

THE ROTARY CLUB OF WESTON FORTNIGHTLY EDITION

Sunday, March 23, 2025

Rotary Club of Weston Drawdown - What a success!



What a Shamrockin' Success!

The RCW DrawDown Event lit up Weston Town Center on St. Patrick's Day with an unforgettable mix of laughter, luck, and purpose! From good times to big wins for scholarships, it was a night overflowing with Rotary spirit and community heart — all to support our amazing local high school seniors.

From the cheers to the final draw, the energy was electric — and yes, we SOLD OUT!

Massive kudos to our incredible leadership team: **Chair Kurt, Co-Chair Emilie**, and our powerhouse committee: **Sam, Dan, Madeline**, and all the volunteers who went above and beyond.

Special thanks to our incredible supporting members and sponsors, including **Chuck and Jerry**, whose generosity and belief in our mission made this event shine. And a big shoutout to **Michael, Chuck, Bob, Keith, Emilie**, and all the behind-the-scenes heroes whose hard work and dedication helped us reach SOLD OUT status!

And to everyone who joined us, gave generously, and rooted for our cause — YOU are the reason our impact keeps growing. You're not just supporting a fundraiser — you're investing in futures.

Can't wait to do it all again — bigger and bolder — next year!

THURSDAY MORNING MEETING

Come join us this **Thursday 3/27/2025** at our regularly scheduled **7:30 AM** meeting at **The Club at Weston Hills**, located at **2600 Country Club Way, Weston, FL 33332**.

Join us for the Induction of new members.

Virtual Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID: 309 720 656
Passcode: 6990

YMCA Invitation Swim For Jenny VIP Event

We are thrilled to share a special invitation from our community partner,

Club Meeting

Weston
Meets at The Club at Weston Hills
2600 Country Club Way
Weston, FL 33332
Time: Thursday at 07:30 AM

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Events

- March 26th
The Rotary Club of Weston SEC - Evening Fortnightly Meeting
- March 27th
The Rotary Club of Weston -Weekly Meeting
- April 3rd
The Rotary Club of Weston -Weekly Meeting
- April 3rd
Rotary Club of Weston Impact Español Club
- April 9th
The Rotary Club of Weston SEC - Evening Fortnightly Meeting

LET'S MAKE THIS THE SAFEST SUMMER EVER!

YOU ARE INVITED

Jenny was a one-of-a-kind child. She was smart, energetic, beautiful and blessed with a loving family. Unfortunately, Jenny lost her life because she did not know how to swim. Swim For Jenny was created as a reminder of the importance of learning how to swim. The YMCA of South Florida is committed to helping keep kids and families safe in and around water.

During the week of March 24-28, the YMCA of South Florida comes together to provide more than Five Days of FREE Swim Lessons to our communities. You are invited to see us in action and learn how many lives the Y impacts through our Swim For Jenny Program and other Water Safety & Drowning Prevention initiatives.

THURSDAY | MARCH 27, 2025

Generously underwritten by:
 Nicklaus Children's Health System
 Where Our Child Matters Most!

5:00 PM TO 7:00 PM Refreshments & Snacks \$10 to purchase	Weston YMCA Family Center 2000 Country Club Way Weston, FL 33332	PLEASE RSVP By March 26th Cynthia Mendez 13Mendez@ymcasouthflorida.org
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the Weston YMCA, to attend an exclusive Swim for Jenny VIP Event — and we hope to see many of you there!

This meaningful event is dedicated to raising awareness about water safety and ensuring every child has access to swim lessons, regardless of their circumstances.

The Swim for Jenny initiative was created in honor of Jenny's memory and is devoted to preventing childhood drowning through accessible swim education. With your presence and support, we can help expand this life-saving mission and ensure that no child is left behind when it comes to water safety.

This will be an evening of inspiration and impact, featuring community leaders, special guests, and stories that highlight the power of swim education.

Let's show our RCW support for this incredible cause. We look forward to seeing you there and making a difference together!

THURSDAY MORNING MEETING

Come join us this **Thursday 4/3/2025** at our regularly scheduled **7:30 AM** meeting at **The Club at Weston Hills**, located at **2600 Country Club Way, Weston, FL 33332**.

BE PART OF OUR COMMUNITY AT

WEEKLY MEETING

TOPIC

GOLF CLASSIC CHAIR

Be prepared for the upcoming FHV and RCW Golf Tournament

www.westonrotary.com

THURSDAY
April 3, 2025

START AT
07:30AM - 8:30AM

WESTON
2600 COUNTRY CLUB WAY

We're gearing up for the much-anticipated FHV & Rotary Club of Weston Golf Tournament, and the briefing meeting brought together all members to align on all the moving parts that will make this event a hole-in-one!

