

Rotary



Club of Asheville THE COG

Tuesday, April 16, 2024



Club Announcements

By Susan Harper

President Pat thanked Don Weidemann for the pre-meeting music.

President Pat also thanked Dan Rogers for the CART Match. Please see Kevin McRae if you would like to provide a CART match.

In member news, **President Pat** reported that Sandra Smith is continuing to recover. Bill Goucher can no longer drive but would love to come to meetings. If you are able to provide transportation, please reach out to his wife.

Betty Doll invited club members to come to Highland Brewing on Monday, May 15th at 5 to write notes to veterans for the mail call portion of the Honor Air trip on April 27th.

Last week, **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 26th - Sunday, May 28th. To volunteer, go to <https://grindfestavl.com/> and click on the link for volunteers on the home page.

Barbara Bowers encouraged members to be a part of the **Heroes Hoorah** on May 16th at the new Embassy Suites in downtown Asheville. Tickets can be purchased on our website or at club meetings. Have fun while celebrating Heroes in our community.

Club Meeting

Asheville
Meets at TUTOR HALL,
TRINITY EPISCOPAL
CHURCH. To request a
Zoom simulcast link email
avlrotary1915@gmail.com
60 Church St
Asheville, NC 28801
Time: Thursday at 12:30
PM

Speakers

April 18, 2024
Kirk Swenson
Asheville Ideas Fest

April 25, 2024
Rebecca Robertson
Valladolid Melipona Bee
Project

May 02, 2024
Maggie Fehrman
Asheville City School
Superintendent

May 09, 2024
Jennifer Bennett
Duke Energy

Coming Events

April 17th
**Third Wednesday at
the Watering Hole**

May 7th
Board Meeting

May 9th
Discover Rotary

May 15th
**Third Wednesday at
the Watering Hole**

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

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.



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**.

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

By Mary J. Michael

Asheville Ideas Fest

Kirk Swenson has served as UNC Asheville's Vice Chancellor for University Advancement since 2020. In this role, Kirk leads the division responsible for building the external relationships and securing the philanthropic resources needed to move the University forward in service to its students and the world. Philanthropic gifts to the University have tripled during his tenure.

















Kirk is also the co-founder and executive director of Asheville Ideas Fest, a one-of-a-kind immersive forum of passionate and insightful panelists who help deliver a powerful intellectual experience rooted in civil discourse. World-class thinkers such as Tom Friedman, Chrstine Todd Whitman, Sanjay Gupta, Fareed Zakaria, Jon Meacham, Amna Nawaz, and Monica Guzman bring their perspectives on a wide range of challenging issues to Asheville each summer.

During his nearly 30 year career, Kirk has served a number of outstanding educational institutions including Cornell University and MIT. His passion for education runs deep, and his roles have focused on creating life-changing educational opportunities for young people.

Kirk works with several start-up companies, helping them secure early-stage funding, articulating long-range strategies, and helping founders and their leadership teams to develop skills and ensure alignment with their missions.

When he's not working, you can often find Kirk on a trout stream or a hockey rink.



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|  | 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

Program Last Week

By Susan Harper

Birthdays

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
James Davidson
May 10th
Joseph Benjamin Burrell
May 11th
Carol E. Bornstein
May 14th
David Mans
May 15th
Albert Davis
May 15th

Wedding Anniversaries

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
Scott E. Raines
May 13th

Donna Ensley introduced our speaker, **April Johnson-Burgess**, the Executive Director of Helpmate. Donna learned about Helpmate through the United Way and served on the Board for six years. She shared that domestic violence is real and can happen to anyone, regardless of race or socio-economic status.

Helpmate is working in our community to eliminate abuse and fear by providing safety, shelter and support for victims / survivors of intimate partner domestic violence. Johnson-Burgess shared how domestic violence shows up - by using coercion/threats, using intimidation and emotional abuse, using isolation, using children as leverage, using male privilege, using economic abuse and by minimizing, denying and blaming. All of these techniques are about power and control.

Helpmate provides the following free and confidential services:

- A 24-hour hot line at 828-254-0516 or by dialing 211
- Emergency shelter
- Case management
- Individual / group counseling and support
- Court advocacy
- Community education

Services are available in English and Spanish and interpreters are available for additional language access.

Burgess-Johnson stressed that this work needs to be done in coordination with community partners to provide survivor services, to hold offenders accountable, to identify high risk situations and to increase awareness in the community to prevent violence. She shared plans for an exciting expansion which will increase the number of people who can be served.

For more information, visit Helpmate's website at <https://helpmateonline.org/>

Or contact April Johnson-Burgess directly at abjohnson@helpmateonline.org or call her at 828-254-2968 x 113

Environmental Projects

By Patrick A. Snyder

On



Sat, Apr 13th, The Rotary Club of Asheville celebrated Earth Day early with two major environmental events. First we gathered in Carrier Park to dedicate the Pollinator Garden next to the Rotary Pavillion. Then we met with RiverLink to learn about mitigate the effects of urban storm water run off while helping them with a project in one the city's historically black communities. Our Club is committed to making lasting positive change in our communities through projects like these! [Read More](#)

Interact March Update

By Sharon Kay LeDuc

This March, Interact had a great time continuing our community service work at Asheville High and around the community!

On the morning of March 11, we volunteered at Manna Food Bank alongside other community members, including the Asheville High Medlife club. It was great to work with other Asheville High students on the assembly line as we packed lots of bags of food!



We also volunteered at Brother Wolf twice, washing and sanitizing animal crates both times. According to the volunteer coordinator, our volunteers are the fastest at cleaning crates! When we finished cleaning them early on March 23, we also washed one of the Brother Wolf vans inside and out.

On campus, Project Linus members are still maintaining consistent attendance, and we are making good progress on our baby blankets in our morning meetings. Interact is also continuing to help teachers clean their classrooms every week with “Freshen-up Friday.”

In the coming month, Interact is introducing our new T-shirt design which is on sale for club members. The design was made by our president, Colette:



Finally, Interact wants to give a big thank you to Rotary for the great showcase video about our club and for their consistent support of high school volunteers. We look forward to another great month of community service in April!