

Rotary



Club of Asheville THE COG

Monday, April 8, 2024



CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

By Susan Harper

President Elect Eva-Michelle filled in for President Pat who is off celebrating his 50th birthday. **Happy birthday Pat!**

President Elect Eva-Michelle thanked **Sophia Ungert** for providing the CART match this week. Please see Kevin McRae if you would like to provide a CART match.

Club members are reminded of all the service opportunities coming up on April 13th. If you have questions, reach out to the Rotarian listed with the activity.

- Dedication of the pollinator garden at 9:30 in Carrier Park (**Sharon LeDuc**)
- Working with RiverLink at 10:30 on a storm water remediation program (**Pat Snyder**)
- Volunteering at registration for the Honor Air Flight â€" one more volunteer needed (**Bob Haggard**)
- Volunteering to help with RYLA (**Al Davis**)

Jackie Boone is seeking host families for the inbound youth exchange teenagers. Please contact her if you are willing to be a host family for 3 months. Jacqueline@thedream.academy

Dave Kaverman let members know that Grind Fest is seeking 125 volunteers. Our club is a sponsor of the three-day event happening **Friday, May 26 â€" Sunday, May 28th**. To volunteer, go to <https://grindfestavl.com/> and click on the link for volunteers on the home page.

Barbara Bowers shared information about the **Heroes Hoorah** on **May 16th** at the new Embassy Suites in downtown Asheville. Club members are encouraged to support this major fundraising event by suggesting chefs to contact and also by purchasing tickets: barb@barbarabowerslaw.com Have fun while celebrating Heroes in our community.

VOLUNTEER DAY

By Patrick A. Snyder

Pollinator Garden Dedication and Environmental/DEI Volunteer Opportunity

On Sat Apr 13th, The Rotary Club of Asheville will celebrate that Rotary shares an interest in protecting our common legacy: the environment. We are committed to supporting activities that strengthen the conservation and protection of natural resources, advance ecological sustainability, and foster harmony between communities and the environment.

We'll start at the **Rotary Pavillion at Carrier Park** on Amboy Rd at **9:30 am** and will recognize the accomplishments of the club in the creation of a pollinator garden. This project has been a year-long effort in collaboration with GreenWorks and the City of Asheville, and we'll dedicate the space with a sign.

Then we'll head over to the historic Asheville



SouthSide Community and team up with **RiverLink** foreducation and some light hands-on work focused on stormwater and community beautification. Starting around 10am, this will culminate the 9-month project with RiverLink that included a district grant to help educate builders, landscape designers, and others on ways they project the French Broad Watershed. That course was developed to be taught in cooperation with Green Built Alliance and recognizes our clubs' contributions to make it possible.

We'll meet at Herb Watts Park (65 Erskine St, Asheville) for this part of the event.

- **10-10:30:** Education on RiverLink, green infrastructure, and the Southside Community Stormwater Project.
- **10:30-11:30am:** Service activities including litter pickup, weeding rain gardens and wildflower meadow areas.
- **11:30-11:45/noon:** Wrap up. Closing comments/questions

RiverLink will provide gloves and tools. Volunteers should bring water, sunscreen, and wear closed-toed shoes. Long pants and long sleeves are a good idea, but not required.

Please contact Dan Rogers for further information, and let him know you will be there!
danalanrogers@gmail.com

Club Meeting

Asheville
Meets at TUTION HALL, TRINITY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH. To request
a Zoom simulcast link email
avlrrotary1915@gmail.com.
60 Church St
Asheville, NC 28801
Time: Thursday at 12:30 PM

Speakers

April 11, 2024

[April Burgess Johnson](#)
Helpmate update

April 11, 2024

[April Burgess Johnson](#)
Helpmate Update

April 18, 2024

[Kirk Swenson](#)
Asheville Ideas Fest

April 25, 2024

[Rebecca Robertson](#)
Valladolid Melipona Bee Project

May 02, 2024

[Whitney Burton](#)
Lutheran Services NC (Foster
Care)