Virtual Zoom Meeting
Meeting ID: 309 720 656
Passcode: 6990

Upcoming hands down event

- April 10th
The Rotary Club of Weston -Weekly Meeting
- April 17th
The Rotary Club of Weston -Weekly Meeting
- April 17th
Harvest Drive - Cereal Box Drive
- April 17th
Rotary Club of Weston Impact Español Club

UMBRELLA WINNER

Dr. Mohsin Jaffer



Rotary Club of Weston

along with the Charitable Foundation, aims to be the driving force of positive change in our local and global communities.

SINCE ITS LAUNCH, Rotary Club of Weston Charitable Foundation

150 CHARITIES
local and global charities received funds and benefitted from the Rotary Club of Weston efforts and activities

5 CONTINENTS
we have been making a tangible difference in communities across five continents.

1,500+ SCHOLARSHIPS
scholarships were awarded and given to kids with outstanding academic performance

DONATION

- \$2+ MILLION** collected and disbursed for scholarships
- \$1.5+ MILLION** of contribution to The Rotary Foundation
- \$1.25+ MILLION** allocated to multiple charitable organizations

START TO CHANGE THE WORLD
Sign up and join us! Visit www.westonrotary.com

Forthnightly quote



We're excited to announce that the Rotary Club of Weston Team Build 2025 will take place on Saturday, April 5th! This is an incredible opportunity to give back to our community by working with Habitat for Humanity Broward. We have space for up to 10 participants, so don't miss out on being part of this impactful event!

Register your spot here:

[Register Now](https://habitatbroward.charityproud.org/VolunteerRegistration/index/3877)

Location:
BBI Village Site (Location may change)
1923 NW 9th Ave, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311

Schedule:
Please arrive by 7:15 AM to check-in, get your name badge, and be ready for the 7:30 AM Morning Circle, where we'll go over important details, including safety instructions.

What to bring & wear:

Comfortable, long pants or shorts
Sturdy, closed-toe shoes (sneakers are fine; no sandals, flip-flops, crocs, or dress shoes)
A hat and sunglasses
Optional: Work gloves (one-size-fits-most gloves will be provided)

What's provided:

Personal Protective Equipment
Tools and training
Bottled water and snacks during the mid-morning break
Let's come together to build something meaningful for our community! Register now and make a difference with the Rotary Club of Weston. ??

NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING



All members are invited to attend the upcoming RCW Monthly Board of Directors meeting **Tuesday, April 8th, 6:00 PM.**

The meeting will be in person at **Rick Case Volkswagen**, 3520 Weston Road, Weston, FL 33331, on the 2nd floor. If you plan on attending, kindly RSVP to Laura Dobrzanski laura.dobrzanski@gmail.com as space is limited.

The new board is eager to start their term with renewed energy to our club's initiatives. Their leadership will guide us as we strive to make a positive impact in our community and beyond.

THURSDAY MORNING MEETING

Come join us this **Thursday 4/10/2025** at our regularly scheduled **7:30 AM** meeting at **The Club at Weston Hills**, located at **2600 Country Club Way, Weston, FL 33332.**



<https://es.pinterest.com/pin/564709240775847082/>

Birthdays

Susan Bakalar
March 25th
Ingrid Castellanos
March 29th
Adam Goldberg
April 1st
Michael Ross LoBiondo
April 2nd
Carlos Ochoa
April 4th
Sarah A Parra
April 4th
Mark L. Huard
April 6th
Todd A. Dayton
April 7th
Lawrence Franzoni
April 13th
Estrella Diez-Velardiez
April 16th

Years of Service

Michael Freedland
04-01-2001
24 Years
Stephen La Vault
03-26-2015
10 Years
Byron L. Jaffe
03-30-2017
8 Years
Jaime Villamizar
03-28-2019
6 Years
Todd Draizin
03-28-2019
6 Years
Todd A. Dayton
04-01-2020
5 Years
Jim Inglis
04-07-2022
3 Years
Marilyn Gustman
04-06-2024
1 Year
Paola Herrera
04-06-2024

Join us for a special Rotary meeting as we celebrate our Students of the Month! This event is dedicated to recognizing the hard work, dedication, and achievements of exceptional students in our community. Let's come together to uplift and encourage the next generation!

