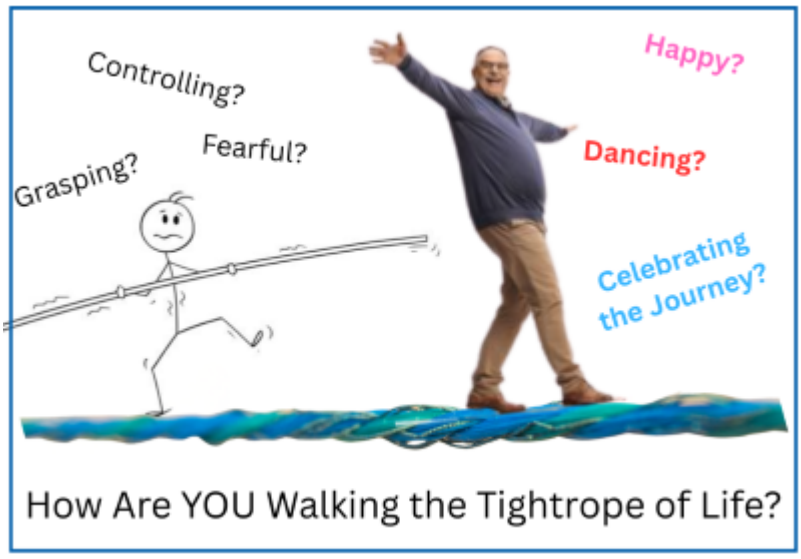
Roswell Rotary Club

Rotascope

JANUARY 21, 2026

President's Message



"You're going to find out about it anyway, so here's a little preemptive truth-telling... There is no happy ending. The ride is sometimes smooth, sometimes hard and ugly. That's life"— **Anthony Bourdain**, world traveler and global storyteller.

As we step into 2026, that honest reflection feels especially fitting. Most of us have written down resolutions—health goals, professional ambitions, promises to be better spouses, parents, friends, and Rotarians. But beneath the "what" of those resolutions lies a deeper and far more powerful question: What purpose and meaning are we attaching to the commitments we make to ourselves?

Our speaker last week challenged us to consider, in less than a minute, what we truly want out of life and what would make us happy in life. Is the answer simply checkboxes on a list, or are they signposts pointing us toward a life of greater fulfillment and service? Happiness, after all, is not a future destination we eventually arrive at—it is a practice we engage in every single day.

The 1960's philosopher **Alan Watts** offered a powerful way to think about this. He once said that:

"Most people live life like it's some type of tightrope, one wrong move, and poof down you go. So, they grip; they grasp; they try to control it all. The more you try to clutch the river, the faster it slips through your fingers. Now, of course I'm not saying don't try. Do your best. Absolutely! And once you've done that, let go. Let life dance with you a little because the whole thing isn't a war. It's a play. You were meant to enjoy it. People ask me all the time, what's the meaning of life. And I say, well, what's the meaning of a piece of music? You don't play it to get to the end. If that were the point, composers would just write one loud crash at the end and be done with it. You play music to enjoy the notes. So it is with life. It is with life!"

MEETINGS

January is Vocational Service Month

1/22	Kit Cummings - Author, Teacher, Storyteller
1/29	Shaun Chapas - Fmr UGA and NFL player and Skipper Hoke Awards
2/5	Colleen Craig - Atlanta Vibe Volleyball
2/12	Horst Schulze - A No Nonsense Guide to Becoming the Best in a World of Compromise
2/19	Leadership 2020 - Col. Dwight Schmidt
2/26	DEA Outreach Taskforce Officer - Wanda Wiggins
3/5	William Vestal - Artificial Intelligence from a different viewpoint
3/12	MS Student/Teacher of the Year Presentations

