ultimate resource in economic development is people. It is people, not capital or raw materials that develop an economy.”  
- Peter Drucker

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Rotary



Director



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

## Four Way Test

Rotary



**THE FOUR WAY TEST**  
OF THE THINGS WE THINK, SAY, DO

- 1 Is it the **TRUTH**?
- 2 Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
- 3 Will it build **GOODWILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIP**?
- 4 Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

Birthday greetings!



**Brenda Chamberlain**

*October 6th*

**Ed Emery**

*October 10th*

**Joe Lowry**

*October 20th*

**Pat Craddock**

*October 28th*

## **Dr. Jennifer Weeks, speaker Oct 16th**

By Stephanie Esposito



Dr. Jennifer Weeks is an instructional professor in the Department of Entomology and Nematology in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at the University of Florida. Jennifer's passion for teaching stems from her desire to educate and galvanize diverse audiences on the need to prioritize the stewardship of our agricultural and natural resources. Weeks is also committed to providing experience-based learning opportunities for underserved youth in the community and introducing them to the diversity of careers in the life sciences. She volunteers with Alachua County 4-H, Boy Scouts of America, and local schools to bring students on campus, out in the field, and inquiry-based science activities to them in their classrooms. She is passionate about helping people find a personal connection to science and maintaining their curiosity about the natural world. Weeks has been recognized multiple times for her contributions to 4-H and recently received both the National Teaching and Student Engagement Award from the United States Department of Agriculture and the North American

Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Educator Award.

Presentation title: Bugs and People.

## 12th Annual Wes Skiles Water Stewardship Awards

**The 12th annual Wes Skiles Water Stewardship Awards, aka Wine2Water, was another wonderful evening. Plenty of fellowship, fun and food for everyone, not to mention the honor of recognizing Dr. Cohen, Ross Ambrose/Porta Serve and the Coral Restoration Foundation for their part in helping to keep our waters clean! Great evening!**

### **From Jimbo:**

*The "little club that knows it can"!*

*I love John Moran's quote after he attended one of our previous W2W Wes Skiles Water Stewardship Award programs. This phrase exemplifies what a small group of people can do who share common goals and values. RCDG is just that and is why we have successfully completed our 12th annual event. Despite the challenges of an earlier event date, loss of a \$2500 Title Sponsor and a looming Hurricane, we prepared, improvised and delivered another wonderful and rewarding event to those that were able to attend... for the benefit of Sudanese families living without everything we take for granted.*

*Each of you contributed as you could and a special shout out to:*

*Diane & Stephanie for their administrative service, marketing and attention to details before and during the show, Billy C for record keeping, Billy B for poster design, Cheryl for coordinating the nominations and awards & cmt mbrs Marta, Randi, Perry. Marta, Bob, Perry & Jimbo for nominating someone. Scott H for help w Sponsors. Club mbrs Stephanie (1st Fed), Perry (CB) Megan(Culvers), Scott (Capt City Bank) Lowry's & Randi (NWM) for their Corporate Sponsorship. Ray & Perry for beverage service and delicious food. Bartenders: Ray, Marina, Steve, Bob.. Leslie coordinating the best ever Raffle w help from our check in team, Shelby, Michael, Marta and Rotoractors. Our Program team Joe Jr, Megan F, Ed, Stephanie, Perry and photographer Haydee. Everyone above that helped set up and breakdown and everyone that bought a ticket and has contributed to our WAG fund...THANK YOU.*

*I hope you know regardless of how small you may feel you have contributed and that little dollars add up to bigger dollars that will benefit others in greater ways than you can imagine. Never underestimate a small act of kindness or the capabilities of that "small club w a big heart". Your club, Downtown Gainesville!*