[Virtual Zoom Meeting](#)
Meeting ID: 309 720 656
Passcode: 6990

News from RuNews from Ruma - Amarok Society: Start With Mothema - Amarok Society: Start With Mothers

It is always inspiring when we receive an update from Ruma, and this latest letter is nothing short of extraordinary. Her story continues to be a powerful reminder of the impact your support has on lives around the world. Thru Amarok Society the Rotary Club of Weston has helped Ruma to become the respected woman in her community. Ruma's journey began with a simple yet courageous goal: to learn to read and write for her own empowerment. Since then, her path has evolved into something truly breathtaking. What started as a personal mission has transformed into a life of leadership, service, and inspiration.

Today, Ruma works tirelessly with children and youth, helping them pursue their education. She has taught and uplifted not only her fellow Amarok mothers, but also others across her village, leaving a lasting impact through her dedication and example.

She takes great pride in having been a teacher to other women, passing on the gift of education that she once received herself. Her transformation from student to mentor is a beautiful reflection of the Rotary spirit — "Service Above Self."

Along with Ruma's heartfelt letter, we're pleased to share a few touching photos: Ruma with her friends, and Ruma picking Puishak, a leafy green vegetable she grows herself. Puishak is similar to spinach — rich in iron and nutrients — and can be eaten both raw or cooked. It's a symbol of the health, sustainability, and independence that education and empowerment can foster.



November 2024
Ruma Khatun
Khulna, Bangladesh

*Dear Members of the Rotary Club of Weston,
I hope you are all well. Things are going fine in my life. The micro-school children are doing very well. Anima, a graduate from my micro-school, is teaching younger children now. She often comes to me for ideas to make her teaching fun. I love her, and she loves me too. Many graduates from our micro-schools are now studying in higher grades and teaching their siblings and neighbors. These child-teachers are the future leaders of our community. I am now helping Anima, another child-teacher, to develop her teaching skills. I hope she will be ready to become an efficient Child-Teacher soon.*

When I started my journey with you and Amarok Society, I wanted to learn to read and write for my own improvement. After that, I began teaching five children, including my daughter Rasni. At the same time, I participated in different skill development training organized by our teacher and later on started earning with my new skills. During the COVID-19 crisis, we started our goodwill work only for the 25 Amarok mothers and their families. After that we extended our hands for others with our limited abilities. As soon as we overcame the crisis, we decided to support more people in our community who were not a part of our mother-school. Now, I continue to help other mothers and their children to grow and

1 Year

Club Leaders



Jacqueline Gillman
President



Laura Dobrzanski
Secretary



Gordon Thompson
Club Committee Co - Chair
Vice President
President-Nominee



Maria Mercedes Alvarez Arancedo
Community Service Chair
Service Projects Chair
Webmaster



Harold Calle
Chair - Impact Club



Julianne Dinda
Youth Services Chair



Margarita Lartitegui
Club Committee Chair -
Environmental



Ramon Ortega
Treasurer



Deborah Richman (O'Connor)
Public Relations Chair



Robert Sirota
Chair - Satellite Club
4th of July Chair



Mercy Velazquez
Membership Chair



Alfredo Aguirre
Club Programs Chair



Joseph E. Altschul
Rotary Foundation Chair



Frank Dreier
Run Programs Chair



Julian Gazzano Jr.
Club Director



Eugenio Moreno
Service Projects Chair



Evangelina Theobald
Sergeant-at-Arms



Ana Mary Ramirez de Moreno
Club Committee Co - Chair



Edwina Auguste
Past President



Cristiano Nicolucci
iPast President



learn.

I am happy to tell you that we have stopped early marriage and dowry practices in our slum. However, we still face the problem of child labor in some unusual cases. There are some husbands in our slum who have a character of polygamy. Sometimes, the husband leaves wife after marrying another girl/woman and flees from the slum. The wife falls in deep trouble with children to manage their livelihood. In such cases, children join in work at an early age to support their mothers and feed the younger siblings. When we started our school, many of us worked as maids. Now, 18 Amarak mothers have learned new skills and are earning money through different jobs part-time, handicraft, hand-sewing, tailoring, street selling and such. This has brought them respect in their families and communities. I enjoy helping women, especially those who are struggling. One of the women I trained, Sume, is now doing better than me. She learned from me how to cut clothes, design, and sew plastic and jute bags. I also introduced her to a market to sell her products. Her husband later on joins her and with their initiative they are now doing very well and can be better than mine. They have developed a small business to supply us with raw materials and they earn good money. I feel very happy about her success and told her to include more women who want to work.

Thank you for your support. It helps me understand the world better and continue my work to teach children and help others. We are doing well and I am happy to keep learning and teaching.

