

THE ROTARY CLUB OF WESTON FORTNIGHTLY EDITION

Saturday, March 8, 2025

Rotary Club of Weston Drawdown



Get ready to don your green and join us for an unforgettable St. Patrick's Day celebration at the Rotary Club of Weston Drawdown Scholarship Fundraiser! This lively evening combines the thrill of a reverse raffle with festive fun – all while supporting scholarships for local high school seniors.

Buy a ticket here <https://www.westonrotarydrawdown.com>

All proceeds from this festive fundraiser support the Rotary Club of Weston Scholarship Fund, which has awarded over \$2,000,000 in scholarships to deserving students from Western High School, Cypress Bay High School, Sagemont Preparatory School, HANDY, and Children's Harbor.

By joining us, you're helping the next generation of leaders pursue their dreams – all while enjoying the best St. Patrick's Day celebration in Weston!

THURSDAY MORNING MEETING

Come join us this **Thursday 3/13/2025** 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 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

Meet our Newest Members

Carmen Franco

Carmen is originally from the city of Caracas, Venezuela. In terms of profession, she obtained her bachelor's degree in computer science with a Cum Laude mention.

In addition, she has:

- Master in business Coaching
- Master in Cloud Computing and Business
- Master in information systems and Management;
- Master in Project Management,
- Specialization in Marketing

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 12th
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March 17th
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March 20th
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March 20th
[Harvest Drive - Cereal Box Drive](#)

March 20th
[Rotary Club of Weston Impact Español Club](#)

March 26th
[The Rotary Club of Weston SEC - Evening Fortnightly Meeting](#)

March 27th
[The Rotary Club of Weston -Weekly Meeting](#)

April 3rd



Certified as a Business Ontological Coach and Professional Life Coach, she has a long career in information technologies, computer consulting, process improvement, as well as training, commercialization and marketing; she has developed her professional activity in different corporations and SMEs. From this starting point and during her professional development, she has achieved immersion in the business world allowing the understanding and comprehension of organizations in their three fundamental pillars: human capital with its organizational culture, skills and attitudes; the processes for business support and continuity; and technology as a support and continuity infrastructure. The organizational experience and the understanding of improvement in the three pillars became the starting point to get started in the world of Coaching as a discipline to support individuals and teams, in search of extraordinary results in the personal, professional and organizational fields. Carmen is the author of the book "Achieving Success, Recalculating the Path: Coaching for the Change Process". This book is her main contribution in Coaching as a support discipline in the management of change processes and personal development of the individual, which undoubtedly strengthens the skills for professional development.

Hélio Guimaraes



Hélio Guimaraes was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He is married to Raquel Guimarães and has three sons: Arthur, 20; Victor, 18 and Eric, 12 years old. Helio moved to the US with his family in 2008 and has lived in Weston since then. He graduated in Computer Engineering from PUC-Rio, in Brazil, and has a master's in business administration from the University of Warwick, in the UK. Helio has worked as an executive in the IT distribution industry for over 25 years, having occupied managerial positions in Brazil and Latin America. Helio is a volunteer at Fraternity without Borders, an organization that helps people in need in Africa and other countries. Through them, last year he joined other 35 volunteers and spent 15 days in Malawi, Africa, supporting a school for children of refugees in the Dzaleka Refugee camp. The experience confirmed his conviction that education is the best tool to build a more just and equitable world. In his leisure time, Helio enjoys spending time with his family and friends, playing tennis, cooking Brazilian barbecue, and listening to good Music.

Laura Genoni



We are excited to introduce one of our newest member, Laura, whose extensive experience and unwavering commitment to service make her a remarkable addition to our community. Originally from Buenos Aires, Argentina—a country renowned for its barbecue and the legendary Messi—Laura holds a PhD in Psychology and Cognitive Neurosciences. She is the founder and director of Next Goal Management Consultancy, where she has spent 18 years specializing in Neuromanagement and Human Resources. Her work includes talent acquisition, corporate training, and coaching in business and leadership development. Laura has also been an esteemed university professor for over eight years, teaching undergraduate, MBA, and doctoral students across various disciplines of management and neuroscience. Each year, she guided and inspired more than 700 students. She also worked at one of the most prestigious universities in Argentina, where she played a key role in developing the skills of MBA students, equipping them to achieve greater success in their professional careers. As a distinguished speaker, Laura has shared her expertise at conferences for companies and national and international institutions. Her presentations focus on vital topics such as communication, leadership, and neuromanagement. She has also published scientific papers based on her thesis, exploring leadership styles and their

