

# THE STAFFORD HIGHLIGHT

November 20, 2024



Rotary Club of Stafford **People of Action**

## November 20 – iPDG Douglas Heizer D6930 and iPDG Rudy Garcia D7600: Peace Poles Project

Douglas Heizer



Rudy Garcia

**Douglas Heizer**, *Boca Raton Tribune* publisher and noted Brazilian-born businessman Douglas Heizer served as the 32nd governor of Rotary District 6930.

Rotarians since 1988, the Doug and his wife Dini are well-known in Boca as the founders and former presidents of the first Portuguese-speaking Rotary Club in the U.S. in 2008. The Rotary Club of Boca Raton West is one of four Rotary Clubs in Boca, and members and presidents were well represented at the installation. They also include The Rotary Club of Boca Raton, Rotary Club Downtown Boca Raton and Rotary Club of Boca Raton Sunrise. Heizer created an event that brings all the Rotary Clubs in Boca together to collect toys for unprivileged kids in the area for the last 15 years., the Boca Raton Toy

### Club Calendar

November Is the Rotary Foundation Month

- ❖ November 20 - iPDG Douglas Heizer D6930 and iPDG Rudy Garcia D7600: Peace Poles Project, Peacebuilding/Partnerships/Membership
- ❖ November 27 – No Meeting, Happy Thanksgiving
- ❖ December 3 – Regular Meeting – TBD
  - ❖ December 11 - Speaker: Stephanie Johnson with Stafford Education Foundation
- ❖ December 18 – Classification Talk
- ❖ December 25 – No Meeting! Merry Christmas!
- ❖ January 7 Get the Puck Out Polio! Noon game v. Rangers!
- ❖ February 20-22 – RI Peace Conference in Istanbul
- ❖ June 21-25 – Rotary International Convention in Calgary, Alberta

Drive. In 2009, he was honored by the City of Boca Raton, which declared January 13 as Douglas Heizer Day in Boca Raton.

Heizer was president of the Rotary Club Boca Raton Sunset, District 6930 Public Image Chair, Assistant Governor, and District Secretary. A native of Rio De Janeiro, he served as RYLA chair, Assistant Governor, and District secretary at District 4751 in Brazil.

The Heizers moved to the United States in 2000. He has been married to Dini since 1985, and they have three children. He is the President of Heizer Corporation with affiliates worldwide., which owns the newspaper ***The Boca Raton Tribune***, and Heizer Marketing, a marketing agency focused on digital marketing and content creation. He also owns Boca Raton FC, a semi-professional soccer team.

Throughout his time in the United States, Douglas has amassed numerous awards, including the Lifetime Achievement Rotary Award, Entrepreneur of the Year by Life Magazine in 2017, Honorary Award in 2017 by the Evangelical Pastors Association, Business Press Award in 2018 by Focus Brasil, and the Milton & Bernice Beckerman Award by Community Publishers.

**Rudy Garcia** is a business owner from Fluvanna County. He has a tax preparation business and a financial planning business. He was born and raised in Key West, FL. He joined the Army in 1977 and served 22 years. Upon retirement, he worked for the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Fork Union Military Academy until opening his own business in 2006. He and Catherine were married in 2001 and are both multiple time Club Presidents. Rudy Graduated from Ohio University in 2002 with a bachelor's degree in Specialized Studies and in 2005 from Walden University with a master's degree of Science in Education. He joined the Rotary Club of Fluvanna County in 2011 and served as Club President from March of 2013 until June 2016. He also has served as the Interact Club Coordinator and is currently his Club's Executive Secretary. Rudy was recognized as Rotarian of the Year by his Club for 2012.

He and his wife Catherine, who is the current Fluvanna Rotary Club President (and a former two-time President), are both Major Donors Level Two and Bequest Society Level 3 to the Rotary Foundation. Additionally, Rudy and Catherine have both been Paul Harris Society Members since 2014 and they are Multiple Paul Harris Fellows. Rudy has been on the RLI Faculty since 2017 and has also facilitated small group sessions at Chesapeake PETS since 2016. He was also the Multi-District Breakout Sessions Facilitator Coordinator from 2018-2020.