Yours lovingly,
Ruma

Community Service Corner

The Rotary Club of Weston is dedicated to making a difference in our local and international communities through various service initiatives. Whether supporting literacy, environmental cleanups, or essential holiday needs, there's an opportunity for everyone to get involved. Join us in giving back by volunteering at one of our upcoming events.

We hope to see you there! For a complete list of approved charities, please visit our Community Service Projects page ([Click here](#)).

For more details, contact Mercedes Alvarez at (925) 548-1123.

Rotary Club of Weston Upcoming Community Service Engagements

- Events calendar: DACGS
- List of approved organizations: <https://www.westonrotary.com>
- Any additional info: Text Mercedes Alvarez at (925) 548-1123

Continuous Donation Drives at Meeting Locations

Item	Contact
Bikes	Margarita Lartegui Rotary Club of Fort Lauderdale/Cypress Creek Rotary Club of Englewood, South Africa
Clothes	Estrella Diez Velardez Ana Mary Ramirez de Moreno
Kid-Friendly Books	Mercedes Alvarez
Non-perishable food • Box of cereal • Box of Mac & cheese • Cans • Jelly / Peanut butter	Deborah Richman Mercedes Alvarez
Shoes	Margarita Lartegui
Toys (new)	Tania Arteaga Eugenio Moreno

List of Approved Charities: <https://www.westonrotary.com/community-service-projects.php>

Rotary Club of Weston Upcoming Community Service Engagements

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Event	Type	Support	Schedule	Location	Contact
New Underwear and Socks Drive	☺	The Hands and Feet	All March	Meeting location	Sai Rasser
CIBO PTSA 5 th Car Wash	🚗	Cypress Bay High School	March 7 10:45 AM 1:15 PM	1800 Weston Rd	Gordon Thompson
The Weston Foreign Film Series	🎬	Art Council of Greater Weston	March 10 4:30 PM 7:30 PM	APC Weston & Theatre	Laura Dobrzanek
CIBO PTSA Family Night	👨👩👧👦	Cypress Bay High School	March 13 11:00 AM 9:00 PM	La Birra Bar Weston Town Center	Gordon Thompson
Mac & cheese Drive	🍝	Harvest Drive	March 20 7:30 AM & 6:00PM	Meeting location	Deborah Richman Mercedes Alvarez
Vegetable Garden	🌱	Manatee Bay Elementary	March TRD 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM	15200 Manatee Hwy 22, Weston, FL 33332	Roberto Srinata Mercedes Alvarez
Clothes Sorting and Packaging	👕	Local communities	March 28 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM	2400 Grades Cir.	Estrella Diez- Velardez Ana Mary Ramirez de Moreno
Renoir, P&R RataKala Book Reading	📖	Fior de Loto Monessori	April 2 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM	Remote	Mercedes Alvarez
The Weston Foreign Film Series	🎬	Art Council of Greater Weston	April 14 4:40 PM to 7:30 PM	APC Weston & Theatre	Laura Dobrzanek
Cereal Box Drive	🍲	Harvest Drive	April 17 7:30 AM & 6:00PM	Meeting Spot	Deborah Richman Mercedes Alvarez

List of Approved Charities: <https://www.westonrotary.com/community-service-projects.php>

(Click on pictures to enlarge)

THURSDAY MORNING MEETING

Come join us this **Thursday 4/17/2025** at our regularly scheduled **7:30 AM** meeting at **The Club at Weston Hills**, located at **2600 Country Club Way, Weston, FL 33332**.



BE PART OF OUR DISCUSSION AT
WEEKLY MEETING

TOPIC

JOE SCOTT
BROWARD COUNTY SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

Ensuring Fair & Secure Elections: A Leadership Perspective by Supervisor Joe Scott

www.westonrotary.com

Rotary Club of Weston

THE MAGIC OF ROTARY

THURSDAY
April 17, 2025

START AT
07:30AM - 8:30AM

WESTON
2600 COUNTRY CLUB WAY

At this weekly Rotary Club of Weston meeting, we had the honor of welcoming Joe Scott, Broward County Supervisor of Elections, as our featured speaker.

Supervisor Scott delivered a compelling presentation on the importance of election integrity, the safeguards in place to protect the democratic process, and the leadership principles required to maintain public trust in today's evolving electoral landscape.

His insights reminded us that strong institutions rely on transparency, community engagement, and ethical leadership—values that align closely with Rotary's commitment to service and civic responsibility.

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 309 720 656

Passcode: 6990

THURSDAY MORNING MEETING

Come join us this **Thursday 4/24/2025** at our regularly scheduled **7:30 AM** meeting at **The Club at Weston Hills**, located at **2600 Country Club Way, Weston, FL 33332**.



