

# THE NEWSLETTER

# THE ROTARY CLUB OF WESTON FORTNIGHTLY EDITION

Sunday, January 12, 2025

# THURSDAY MORNING MEETING

Come join us this **Thursday 1/16/2025** at our regularly scheduled **7:30 AM** meeting at **The Club at Weston Hills**, located at **2600 Country Club Way**, **Weston**, **FL 33332**.



Join us for the Induction of new members.

Virtual Zoom Meeting Meeting ID: 309 720 656 Passcode: 6990

# Mid-Year Celebration of Service





As the Rotary year reaches its midpoint, it is a fitting time to reflect on the extraordinary accomplishments of the Rotary Club of Weston. Through dedication, teamwork, and an unwavering commitment to "Service Above Self," our members have achieved remarkable milestones, making a profound difference in our community and beyond.

Two of our signature events, the Food & Wine Festival and the Run for Tomorrow, set the stage for a successful year. The Food & Wine Festival not only brought together our community for an evening of connection and celebration but also raised essential funds to support our club's charitable initiatives. Similarly, the Run for Tomorrow energized Weston by promoting health, wellness, and unity while generating the resources needed to sustain our impactful service projects.

Service lies at the heart of Rotary, and our members have embraced this ethos wholeheartedly. Over the past six months, we have collectively contributed hundreds of hours to projects that address critical needs:

Environmental Stewardship: Beach cleanups have been a cornerstone of our efforts to protect and preserve Florida's coastline. By removing debris and raising awareness, our members have helped safeguard the natural beauty and biodiversity of our shores.

Hunger Relief: Partnerships with organizations like Feeding South Florida and Rise Against Hunger have enabled us

# Club Meeting

Meets at The Club at Weston Hills 2600 Country Club Way Weston, FL 33332 Time: Thursday at 07:30 AM

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## **Events**

The Rotary Club of Weston SEC -**Evening Fortnightly Meeting** January 16th

The Rotary Club of Weston - Weekly Meeting

January 23rd

The Rotary Club of Weston - Weekly Meeting

January 23rd Rotary Club of Weston Impact Español Club

January 25th

Clothes Drive: Sorting and Packaging

January 29th The Rotary Club of Weston SEC -**Evening Fortnightly Meeting** 

January 30th

The Rotary Club of Weston -Weekly Meeting

February 5th

Ponce, PR RotaKids Remote Book

to fight food insecurity. Together, we've packaged and distributed thousands of meals, providing hope and nourishment to those who need it most

Building Homes, Building Hope: Working alongside Habitat for Humanity, our members have helped construct

safe, affordable housing, offering families the stability they deserve.

Support for Vulnerable Communities: Through our ongoing work with Lifenet for Families, we have continued to provide critical resources to individuals and families facing food insecurity and other challenges.

Generosity in Action: Spreading Joy

In addition to our service projects, the Rotary Club of Weston has led efforts to bring joy to those in need. This holiday season, we collected thousands of clothes and toys, ensuring that families in our community experienced the warmth and happiness they deserve.

The accomplishments of the first half of this Rotary year are a testament to the power of teamwork, compassion, and the collective impact of our members. Each initiative and every hour of service has brought us closer to our shared vision of a better community and a better world.

As we look ahead, we are inspired to build on this momentum, expanding our reach and deepening our impact. None of this would be possible without the tireless dedication and generosity of our members, whose efforts embody the spirit of Rotary.

Together, we have achieved great things, and together, we will continue to make a difference. The Rotary Club of Weston is proud of what we have accomplished, and we are excited for what the future holds.



# **Meet our Newest Members**

# October 31, 2024

### Michele Barbato



Michele's roots are embedded in New York. She was born and raised on Staten Island, went to college in Upstate NY (SUNY Oneonta) and lived in three of the five boroughs. She graduated with a business degree and worked her way up to become a Vice President in Media Planning in the advertising field in NYC.

After more than a decade in the industry, she decided to leave the corporate world and pursue a more fulfilling career, which then brought her to Weston in 2003.

Since moving down here, she has been running a children's residential summer camp as the Administrative Director. During the off-season, she runs operations and oversees planning remotely. Then, every summer, she gets out of the Florida heat and heads up to Connecticut to be onsite for when camp is in session.

Michele is a mom to two amazing children. Jake, who is a Sophomore at Florida Gulf Coast and Olivia, who is a Junior at Cypress Bay. Although they are typical teenagers, they are kind, funny and all-around good kids and she is very proud of them.

In her spare time, Michele likes to read, watch corny Hallmark movies, cook and listen to live music. She is also very active and walks daily -

most days with me!

After volunteering at a few of the Rotary events this year, Michele is extremely excited to finally make it official and become a member of The Rotary Club of Weston.

