



# THE WHEEL

## September Program Calendar

- ◆ **Septembert 5**—No Meeting
- ◆ **September 12**— Lori Charbineau. McLean Project for the Arts.
- ◆ **September 19**— Patrick O'Neil, Historian. Battle of the White House.
- ◆ **September 26**— Dr. Lois Wilson & Meesh Peters: Project Michelo Update

## Up Coming Events

- ◆ **September 9** - Membership Summit, Fredricksburg, VA.
- ◆ **October 2-8** — Rotary Alumni Reconnect Week
- ◆ **October 4**— Reception at Bull Run Winery by the Virginia Medical Brigade in honor of Barry Byer.
- ◆ **October 24**— World Polio Day
- ◆ **December 16th** Jingle Bell 5K Run/Walk. McLean Square Balducci's Parking lot 8:30AM

## Club Leadership

- ◆ Carmen Wu, President
- ◆ Savendra (Sam) Agarwal  
Immediate Past President
- ◆ Vance Zavela, Vice  
President,
- ◆ Cecilia Duran Closs,  
President-Elect
- ◆ Janine Frank,  
President-Nominee/Secretary
- ◆ Michael Arietti,  
Treasurer
- ◆ Michael Falcone,  
Club Services Director
- ◆ Deborah R Jackson,  
Membership Director
- ◆ Robert F Jansen,  
Youth & New Generation
- ◆ Carol A King,  
Club Admin Director
- ◆ Matthew Melton,  
Rotary Foundation Director
- ◆ Courtney Nuzzo & Cecilia Closs  
Grants
- ◆ Lois Wilson,  
International Service Director
- ◆ Barry Byer,  
Club Committee Director
- ◆ Joann G Berkson,  
Public Relations Director
- ◆ Paul M Sawtell, Paul  
Kohlenberger, Paul Ward,  
Sergeants-at-Arms
- ◆ Eugene Durman,  
Club Program Chair
- ◆ Richard Golden, Webmaster



## September is Basic Education and Literacy Month

During September, Rotary International (RI) focuses on basic education and literacy. According to RI, a key goal for Rotarians is to strengthen the capacity of communities to support basic education and literacy, reduce gender disparity in education, and increase adult literacy. The Rotary Foundation supports education through schools, donations, and service projects around the world.

As McLean Rotarians, we are doing our part to enhance basic education and literacy and to address disparities in learning. Here are a few examples of our recent contributions:

Bringing the joy of reading to children. We continue to provide books and read to children, pre-K-3rd grade, at Timber Lane Elementary School. These books often represent the first books owned by these children and their families, representing 22 countries and 34 different languages.

## September 2023

McLean Rotary

Providing local student scholarships. During the past 12 years the McLean Rotary Scholarship program has awarded more than \$100,000 in college scholarships to local students who demonstrate academic promise and financial need.

Ensuring a good start for preschoolers. Our foundation grant dollars support the Falls Church-McLean Children's Center healthy nutrition program, and Kidstretch, a preschool program of Homestretch, which assists families to transition from homelessness to independence. Ten years ago, a McLean Rotary grant helped start Kidstretch.

Supporting students and schools in Africa. Our grants and individual donations benefit MicheLo programs at a school for students with disabilities in eSwatini; building a school and clinic in eSwatini under the auspices of Aspire African Communities; water, sanitation, and hygiene projects by the District 7610 Strategic Water Alliance enabling schools to open and operate throughout Zambia; scholarships and hygiene projects provided to girls in West Africa to enable their attendance at school through the auspices of the Global Woman P.E.A.C.E. Foundation; and fostering the economic independence of women artisans in Rwanda, including refugee women from other countries, through the educational and vocational training programs of Indigo Africa. A possible new partnership on the horizon is with the Julie Tiatt Lutheran School in Liberia.

McLean Rotarians, through volunteer

activities, leadership, financial contributions, and grant support, continue to address educational and literacy needs in the community and overseas. Many of these projects also help empower girls and women. The benefits of our service and support accrue to preschoolers, school-aged and college students, as well as adult learners.



### Club Assembly August 1, 2023

**Club President, Carmen Wu** announced a new fundraiser in the form of a 3 mile run. Coordinating the run are **Janine Frank** and **Cecilia Closs**. It is scheduled for September 15. You don't have to be a runner to participate.