BE PART OF OUR DISCUSSION AT
WEEKLY MEETING

TOPIC

ROTARY JACKPOT

Spin, Play, and Win

www.westonrotary.com

Rotary Club of Weston

THE MAGIC OF ROTARY

THURSDAY
April 24, 2025

START AT
07:30AM - 8:30AM

WESTON
2600 COUNTRY CLUB WAY

This weekly Rotary Club of Weston meeting is not one to miss!

We'll be presenting our revised Strategic Plan — a vision for growth, impact, and engagement that will guide us forward.

And after the business... it's all fun and games! Get ready for an entertaining activity that will bring plenty of laughs and camaraderie.

Come for the strategy, stay for the fun — see you there!

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 309 720 656

Passcode: 6990

38th Annual Golf Classic



Rotary Club of Weston is pleased to invite you to its 38th Annual Golf Tournament on Monday, April 7, 2025 at The Club at Weston Hills.

Golf Tournament proceeds support the Rotary Golf of Weston Scholarship Fund.

This fund has awarded over \$2,500,000 in scholarships to students graduating from Cypress Bay, Western, McFatter, and Sagemont.

We partner locally with the University of Miami, HANDY, and Children's Harbor. Nationally, we are proud supporters of the Posse Foundation, which provides free college to almost 1000 students annually.

Join us for a great day of golf at The Club at Weston Hills where you will have the opportunity to develop and strengthen your business relationships with your clients, prospects, community businesses and civic leaders. In addition, you will help the leaders of tomorrow achieve their dreams.

Monday, April 7, 2025 - The Club at Weston Hills
www.WestonRotaryGolf.com



AMERANT



J.P.Morgan

Bringing the Rotary Club of Weston Community Together!



- **First Week of the Month** (Wed at 6 pm): Regular Evening meeting.
- **Second Week of the Month** (Thu at 6 pm): Regular Impact meeting.
- **Third Week of the Month** (Wed at 6 pm): Rotary Means Business hosted by Evening group, a unique opportunity to network and socialize with fellow Rotarians. This meeting will combine elements of socializing, business discussions, and collaboration. Don't forget to bring your business cards and be prepared to work with other Rotarians to make a difference.
- **Fourth Week of the Month:** Social hosted by Impact group. This meeting is dedicated to fostering connections and camaraderie among RCW members, with a special focus on the impact of our collective efforts.

We encourage everyone in the Rotary Club of Weston to pop in to meetings of the RCW Morning Group, Evening Group, and Impact Group. It's a great chance to get to know each other better, share ideas and insights, and have a good time!

Register Now for the 2025 District Conference – Come Home to the Magic of Rotary!



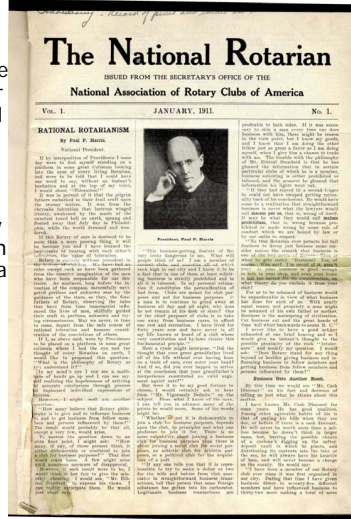
Join us at our **2025 District Conference: Come Home to the Magic of Rotary**, taking place **May 2-4, 2025**, in beautiful Key West, Florida! [Read More](#)

Rotary International Magazine



As a member, you are entitled to receive a subscription to The Rotarian magazine, which has been in circulation worldwide since 1911. The magazine is an official publication of Rotary International and is available to you as part of your membership dues. You should receive a copy of the magazine monthly, but if you have not yet received it, you may need to update your preferred address in DacDb. In case you encounter any issues, you can send an email to westorotary@gmail.com for assistance.

To access past issues of the magazine, you can click on the following link <https://magazine.rotary.org/rotary/library/> and read stories from as far back as 2017. You may also enroll in the Rotary Magazine Digital edition via this link. Additionally, if you are interested in exploring issues from the magazine's first 100 years, you can do so via Google Books by clicking on the following link https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Rotarian.html?id=vzQEAAAAMBAJ.



MARCH

TAKE ACTION:
Get Involved, Join Rotary

"Water is the most basic of all resources. Civilizations grew or withered depending on its availability."
Dr. Nathan W. Snyder

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE MONTH

Share your Rotary Club of Weston news! Send it to westorotary@gmail.com to have your story considered for an upcoming newsletter.