*In joy,  
Jimbo*







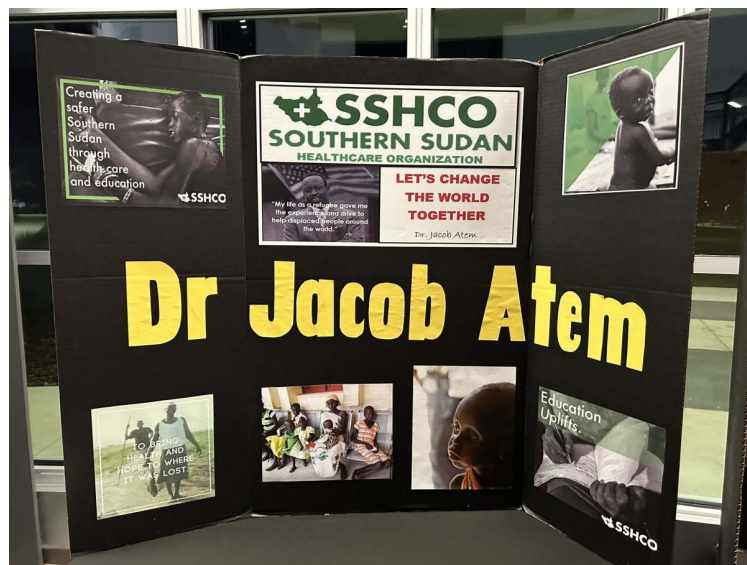






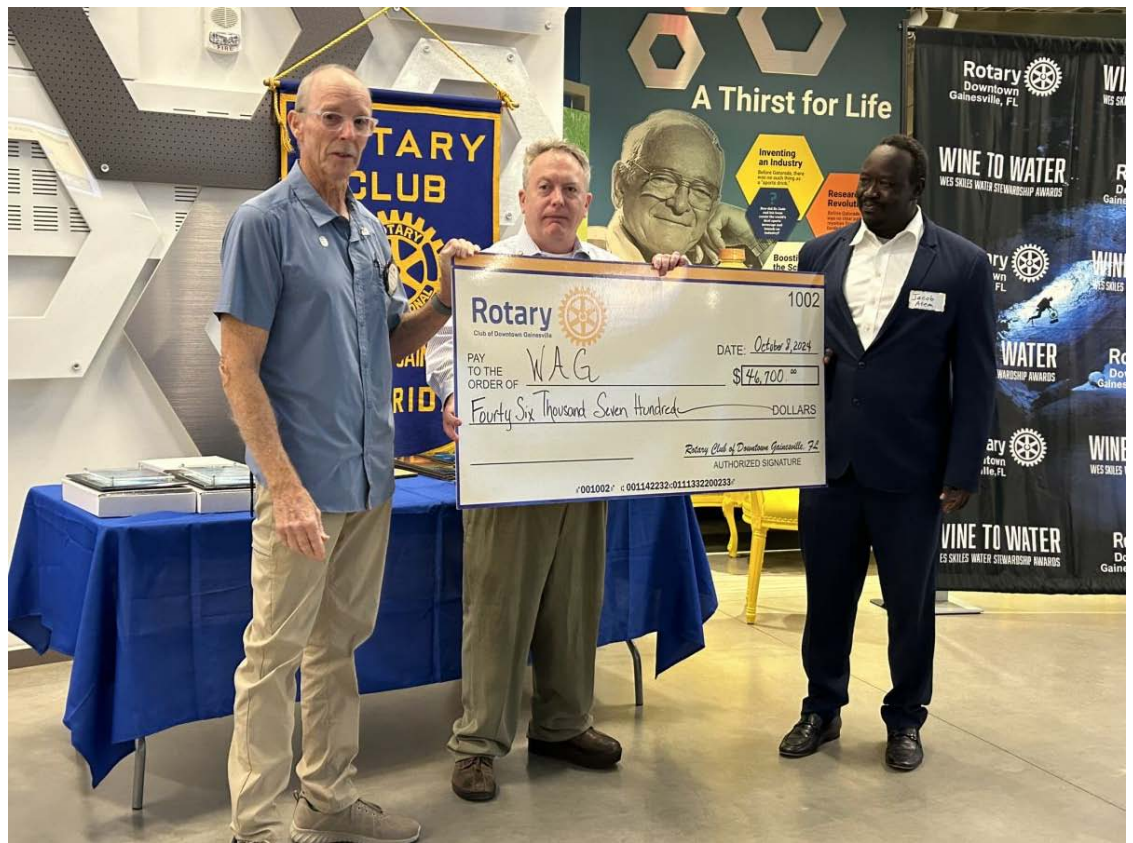


**OUR CLUB IS IN THE INITIAL STAGES OF PURSUING AN INTERNATIONAL ROTARY GRANT TO HELP BRING CLEAN WATER AND HYDROPONIC GARDENING TO SOUTH SUDAN. THIS IS THE WAGS ( water & agriculture) PROJECT.**



