

Adopt a Duck,
Help Local
Charity

DETAILS ON HOW
YOU CAN HELP WITH
A "HANDFUL OF
QUACKS"



CLUB PRESIDENT
HONORED
IAN AGUILAR MAKES
PRESTIGIOUS LIST



THE STORY OF WHY
ASHLEY HOLMER
JOINED ROTARY



NEXT MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 6 AT 7:30AM
ZOOM ID: 388.019.0662
PASSWORD: 263 227

THE.32081. ROTARIAN



How You Can Support This Year's Rubber Ducky Regatta

"We have the chance
to make history. It's up
to us as club members
now to deliver."

- Bob Wiltfong, Co-
Director of Regatta PR

The Co-Director of PR for our Rubber Ducky Regatta this year puts it plainly: “We have the chance to make history,” says Bob Wiltfong. “We are partnered with hundreds of high school students in our area selling duck adoptions and our corporate sponsorships this year are very strong. The end result is a fundraising effort that could help finance our charitable efforts for years to come. It’s up to us as club members now to deliver.”

Each member of the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra is being asked to adopt out at least a “Handful of Quacks” (that’s 6 duckies for \$25) to support this year’s cause. A duck in the race will make you eligible for some terrific prizes including multiple \$100 gift cards and four one way tickets from Southwest Airlines to anywhere in the US.

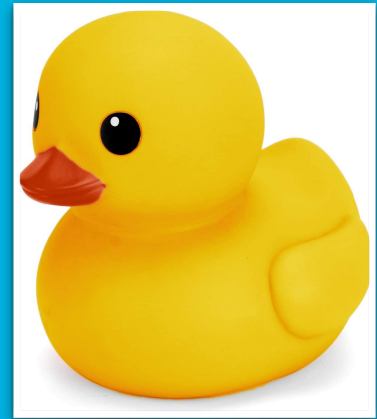
The Rubber Ducky Regatta raises money for our club and the local Learn to Read charity in the process. **This year’s event is just around the corner on Sunday, May 16, 12 PM**, on the Intracoastal just north of the Palm Valley/Ponte Vedra (210) Bridge. Thousands of little rubber duckies will be dropped from the north side of the Bridge to waddle their way to the finish line, opposite Palm Valley Outdoors Bar & Grill (377 S. Roscoe Blvd.), headquarters for the event.

Adoption gifts range from \$5 for one ducky up to \$100 for the “Quacks Galore” package of 25 duckies. Once adopted each duck is assigned a number in order to determine the winners. You can easily adopt your duckies by going to <https://learntoreadstjohns.org/product/rubber-ducky-regatta-adoption/> and while there, please note your affiliation with the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra.

Event organizers are also looking for business sponsors, so if you’re interested in contributing in this way as well, please contact Event Chair, Club member Gary Smith, at 315-720-2219.

Learn to Read is a vital non-profit agency right here in St. Johns County which focuses on helping adults in our community improve their reading skills. As our own Rotary Club is partnering again with Learn to Read on the Regatta, our newly created Ponte Vedra Rotary Foundation will receive a small portion of the net proceeds to help support our various charitable efforts.

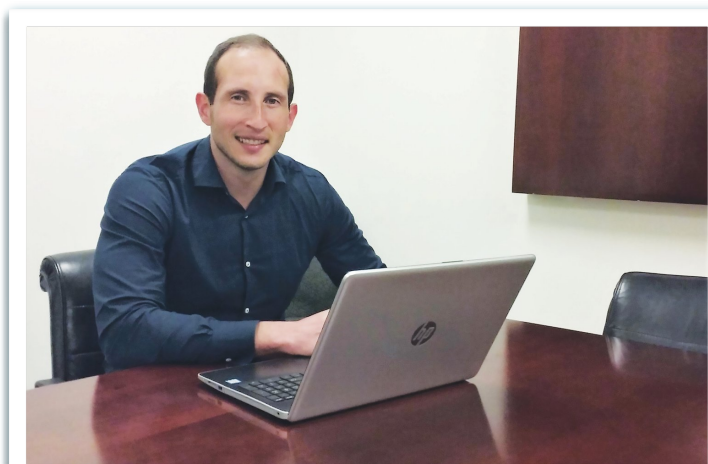
Please plan to be on hand on May 16 at Palm Valley Outdoors to cheer your duckies on to victory and otherwise enjoy this annual family-oriented celebration! - [Denny Baldwin](#) & [Bob Wiltfong](#)





Our Own Ian Aguilar Named Among Jacksonville's 40 Under 40

Congratulations to our own Ian Aguilar who was recently named by the Jacksonville Business Journal among 2021's prestigious 40 Under 40 honorees!



According to Timothy Gibbons, Editor in Chief of the Journal, "To be selected as a 40 Under 40 honoree requires business success, leadership skills and a high level of community involvement. But those who were picked go beyond even that high bar: They also must be involved in shaping the community in which they live and work." Gibbons added that this year's 40 honorees were picked from a record number of nominees in consultation with a wide range of Jacksonville's business leaders.

