

Club Meeting

Welcome

Welcome to the

Rotary Club of Downtown Gainesville

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

Club Leaders

Brett <u>Buell</u>

President



<u>Diane</u> <u>Marie</u> Robar

President-Elect Vice

President <u>Haydee</u>



Secretary <u>William S.</u> <u>Combs</u> Treasurer



Sergeantat-Ărms <u>Stephanie</u> Esposito

iPast

Michael <u>Ekbladh</u>









<u>Megan</u> Olson Club Director



Rotary theme



Rotary

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NOTE



For October 30th and November 6th meetings we will be meeting at the Community Foundation of North Central Florida 3919 Newberry Road Suite3

Lunch Link



As Brett notified you last week, Paramount Grill has permanently closed its doors. We thank Chef Ty for the many years of good food and comfortable meeting space and wish him the best in his future endeavors. It was a very difficult decision for him to have to make.

We are now going to be looking for a new "home". If you have any suggestions, we would be interested to hear them!

For the next two meetings (Oct 27th and November 6th), we will be able to use the space at the Community Foundation of North Central Florida. The address is 3919 Newberry Road, Suite 3, 32607. (THANKS to Cheryl for securing this space!)

For our Oct 30th meeting, Megan will be catering our lunch from Culvers. The **NEW LINK** is below.

please note >>>> YOUR ORDER MUST BE SUBMITTED BY TUESDAY EVENING (instead of the usual Wed. morning) so that Megan has enough time to organize and prepare our order.

NEW LINK https://forms.gle/ZzruZqFEAZce wLSN6

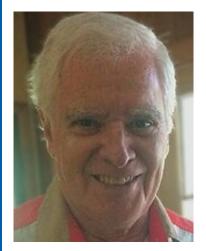
Angela Howard, speaker October 30th



Angela Howard, President & CEO North Central Florida YMCA

Angela Howard is a dedicated leader in the nonprofit sector, serving as the President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the North Central Florida YMCA. With a passion for community development, Angela has made significant contributions to the YMCA's mission and purpose of promoting youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility.

Rest in Peace



Neal Cohen

March 9, 1945 - October 9, 2024

Rest in Peace to a wonderful friend and fellow Rotarian, Dr. Neal P. Cohen. It was such a pleasure to know him!

Neal ended his lifelong global odyssey on October 9, 2024 at the E.T. York Haven Hospice Center in Gainesville, Florida.

Neal was born March 9, 1945 to Aaron and Edna Cohen in Brooklyn, NY, and started to explore the world at age 10 when they moved with the US military to Ramstein, Germany. The family explored Europe and Neal was an eager learner. After graduating from the Kaiserslautern American High School in Germany, and then the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University he earned a PhD in development economics at the University of Wisconsin.

At Wisconsin he met Jan, his wife of 55 years. Neal taught at Eastern Michigan University and St. Louis University, but he craved overseas work where he felt he could truly make a difference. So he and Jan pursued that dream.

His first international stint was teaching economics at Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria, Nigeria, where eldest son Matthew was born. Second son Richard moved with the family as an infant when Neal accepted a Fulbright teaching fellowship in Kathmandu, Nepal, and they all moved to Arusha, Tanzania with Development Alternatives.

The international life style now decided, Neal joined the United States Agency for International Development as an economist in 1980, serving first in Washington DC and then moving overseas again with posts in Mbabane, Swaziland (now eSwatini); Colombo, Sri Lanka; Kathmandu, Nepal; Nairobi, Kenya; and Pretoria, South Africa. Neal retired from USAID as an officer in 2000, but continued with USAID as part of President Bush's program to combat AIDS in Africa.

Neal and Jan moved to Gainesville, Florida in 2006 to live near Matthew, his wife Leah, and their three grandchildren. Neal continued short assignments overseas, including in Afghanistan, Yemen and Cambodia. Overseas travel enriched their lives, including a Himalayan trek, taking teenage grandsons to southern Africa, attending the Edinburgh Festival, and exploring Portugal. As Neal's health worsened, he and Jan still managed trips to New York City with friends, attending the Metropolitan Opera, theatre and dance performances, all of which he loved so well.