## **November 10 Meeting**

President Jamie presided and welcomed Mark's guest Edward Learner and our guest speakers. IPDG Rene gave the Thought of the Day: "The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little." -- FDR, Inaugural

Address, January 20, 1937.

## Announcements

- ❖ December 18 – Annual Club Meeting, the proposed officers are:
  - President-elect: Cheri Maea (to serve as President during the 2026 - 2027 Rotary year)
  - Treasurer: Debra Schleef
  - Secretary: Dylan OakesThe board unanimously accepted this slate at our meeting on November 12th, 2024. Kristy Freeman was elected as President-elect at our annual meeting in 2023. She will transition into the role of President on July 1st.
- ❖ Club Holiday Party, Saturday, December 21, 5 pm in Pentagon City hosted by Jamie and Dylan.
- ❖ Bookkeeping- All quarterly statements have been issued. Please pay your invoice ASAP.
- ❖ Our club is supporting Operation Warm, the program to buy winter coats for Stafford County Public School students in need. For every \$25 raised, a child in need will receive a brand-new coat through Operation Warm. With nearly 20% of children nationwide living in poverty, and families facing tough choices between basic needs like food, heat, and healthcare, we want to ensure no child in Stafford goes without the warmth they deserve. We encourage you to make a donation through the online fundraising page today. Whether big or small, every donation brings us closer to our goal of keeping our community's children warm and ready to learn. Here's how you can donate:
  - Donate by Check: Make checks payable to: Mountain View Fire and Safety Assoc. Memo Line: Operation Warm. Mail to: Mountain View Fire and Safety Assoc., PO Box 2528, Stafford, VA 22555
  - Donate by Credit Card: Visit [www.staffordschools.net/operationwarm](http://www.staffordschools.net/operationwarm)
  - Donate by Cash or Other Method: Please contact Hunter Berry at [berryha@staffordschools.net](mailto:berryha@staffordschools.net) or call 540-295-3441.
- ❖ Cheri reported that Via Colori earned \$6,500 for our club foundation.
- ❖ IPDG Rene reported on upcoming programs, including the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and two Rotarians from the House of Delegates
- ❖ The installation banquet for our Rotary Year 2025-26 officers is tentatively set for June 11.
- ❖ Renee to send Amanda and Joseph's contact information to Cheri for connecting with Germanna Community College's student group and activities. Amanda and Joseph to send updated website link and Community Connections Expo details to Renee after Friday.
- ❖ Rotary Club members should consider volunteering for the Community Connections Expo on March 18, 2025.
- ❖ Rotary Club to explore potential collaboration with FAHASS for future events like the Rainbow Run and Via Glory.

- ❖ The club will reach out to Sheriff Decatur about establishing an LGBTQ liaison program in Stafford County.

## PROGRAM

Our speakers were Joseph Lyttle, Executive Director, and Amanda Strawn: Development Manager of FAHASS – Fredericksburg Area Health and Support Services.

FAHASS is a private, nonprofit organization whose mission is to positively impact individual and community health. They provide a safe environment to learn, grow, and maintain a healthy lifestyle. The staff is dedicated to providing quality service to clients, their families, and to the greater community.

FAHASS started as a support group for people living with HIV and AIDS, and has since expanded to provide HIV programming, community education, and primary healthcare services. They operate in Fredericksburg and serve counties across Virginia, including Westmoreland, King Queen, Fauquier Counties, and the Northern Neck. Services include HIV and prevention education, medical case management, mental health therapy, housing, transportation, and additional support services. They highlighted the importance of early intervention for newly diagnosed HIV patients and the organization's commitment to housing for those living with HIV. The organization operates a primary care facility, Mosaic Care Center, which offers inclusive and affirmant healthcare service.

The new Pride Center is entirely community-supported and serves as a space for LGBTQ+ organizations to host events. They discussed their annual fundraiser, the Rainbow Run, and their plans for an annual Community Connections Expo. They expressed the need for more community awareness and support, as their organization relies heavily on government grants and lacks a strong donor base. Cheri suggested connecting with the local Rotary clubs for potential support and collaboration. They also mentioned their transition care services for adults and the potential for pushback or resistance in the coming years.

