



# **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/

### **Club Leaders**



Carl Smart President

<u>P</u>

President-Elect



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

Stephanie Esposito



<u>Megan Olson</u> Club Director Secretary



Brett Buell Sergeant-at-Arms



Brenda Chamberlain iPast President



Joseph E. Lowry Jr. Club Director Marta M Hartmann



Club Director Rebecca W. Hunt

**Club Director** 



Diane Marie Robar Club Director



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

<u>Chessie L Flanders</u> Assistant Governor

# Welcome

Welcome to the Rotary Club of Downtown Gainesville

# Theme of the Month

Here is your Rotary theme for May!



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR FELLOW ROTARIANS!



Megan Olson May 9th Steven Jeppson May 10th Ray Snook May 11th Rebecca W. Hunt May 13th Shelby Bobbett May 28th



#### **Birthdays**

Shelby Bobbett May 28th

## **TIME FOR FELLOWSHIP AND FUN!!**



It's HERE!!

### Our annual CONNIE ROWE DOWNTOWN ROTARY CLUB auction!!

Friday, MAY 19th 6 pm Arbor Green Club House Catering by Cilantro Taco



### SILENT and LIVE AUCTION ITEMS will be offered!

Tickets: \$25 for 1 \$40 for 2

Let us know if you can join by clicking link to RSVP below. We will invoice you!

If you've attended in the past, you know this is fun event for our members and guests and we hope you will be able to attend (and of course, find a special item or two to take home!)

We need a headcount so please respond to RSVP by Tuesday, May 16.

(For those who already RSVP'ed to Stephanie via email or in-person - no need to submit again.)

Here's the LINK: <u>https://forms.gle/</u> LNaetKGsEiPZt2vq7



The more items we have, the more fun for everybody. You never know what somebody might be looking for. We will be having both silent and live auction items available.

Suggestions include vacation packages, massages (Do you get monthly massages? Ask them to donate!), facials, pedicures, "date night" certificates, food and wine gift baskets, car services, handmade items, restaurant gift certificates (Do you go somewhere weekly? Ask for a gift card!), Rotary merchandise, and more! Any and all donations happily accepted!

Thank you to the Robar's and Pat Craddock for donating a getaway for the live auction, Jeff and Megan have donated an amazing "Micanopy Getaway", Stephanie and Mike have donated a coffee gift basket for 2, and Judy has located some very nice gift certificates. How about you?

AND

yes, we ARE having a meeting Wednesday, May 17th .

This will be a fun and casual meeting that will give you the opportunity to bring your auction donations if you have not already brought them in.



It takes more than one person to make this event happen. We will need volunteers to help make our auction a success... and that includes everything from setting up, picking-up food and drinks, and probably a few other things we haven't thought about. If you can volunteer, while you are RSVP'ing at the above link, also check-off that we can call you to volunteer!

### **District conference**

DOWNTOWN ROTARIANS Jimbo Skiles, Diane & Bob Robar, Stephanie Esposito and Haydee Britton attended the District conference in St. Augustine over the weekend.





Also attending the district conference were 3 of the incoming Rotary presidents for Gainesville clubs. Pictured here are Lynda Reinhart (Gainesville Rotary), Diane (who will be Assistant Governor for our Area 1), Stephanie Esposito (Our Downtown Rotary PE) and Christina Ramos (Greater Gainesville)



Our new member Haydee is quite the social butterfly and is always interested in meeting and talking to new friends. Here she is with two of the notable speakers from the conference, Shirley Grace (representative for RI President Jennnifer Jones) and Rotary Foundation Trustee Dean Rohrs



**From Jeff Michelman, present District 6970 Governor**: Thank you to the over 230 people who attended this year's District Training Assembly and Conference. It was a wonderful event, with engaging speakers and interesting topics.

Here are some of the speakers:

**On Friday, Past District Governor of District 5230** Shirley Grace, who is Past President of the Rotary Club of Fresno, CA and was representing Rotary International President Jennifer Jones, opened the District Training Assembly, helping us all to *Imagine Rotary* 



There were a variety of sessions aimed at preparing this year's leaders and in this session, District Governor-Elect John Tabor and District Membership Chair Katherine Batenhorst are discussing the importance of Membership with the Assistant Governors, each one representing an area in our District (we have 12).



Kristin Keen gave a sobering and informative presentation about the growing problem of Human Trafficking in Northeast Florida, in particular



Past District Governor for District 7620 Dr. Geetha Jayaram framed the importance of Understanding our Mental Health Crisis



Although Astronaut and Retired Marine Corps. Colonel Bob Spring explained how NASA recovered after the Challenger tragedy by assessing the problems and fixing them, he also explained how you go to the bathroom in space—it seems that this is a common question!