In addition to being President and a very active member of The Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra, and a life long resident of the area, Ian is a partner at Paragon Wealth Strategies, experienced certified financial planners serving Jacksonville and Ponte Vedra Beach. At Paragon Ian prides himself on his ability to take care of his client's entire financial life so they can enjoy the fruits of their labors—even well before retirement.

We're so proud of Ian's accomplishments and contributions to Rotary and the First Coast community. Please join Ian and the other honorees at a virtual 40 Under 40 Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, May 19, 2021 from 11 AM to 12:30 PM by purchasing your ticket at www.bizjournals.com. - Denny Baldwin



My Rotary Story: How Joining a Rotary Club Helped Enhance Ashley Holmer's Work in Africa

Looking for a meaningful year-abroad experience, Ashley Holmer decided to teach in Tanzania. The former college soccer star coached and taught English in a Maasai community in 2005.

But Holmer soon became more deeply involved in education in Tanzania. She co-founded the Indigenous Education Foundation of Tanzania (IEFT), which established a school in the village of Orkeeswa in 2008. In 2011, the leaders of Mungere village asked Holmer to help build its first community high school.

That was the beginning of the Red Sweater Project, named for the color of the school uniforms. Since then, the Mungere School — and education — has been a central part of Holmer's life.

The Red Sweater Project focuses on three main areas: quality education, gender equality, and responsible innovation. In Tanzania, many children — especially girls — leave school around age 12, in part because of costs for uniforms, school supplies, meals, and transportation. To keep

students in the classroom, the project makes education affordable by reducing those ancillary costs.

In 2013, Holmer, who still spends about half her time in Tanzania, was invited to a meeting of the Lewis River Rotary club [of Washington state]. She was struck by the way her values meshed with those of Rotary but was unable to join at the time because of attendance requirements. In January 2017, with those requirements having become more flexible, she became a member.

The club has embraced Holmer's work and sponsors scholarships for six students each year to attend the Mungere School. "We have students whose parents are illiterate," Holmer says. "One of my students just finished her teacher training. It's coming full circle." - [Nikki Kallio \(Rotary International Writer\)](#)

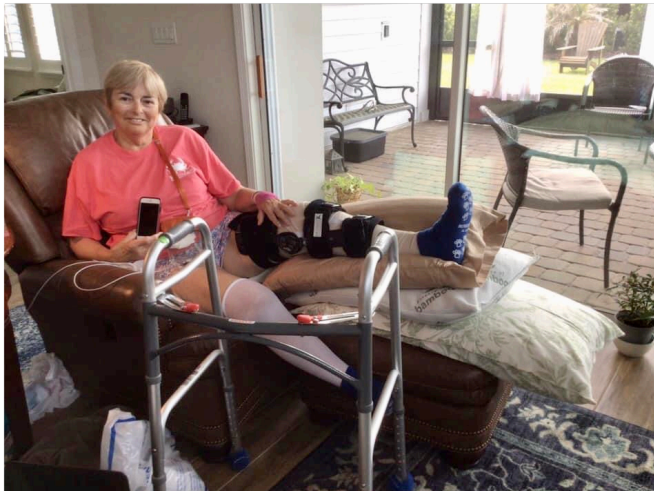


Speaker Spotlight: Ann Breidenstein & Joseph Cinney Visit Our Club on April 6th

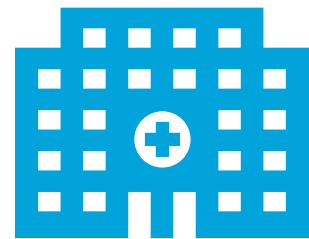


Teenage homelessness and adult illiteracy in St. Johns County are among the problems you can expect to be addressed this Tuesday morning when Ann Breidenstein and Joseph Cinney visit us. Breidenstein is the founder and CEO of Learn to Read of St. Johns County, Inc., a group dedicated to helping adult learners in our area with literacy tutoring. Cinney is a tutor with Learn to Read and the Port in the Storm Teen Homeless Shelter in St. Augustine. In addition, Learn to Read is partnering with the Rotary Club of Ponte Vedra on this year's Rubber Ducky Regatta. Please make

plans to attend Ann and Joseph's visit by attending our next regular club meeting this Tuesday, April 6th, at 7:30am via Zoom - (ID: 388 019 0662; Password: 263 227)). - [Bob Wiltfong](#)



Andy Erickson's wife, Polly, is recovering nicely from knee surgery. She said on Facebook: "Two knees & 2 cataracts (check) done!"





• **PETS District Breakouts** Fri, May 7 6:30 pm via Zoom.

ALL President-Elects and AG2s should be in attendance.

• **District Training Assembly** Sat, May 8 9:00 am via zoom.

ALL Rotarians should join us for this informative learning event. Our guest speaker will be PRIP Barry Rassin who will speak on Rotary's new Seventh Avenue of Focus, and provide an update on Hurricane Dorian relief efforts.



Area 7 & Beyond!