EVENTS

2/11	"Pint for a Pint" blood drive for the American Red Cross
2/19	Leadership 20/20
3/2	Read Across America Day
3/4	Women of Rotary Spring Social
3/14	Roswell Rotary 75th Anniversary Party
3/21	16th Annual Sweep the Hooch
3/21	Roswell Relays
4/18	Walk w a Doc featuring Phy Therapist Dr Kim Richards

LEADERSHIP

President	Trummie Patrick, III
President-Elect	Leslie Bassett
Immediate PP	Nancy Alterman
Treasurer	Mike Agurkis
Secretary	Katie Anderson

That idea cuts straight to the heart of how we live—and how we serve. We live in a culture of waiting. People spend all day waiting for the evening and work to be over. They spend the entire week waiting for the weekend. Then they wait all year for summer, and a lifetime for happiness, accomplishment, or meaning. But happiness is not waiting in the next vacation or just beyond the next milestone. It is not somewhere ahead of you. It is now. The habit of postponing joy is the habit of missing life. Stop waiting for the perfect moment—there is no such thing. There is only this moment, and what you choose to do with it. You don't wait for happiness. You practice it.

The great writers and storytellers have echoed this truth for centuries. **Ralph Waldo Emerson** reminded us that *"life is a journey, not a destination."* The ancient parable of the Chinese farmer—who meets every triumph and tragedy with a quiet "maybe"—teaches us that meaning is rarely found in a single outcome, but in how we walk through each chapter with humility and purpose. Even **Robert Louis Stevenson** captured it beautifully: *"To travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive."*

Rotary understands this better than most. "Service Above Self" is not a slogan reserved for the end of a project or the moment a goal is reached—it is a way of moving through the world. The meetings, the planning, the setbacks, the small victories, and the quiet acts of kindness along the way—that is the journey. And in that journey, we practice happiness by practicing service.

As we move through this new year, may we not rush to the "final note" of the song, but take the time to enjoy each measure—to be present, to serve, and to let life, and Rotary, dance with us a little along the way.

Sic Vos Non Vobis,

Trummie Lee Patrick III

President, Roswell Rotary Club

Speaker Thursday 1/22 Kit Cummings

Membership	Courtney Lott

ROTARY CLUB OF ROSWELL

Thursdays, 12:15 pm
Roswell Area Park
Bill Johnson Community Activity Building
10495 Woodstock Road
Roswell, GA 30075

ROTARY ONLINE

https://roswellrotary.club
https://rotary6900.org/
https://rotary.org/

SOCIAL MEDIA

BIRTHDAYS

1/21	Gary Garrett
1/23	Kurt Hilbert
1/24	William Noethling
1/24	Dr. Kay Howell
1/25	David Bourne
1/26	Courtney Lott
1/28	Priya Crumpton
1/30	William May
1/31	John Reddick
1/31	Blake Turner
2/3	Chris Patterson
2/6	FJ Levy II
2/9	Angela Freeman
2/10	Richard Meer
2/15	Bruce Smith
2/18	Gordon Owens

YEARS OF SERVICE

1/23	Jack Stephens (40)
1/24	Andy Williams (7) 14 years in Rotary
1/30	Mindy Jones (29)



Note: Georgia's Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner John King who was originally scheduled to speak on 1/22 had to cancel to attend the unexpected funeral of a staff member. He will reschedule. We appreciate Kit Cummings stepping in at the last minute!

Date: Thursday, January 22, 2026

Time: 12:15 pm

Location: Roswell Area Park

Bill Johnson Community Activity Building

10495 Woodstock Road

Roswell, GA 30075

Kit Cummings is an Award-Winning Author | International Speaker | Team Builder, Peacemaker & Storyteller

Kit's passion, his gift for storytelling, and his entertaining style will have your team on the edge of their seats. His unique message of peace, conflict resolution, and team-building has been used to bring about change in corporations, sports, schools, prisons, and faith-based communities. [read more]