Jacob Atem, Ph.D. from the Rotary Club of Gainesville took us through his journey as one of the Lost Boys in Sudan and how we can help in the current crisis in Sudan which is forcing refugees into South Sudan.



Rotary Foundation Trustee Dean Rohrs gave us clear examples of how our contributions to the Rotary Foundation facilitate us Doing Amazing Good in the World.



And THE STAR of the conference .... ORION JEAN !



Orion and DG Jeff Michelman

One of the highlights of the conference was listening to Orion Jean, a young gentleman of 12 years, speak on the subject of KINDNESS. Orion was named the 2022 Time Magazine Kid of the year and the Ambassador of Kindness. Orion has appeared on television and has spoken to audiences all over the world.

He is wise beyond his years and everyone in the room was completely transfixed listening to him speak. We had to wait a little to finish up as Orion Jean's Aunt, Uncle and Grandparents arrived from Jacksonville to hear Orion Speak present on *Kindness*. This was the first time they had ever been in his audience and Orion told DG Michelman that this made him more nervous than when he was speaking to 10,000 people in Houston at the Rotary International Convention.

# Volunteer Opportunity - Memorial Day



You are invited to join us on *Saturday, May 27 at 9:00AM* to place American flags on the graves of over 1,000 Veterans at Evergreen Cemetery as part of this year's Memorial Day remembrance. The historic Evergreen Cemetery is located at 401 SE 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue.



With 56 acres, we encourage volunteers to work in pairs or small teams. Each team will be responsible for a small area of the cemetery. Flags and a list of names will be provided for each team. With enough volunteers, we are usually finished by 11:00AM. This volunteer opportunity is suitable for any age group. Please invite friends and family to participate. Everyone should wear good walking shoes.

On Monday, May 29, at 10:30AM a Memorial Day ceremony will be held at Evergreen Cemetery at the new Veterans Monument. The ceremony is free and open to the public. The event honors and remembers Veterans and military service members who lost their lives in service to our nation. This ceremony features patriotic presentations, musical tributes, as well as inspirational words from area leaders. The Alachua County Veterans Services, in partnership with the City of Gainesville Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department and the historic Evergreen Cemetery are proud to host this event. Milam Funeral Home and Cherished Memories Pet Cremations are generously providing lunch for all attendees and volunteers. Please help us share info about this event with Veterans.

Volunteers are also needed to help set up chairs and tents for this event (8:30-10:30AM); assist with directing parking (9:30-11:30AM); and assisting with stacking chairs and breaking down the event (11:00AM-1:00PM). Your help with any or all of these three shifts would be greatly appreciated.

Please feel free to call me on 352-451-3064 if you have any questions.

Karen E. Pruss | Cemetery Coordinator

## **GOC Bike day**

By Brett Buell

Gainesville Opportunity Center holds second annual Bike Day



Bikers hit the trails here at depot park on Saturday, May 13th, to help raise awareness for mental health services at the Gainesville Opportunity Center's second-annual bike day.

Bicyclists could choose from two rides--a six-mile loop or a 24-mile loop around the Hawthorne Trail.

The event is put on by the Gainesville Opportunity Center--which helps people dealing with mental illness get back to work.

"This bike day event--which is a public event--is just to raise awareness," said the GOC's development director, Brett Buell. "People don't know we're here, they don't know that we're helping people, they don't know how we're helping people and this event will help people understand what we're doing. "The members--not patients, not clients--come to our center, help us run our business and they prove to themselves that they can be productive again," continued Buell. "From there, we give them support, we help them get out into the community, we help them find jobs and then we work with the employers so that they can keep those jobs."

Brett being interviewed by TV 20



# THANK YOU, ASO

On April 19th, we honored two brothers who serve with ASO - Deputies Clayton and Carlton Litzkow. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SERVICE TO THE CITIZENS OF ALACHUA COUNTY!



Pictured here: Sgt. Jered Smith; Deputy Clayton Litzkow; Deputy Carlton Litzkow, Deputy Michael McKivigan.

The mother of our honored deputies is ASO Capt. Becky Butscher!



Pictured here: Col. Chad Scott; Deputy Clayton Litzkow; Capt. Becky Butscher; Deputy Carlton Litzkow; Deputy Michael McKivigan; Undersheriff Joel DeCoursey

# LUNCH LINK



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

ALL ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 9 AM on WEDNESDAYS

# https://forms.gle/rK29PFu6WropgkFe9

## Meet our newest members!

### By Diane Marie Robar on Sunday, May 14, 2023

At a recent meeting, our newest club members shared a bit more about themselves through a craft talk. THANKS to Scott, Shelby, and Haydee for letting us get to know them better. And thanks to David, for giving us an update on his recent flying activities...always interesting to hear where he's been !