# John Aylmer



John grew up in Central Florida before moving to Fort Lauderdale in 2012 to attend Dental School at Nova Southeastern University. After completing his studies, he began working in Weston in 2017 and quickly fell in love with the community. In 2018, John and his wife purchased their home here, laying the foundation for their family.

Today, John is a proud father to a two-year-old, with another child on the way this December. As the owner of a local dental practice, he is deeply connected to Weston and grateful for the opportunities the community has provided him. Joining Rotary is his way of giving back and becoming even more involved in the place he and his family call home.

Nov 21, 2024

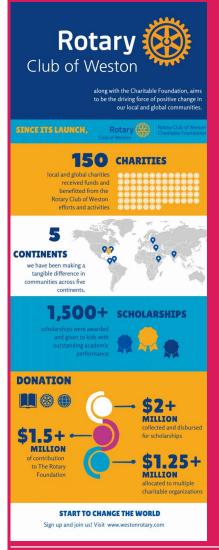
#### Rita Kuan

Rita was born in Lima, Peru, and is the eldest of three siblings. Her family moved to Miami when she was just three years old, and she has called South Florida home ever since. Rita and her husband, Paolo, who hails from Rome, Italy, have been living in the Sunny Isles area for the past 12 years. Together, they have two sons: Ryan, 18, and Brandon, 17.

Rita's professional background is as impressive as her personal journey. She holds a bachelor's degree in accounting and a master's in taxation from Florida International University. Her career spans both public and private firms, where she gained extensive expertise in accounting, tax Reading February 6th The Rotary Club of Weston - Weekly Meeting February 6th Rotary Club of Weston Impact Español

#### **UMBRELLA WINNER**





Forthnightly quote



compliance, and advisory services for businesses and individuals. Six years ago, Rita took a bold step in her career by founding her own CPA firm, which has allowed her to provide personalized and highquality

services to her clients.

Rita's commitment to excellence, entrepreneurial spirit, and dedication to her community make her a perfect fit for the Rotary Club of Weston. We are excited to see how her skills and passion will contribute to our mission of "Service Above Self."

#### Henry Gillman



Born in Miami, Henry pursued his education at Tulane University, earning his Bachelor's degree, followed by his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Florida College of Law.

Henry dedicated an impressive 35 years to public service as an Assistant County Attorney for Miami-Dade County, where he focused on litigation, contracts, legislation, and advising/counseling. His remarkable career is a testament to his dedication to the community and his expertise in navigating complex legal matters.

Now retired, Henry enjoys spending time with his family. He is married to Madame President, our very own Jacqueline Gillman, and together they have three wonderful children: Daniel, Michael, and Sarah.

Henry brings a wealth of experience, a strong commitment to service, and a deep connection to the South Florida community.

#### December 12th 2024

#### Ana Patricia Canon



Ana Patricia brings a wealth of experience from her dynamic career spanning over two decades. For more than 19 years, she was an integral part of the Colpatria Group in Colombia, where she held the prestigious position of Commercial Vice President. Her strategic leadership and dedication to excellence left a lasting impact on the organization.

Following her time at Colpatria, Ana Patricia served for more than six years at Findeter, a development bank in Colombia. In this role, she led a variety of impactful projects, focusing on improving communities through water resource management and engineering initiatives. Her ability to combine technical expertise with a vision for community betterment has been a hallmark of her career.

In recent years, Ana Patricia has turned her attention to entrepreneurship. For the past seven years, she has been at the helm of her family-owned IT company, where she is spearheading the development of an ERP system designed specifically for small and medium-sized businesses in Latin America. Her work continues to empower businesses with innovative technology solutions.

Ana Patricia's extensive experience in leadership, community development, and technological innovation makes her an invaluable addition to our Rotary family. Ana Patricia Canon's impressive professional background and commitment to community development embody the Rotary spirit of "Service Above Self."

# Rehab Balagamwala



Rehan Balagamwala is the Founder and CEO of Navis Investment Group, which is a hedge fund that specializes in Volatility Arbitrage and algorithmic trading using Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence.

Rehan spent over a decade at Citadel Investment Group as a Quantitative Trader, where he developed and implemented some of Citadel's core quantitative trading algorithms.

Prior to Citadel, Rehan worked as an Exotics Derivatives trader at Morgan Stanley in New York City. More recently, he served as a Co-Head of High Frequency Options Trading at IMC Financial Markets in Chicago.

Rehan lives in Weston, FL with his wife and 3 children. He holds a B.S. in Economics and Mathematics, and an M.S. in Computer Science from The University of Chicago.

Please make sure to introduce yourselves to our newest member! We are honored to have him be a part of our club.

#### NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING

All members are invited to attend the upcoming RCW Monthly Board of Directors meeting **Tuesday**, **Jan 14th**, **6:00 PM**.