Coming Events

April 11th

Discover Rotary

Speaker: April Burgess
Johnson

Subject: Helpmate update

April 17th

**Third Wednesday at the
Watering HOle**

May 7th

Board Meeting

Club Leaders



[Patrick A. Snyder](#)
President



[Eva-Michelle G. Spicer](#)
President-Elect



[David Mans](#)
President-Nominee
Club Director
International Service
Chair



[Janet L. Whitworth](#)
Past President
Treasurer



[Betty A. Doll](#)
Secretary



Frankie L Adkins
Club Director
Youth Protection
Officer
Youth Services Chair



Celeste B. Collins
Club Admin Chair
Club Director



Michelle Daniels
Attendance Secretary
Sergeant-at-Arms



Catherine Jo Early
Club Director
Vocational Service
Chair



Anthony D Lynch
Attendance Secretary
Sergeant-at-Arms



Alvin Ward Peacock Jr.
Club Director
Membership Chair



Timothy L Owings
Club Director
Rotary Foundation
Chair



Richard T. Devereaux
Diversity Equity &
Inclusion
Webmaster



Linda Nelson
CCO-Club Comm.
Offcr
Club Director
Club Public Image
Chair



Alexander P. Pence
Club Director
Community Service
Chair
Club Service Chair



Andrew Mercurio
Club Fund Raising
Chair



Chris Werte
Diversity Equity &
Inclusion



Marcia Whitney
Diversity Equity &
Inclusion



Skyler Duncan
Environmental Service
Chair



Daniel M. Crupi
RYLA Point of Contact



Mary J. Michael
Club Programs Chair



Ross Sloan
iPast President

Birthdays

Dan A Rogers
April 8th

HEROES HOORAH FUNDRAISING EVENT: MAY 16, 2024

By Linda Nelson

Our club will be celebrating our local community heroes with a Gala Event on May 16th at the Embassy Suites Downtown Asheville. As Rotarians, we believe we have a shared responsibility to take action on our world's most persistent issues. Our local heroes have been chosen and recognized for their work and dedication within the Rotary International seven areas of focus:

- **Peace and Conflict:** Michael Lamb, Asheville Police Dept
- **Disease Prevention and Treatment:** Dr. Joel Callahan, Pardee Hospital
- **Water Sanitation and Hygiene:** Renee Fortner, RiverLink
- **Maternal and Child Health:** Trish Hickling Beckman
- **Basic Education and Literacy:** Victoria Roberts, Read to Succeed
- **Economic and Community Development:** Matthew Bacaote, Jr
- **Supporting the Environment:** Ken Brame and Judy Mattox, Sierra Club



Please consider becoming a **Table Sponsor** or purchasing an **individual ticket** - Don't Delay: <https://rotaryasheville.betterworld.org/events/heroes-hoorah>

This fundraiser supports our projects, including local scholarships, recognition of teachers and first responders, protection of the French Broad watershed, local food security initiatives, and international support for medical, dental, optical, and literacy projects in Guatemala, Honduras, and Argentina.

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

By Donna Rogers Ensley

Helpmate Update



April Burgess-Johnson has worked to end domestic violence for 29 years. She currently serves as Executive Director at Helpmate in Buncombe County, NC where she has helped lead tremendous community change work that has resulted in tripling the number of survivors served over the last decade. Prior to her work at Helpmate, April worked at the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and was involved in several projects, including development and support for coordinated community response teams, primary prevention, training/technical assistance and executive management. Preceding her work at NCCADV, April was a Rape and Sexual Assault Advocate, Shelter Manager, and Executive Director in domestic violence and sexual assault programs in NC and was the Central Region Director at the NC Council for Women/Domestic Violence Commission.

She was an adjunct faculty member with the NC Justice Academy and has trained domestic violence advocates, law enforcement personnel, medical providers, social workers and other allied professionals extensively across the US, including for the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the US Department of Health and Human Services. April has been involved in a leadership role on multiple research projects in North Carolina and has created several publications for public education.

April is appointed by NC Governor Roy Cooper to the NC Domestic Violence Commission.

