

# Rotary



Club of  
Downtown Gainesville



# IMAGINE ROTARY

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## Club Leaders



Carl Smart  
President



Stephanie Esposito  
President-Elect



William S. Combs  
Treasurer



Megan Olson  
Club Director Secretary



Brett Buell  
Sergeant-at-Arms



Brenda Chamberlain  
iPast President



Joseph E. Lowry Jr.  
Club Director

Marta M. Hartmann

## Welcome

*Welcome to the  
Rotary Club of Downtown Gainesville*

**DON'T FORGET!**

**JULY 5TH !**



We will resume regular meetings on July 12th.



Club  
Director



Rebecca W.  
Hunt  
Club  
Director



Diane Marie  
Robar  
Club  
Director



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



Chessie L.  
Flanders  
Assistant  
Governor

## JUNE ROTARY THEME



# June is Rotary Fellowships Month

## What is that?



WHAT is a ROTARY FELLOWSHIP ??

Rotary Fellowships are international groups that share a common passion in recreational activities, sports, hobbies or professions. These groups help expand skills, foster vocational development and enhance the Rotary experience by exploring interests while developing connections around the world! Being part of a fellowship is a fun way to make friends around the world, explore a hobby or profession, and enhance your Rotary

## Birthdays

Skender Jim Islam  
July 4th

Walter Barry  
July 14th

Judy Locascio  
July 25th

experience

Currently, there are 91 Rotarian fellowships, all uniting members in friendship and expanding opportunities to enjoy their favorite recreational activities, sports, and professions. These groups range from cycling to skiing, performing arts to marathons, Latin culture to jazz, doctors to photographers, and even wine-tasting to beer. And everything in between! Jimbo is in the Surfing fellowship and our own Ed Book was one of the founders of the Rotary Pins fellowship. For a complete list of fellowships, check out this link:

<https://www.rotary.org/en/our-programs/more-fellowships>



## JUNE 28TH SPEAKER, Laura Cohn

By Shelby Bobbett



*Lauren Cohn* is the Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Meridian Behavioral Healthcare and will be speaking about Meridian's current programs and their impact in the community.

Lauren graduated from the University of South Florida (USF) in 2004 with a BA in Criminology. She has worked in the mental healthcare industry for over 15 years, starting as a frontline mental health service provider before moving into program management positions and, eventually, risk management.

In her current role as the Chief Operating Officer at Meridian, Lauren oversees medical services, primary care, and support services and ensures the effective operation of these programs. She is also a certified Lean Six Sigma Green Belt.

## OFFICER TRANSITION DINNER

*What a wonderful evening at our annual Officer Transition Dinner. We thanked Carl for his year of leadership and welcomed our new President, Stephanie Esposito and her Board. AND we inducted our newest club member, April Green!*













**Special Visitor CINDY with Sharon**





**Fellow Rotarian Pini Kampoor from India also joined us**



**CONGRATULATIONS to our newest member, APRIL GREEN!  
We are so happy to have you with us!!**



**Stephanie was presented her Paul Harris x2 by her mother, Marcia Brod. Marcia is also a Rotarian.**



The Downtown Rotary club is pleased to be able to help support Haydee's mission to help "her" kids in the Congo. Through our donations from our soup lunch and 50-50 raffle at the transition dinner, we collected \$860 ! Here, Marcia Brod is selecting the winner of the raffle.

(btw, Billy Combs won the 50/50 and Becky Hunt won the dinner certificate at BlueWater Bay. CONGRATS!)



