

Meetings

November is Rotary Foundation Month

Our Rotary Family BIRTHDAYS

11/11 Debra Stokes
11/15 Bee Long
11/21 Mark Newman

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

11/23 C. Stewart (28)

Rotary Online

<https://atlantawestendrotary.org>
<https://rotary6900.org/>
<https://rotary.org/>

ROTARY CLUB OF ATLANTA WEST END

Fridays, 12:15 pm
Georgia Tech Hotel &
Conference Center*
800 Spring St NW
Atlanta, GA 30308



LEADERSHIP

President	Victoria Seals, PhD
President-Elect	Christopher Hempfling
President-Elect	Debra Stokes
Immediate PP	Jared Evans
Vice President	Debra Stokes
Treasurer	Rose Caplan
Secretary	Neil Shorthouse

Nov. 7, 2025

This Week's Program:



We're thrilled to spotlight one of our very own this week in our Member Showcase series! Join us as **Leo Chancey**, a dedicated Rotarian and committed public servant, shares his classification talk at our upcoming Friday meeting.

Leo currently serves as a **Senior Policy Analyst** with the **Georgia House of Representatives, House Budget & Research Office**, where he brings over a decade of legislative experience to the table. His analytical expertise spans diverse policy areas. He is currently staffing the following committees: Rural Development, Urban Affairs, and House Rules.

Known for his creative approach to policy analysis and public communication, Leo pairs deep research skills with a flair for public speaking and visual storytelling. Whether in the Capitol or in the community, he's deeply committed to service and advancing the public good.

Leo's leadership style is marked by collaboration, adaptability, and a clear dedication to ethical governance, values that align seamlessly with Rotary's mission. Come learn more about the journey and vocation of this inspiring AWER member!

JOIN ONLINE

Zoom Link - [Click here](#)

KeyWay Report on Our Speaker, October 31, 2025

A Threshold Choir — Ms. Judith Fuller, Leader

Neil Shorthouse introduced **Ms. Judith Fuller**, formerly a 15-year case manager with the Georgia Division of Family & Children Services and a former AWER member. In one of the club's most unusual and moving programs, Judith and four members of A Threshold Choir demonstrated and explained the choir's work.

The Threshold Choir is a volunteer organization that provides comfort through song to individuals at the end of life. It is a network of approximately 200 choirs worldwide that sing at bedsides in hospices, hospitals, nursing homes, and private residences. The Atlanta chapter, known as Voices of Love - A Threshold Choir, was established in March 2010 and currently has 15 to 18 active members. The

presentation included a live demonstration of their gentle, harmonious singing, explanations of their mission and methodology, and personal stories from choir members about what drew them to this meaningful service. The first Threshold Choir was founded in March 2000 in El Cerrito, California, by **Kate Munger**.

Neil shared a memorable story that reflected Judith's characteristic determination. After retiring from DFCS, she enrolled in law school. In her senior year, her roommate was invited to tour and interview with a top Atlanta law firm, while Judith was not, as her class ranking did not qualify her. Refusing to be excluded, she attended anyway—"crashing" the tour—and ultimately became the only person hired by the firm, despite being technically ineligible for consideration.

The Threshold Choir provides free, non-religious bedside singing to dying individuals and their families throughout metro Atlanta. Key aspects of their service include:

- Regular visits to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Hospice and Harbor Grace Hospice.
- Singing softly in harmony without accompaniment, using hand signals for silent coordination and real-time adjustment to each situation.
- Serving three groups simultaneously — the dying person, their family and friends, and the choir members themselves.
- Rehearsing twice monthly on the first and third Thursdays from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at Emory Presbyterian Church.
- Supporting related end-of-life services, with several members also working as doulas or conscious dying coaches.
- Singing that is fully improvised and responsive to the atmosphere in the room, guided by the needs of those present.
- Sessions typically lasting about 20 minutes.
- No religious affiliation, with songs that are original and copyrighted, focusing on universal themes of peace, spirit, and journey.