**IT IS GOING TO TAKE SIGNIFICANT FUNDS TO MAKE THIS A REALITY.  
OUR INTENT IS TO RAISE AT LEAST \$100,000 IN DONATIONS .  
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL WILL MATCH THIS AMOUNT IN A GRANT , BRINGING  
THE TOTAL TO A MINIMUM OF \$200,000.**

**TO DATE, OUR FUNDRAISING TOTALS \$47,600.00**



**WE ARE GRATEFUL TO MEGA DONORS BOBBIE HALL AND JIM ISLAM FOR THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THIS GRANT. THANK YOU!**



**CONGRATULATIONS to our 2024 Wes Skiles Water Stewardship award winners**

## INDIVIDUAL/EDUCATION CATEGORY: DR. MATT COHEN



### **Allen Skinner, Keynote Speaker; Dr. Cohen; Brett Buell**

Dr. Matt Cohen is a Professor of Forest Water Resources and Watershed Systems at the University of Florida. He is the Interim Director of the Water Institute at the Univ of FL and holds the Carl S. Swisher Chair in Water Resources. His research focuses on the connections between water and ecosystem processes, particularly in forest and wetland ecosystems. He investigates how forest management can enhance water yield, explores the dynamics of nutrients and contaminants in Florida's waterways and collaborates with state agencies and basin working groups to establish water management thresholds.

In addition to his extensive research, which has resulted in over 120 publications and significant grant funding from various agencies, Dr. Cohen actively teaches and mentors students, supervising six PhD candidates and four postdoctoral researchers.

Cheers to Dr. Matt Cohen for diving deeper into Wes's message that "what we do on the surface impacts the water quality below us"!

## **BUSINESS CATEGORY: PORTA SERVE, owner ROSS AMBROSE**



### **Allen Skinner, Keynote Speaker, Ross Ambrose, Brett Buell**

Porta Serve, based in North Central Florida, is a portable sanitation business, covering 7000 square miles of North Central FL, with a unique history linked to cave diving pioneers Woody Jasper and Wes Skiles. Ross Ambrose has continued their legacy by emphasizing the impact of surface activities on groundwater quality. Notably, portable restrooms, commonly known as porta-potties, save approximately 125 million gallons of water daily across the U.S., making them vital for construction sites, special events, and disaster relief areas.

Porta Serve goes beyond standard practices to minimize its environmental impact. The company has installed solar panels to reduce its carbon footprint, uses pre-portioned solid chemicals for waste treatment, and ensures treated waste is applied in geologically surveyed areas to limit nitrate release. As a founding Lifetime Member of the Florida Springs Institute, Ross and Porta Serve have pledged financial support for local conservation efforts and actively engages with high school programs to promote environmental stewardship. Ross Ambrose, a former High Springs City Commissioner, has also championed water-related issues in the community and continues to do so.

Congratulations to Ross and Porta Serve for setting the standard high for others.

## **NON PROFIT CATEGORY: CORAL REEF RESTORATION**



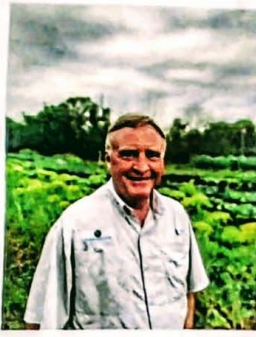
Despite having survived five mass extinctions, coral reefs are now facing unprecedented threats from human activity. This has resulted in the loss of over half of the world's coral reefs in the past 30 years. If immediate action is not taken, all shallow-water coral reefs could disappear by the end of this century. The consequences of this loss would be catastrophic, potentially leading to widespread damage to coastlines, significant economic impacts on fishing and tourism, and a collapse of marine biodiversity, akin to losing every rainforest on Earth.

The Coral Reef Restoration Foundation located in Key Largo, FL is the largest reef restoration organization in the world and has been working to turn the tide for this critical ecosystem since 2007. They have developed a method for "farming" and "outplanting" colonies of Staghorn and Elkhorn. By hanging finger-sized fragments of these corals to grow on Coral Trees they can produce colonies that are large enough to be outplanted in just 6 - 9 months. To date, they have now restored more than 17,500 square meters of Florida's coral reef. Ongoing monitoring and community engagement are vital to these restoration efforts, reflecting a commitment to preserving and revitalizing this essential marine biome.

Congratulations to our Non-profit winner Coral Reef Restoration Foundation, staff and volunteers! (Due to the approach of Hurricane Milton, representatives of the Foundation were not able to attend the event in person).