1/31	Allen Dalton (41)
2/1	David Bourne (53)
2/2	Lee Dodson (12) 48 years in Rotary
2/8	Dutch Earle (19) 28 years in Rotary
2/11	Alex Kaufman (16)
2/11	Langdon Hollingsworth (5)
2/11	Queen Brown (1)
2/11	Becki Campolito (1)
2/11	David Houck (1)
2/17	Roger Wise, Jr. (15)

New Member Spotlight

Welcome New Member-Vanessa Snyder



Dr. Vanessa Snyder is a professor and licensed clinician. She founded Resilience Source, LLC, a mental health collective in Roswell that exists to counsel, consult, and train in the areas of acute and complex trauma, sexual issues, marriage and families in crisis, addiction, trauma-informed care, compassion fatigue, and organizational trauma. She has created the Compassionate Recovery model that equips churches around the world to respond during critical incidents and disasters.

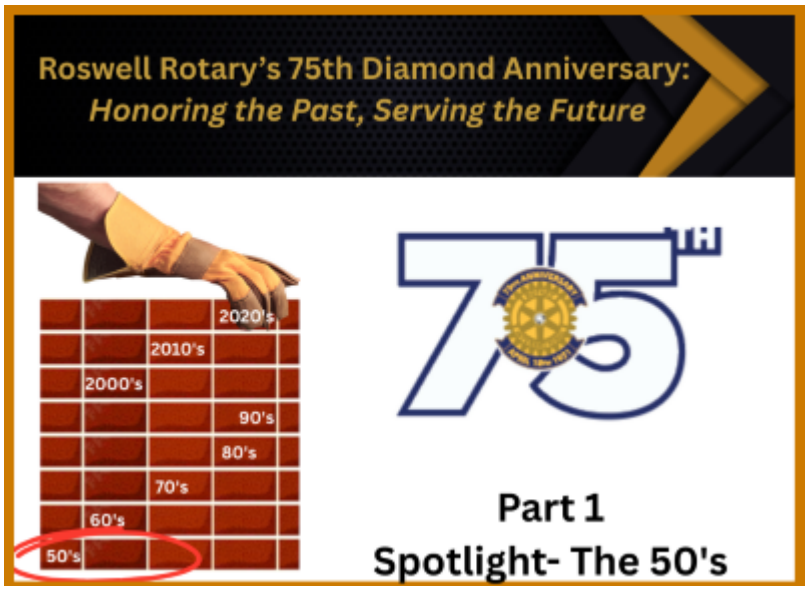
Vanessa is married to Mark Snyder, an exterior construction specialist and finish carpenter in Roswell. They have four adult children who have all graduated from Roswell High School and five grandkids that keep their lives full of energy and joy.

Rotary's mission of "service above self" is what drew Vanessa to become a member of Rotary as this is her goal in work and in life.

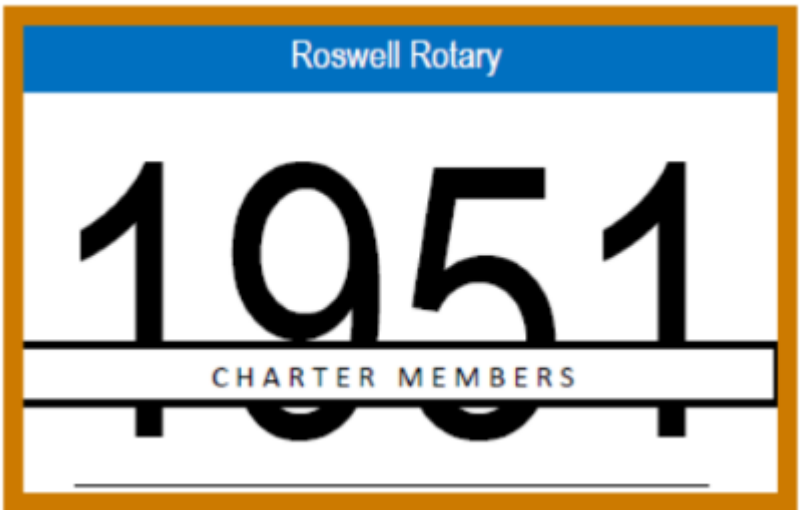
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75 Years of Roswell Rotary Club