By Kelly Altosino-Sastre



Are you Connected?

Did you know YOU are listed in District and Club data base, aka DACdb? When you joined our club a basic profile was set up about you using the information from your application. YOUR profile is a great way for others to connect with you, perhaps for business or fellowship. YOU can connect with other Rotarians too and not just in our District. Is your profile up to date? Go to <https://www.dacdb.com> and log on with your email address. Someone out there in the great beyond may want to do business with you. Contact Kelly at kellysastre@aol.com if you have any questions and she will talk you through it.

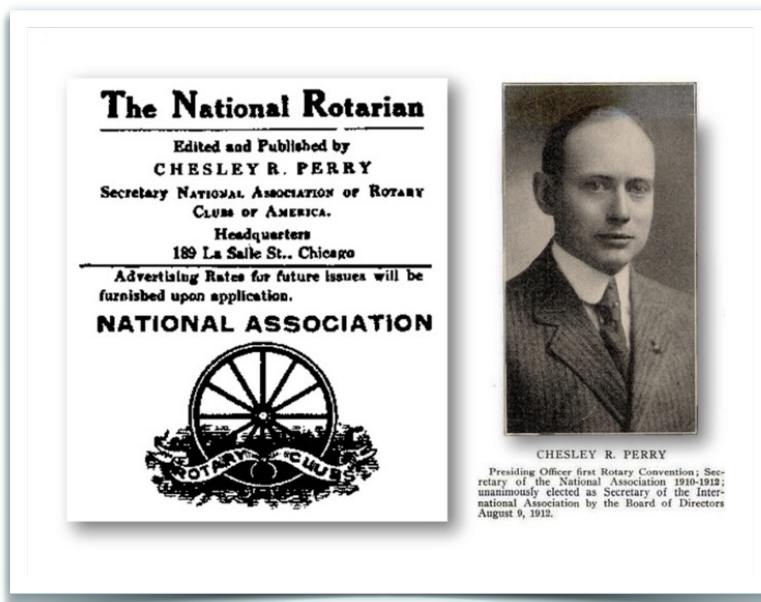


Did you know?

By Kelly Altosino-Sastre

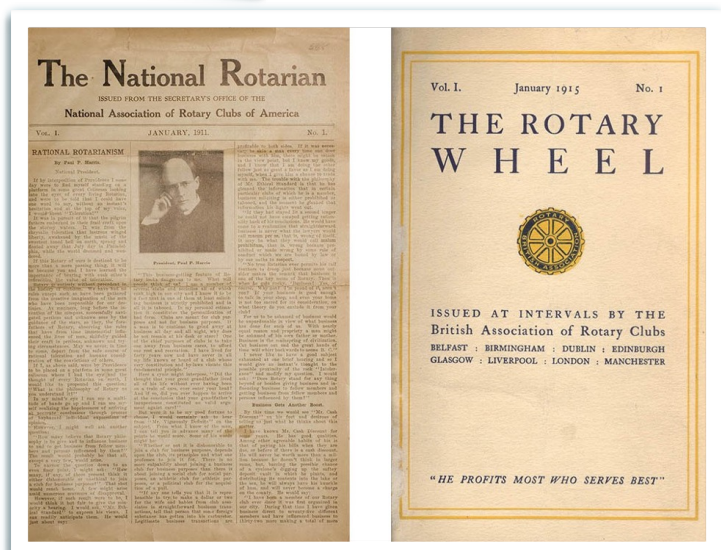
April is magazine month in Rotary

In January 1911, the first issue of the National Rotarian was published. When clubs were chartered in Canada and England the magazine became the Rotarian. After nearly 110 years, the Rotarian is now called Rotary. The change was made in September of 2020 to recognize the breadth of the organization's membership — especially Rotaractors who represent Rotary's future. There are 33 regional Rotary magazines published in more than 130 countries in more than 20 languages. Did you read your Rotary magazine this month?



Rotary 

Rotary 



Upcoming Meetings & Speakers

* Tuesday, April 6 at 7:30am

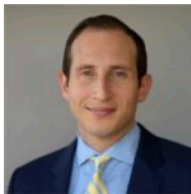
Speakers: Ann Breidenstein & Joseph Cinney, Learn to Read of St. Johns County

Zoom: ID - 388 019 0662 ; Password - 263 227

* Tuesday, April 20 at 7:30am

Speakers: Jill Wiltfong, CMO of Korn Ferry

Zoom: ID - 388 019 0662 ; Password - 263 227



President

Ian Aguilar



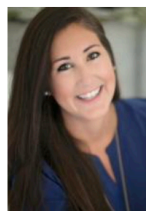
President-Elect

Mary Beth Murray



Vice President

Kelly Altosino-Sastre



**President-Nominee
Secretary**

Meagan Perkins



**Public Relations
Chair**

Bob Wiltfong



Membership Chair

Mark Hulsey



**Community Service
Chair**

Denny Baldwin



Speaker Chair

Karen Everett



General Counsel

Edward Sarnowski