**Allen Skinner, Keynote speaker**





Allen Skinner is the owner of Soil Life Organics, a company dedicated to helping customers optimize their soil conditions to get the best growing results whether it be food crops, turf, landscaping or horticulture. He has over 14 years experience of soil fertility analysis experience with a focus on soil biology.

He is a certified Soil Food Web Consultant through Dr. Elaine Ingham's Certification Program. He completed a three-year Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) studying soil biology at White Harvest Farms in Jacksonville, Florida that uses the methods taught in Dr. Ingham's program. He is a National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) Soil Health Champion. He recently received the "Service to Agriculture Award" for Duval County, FL for 2022.

When not working in his consulting business, he manages the soil health and organic nutrient management program at White Harvest Farms which is a no-till, urban vegetable farm

Skinner graduated from the University of Florida with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and practiced for over 20 years before becoming interested in soil biology.

**After hearing his presentation, now we all have a much better idea of why our efforts to plant flowers and gardens don't always do so well with all those bacteria, fungi and nematodes to keep track of! Thank you, Allen, for a most interesting and informational presentation!**

## **W2W SPONSORS**

**A BIG THANK YOU to all the sponsors of our event! Without you, this evening would not have been as special!**

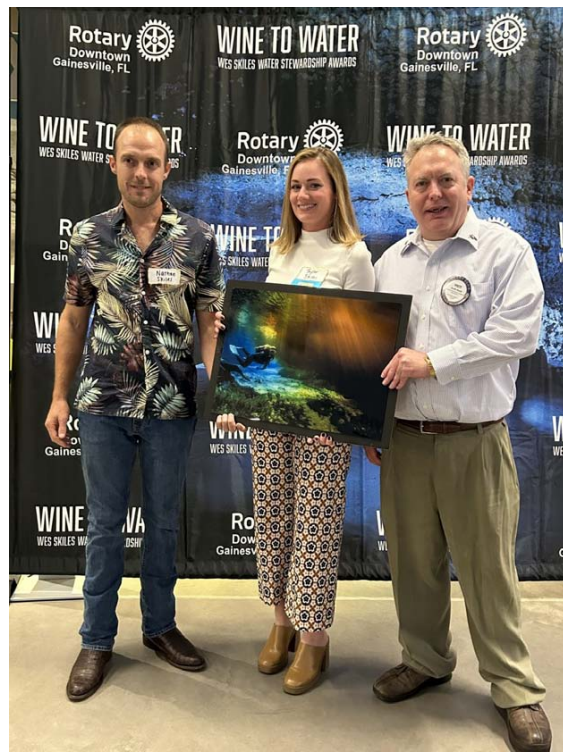
NATHAN AND TAYLOR SKILES



MEGAN OLSON



PERRY PURSELL





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



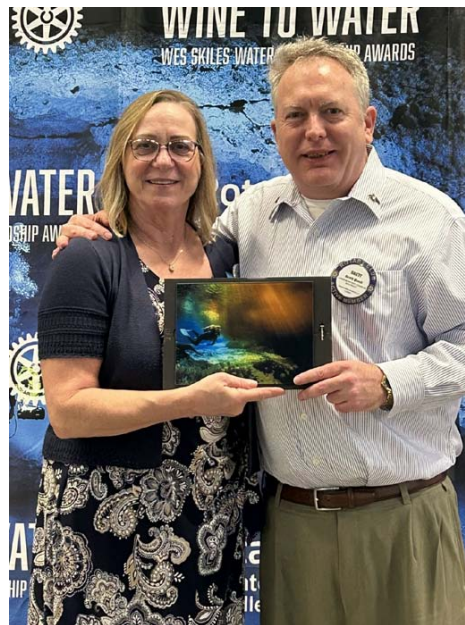
SCOTT HANSIS



RANDY FELICIANO

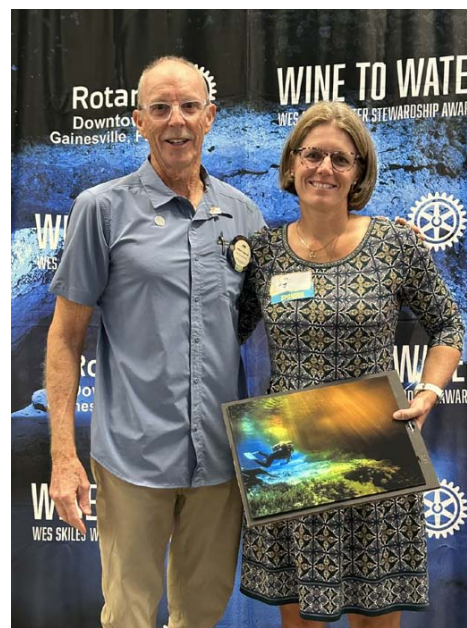


JOANNE EDDE



JENN FIGUEROA

**RE/MAX**  
Jen Figueroa, Realtor



CHRISTINE DENNY



GARY FAUST



**CHAIN REACTION**  
**BIKE SHOP**  
SINCE 1993



ROSE SCHNABEL



JACK HARDY



ROBBIE CARTENS



*Florida Blue*   
 Robbie Carstens 352 4947-1938 robbiecarstens@me.com

**LOWRY**  
 FINANCIAL ADVISORS





## LAKE AREA DENTAL

Congratulations!



As of September 30th, Carl started a new job -- a

**RETIREE!!**



francine