Scott Hansis



Shelby Bobbett



#### Haydee Britton



#### David Bridges



# **MONTHLY SPEAKER sign up**

By Jim "Jimbo " E. Skiles III APRIL Speakers provided by Stephanie Esposito

APRIL 5 Jayne Moraski,

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
		ROTARY THEME FOR MONTH
Мау	Brenda	Youth Service
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	AI	Disease Prevention and Treatment

# **UPCOMING EVENT CALENDAR**



	see bulletin for more details on each	
MAY 19	ANNUAL CONNIE ROWE AUCTION	
MAY 27	Memorial day Flag placement Evergreen cemetery	

## **Restructuring of Dues: Effective April 1, 2023**

Please note the following restructuring of dues:

- Does not apply to members who are currently billed for dues without meals included (rule of 85)
- It does not affect the amount that members have pledged for PHF sustaining pledges or trivia contributions. Those charges will still be included on your invoice.
- CURRENT MEMBERS: dues reduced from the current \$287 per quarter to \$225
- NEW MEMBERS: dues reduced for new members to \$200 per quarter for 1st year and waive the \$50 new member fee
- NON PROFITS: Dues reduced to \$200 per quarter and waive the \$50 new member fee for future members employed by non-profits
- The above changes are effective 04/01/2023. If members want to "opt out" of the dues decrease and maintain their current billing amount, they should have that option or apply the difference to Paul Harris.

# **Downtown Gainesville Rotarians**

MEMBER	JOINED	CLUB SERVICE	TRF	POI
John Anderson Walt Barry Sholby Pabbitt	4/1/2017 1/1/2003 9/21/2022		* PHF * PHF4	Brett Buell Pradeep Kumar Diane Robar
Shelby Bobbitt Ed Book	2/1/2022	PP 13-14 AG	* BR PHF2	Ed Oehmig
Matt Bowman Billy Brame David Bridges Brett Buell <i>Brenda Chamberlain</i> Neal Cohen	12/1/2016 7/1/1976 2/1/2019 9/1/2015	1,2,AG PP (RCGG) Sgt At Arms PP 2021-22	* PHF * PHF+6 *PHF * PHF+1 *PHF * PHF3	Walt Barry Neal Cohen Matt Bowman John Anderson Megan Olson Billy Brame
Billy Combs	4/1/1992	PP 97-98, Treasurer	* MD / BR PHF8	Greg Fleming
Pat Craddock Ed Emery	9/1/2006 9/1/2015	PP 10-11	* MD @ PHF8 * PHF	Al Losch Ray Snook
Stephanie Esposito	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 Megan Forbes Don Frowick Scott Hansis Marta Hartmann	3/1/1994 1/1/2001 2//2023 05/2021	PP 05-06 PP 04-05 PP 94-95 Director	* PHF3 * BR @ PHF6 MD / HM	Billy Combs Joe Lowry Jr. n/a John Sanchez Marina Jordan
Becky Hunt Jim Islam Steve Jeppson Marina Jordan Pradeep Kumar Judy Locascio	1/1/1996 9/1/1990 5/11/2022 2/1/2019 5/1/2018 3/1/2002	Director PP 95-96	* PHF7 * MD PHF8 *PHF * PHF * PHF+6	Diane Robar Joe Lowry Sr. Jim Skiles Diane Robar David Bridges Robert Taylor
Al Losch Jr.	4/1/1992	PP 00-01 LEOM	* MD @ BR PHF8	Pat Craddock
Joe Lowry Jr.	12/1/2004	PP (08-09) (17- 18)	* BR @ PHF6	Megan Forbes
Joe Lowry Sr. Clay Martin Rob Oglesby Megan Olson Cheryl T. Poe Perry Pursell Bob Dabas	7/1/2013 11/1/2016 5/1/2010 2/1/2019 1/1/2007 6/1/2008	PP 14-15 Secretary PP 15-16 PP 12-13,	* MD PHF8 * PHF * MD / BR PHF8 *PHF * BR PHF6 * PHF3 * MD @ DUF9	Brenda Chamberlain Becky Hunt
Bob Robar	11/1/1991	PP 01-02 PP 2020-21; AG	* MD @ PHF8	Perry Pursell
<i>Diane Robar</i> Ben Rowe (d.)	n/a	1, AG2 Charter President	* PHF+1 * MD	Marina Jordan n/a
Lauri Schiffbauer	8 11 2021			Brenda Chamberlain
Jim Skiles	12/1/1998	PP 03-04; Speakers,director	* MD @ BR PHF8	Tom Sumrall
Carl Smart	3/1/2019	President 2022- 23,	*PHF	Zachary West
Ray Snook Robert Taylor Zachary West	4/1/2012 11/1/2011 11/1/2013	PP16-17 AAG	* PHF3 * PHF * PHF	Cheryl Poe Judy Locascio 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 Harrís 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/

### **ITS A ROTARY THING!**