**Lois Wilson—Chair International Service.** Lois expressed her gratitude for all the wonderful volunteers.

**Courtney Nuzzo and Cecilia Closs** Co-Chairs of the Grants committee, deferred their presentation.

**Carol King, Club Administrator.** Scheduling and coordinating club events.



### **Deborah Jackson, Membership**

The Rotary Club of McLean values diversity and inclusion. Everyone is expected to treat others with respect and fairness. We strive to create a safe and welcoming environment for all members. The Membership committee plans for this year:

- MRC Membership: 50 (Active=20/ Associate = 5 under 40/Rule of 85=17/LOA=2/ Honorary=6) Two Corporate Memberships.
- 2024 Goals: Five new members (Two before Dec. 31, 2023 and three before June 30, 2024.
- Update MRC Orientation process/ Red Badge Program for new members
- Develop a system for managing Rotary District Leads
- Two outreach membership activities – Fall 2023 and Spring 2024
- Article – MRC newsletter August theme: Rotary Membership Month
- Conduct Stay interviews with new members and/or Exit interviews as needed
- Attend District Membership Summit in Fredericksburg. 9- 9, 2023



### **Matthew Melton, RI Foundation**

- Promote Foundation grants and activities and help members participate in them.
- Inspire club members to give to The Rotary Foundation.
- Attend the grant management seminar.
- Oversee the global grants qualification process.
- Conduct inspirational, Foundation-focused club programs.
- Work with your treasurer to manage any Rotary grant funds your club receives.
- Work with your district's international service chair and service projects committee to develop and fund projects.
- Work with your club's membership committee to ensure a positive club image and experience.



**Michael Falcone, Club Service**

-The Opioid Task Force, a partnership with Fairfax County, to prevent drug abuse. Chair Gene Durman

-The Timber Lane Love of Reading project, Chair Deborah Jackson

-The Sanitary Napkin Drive, which supports the need for personal sanitary products for school age girls and young women in West Africa, Chair Deborah Jackson.

-Patronize McLean Retailers Partnering with local merchants to promote their businesses and enlist their assistance. Chair Michael Falcone.

-Ethics Day. Providing volunteers to participate in Langley and McLean discussions of ethical decision making. Bob Jansen and Daren Hoffmann-Marks.

-Second Story. Rotarians provide monthly dinners for displaced youth. Chair Marshal Hyman

-Blood Drive (INOVA) An opportunity for eligible Rotarians to donate blood. Chair Todd Dempsey.

-Dignity of Work Award. To recognize the outstanding service of individuals who work in our community. Chair Lynn Heinrichs.

-Safe Community Coalition. The mission of the SCC is to provide programs and resources to reduce stress, foster mental wellness, and empower our youth to thrive and make responsible choices about their health and safety. Chair Vance Zavela.

-SHARE: Our local food bank, providing basic foods to families in

need. Chair is Vance Zavela.

-Stuff the Bus. Our annual food drive to provide goods needed by SHARE

-Gift Card Program: Rotarians can purchase gift cards from a long list of retailers. A percentage of each purchase goes to support Rotary.

-Adopt A Family. No current chair. Provides holiday gifts for a family in need.



**Brad Swanson: The Myth of Doing Well by Doing Good  
August 8, 2023**

“We all want to invest our money so that it earns both financial returns and makes the world a better place”. One popular way to try to do this is to invest in ESG funds (Environmental-Social-Governance). However, Swanson’s research has shown that these funds do not work as expected. Investment analysts in 2004 created the term “ESG” to judge the risks of investing in these types of companies. The problem is they are graded on profitability, not on making the world a better place. The fact, is they neither deliver better social performance nor better stock price performance, and management fees are often higher.

Tobacco companies and those that produce fossil fuels, may be included as they score at or above average on the ESG risk assessment.

There are socially responsible mutual funds, which exclude or screen companies that may contribute to environmental degradation, political repression, and poor working conditions. There are also "impact" funds like Calvert Impact Capital that specialize in investing in companies that will have maximum social impact. However, investors have to accept that returns in these funds may be below market rate.

ESG has become a political issue, with some politicians claiming it is a threat to capitalism and economic freedom. Legislation has been introduced to prohibit using ESG to influence investment decisions. The truth is ESG funds don't harm the world, but they don't make it any better either.