Judith shared that her own inspiration for joining the Threshold Choir came from a deeply personal experience in 2005 at St. Joseph's Hospital, where her stepfather was dying. She arrived at his bedside wishing she had music for him. A harpist unexpectedly appeared, played for about 30 minutes, and left just as a priest arrived to perform last rites. Her stepfather took his final breath immediately after the priest said "Amen." When Judith later thanked the nurses for sending the harpist, none knew who the musician was. She described it as a miraculous moment that inspired her eventual leadership with Voices of Love - The Threshold Choir in Atlanta.

For those interested in learning more or requesting services, bedside singing can be arranged by emailing **Rose Watkins** and Judith Fuller at RequestVOL@thresholdchoir.org or **Susan Patterson** at VoicesOfLove@thresholdchoir.org. Additional information about the international Threshold Choir network, including recordings and choir locations, can be found at thresholdchoir.org. Judith's related end-of-life doula work is featured at bluesparrowdoula.com.

Jared Evans and Neil Shorthouse, KeyWay Speaker Reporters



November's Theme **Rotary Foundation Month**

Each November, Rotary International highlights Rotary Foundation Month. This is a time to recognize and support the Foundation that powers Rotary's service and impact around the world. The Rotary Foundation turns our donations into projects that fight disease, provide clean water, support education, promote peace, and more.

Why does this matter?

The Rotary Foundation gives clubs like ours the tools to turn service ideas into meaningful action. From eradicating polio to supporting local literacy efforts, the Foundation enables us to create lasting change in our community and across the globe. Every contribution, no matter the size, helps build a healthier, safer, and more hopeful world.

Now is the perfect time to learn how the Foundation works and consider how you can support it. Together, we are people of action.

Service Project **Thanksgiving Food Drive for Booker T. Washington High School**



As part of our continued commitment to Service Above Self, the Rotary Club of Atlanta West End is organizing a Thanksgiving service project in partnership with Booker T. Washington High School. We're

collecting non-perishable food items and gallon-sized Ziploc bags to help the school prepare weekend food bags for students during the holiday break. This project responds to an urgent need for pantry staples among families affected by recent disruptions, especially as schools aim to support students through Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks. Items Needed Include:

- Macaroni cups or noodles
- Applesauce or fruit cups
- Granola bars
- Other simple, shelf-stable snacks
- Gallon-sized Ziploc bags for packing

Rotarians and community members are encouraged to bring donations to any Friday club meeting by November 15, 2025. AWER member Bridgette Long will coordinate delivery to the school by November 20, 2025. This initiative exemplifies the values we uphold at AWER—integrity, fellowship, and commitment to youth and education. Join us in supporting our community with compassion and care this holiday season.

Calander, Agenda, Connections, & Four-Way Test

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Nov. Program Dir. Debra
- 11/14: Margaret Nagawa, Graduate student, Emory - Art History
- Dec. Program Dir. Bridgette
- 12/7: Jack Gerblick and Bob O'Brien
- Jan. Program Dir. Victoria
- Feb. Program Dir. CJ
- May Program Dir. Carolina

Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Invocation & Pledge
3. Introduction of Guests
4. Tasse Trivia
5. DEI Moment
6. Announcements
7. Program/Speaker
8. The Four-Way Test
9. Adjournment

Sign up to be a program chair [here](#) today! Mar. Apr. & June are vacant and need YOU!

westend@rotary6900.org facebook.com/RotaryAWE

inforotaryawe@gmail.com [@rotaryatlantawestend](https://twitter.com/rotaryatlantawestend)

atlantawestendrotary.org LinkedIn.com/company/rotary-club-of-atlanta-west-end

THE FOUR-WAY TEST of the things we think, say or do



first Is it the TRUTH?

second Is it FAIR to all concerned?

third Will it build GOOD WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

fourth Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?