**THANKS, Francine, for all the long hours and hard work you put in with the Alachua County Division of Emergency Management whenever our county is facing an emergency situation. Like two hurricanes back to back. Thank you!!**

**ITS A ROTARY THING!**



in October

4TH ANNUAL

# INTERNATIONAL CAR SHOW

SHOWCASING CARS & MOTORCYCLES

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26<sup>TH</sup> 2024 | 9 AM - 12 PM

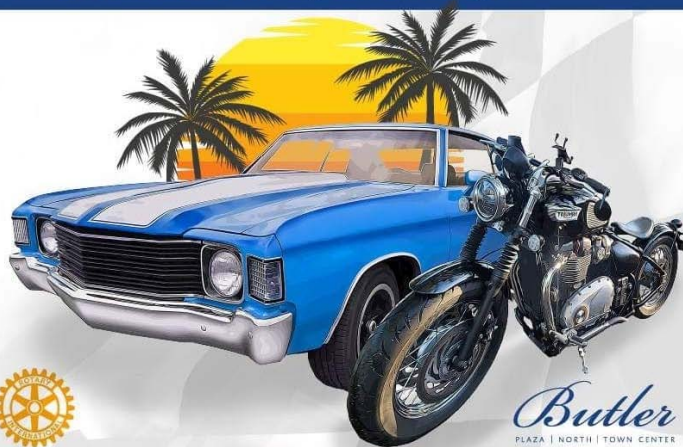
AT BUTLER TOWN CENTER, GAINESVILLE, FL

FREE FOR  
SPECTATORS!

ALL MAKES  
& MODELS  
WELCOME!

BENEFITTING

**Rotary**  
Clubs of Gainesville



*Butler*  
PLAZA | NORTH | TOWN CENTER

Car Show Volunteer Sheet – October 26, 2024

\*\*\*We're promoting Rotary so wear your Rotary gear!!

~ ~ **Set up: 7am-9:30am** Need approx. 10 people

Responsibilities setting up tables/chairs/tents, assisting vendors

~ ~ **Event Volunteers: 8:30am-12:30pm** (can divide into shifts) Need approx. 5 people

Responsible for directing patrons, answering questions, general help

~ ~ **Rotary Table Volunteers: 8:30am-12:30pm** (can divide into shifts) Need min 3-4 people, ideally one from each club

Responsible for promoting Rotary, answering questions, handing out water

~ ~ **Break Down: 12pm-1:30pm** 3-5 people

Responsibilities – breaking down tables/chairs/tents

To sign up volunteer, contact Brett at

**PresidentRCDG@gmail.com**

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Want to lend a helping hand somewhere? Here are a couple of opportunities..

*Greg Young and the Tuesday Rotary Club* is hosting a table at an upcoming event featuring native plants and biodiversity, on **October 19, 2024, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM** at the **Alachua County Agriculture and Equestrian Center in Newberry**. They have invited our Rotary Club to join them in tabling at this event. This is a great opportunity for us to engage with the community, raise awareness about our work, and collaborate with fellow Rotarians.

### *Hurricane Help*

- Derek J. Heywood from the Monday Club is coordinating cleanup efforts starting the

weekend of October 19, 2024.

- Groups of four volunteers will be organized to help, likely in Cedar Key or Yankeetown.
- To join a team, contact Derek at 352-346-6240 or [derbrit@gmail.com](mailto:derbrit@gmail.com).