The 50's



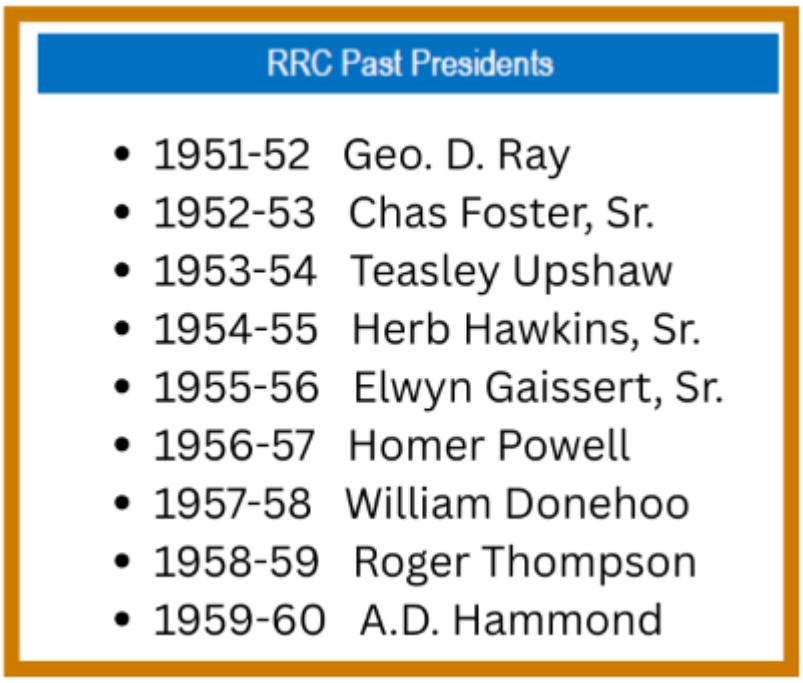
Charter Member of Roswell Rotary Club -1951



- R.S. Barnett J.J. Rucker
- Russell Belfield L.L. Rucker
- W.O. Bowden R.A. Smith
- Ben Brady Ray Stephens
- E.L. Buice L.M. Thoms, Jr.
- Pierce Carruth J.T. Upshaw
- Monroe Ellis C.G. Webb
- W.L. Evans W.C. Westbrook
- C.C. Foster H. Taylor Williams
- Elwyn Gaissert, Sr. J.A. Willis
- W.E. Garrison Q.A. Willis
- W.E. Gentry, Jr. J.C. Wright
- H.C. Hawkins J.I. Wright

- John H. Hines
- J.W. Martin
- C.L. Phillips
- Homer Powell
- R.M. Donehoo J.O. Wallace
- Roy M. Carden M.M. Thomas
- George D. Ray, Sr.
- D.W. Reeves
- Ford Rucker
- G.N. Rucker

RRC Past Presidents in the 1950's



The Beginning



Highlights of the Roswell Rotary Club in the 1950s

The Foundation of Roswell Rotary (1951)

- Location: Roswell, a charming small town accessible via Roswell Road (U.S. Hwy. 19), was a hub of rural charm and history,

with antebellum homes still standing after the Civil War.
- Population: In 1950, Roswell's population was just 2,123, with neighboring Alpharetta at 917 and Mountain Park at 15.

The Birth of the Rotary Club

- Charter Night: The Roswell Rotary Club was chartered on April 18, 1951, at Milton High School.
- Toastmaster: Bill Ellis from the Atlanta Rotary Club led the event.

Gifts Received:

- A Rotary gong from President Malon
- A banner from Decatur Rotary
- A gavel crafted from a tree owned by Franklin D. Roosevelt from Warm Springs Rotary.