Ultimately, it is the job of governments, not investors to insure product and workplace safety, environmental protection, and social welfare.

Swanson stated, "If we as a nation want companies to be more positive socially and environmentally, it can only be done in a free market system through legislation that sets parameters within which free markets can compete to be the most productive while producing positive social outcomes."



### **Nicki Birch –Classification Talk August 15, 2023**

Nicki Birch is a Certified Genealogist. In this Classification Talk, Nicki started with a brief bio, noting that her father was in the Coast Guard and transferred to a new base every several years, usually from one coast to another. Her parents tried to visit as many national parks as possible on each journey.

She began her career as a COBOL programmer for the military, where she met her husband. She explained that after their children were born and she was no longer working, she was looking for something to do. Both her parents were amateur genealogists, mapping out their respective family trees, so she had a natural inclination in this direction. She began volunteering at the National Genealogical Society and the Daughters of the American Revolution, among other places. In those pre-internet days, she had to physically go to the National Archives to conduct her research.

Nicki then discussed the genealogy “industry” more generally. While there are many people who can help someone research their family history, the most qualified ones are either board certified or accredited; Nicki is one of only 500 certified genealogists in the US. She also explained the six general categories of lineage societies; i.e., organizations of people who can prove lineal descent from a qualifying ancestor. There are over 500 lineage societies in the US.

sustainable source of clean water and sanitation. The Rotaries of LaPaz and McLean have partnered in this long term program in hard to reach communities with little or no access to healthcare. It has provided clean water by connecting entire communities. They provide health screening and education in rural schools. Screening includes deworming, dental education and providing a school lunch program.

The Brigade also supports education through school nutrition and leadership training.



**Aaron Moore Exec, Director,  
VHC Medical Brigade.  
August 22, 2023**

Founded in 1999, by Mclean Rotarian, Dr. Barry Beyer, the Medical Brigade works exclusively in Honduras, bringing health care, medical treatments and training to indigenous people in remote rural areas. They help build clinics, supply medical equipment and training for local volunteers. The medical program includes diagnosis and treatment of diseases, surgeries, optical care and physical therapy. In partnership with government, village leaders and Rotary International they have empowered local villagers to build and maintain a



**Happy Hour at The Perch  
August 23, 2023**

On a delightful afternoon on the 23rd of August, a number of McLean Rotarians gathered for a fun Happy Hour at the Perch in Tysons Corner. The weather was pleasantly sunny with a cooling breeze that encouraged interesting conversation and joke telling. The Perch offers potent drinks and tasty food in a setting that is comfortable and friendly....a perfect Fellowship environment.





**Carmen Wu with Deborah Jackson and Carol Robinson 08-29-2023  
Membership and Service Learning**

Deborah Jackson introduced today's speaker, fellow Rotarian Carol Robinson from the Chantilly-Centreville Club. The theme of the presentation was "Membership and Service Learning Create Hope in the World," and both Deborah and Carol led this interactive discussion.

After reminding those present of Rotary's seven goals – World Peace, Economic Development, Water and Sanitation, Maternal Child Health, Disease Protection, Education, and the Environment – Deborah and Carol walked attendees through a Venn Diagram of "Service Learning," "Create Hope in the World," and "Gift/Value." Attendees individually wrote about how Rotary contributes to Service Learning, and then discussed their answer with the person next to them. The same exercise was conducted for Create Hope for the World (how does Rotary create hope), and then finally, Gift/Value (list three values that Rotary

means for you). The final exercise was a "paired verbal fluency" during which each attendee paired up with someone from a separate table and took turns making an "elevator speech" completing one of two questions: (i) "Rotary is..." or (ii) "My Club is...". Increasingly shorter time periods were given to each participant, helping all to develop a more focused statement about Rotary's contributions domestically and internationally, and the value that each member gains from being a Rotarian.



**Happy September Birthdays**

Kimberly Greer	19 September
Deborah Jackson	14 September
Nejad Ghassem	15 September
Richard Neldon	25 September
Paul Sawtell	01 September

**September Membership Anniversaries**

Sam Agarwal	09/16/06	17 yrs
Pamela Danner	09/27/94	29 yrs
Kathleen Martin	09/12/17	06 yrs
Tin Tin Raschid	09/14/21	34 yrs
Heather Schoeppe	09/16/08	15 yrs
Vance Zavela	09/27/94	29 yrs