relationship with executive functions such as decision-making and planning. Fueled by a deep sense of purpose, Laura has devoted her career to understanding human behavior to help leaders achieve holistic success. She believes that empowering leaders creates a domino effect, multiplying positive change in the lives of many. Outside her professional endeavors, Laura is a passionate volunteer who has held numerous leadership roles in different organizations. On a personal note, Laura is a proud mother of two daughters, Mica and Sofia, and has been happily married to her husband for 28 years. Laura's vast expertise, dedication to service, and passion for leadership development will undoubtedly enrich our Rotary Club. Please join me in extending a warm welcome to Laura as she begins this exciting new journey with us!

Please make sure to introduce yourselves to our newest member! We are honored to have him be a part of our club.

NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MONTHLY MEETING

All members are invited to attend the upcoming RCW Monthly Board of Directors meeting **Tuesday, March 11th, 6:00 PM.**

The Rotary Club of Weston -Weekly Meeting
 April 3rd
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 benefited 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
 \$1.5+ MILLION of contribution to The Rotary Foundation

\$2+ MILLION collected and disbursed for scholarships

\$1.25+ MILLION allocated to multiple charitable organizations

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

Forthnightly quote



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.

Know Your Board Director and Club Officer

Past President Julian Gazzano, Jr.

Rotary is built on leadership, service, and the dedication of its members, and Julian Gazzano, Jr. embodies these values wholeheartedly. As a key leader within the Rotary Club of Weston, Julian brings a wealth of experience and passion to the organization, helping to shape its future and inspire the next generation of Rotarians.

A Rotary Journey That Began in New York.

Julian's Rotary story started in 1980 in New York State when his Superintendent, who was the incoming President of the Islip/East Islip Rotary Club, invited him to lunch. At just 36 years old, Julian was serving as an Elementary School Principal in the Islip School District, and that simple lunch invitation led to a lifelong commitment to Rotary and its mission of service.

A Life-Changing Rotary Moment.

During his time as President of the Brentwood, New York Rotary Club, Julian experienced what he calls his defining Rotary Moment. In collaboration with the Rotary Clubs of Stony Brook and Port Jefferson, as well as the Long Island Rotary District and the dedicated doctors at Stony Brook University Hospital, they sponsored life-saving heart operations for children from Ghana. Over two years, their combined efforts brought hope and healing to these children and their families—an experience that left a lasting impact on Julian and reinforced the power of Rotary's service.



Among the many incredible events that Rotary organizes, Julian's favorite remains the Student of the Month program. Having spent 44 years as an educator and administrator, he deeply values opportunities to engage with young leaders and witness their potential firsthand. Programs that empower youth and help shape the future leaders of our country hold a special place in his heart.

Leading with a Vision for the Future.

This year, Julian took on a leadership role within the Board to spearhead the development of a strategic plan that will guide the Rotary Club of Weston for the next four years. Alongside a

dedicated group of members, he has worked tirelessly to craft a plan that reflects the club's diverse membership and its evolving needs. His goal remains clear: to strengthen the club, enhance its impact, and ensure that it continues to serve both its members and the greater community with excellence.

Julian Gazzano, Jr. is a testament to what it means to lead with purpose and dedication. His journey, experiences, and vision are shaping the Rotary Club of Weston's path forward, and we are grateful for his service and commitment to making a difference.

**Pictures above. Julian as a young Elementary Principal signing a certificate for a young student in his office. The other at the podium talking to Rotarians



Immediate Past President & DGND Cristiano Nicolucci



Rotary Club of Weston is proud to spotlight one of its dedicated leaders, Immediate Past President and District Governor Nominee Designate (DGND) Cristiano Nicolucci. His Rotary journey, which spans multiple countries and leadership roles, exemplifies the spirit of service and commitment to making an impact at the club, district, and international levels.