Neal was a runner and biker, racing for pleasure and good causes, from ultra-marathons to charity events. His haul of medals and trophies lines his study, but it was always about being outdoors, with friends and testing his own limits. He followed the news, read non-fiction, and loved discussing ideas. He was a proud Rotarian and Fulbright board member.

Neal leaves friends across the globe and his loving family—Jan, Matthew, Leah, and grandchildren Sawyer, Grady and Calyra. He is predeceased by his parents Aaron and Edna, brother Jeff, and beloved second son Richard.

Always mindful of making a difference in the world, Neal donated his body to medical research and opted for no memorial service. In place of a ceremony, the family invites memorial donations to the Rotary Club of Downtown Gainesville (PO Box 358387, Gainesville, FL 32635) to support the good work of the South Sudan Healthcare Organization (<u>https://sshco.org/</u>). Please visit his memorial page at <u>www.williamsthomasfuneralhome.com</u>

https://www.gainesville.com/obituaries/psar0976193

International Car Show



The Fourth annual International Car show in Gainesville at <u>Shop at Butler</u> was the first year Rotary hosted it. Through the <u>Rotary Club of Gainesville Foundation</u>, Inc. all 4 Rotary Clubs and 3 Rotaract Clubs came together for a great event. There were 110 fancy cars, great food and great people.

Thank you <u>Rotary District 6970 Gainesville Rotary Club Rotaract Club of Gainesville Santa Fe</u> <u>College Rotaract Club Alachua County Sheriff Rotary Clubs of Greater Gainesville Downtown</u> <u>Gainesville, and Sunrise Rotary Club of Gainesville</u> It is amazing what can happen when Rotary works together.

Special thanks to the Downtown Rotarians who came out to volunteer - Brett, Stephanie, Ed , Michael, Ray, Bob and Diane









Even got to meet SEC FRESHMAN OF THE WEEK, UF GATOR FOOTBALL PLAYER JADEN BAUGH



COMING UP NOVEMBER 21ST!

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!



ROTARY CLUBS OF GAINESVILLE FOUNDATION

Seafood Spectacular!

Join Your Fellow Rotarians for an Evening of Fellowship

Thursday November 21st at 5:30 PM

Rotary Conservation Area – Hatchet Creek

Tickets \$60 each or 5 for \$250 (QR Code for Payment)





Location: Newnans Lake Conservation Area 4841 NE 118 Drive Gainesville, FL. 32641

AND HERE'S ANOTHER WAY TO ENJOY THE EVENING!

Seafood Spectacular "Special Sponsors"

Each year the Rotary Clubs of Gainesville Foundation sponsors the Seafood Spectacular to provide a fellowship event for members and friends. Many Rotarians take an extra step to support this great event by becoming "Special Sponsors" of the different items on the evening's menu. We are offering a special "Master Fisherman" sponsor again this year. For only \$150.00 you will be a "Master Fisherman" sponsor and receive 2 tickets to the event. Your contributions will be recognized on the sponsor board at the event.

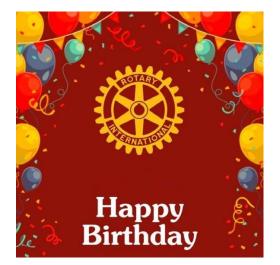
Questions? Email SeafoodSpectacular@rotarygainesville.org

| RANK | MENU ITEM | NUMBER OF SPONSORSHIPS |
|-------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| King of the Sea | Appetizer sponsor | @ \$500 = |
| Admiral | Catch of the Day | @ \$250 = |
| Captain | Boiled Shrimp | @ \$125 = |
| Master Chief | Smoked Salmon | @ \$100 = |
| Master Fisherman | Includes 2 tickets! | @ \$150 = |
| Seaman | Wine | @\$ 25 = |
| Individual Tickets | Tickets only | @ \$ 60 = |
| Special offer 5 Tickets | Tickets only | @ \$250 = |
| Name: | | |

Thank you for your support. We look forward to seeing you Thursday, Nov 21st.

