



## KeyWay Weekly Newsletter

.....

### **This Week's Program:**

*Club Assembly*



Join us this Friday at 12:15 PM for a Club Assembly where we shape the future of the Rotary Club of Atlanta West End together. Come be part of the conversation as we discuss strategic goals, celebrate recent achievements, and explore new opportunities for service and leadership.

.....

***August's Theme is Membership & Extension: Fridays: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29***

.....



### **AWER Speaker Report Rotary Meeting at Georgia Tech | August 1, 2025 Spotlight: The Wren's Nest Summer Scribes Program**

This meeting of the Rotary Club of Atlanta West End featured a special presentation on the Wren's Nest Summer Scribes Writing Program, led by Ms. M'Jori Morris and her daughter Ms. Laila Morris, a rising 8th grader and one of this summer's Scribes. Together, they explained both the "what" and the "how" of the Scribes Program. In addition to sharing her personal experience, Laila read aloud one of her short stories showcasing the creativity and voice that the program cultivates.

Also joining us was Mr. Marcel Morris, Laila's brother and driver for the day, who played the role of family supporter, photographer, and protector. The presentation gave AWER members a first-hand look at how the program helps young people develop both as writers and as speakers. Ms. Pam Auchmutey, Wren's Nest board member, provided helpful context about the history and cultural importance of the Wren's Nest and its ongoing community engagement.

Founded in 2010 by then-executive director Mr. Lane Shakespeare, great-great-grandson of Joel Chandler Harris, the program began as a partnership with KIPP STRIVE Academy in Atlanta Public Schools. What started as in-school writing mentorship has since evolved into a summer camp format. Now held at the Wren’s Nest itself, the week-long camp includes literary coaching, guest speakers, and a public “Scribes Showcase” to celebrate the students’ original writing.

This year, nine students participated, including Laila Morris, who attended with sponsorship from AWER. Her mother expressed deep appreciation, sharing that the camp reignited Laila’s love for writing during a challenging time for their family. Laila’s short horror story, featuring a chilling character named Miss Mary Mac, captured the imagination of everyone present.

The presentation was a meaningful reminder of how Rotary sponsorship can empower youth voices and foster a lifelong love of storytelling.

*Neil Shorthouse, KeyWay Reporter*

.....

## **Building Rotary**

*August is Membership and New Club Development Month*

August is Rotary International’s designated month to highlight the importance of Membership and New Club Development. This focus reminds us that the success and sustainability of Rotary relies on the dedication of current members and the fresh ideas of new ones.

At the Rotary Club of Atlanta West End, our ability to make a meaningful impact comes from the strength of our membership. Every Rotarian brings unique talents, perspectives, and a commitment to serving others. Through our weekly gatherings, service initiatives, and community partnerships, we continue to reflect the values that make Rotary a force for good in the West End and beyond.

This month is a time to celebrate what it means to be part of a global movement centered on humanitarian service. It is also a time to welcome others who share our values. Growing Rotary starts with each of us. A personal invitation from you can open the door for someone to discover Rotary for the first time.

This month, we ask every member to take a moment to reach out. Share why you joined AWER. Invite someone to a Friday meeting. Introduce a potential member to our service projects. By personally engaging our networks, we not only strengthen our club, but also help expand Rotary’s reach and impact.

Let’s each be a bridge to Rotary for someone else. Together, we can grow a stronger, more vibrant AWER community.

.....

## **The Bridge from Now to Better**

*From Here to There: Rotary in Action*

The community organizer Saul Alinsky opens his book *Rules for Radicals* with a pragmatic but inspiring message not to settle or compromise your standards, but also not to become trapped by idealism:

"As an organizer I start from where the world is, as it is, not as I would like it to be. That we accept the world as it is does not in any sense weaken our desire to change it into what we believe it should be—it is necessary to begin where the world is if we are going to change it to what we think it should be."

Have the wisdom to prioritize what is possible now, supported by the courage to act without ideal conditions and the temperance to accept incremental progress without frustration. Moving the world forward (or yourself), even slightly, inherently serves the common good. Recognizing the worth of each step allows you to enjoy the time given and keeps morale sustainable. Joy comes from purposeful striving, not the illusion of a perfect finish line.

In Rotary, we see each step forward, no matter how small, as an act of service above self. Together, we build the bridge between the world as it is and the world as it could be.



<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>MARK YOUR CALENDAR</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 8/15: Carolina Ramos–Member Showcase</li><li>● 8/22: Imara Canady, Board President, Hammonds House Museum</li><li>● 8/23: Safe at Home Game</li><li>● 8/29: Rebekah Enoch; Freedom United.</li><li>● 9/5: Aretta Baldon - Member Showcase</li><li>● 9/12: Dr. Bryan Johnson, APS Superintendent</li><li>● 9/14: Streets Alive! Peachtree St.</li><li>● 9/27: WEND Candlelight Concert</li><li>● 10/25: ATL Tech. College 5K</li><li>● 10/26: Streets Alive! West End</li></ul> <p><b><i>Sign up to be a program chair <a href="#">here</a> today!</i></b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>CELEBRATIONS</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Happy Birthday</i></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">8/11 Debra Stokes 8/17 Victoria Seals, PhD 8/18 Robert Stephens 8/19 Jared Evans</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Happy Anniversary</i></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">8/23 Richard &amp; Mary Gerakitis</p>
---	---

**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

**RY2025–2026 Board of Directors**

**President:** *Dr. Victoria Seals*  
**Co-Presidents-Elect:** *Debra Stokes & Chris Hempfling*  
**Immediate Past President:** *Jared Evans*  
**President-Nominee:** *TBD*  
**Secretary:** *Neil Shorthouse*  
**Treasurer:** *Rose Caplan*  
**Club Admin. Co-Chairs:** *Debra Stokes & Chris Hempfling*  
**Membership Chair:** *Sonia Hantman*  
**Public Image Chair:** *Jared Evans*  
**Service Projects Chair:** *Carolina Ramos*  
**The Rotary Foundation Chair:** *Debra Stokes*  
**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chair:** *Marilyn Jackson*

**JOIN ONLINE**

Zoom Link - [Click here](#)  
Meeting ID: 874 0116 4307  
Passcode: Service

**Dial In**

1-646-558-8656  
Meeting ID: 874 0116 4307  
Passcode: 846122

 **Never a Bad Time to Catch Up!**

Your membership dues help to keep our service strong. Click [here](#) to pay on the District 6900 website. Your club, your club treasurer, and your community will thank you!

**Stay Connected with AWER**

 **Email:** [inforotaryawe@gmail.com](mailto:inforotaryawe@gmail.com)  **Website:** [atlantawestendrotary.org](http://atlantawestendrotary.org)  
 **Facebook:** [facebook.com/RotaryAWE](https://facebook.com/RotaryAWE)  **Instagram:** [@rotaryatlantawestend](https://instagram.com/rotaryatlantawestend)

---

**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?](#)