A Rotarian Across Continents

Cristiano first joined Rotary on March 15, 2013, as a member of the Rotary Club of Ascoli Piceno, Italy, where he quickly became involved in club leadership, serving as Director and Treasurer from 2015 to 2016. His passion for service continued when he transitioned to the E-Club of Duemondi, where he took on the role of Club Treasurer (2017-2018).

After moving to the U.S., Cristiano became a valued member of the Rotary Club of Weston on May 9, 2019. Since then, he has held various leadership positions, making a significant impact on club operations and service initiatives.

Serving the Rotary Club of Weston

"We rise
by lifting
others."

—Robert Ingersoll

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

Birthdays

Alexander Reid
March 11th
Gaston Reboredo
March 19th
Tal Raizer
March 21st
Michele Barbato
March 21st
Susan Bakalar
March 25th
Ingrid Castellanos
March 29th
Adam Goldberg
April 1st
Michael Ross LoBiondo
April 2nd
Sarah A Parra
April 4th
Carlos Ochoa
April 4th
Mark L. Huard
April 6th
Todd A. Dayton
April 7th

Years of Service

Charles R Yeh
06-12-1980
45 Years
Michael Freedland
04-01-2001
24 Years
Robert Harms
06-12-2008
17 Years
Keith Petron
04-30-2009
16 Years
Neal R. Kalis
05-28-2009
16 Years
Stephen La Vault
03-26-2015
10 Years
Byron L. Jaffe
03-30-2017
8 Years
Susan Bakalar
04-27-2017
8 Years
Siddharth Pandya
05-25-2017
8 Years
Edwina Auguste
05-24-2018
7 Years
Jaime Villamizar
03-28-2019
6 Years
Todd Draizin
03-28-2019

Cristiano has been an integral part of the club's leadership, serving in roles such as:

- Sergeant at Arms (2019-2022)
- Disaster Relief Committee Chair (2020-2021)
- Director (2021-2023)
- Club President (2023-2024)

As Club President, he led with enthusiasm, strengthening the club's presence in the community, expanding service projects, and enhancing member engagement. Now, as Immediate Past President, he continues to provide guidance and mentorship to the club's leadership team.

Impact at the District Level

Beyond the club, Cristiano has made significant contributions to Rotary District 6990. His expertise in technology has played a crucial role in numerous district events, serving as Chair for the District Technology Committee, the District Training Assembly Technology Committee, and the District Conference Technology Committee. His leadership extends to youth programs, currently serving as the District Interact Chair (2023-2025), where he is actively engaged in fostering the next generation of Rotarians.

Additionally, Cristiano has led fundraising efforts as the Chris Morrison Golf Ball Drop Committee Chair (2024-2025), helping raise vital funds for district initiatives.

A Commitment to Peace and Service

Cristiano's Rotary service is not confined to local efforts. He has been involved in various international peacebuilding initiatives, serving on the tech committees for major Rotary webinars focused on mediation, conflict resolution, and professional development. His dedication to "Service Above Self" extends far beyond club and district boundaries, impacting Rotary at a global level.

A Champion for The Rotary Foundation

Cristiano's commitment to The Rotary Foundation is evident through his philanthropic contributions. He is a Paul Harris Society member and has reached impressive milestones in Paul Harris Fellow recognitions, he was honored as a Major Donor Level 1 in 2021-2022.

Looking Ahead: District Governor 2027-2028

Cristiano's dedication to Rotary continues as he prepares to take on the role of District Governor for Rotary District 6990 in the 2027-2028 Rotary year. His leadership and vision will help shape the future of Rotary in South Florida and beyond.

We are grateful for Cristiano's continued service and look forward to seeing the lasting impact of his leadership in our club, district, and Rotary International.

Stay tuned for more "Know Your BOD Director and Club Officer" features as we introduce the incredible leaders who help drive the mission of the Rotary Club of Weston forward!