## American Heart Walk

By Shelby Bobbett

**After having to reschedule the American Heart Walk due to Helene, the Walk took place on Sunday, October 6th. Fellow club member Shelby coordinated the event. THANKS to Rotarians Brett, Ed, and Bob for coming out. Also great to have a couple of SantaFe Rotaractors join us, too!**





## Helene disaster relief



The catastrophic devastation of Hurricane Helene and now Hurricane Milford will continue to affect thousands across Florida and the Southeast.

Rotary has already stepped in to help in many areas, both financially and with on-the-ground support. If you're wanting to help, here's how to do it"

- The fastest way we can all help get critical supplies and equipment to the areas in the most need is with our financial support. To contribute, go online to [RotaryFL.org](https://RotaryFL.org), tap on the "Donate Today" button, fill out the simple form, and your donation will be on its way to the relief effort. Be assured that your contribution will go to help communities address immediate needs.

- Then, if you want to offer additional support of your time, materials, or equipment, go online to [RotaryFL.org](https://rotaryfl.org), tap on the "Give Support" button, fill out the form with the support you are offering, and you will be contacted!

As the situation develops over the coming days and weeks, you will hear much more about how Rotary mobilizes to offer disaster relief and support to Rotary members and their neighbors in need. [RotaryFL.org](https://rotaryfl.org) is the best place to start. We appreciate you contributing what you can and sharing this information with friends and family members for their support and for your club's combined relief efforts. Thanks in advance for your part in what I know will be a great "People of Action" response!

## Speakers for the month

### October SPEAKERS provided by Stephanie Esposito

October 2nd Marjorie Speer, Wine Tasting

October 9<sup>th</sup> – no meeting

October 16<sup>th</sup> – Dr. Jennifer Weeks, Entomology and Nematology Department

October 23<sup>rd</sup> – Jen Homard, Exec Director of Secondary Programs at Santa Fe College

October 30<sup>th</sup> – Tbd

## UPCOMING EVENTS



~ ~ **DETAILS FOR ALL EVENTS ARE LOCATED WITHIN  
THE NEWSLETTER** ~ ~

PLEASE ALSO REFER TO ONLINE CLUB CALENDAR AT THE LINK  
FOR  
MOST UPDATED CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

<https://rb.gy/jh7vx>

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OCTOBER 25	Car Show	DETAILS IN NEWSLETTER. Volunteers needed!
NOVEMBER 21	SEAFOOD FESTIVAL	

# 2025 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



Dear Rotarians!

We're delighted to announce that the 2025 Rotary International Convention will take place in Calgary, Canada, 21-25 June 2025.

check out this promo video: <https://youtu.be/q7ZDUAWWBo4>

Calgary, along with breathtaking beauty, is a big city with a small-town feel that warmly welcomes visitors. More than 165 languages are spoken in Calgary, making it a perfect destination to bring together Rotary members from around the world.

The 2025 convention theme is "Magic All Around," and from the moment you arrive, you'll feel it. The one-of-a-kind connections and friendships. The people with different backgrounds, experiences, and points of view. The energy of thousands of members with their spirits, hearts, and passions together in one place, creating lasting impact and changing the world. That's magic!

## INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION

Having an International Meeting so close to us (relatively speaking) presents a unique opportunity for club members to be able to attend this amazing event!

Here's how to register:

Go to **MyRotary.org** (( if you don't have an account, it's easy to establish one)

Choose *Events & Conventions*

Choose *International Conventions*

It should take you to the registration page for Calgary.

## 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	Secretary	
Brett Buell	9/1/2015	President 2024-25	* PHF+1
Brenda Chamberlain	1/1/2019	PP 2021-22	*PHF
Neal Cohen	7/1/1989		* PHF3
Billy Combs	4/1/1992	PP 97-98, Treasurer	* MD / BR PHF8
Pat Craddock	9/1/2006	PP 10-11	* MD @ 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
<i>Marta Hartmann</i>	05/2021	Director	
Becky Hunt	1/1/1996		* PHF 8
Jim Islam	9/1/1990	PP 95-96	* MD PHF8
Steve Jeppson	5/11/2022		
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
Ben Rowe (d.)	n/a	Charter President	* MD
Lauri Schiffbauer	8 11 2021		
<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	11/1/2025		
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

**POI** The person of interest is the Rotarian each member is charged to keep track of, representing the club to that person.

**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 meet on Wednesdays at Noon at the  
Paramount Grill,  
12 SW First Avenue  
Gainesville, Florida**

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