The meeting will be in person at Rick Case Volkswagen, 3520



https://es.pinterest.com/pin/564709240775847082/

### **Birthdays**

Vern Cameron
January 13th
Jane Cruickshanks
January 14th
Deserrie F Perez
January 20th
Patrick Motta
January 23rd
Mohsin Jaffer
January 25th
Deborah Richman (O'Connor)
February 7th

#### Years of Service

Thomas Kallman 02-01-1999 26 Years Adam Goldberg 01-23-2014 11 Years Laura Dobrzanski 01-22-2015 10 Years Patrick Motta 01-25-2018 7 Years Clark M. Kilgard 01-24-2019 6 Years Karen Hollis 01-24-2019 6 Years Aldy Castor 01-24-2019 6 Years Vern Cameron 01-24-2019 6 Years Julianne Dinda 01-29-2020 5 Years Mellesia Nelson 01-29-2022 3 Years Dan Fitzgerald 02-02-2023 2 Years Tal Raizer 01-19-2024 1 Year **Enrique Story** 01-19-2024 1 Year

# Club Leaders



<u>Jacqueline Gillman</u> President



Weston Road, Weston, FL 33331, on the 2nd floor. If you plan on attending, kindly RSVP to Laura Dobrzanski laura.dobrzanski@gmail.com as space is limited.

The new board is eager to start their term with renewed energy to our club's initiatives. Their leadership will guide us as we strive to make a positive impact in our community and beyond.

# THURSDAY MORNING MEETING

Come join us this Thursday 1/23/2025 at our regularly scheduled 7:30 AM meeting at The Club at Weston Hills, located at 2600 Country Club Way, Weston, FL 33332.



Join us for a special Rotary meeting as we celebrate our Students of the Month! This event is dedicated to recognizing the hard work, dedication, and achievements of exceptional students in our community. Let's come together to uplift and encourage the next generation!

Virtual Zoom Meeting Meeting ID: 309 720 656

Passcode: 6990

# **Rotary Club of Weston Drawdown**



Get ready to don your green and join us for an unforgettable St. Patrick's Day celebration at the Rotary Club of Weston Drawdown Scholarship Fundraiser! This lively evening combines the thrill of a reverse raffle with festive fun – all while supporting scholarships for local high school seniors.

Buy a ticket here <a href="https://www.westonrotarydrawdown.com">https://www.westonrotarydrawdown.com</a>

All proceeds from this festive fundraiser support the Rotary Club of Weston Scholarship Fund, which has awarded over \$2,000,000 in scholarships to deserving students from Western High School, Cypress

Bay High School, Sagemont Preparatory School, HANDY, and Children's Harbor.

By joining us, you're helping the next generation of leaders pursue their dreams – all while enjoying the best St. Patrick's Day celebration in Weston!

# **Bringing the Rotary Club of Weston Community Together!**



Laura Dobrzanski Secretary



Gordon Thompson Club Committee Co - Chair Vice President President-Nominee



Maria Mercedes Alvarez Arancedo Community Service Chair Service Projects Chair Webmaster



Harold Calle Chair - Impact Club



Julianne Dinda Youth Services Chair



<u>Margarita Lartitegui</u> Club Committee Chair -**Environmental** 



Ramon Ortega Treasurer



Deborah Richman (O'Connor) Public Relations Chair



Robert Sirota Chair - Satellite Club 4th of July Chair



Mercy Velazguez Membership Chair



<u>Alfredo Aguirre</u> Club Programs Chair



Joseph E. Altschul Rotary Foundation Chair



<u>Frank Dreier</u> Run Programs Chair



Julian Gazzano Jr. **Club Director** 



Eugenio Moreno Service Projects Chair



**Evangelina Theobald** Sergeant-at-Arms



Ana Mary Ramirez de Moreno Club Committee Co - Chair



Edwina Auguste Past President



<u>Cristiano Nicolucci</u> iPast President



- First Week of the Month (Wed at 6 pm): Regular Evening meeting.
   Second Week of the Month (Thu at 6 pm): Regular Impact meeting.
- **Third Week of the Month** (Wed at 6 pm): Rotary Means Business hosted by Evening group, a unique opportunity to network and socialize with fellow Rotarians. This meeting will combine elements of socializing, business discussions, and collaboration. Don't forget to bring your business cards and be prepared to work with other Rotarians to make a difference.
- Fourth Week of the Month: Social hosted by Impact group. This meeting is dedicated to fostering connections and camaraderie among RCW members, with a special focus on the impact of our collective efforts.

We encourage everyone in the Rotary Club of Weston to pop in to meetings of the RCW Morning Group, Evening Group, and Impact Group. It's a great chance to get to know each other better, share ideas and insights, and have a good time!