Richard Travis Hall
April 8th

Linda Nelson
April 8th

Edward J Snyder III
April 12th

Tanya N. Fletcher
April 12th

Stephen E. Aschmann
April 13th

Angela Nicole Ferrell
April 14th

Daniel M. Crupi
April 14th

Walter Zachritz
April 14th

Rebecca A Robertson
April 15th

Janey Cope
April 17th

Jane Brody
April 18th

Beverly Jurenko
April 19th

Scott E. Raines
April 20th

Patricia M. Puckridge
April 23rd

James S Thompson
April 25th

Mary Brown
April 25th

Joseph B. Lancaster
April 26th

Sharon Kay LeDuc
April 28th

Rae Geoffrey
April 28th

Lisa Cutshaw
May 4th

Matthew Walter
May 4th

Wedding Anniversaries

Kyle R. Boyd
April 8th

Edward J. Sullivan
April 9th

Patricia M. Puckridge
April 10th

Benjamin J Wann
April 15th

Albert Davis
April 18th

Lynn Savage Dimoff
April 19th

Thomas A. Cannon
April 20th

Mark A. Knollman
April 23rd

Celeste B. Collins
April 26th

Carolyn Cronin
April 29th

Allison C. Krivatch
May 1st

Laresa M. Griffin
May 1st

LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

By Susan Harper

New Member Talks



Mary Michael is from Brevard, NC and grew up loving the outdoors and attending Camp Tekoa as a camper and then working there as a counselor. She met her husband, Eric, working there. They attended Appalachian State together and then moved to Charlotte, where they welcomed their son Ben. Mary began working at a small YMCA and then moved to the Harris YMCA used by 14,000 people daily. After relocating to WNC, she served as the Executive Director at the Reuter YMCA for 7 years. During that time, she joined the downtown Rotary Club, and was also a founding member of the Rotary Club of Asheville South, where she served as the Club's President. Mary's work experience includes creating a staff development program for the 3rd largest roofing company in the county. In 2022, she started her own company and is working with 12 local businesses in business development and is also leading a coaching class with 7 business leaders. Mary adopted 2 cute puppies from one of our Bark in the Park fundraisers, and they have become BIG dogs!

Virginia Lawrence played three rounds of 2 Truths and a Lie with the club, and we learned that she has lived on a horse ranch in Florida, has an active yoga practice, is a certified scuba diver, enjoys cooking and making sourdough bread, has danced at a charity auction for a large audience and grew up hunting and fishing with her father. She **does not** own 7 puppets and is not a ventriloquist, she hasn't run the NYC marathon and she HAS gotten a speeding ticket. Virginia has been a banker since 1993 (Atlanta, Charleston and Asheville) and a member of Rotary in several clubs before coming to ours. She raised her twins as a single mother mostly and is happy her children have found their passion. Her daughter is in premed at North Eastern in Boston and her son is a computer science major at Embry-Riddle in Florida. Virginia married her husband Greg in 2020 and gained a step-daughter who is graduating from Stanford Law in June. She shared that she won the golden ticket in 2012 when she had a massive brain tumor removed successfully with no side effects. Virginia and Doug share their lives with three dogs, and she looks forward to many adventures with her family.



Louise Bijesse is a daughter, wife, mother, sister, friend, HR Leader, business owner, Rotarian, mentor, community member, animal lover and stand-up comedian (with an agent!). She loves the beach and the mountains and taking time to smell the roses. Louise grew up on Long Island and moved here in 2008. At that time, she was working in Charlotte, and it was easier to drive from Fairview than fly from Long Island. Louise also spent 3 years in Louisville as VP of a Healthcare Company but returned to Asheville in 2022. She has been married 41 years to her husband, Bruce. She met him in culinary school and then both worked while raising their family of 5 including triplets born at 30 weeks. Louise is the founder of UpTalent Consulting and works with start-ups and growing companies as well as doing executive search work. She is a pet lover / animal whisperer and has 2 horses, 3 dogs and 2 cats. She dreams of spending summers at the beach helping endangered turtle hatchlings make it into the ocean.



HONORING OUR VETERANS

By Betty A. Doll

Recruiting Help to Honor our Veterans



The next Honor Flight, taking approximately 95 veterans to Washington D.C. for a day of celebrating and honoring them, is scheduled for **Saturday, April 27th**. A significant part of this day is the "Mail Call" that occurs on the flight home. Each veteran is presented with a packet of cards and notes thanking them for their service to our country. At an upcoming club meeting, we will take just a few minutes to write notes to the participants. Additionally, on **April 15th**, we will have a gathering **at Highland Brewing** to sit together, share a beer, and spend some time together writing additional notes. Come and join us! Bring a friend or family member to help. It's a fun and meaningful way to participate.

If you have a church group, a school group, a civic group, or ANYONE else who would like to help with this project, you can contact Betty Doll

(BettyADoll@gmail.com) for more info or simply write notes addressed to:

"Dear Veteran" and mail them to Blue Ridge Honor Flight, Attn: Mail Call, PO Box 18057, Asheville, NC 28814 to arrive by **April 22nd**, so they can be sorted and packed for distribution to these heroes.

These notes mean the world to these veterans and are tangible and cherished mementos of the **Honor Flight experience**.