Key Figures

First Officers:

- George Ray: President
- Charles Foster: Vice President
- Elwyn Gaissert: Secretary
- Guy Webb: Treasurer

Community Impact

- Local Economy: The area was home to several industries, including:
- Southern Mills, Inc.: A textile manufacturer employing 160.
- The Roswell Company: Made men’s trousers, employing 235.
- Banking: The only local bank, Roswell Bank, played a crucial role in community confidence and was established in 1901.

Life in the 1950s

- Cost of Living:
- Minimum wage: $0.75/hour
- New Ford: $1,480
- Gasoline: $0.27/gallon
- Average annual income: $3,709
- Education: Roswell High School graduated just 22 students in 1951 and shared its location with Roswell Elementary on Mimosa Boulevard.

Meetings and Fellowship

- Meeting Locations:
- Initially convened at Moore's Tea Room on Canton Street.
- Later moved to the Lebanon Community Club, where local women provided homemade meals, making meetings a delightful experience.

Memorable Moments

- Fellowship: The importance of community and fellowship was emphasized in meetings, with discussions of various professions fostering connections among members.
- Rotary’s Growth: The club's rapid growth led to the establishment of new clubs, including the Alpharetta Rotary Club in 1983.

Legacy and Recognition

- Charter Members: All members who joined in 1951 are considered charter members, setting a strong foundation for future generations.
- Community Contributions: The Roswell Rotary Club actively participated in local fundraising events, including the Aubrey Greenway Charity Golf Tournament, which raised significant funds for community needs.

Conclusion

The 1950s were a formative decade for the Roswell Rotary Club, characterized by community engagement, growth, and a commitment to service. As we celebrate our 75th anniversary, let's honor the legacy of those who laid the groundwork for what we are today!

Focus on Youth- Interact & Honoring Dave Young RHS Hall of Fame



What's Happening at Interact

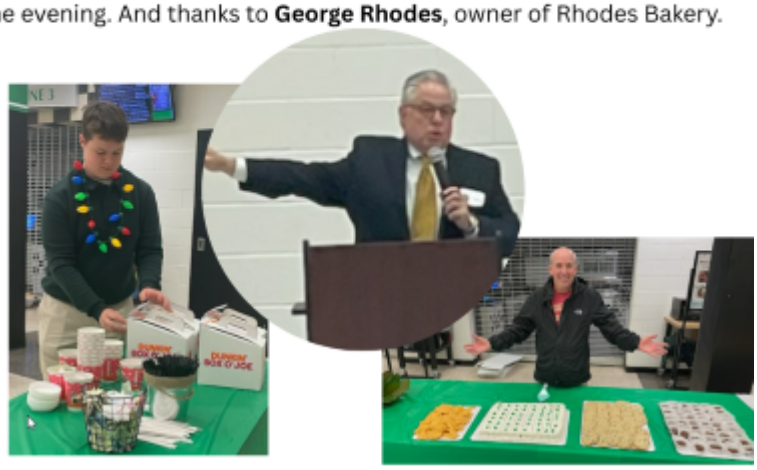
Crabapple Middle

Last meeting of 2025... They decided to celebrate their busy first semester of service projects .... Time to play



What's Happening at Interact

Thank you and Congratulations to RRC member **Dave Young** for his well-earned induction into the RHS Hall of Fame. Lacking some pictures but the **Roswell High Interact** was asked to staff the Treat & Drink tables for the evening. And thanks to **George Rhodes**, owner of Rhodes Bakery.



Shaun Chapas

Next Week Speaker Jan. 29

Last Speaker of January- Don't Miss!



Jan. 29 Shaun Chapas-
Former UGA/NFL

Meeting Details
Rotary Club of Roswell
Roswell Area Park
Bill Johnson Community Activity Bldg
10495 Woodstock Road
Roswell, GA 30075