Thank you for your support of all the wonderful things Rotary does in our community.

Birthday greetings!



Brenda Chamberlain October 6th

> Ed Emery October 10th

> Joe Lowry October 20th

Pat Craddock October 28th

Speakers for the month

October SPEAKERS provided by Stephanie Esposito

October 2nd Marjorie Speer, Wine Tasting

October 9th – no meeting

October 16th – Dr. Jennifer Weeks, Entomology and Nematology Department

October 23rd - Jen Homard, Exec Director of Secondary Programs at Santa Fe College

October 30th - Angela Howard, President and CEO of North Central Florida YMCA

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: <u>https://rb.gy/jh7vx</u>

| | _ | |
|--|--|--|
| Nov 1 (1-4 pm) Nov 2 (9 - noon) | GOC work party Help with light yard cleanup in preparation for the upcoming FALL FESTIVAL | Contact Brett for info 352 872 3232 |
| NOV 15 11 AM - 6 PM | ANNUAL GOC FALL FESTIVAL | Brett |
| NOVEMBER 21 | SEAFOOD FESTIVAL | |

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



































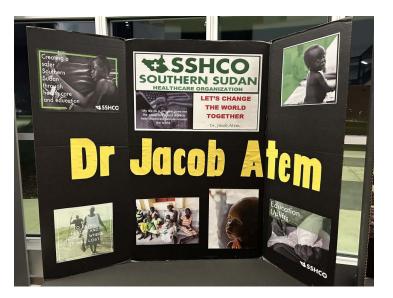








OUR CLUB IS IN THE INITIAL STAGES OF PURSUING AN INTERNATIONAL ROTARY GRANT TO HELP BRING CLEAN WATER AND HYDROPONIC GARDENING TO SOUTH SUDAN. THIS IS THE WAGS (water & agriculture) PROJECT.



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





CHRISTINE DENNY





GARY FAUST

JACK HARDY







ROSE SCHNABEL

CHAIN REACTION BIKE SHOP SINCE 1993







ROBBIE CARTENS





Robbie Carstens 352 4947-1938 robbiecarstens@me.com

LOWRY FINANCIAL ADVISORS







LAKE AREA DENTAL

ITS A ROTARY THING!



Hurriicane Disaster Relief

When Disasters Hit Florida

The Florida Rotary Districts Are There To Help

"Florida Rotary Strong! 8 districts have united to make a difference in our communities. Together, we bring resources, skills, and kindness to those in need. Our commitment is unwavering. Let's continue to inspire each other to do great things."





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 <u>RotaryFL.org</u>, 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 <u>RotaryFL.org</u>, 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 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!

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 Walt Barry | JOINED 1/1/2003 | CLUB SERVICE PP 09-10 | TRF * PHF4 |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Shelby Bobbitt</i> Ed Book | 9/21/2022 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 Dranda Chambarlain | 9/1/2015 | President 2024-25 | * PHF+1 |
| Brenda Chamberlain | 1/1/2019 4/1/1992 | PP 2021-22 | *PHF * MD / BR PHF8 |
| Billy Combs Pat Craddock | 9/1/2006 | PP 97-98, Treasurer PP 10-11 | * MD @ PHF8 |
| Michael Ekbladh | 7 26 2023 | Sgt At Arms | |
| Ed Emery | 9/1/2015 | Syt At Amis | * 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 |
| Steve Jeppson | 5/11/2022 | | *0115 |
| Marina Jordan | 2/1/2019 | | *PHF |
| Pradeep Kumar | 5/1/2018 | | *PHF+1 * PHF+6 |
| Judy Locascio Al Losch Jr. | 3/1/2002 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 | 11 (00-03) (17-10) | * 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 |
| Lauri Schiffbauer | 8 11 2021 | | |
| 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 | PP16-17 AAG | * PHF3 |
| Francine Vincent | 07/24/2024 | | |

Zachary West 11/1/2025 Leslie Wooten PHF3 10/1/2023 * 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/