**THE moment! Passing of the Rotary gavel from Carl to Stephanie. Thank YOU Carl for your year of leadership and LEAD ON, Madame President!**



**Stephanie's Board**





**Stephanie with her parents, Lenny and Marcia Brod, and her husband Michael**



## **From your new club President**

By Stephanie Esposito





Thank you to all for coming out on Thursday for our transition dinner. I felt honored to be in a room with many friends, family, and passionate club members - many of whom have held board positions and have been club presidents - and many future board members and presidents. I'd like to express my gratitude for the amazing job our leader, Carl, has done this year. With the help of the board and members, the club has attracted new members, brought in fascinating speakers, visited new Gainesville businesses, offered multiple volunteer opportunities, and held many fun and impactful fundraising events. Thank you for your leadership.

The president elect year has been inspiring and motivating. I am ready. I'm also excited to hear all about Brett's experience when he attends the President Elect Training. To be in a room with other future club leaders, all eager to make a difference, truly gave me goosebumps.

I have many goals for this year but my #1 goal is to make the 2023/2024 Rotary year your best year. I'll be sharing a survey after my vacation to hear your ideas. Not only is this club's goal to make this "your" year but it is also the goal of the other 3 clubs here in Gainesville - which are all being lead by women. The 4 Gainesville clubs will be working together this year, as together we can do so much more.

This coming year's motto is providing hope to the world with a focus on mental health, which as many of you know is a passion of mine. I am here and I always want to hear from you.

I will wrap this up with my sincere appreciation for all of you trusting me to lead. I close with a quote from Hellen Keller that I feel relate to to our motto for 23/24 - "The unselfish effort to bring cheer to others will be the beginning of a happier life for ourselves."

Thank you,  
Stephanie

## District Grant approval

By Stephanie Esposito



**We recently received word that the grant we submitted to the District for helping Created Gainesville buy a car for their clients has been approved. It is in the amount of \$4,050. We now wait for the Rotary Foundation to approve and then Created can go car shopping! THANKS to Stephanie , Marta, Brenda and Joe Jr for their dedicated work in writing and submitting this grant proposal..**

## **ANNUAL AVIATION DAY**

**CONGRATULATIONS to David Bridges and Matt Bowman for another successful and inspiring Aviation Academy hosted by 100 Black Men of Greater Florida GNV, Inc.**





**Mission accomplished ! 65 kids flown today. And several adults.**

**5th annual Aviation Academy was a success!!**

**We are thrilled to announce the 2023 Aviation Academy, hosted by the 100 Black Men of Greater Florida GNV, Inc. The two-day academy is specifically designed to educate and inspire minority teens aged 12-18 about the fascinating world of aviation. Kids were able to experience and learn through a series of stations, covering weather, aerodynamics, flight patterns, and aviation careers, culminating in the opportunity to take to the skies and experience the thrill of flying firsthand.**







WHERE IN THE WORLD IS....

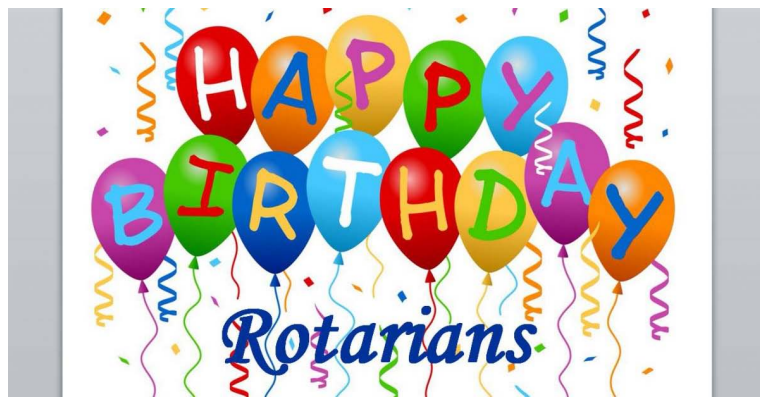
STEPHANIE >>>>>



Greetings from Iceland!  
Just finished a delicious  
food tour– many great  
lunch spots for next  
Wednesday?!? 😊