# THURSDAY MORNING MEETING

Come join us this Thursday 1/30/2025 at our regularly scheduled 7:30 AM meeting at The Club at Weston Hills, located at 2600 Country Club Way, Weston, FL 33332.



Join us for an enlightening Rotary meeting. During this session, we will explore the rich history and intricate techniques behind the ancient art of bonsai cultivation. Our guest speaker and RCW member, Robert Sirota, an experienced bonsai artist, will share insights on the care, styling, and philosophy that makes this craft so captivating. Don't miss this unique opportunity to deepen your appreciation for this timeless art form!

Virtual Zoom Meeting

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# **DISTRICT 6990**

# Cristiano Nicolucci designated District Governor for 2027-2028



A huge congratulations to our Rotary Club of Weston member, Cristiano Nicolucci, on being designated as District Governor for the 2027-2028 year!

Alongside Pete Pecci, who will serve as District Governor for the 2025-2026 year, this achievement highlights the dedication and leadership of our club. We are incredibly proud to see our members stepping into such significant roles and making a positive impact in our community and beyond.

Let's rally together to support Cristiano and Pete in their upcoming journeys!

# THURSDAY MORNING MEETING

Come join us this Thursday 2/6/2025 at our regularly scheduled 7:30 AM meeting at The Club at Weston Hills, located at 2600 Country Club Way, Weston, FL 33332.



Join us for a special Rotary meeting dedicated to expressing our heartfelt gratitude to the sponsors of the "Run for Tomorrow." We will highlight the impact of their contributions on our initiatives and share the successes achieved through their sponsorship.

Let's come together to show our appreciation, enjoy some refreshments, and discuss future endeavors that continue to make a difference in our community!

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 309 720 656 Passcode: 6990



J.P.Morgan

Rotary Club of Weston is pleased to invite you to its 38th Annual Golf Tournament on Monday, April 7, 2025 at The Club at Weston Hills.

Golf Tournament proceeds support the Rotary Club of Weston

Scholarship Fund.

This fund has awarded over \$2,500,000 in scholarships to students graduating from Cypress Bay, Western, McFatter, and Sagemont.

We partner locally with the University of Miami, HANDY, and Children's Harbor. Nationally, we are proud supporters of the Posse Foundation, which provides free college to almost 1000 students annually.

Join us for a great day of golf at The Club at Weston Hills where you will have the opportunity to develop and strengthen your business relationships with your clients, prospects, community businesses and civic leaders. In addition, you will help the leaders of tomorrow achieve their dreams.

# THURSDAY MORNING MEETING

Come join us this **Thursday 2/13/2025** at our regularly scheduled **7:30 AM** meeting at **The Club at Weston Hills**, located at **2600 Country Club Way**, **Weston**, **FL 33332**.



This event will feature a panel of healthcare professionals and experts in cardiology who will share valuable insights into heart health, prevention strategies, and the latest advancements in treatment. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage in a lively discussion, ask questions, and learn how to promote healthier lifestyles for themselves and their communities. T

Don't miss this opportunity to enhance your knowledge and contribute to heart health advocacy!

Virtual Zoom Meeting Meeting ID: 309 720 656

Passcode: 6990

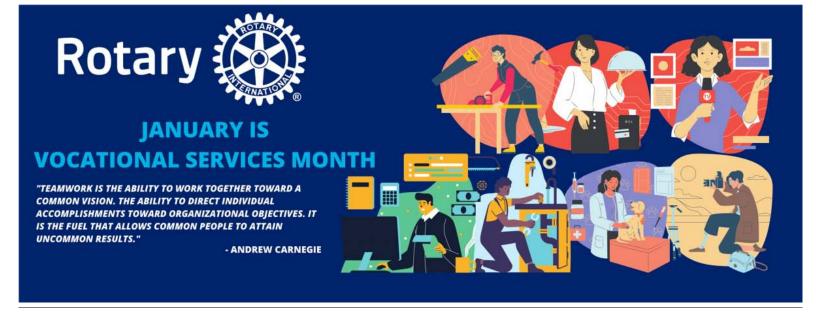
# THURSDAY MORNING MEETING

Come join us this Thursday 2/20/2025 at our regularly scheduled 7:30 AM meeting at The Club at Weston Hills, located at 2600 Country Club Way, Weston, FL 33332.



We'll honor the exceptional achievements of students excelling in academics, leadership, and community service. Enjoy inspiring presentations as they share their journeys. Let's come together to uplift our youth and recognize their hard work. Bring your family and friends to support this special event, and light refreshments will be served.

Virtual Zoom Meeting Meeting ID: 309 720 656 Passcode: 6990



Share your Rotary Club of Weston news! Send it to westonrotary@gmail.com to have your story considered for an upcoming newsletter.