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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events calendar: DAC20 • 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	
	Margarita Lartitegui Rotary Club of Fort Lauderdale/Cypress Creek Rotary Club of Englewood, South Africa	
	Estrella Diaz Velazquez Ana Mary Ramirez de Moreno	
	Mercedes Alvarez	
	Deborah Richman Mercedes Alvarez	
	Margarita Lartitegui	
	Tania Arceaga Eugenio Moreno	

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

Rotary Club of Weston		Upcoming Community Service Engagements			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events calendar: DAC20 • List of approved organizations: https://www.westonrotary.com • Any additional info: Text Mercedes Alvarez at (925) 548-1123 					
Event	Type	Support	Schedule	Location	Contact
	Service	The Hands and Feet	All March	Meeting location	Sai Raser
	Service	Cypress Bay High School	March 7 10:45 AM - 1:15 PM	1900 Weston Rd	Gordon Thompson
	Service	Art Council of Greater Weston	March 10 4:45 PM - 7:30 PM	AHC Weston Theatre	Laura Dobrzanski
	Service	Cypress Bay High School	March 13 1:00 AM - 9:00 PM	La Brita Bar Weston Town Center	Gordon Thompson
	Service	Harvest Drive	March 20 7:30 AM & 6:00 PM	Meeting location	Deborah Richman Mercedes Alvarez
	Service	Henderson Bay Elementary	March 18th 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM	10200 Mainline Mile Dr, Weston, FL 33332	Estrella Diaz Velazquez Mercedes Alvarez
	Service	Local communities	March 25 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM	2400 Glades Cir	Estrella Diaz Velazquez Ana Mary Ramirez de Moreno
	Service	Flor de Loto (Homeschool)	April 2 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM	Remote	Mercedes Alvarez
	Service	Art Council of Greater Weston	April 14 4:45 PM to 7:30 PM	AHC Weston Theatre	Laura Dobrzanski
	Service	Harvest Drive	April 17 7:30 AM & 6:00 PM	Meeting Spot	Deborah Richman Mercedes Alvarez

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

(Click on pictures to enlarge)

Upcoming hands down event

- 6 Years
- Cristiano Nicolucci 05-09-2019
- 6 Years
- Kurt Asesor 05-09-2019
- 6 Years
- Laura Hernandez 06-06-2019
- 6 Years
- Todd A. Dayton 04-01-2020
- 5 Years
- Emilie Anne Wallace 04-23-2020
- 5 Years
- Jim Inglis 04-07-2022
- 3 Years
- Nicky Stup 06-03-2023
- 2 Years
- Samuel R Turpin 06-03-2023
- 2 Years
- Marilyn Gustman 04-06-2024
- 1 Year
- Paola Herrera 04-06-2024
- 1 Year
- Alexander Reid 05-02-2024
- 1 Year
- Sarah A Parra 05-03-2024
- 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



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. ??

THURSDAY MORNING MEETING

Come join us this **Thursday 3/20/2025** at our regularly scheduled **7:30 AM** meeting at **The Club at Weston Hills**, located at **2600 Country Club Way, Weston, FL 33332**.



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



BE PART OF OUR DISCUSSION AT
WEEKLY MEETING

TOPIC
Understanding the Importance of Solid Waste Management and Recycling Plan

www.westonrotary.com

Rotary Club of Weston

THE MAGIC OF ROTARY

SOLID WASTE AUTHORITY
OF BROWARD COUNTY

THURSDAY
March 20, 2025

START AT
07:30AM - 8:30AM

WESTON
2600 COUNTRY CLUB WAY

Join Us for a Rotary Club of Weston Meeting on Solid Waste Management & Recycling

Are you interested in sustainability and the environment? Don't miss our upcoming meeting, where we'll dive into the importance of a solid waste management and recycling plan! Learn how we can make a positive impact on our community and the planet.

Virtual Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 309 720 656
Passcode: 6990

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**.

BE PART OF OUR COMMUNITY AT
WEEKLY MEETING

TOPIC
NEW MEMBERS INDUCTION

www.westonrotary.com

Rotary Club of Weston

THE MAGIC OF ROTARY

MERCY BESADA-VELAZQUEZ
Membership Chair

THURSDAY
March 27, 2025

START AT
07:30AM - 8:30AM

WESTON
2600 COUNTRY CLUB WAY

Join us for the Induction of new members.

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 Club 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.



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](#)



MARCH

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

TAKE ACTION:
Get Involved, Join Rotary

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