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR FELLOW ROTARIANS!**



**Brett Buell**  
**June 20**

**Scott Hansis**  
**June 23**

# MONTHLY SPEAKERS

By Jim "Jimbo " E. Skiles III

*JUNE Speakers provided by Shelby Bobbitt*

June 14 Dr. Tatiana Sanchez-Jones

June 21 Dr. David Reed

## June 28 Lauren Cohn

**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.esposito319@yahoo com*

Coordinator	Jim Skiles		352-538-0293
			<b>ROTARY THEME FOR MONTH</b>
June	Shelby		Rotary Fellowships
July	Zack		Transition Month
August	Lowerys		Membership and Extension
September	Marta		Basic Education and Literacy
October	Carl		Economic and Community Development
November			Rotary Foundation
December	Al		Disease Prevention and Treatment

## LUNCH LINK



**If you plan to have lunch at our meeting on Wednesday, don't forget to send in your order !**

<https://forms.gle/rK29PFu6WropgkFe9>

**REGISTER now!**



**Rotary Leadership Institute**  
building a better Rotary through education

# **Saturday, August 12th** **in Orange Park, FL**

**Breakfast and Sign-In 7:00–7:45am . . . Classes 8:00am to 3:00pm**  
**St. Johns River State College/Orange Park Campus**  
283 College Dr, Orange Park, FL 32065

**\$100.00 Fee per Rotarian**  
for class registration, course material  
notebook, breakfast and lunch,  
facility fees and course certificate  
*Note that some clubs subsidize this expense.  
Ask your club leadership for details.*

At RLI, you will share discussions with  
newer members starting their Rotary journey  
as well as members of many years looking to expand  
their Rotary knowledge. You will learn different  
perspectives of Rotarians from many clubs.  
And you will have time for networking with those  
same Rotarians. Remember, discussion group size  
is limited and **registration closes on  
Tuesday, August 1st.** So sign up today!

**Planning For Success, Rotary Opportunities,  
Leading Volunteers, Foundation Basics,  
Public Image, Effective Leadership Strategies,  
Service Projects, Grants, and the History of Rotary**  
are just some of the interesting topics explored.  
Plus a lively and timely Graduate Class focused on  
**The Rotary Foundation** will be available  
to all RLI Part 3 Graduates.

Join Rotarians from around  
Northeast Florida for  
**Rotary Leadership Institute**  
. . . **Saturday, August 12th**  
at St. Johns River State College  
Orange Park Campus!  
For more information contact:  
District 6970 RLI Director Bo Norton  
at [bnrotary.6970@gmail.com](mailto:bnrotary.6970@gmail.com) 1.703.868.8946

**Two Easy Ways To Register**

- 1 Log in to your  
Rotary account on DACdb,  
and open the Calendar  
(make sure RLI Events are included).  
Scroll to August 12th, click "**Register NOW**"  
and follow the prompts to get registered
- 2 Go online to  
[www.rltraining.org](http://www.rltraining.org) and  
tap on "Course Information" and then  
click the "Course Schedule" dropdown tab.  
Scroll to August 12th, click on "**More Info**"  
and follow the prompts to get registered



register at <https://rlitraining.org/course-information/course-schedule/>

scroll down to August 12th date

**REGISTRATION CLOSES AUGUST 1ST**

**Thanks, Rotarians**

By Haydee Britton



Thank  
You

*At our June 14th meeting, instead of our usual lunch options, club members were served a simple lentil soup and a piece of bread. The differences in cost were donated to fellow Rotarian Haydee Britton's non-profit which works with children in War-torn Congo. We are so fortunate to be able to have more than one meal a day and members were more than willing to come together in support of Haydee and her meaningful work. Thanks to Chef Ty for providing this special meal for us.*



**ITS A ROTARY THING!**

**DOGOODERY!**

## Downtown Gainesville Rotarians

MEMBER	JOINED	CLUB SERVICE	TRF	POI
John Anderson	4/1/2017		* PHF	Brett Buell
Walt Barry	1/1/2003	PP 09-10	* PHF4	Pradeep Kumar
Shelby Bobbitt	9/21/2022			Diane Robar
Ed Book	2/1/2009	PP 13-14 AG 1,2,AG	* BR PHF2	Ed Oehmig
Matt Bowman	12/1/2016		* PHF	Walt Barry
Billy Brame	7/1/1976	PP (RCGG)	* PHF+6	Neal Cohen
David Bridges	2/1/2019		*PHF	Matt Bowman
Haydee Britton	03/8/2023			Marta Hartman
Brett Buell	9/1/2015	Sgt At Arms	* PHF+1	John Anderson

<i>Brenda Chamberlain</i>	1/1/2019	PP 2021-22	*PHF	Megan Olson
Neal Cohen	7/1/1989		* PHF3	Billy Brame
<i>Billy Combs</i>	4/1/1992	PP 97-98, Treasurer	* MD / BR PHF8	Greg Fleming
Pat Craddock	9/1/2006	PP 10-11	* MD @ PHF8	Al Losch
Ed Emery	9/1/2015		* PHF	Ray Snook
<i>Stephanie Esposito</i>	6/12/2020	PE 2023-24, Director	*PHF	Brenda Chamberlain
Chessie Flanders	4/1/2017	PP 19-20, AG 1, AG2, AG	* PHF	Jennifer Reddish
Greg Fleming	3/1/1994	PP 05-06	* PHF3	Billy Combs
Megan Forbes	1/1/2001	PP 04-05	* BR @ PHF6	Joe Lowry Jr.
Don Frowick				n/a
April Green	6/21/2023	PP 94-95	MD / HM	Jim Skiles
Scott Hansis	2//2023			John Sanchez
<i>Marta Hartmann</i>	05/2021	Director		Marina Jordan
<i>Becky Hunt</i>	1/1/1996	Director	* PHF7	Diane Robar
Jim Islam	9/1/1990	PP 95-96	* MD PHF8	Joe Lowry Sr.
Steve Jeppson	5/11/2022			Jim Skiles
Marina Jordan	2/1/2019		*PHF	Diane Robar
Pradeep Kumar	5/1/2018		*PHF	David Bridges
Judy Locascio	3/1/2002		* PHF+6	Robert Taylor
Al Losch Jr.	4/1/1992	PP 00-01 LEOM	* MD @ BR PHF8	Pat Craddock
<i>Joe Lowry Jr.</i>	12/1/2004	PP (08-09) (17- 18)	* BR @ PHF6	Megan Forbes
Joe Lowry Sr.	7/1/2013		* MD PHF8	Jim Islam
<i>Clay Martin</i>	11/1/2016		* PHF	John Sanchez
Rob Oglesby	5/1/2010	PP 14-15	* MD / BR PHF8	Bob Robar
<i>Megan Olson</i>	2/1/2019	Secretary	*PHF	Brenda Chamberlain
Cheryl T. Poe	1/1/2007	PP 15-16	* BR PHF6	Becky Hunt
Perry Pursell	6/1/2008	PP 12-13,	* PHF3	
Bob Robar	11/1/1991	PP 01-02	* MD @ PHF8	Perry Pursell
<i>Diane Robar</i>	10/1/2014	PP 2020-21; AG 1, AG2	* PHF+1	Marina Jordan
Ben Rowe (d.)	n/a	Charter President	* MD	n/a
Lauri Schiffbauer	8 11 2021			Brenda Chamberlain
Jim Skiles	12/1/1998	PP 03-04; Speakers,director	* MD @ BR PHF8	Tom Sumrall
<i>Carl Smart</i>	3/1/2019	President 2022- 23,	*PHF	Zachary West
Ray Snook	4/1/2012	PP16-17 AAG	* PHF3	Cheryl Poe
Zachary West	11/1/2013		* PHF	Carl Smart

\* 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/>**