

THE ROTARY CLUB OF MARIETTA **ROTALIGHT**

Celebrating 100 Years of "Service Above Self"

February 19, 2020 • Volume 83, Number 26



Today's Guest Speaker:
Mary Waters

*Deputy Commissioner,
International Trade
Georgia Department of
Economic Development*

Rotary
Club of Marietta



**ROTARY
CONNECTS
THE WORLD**



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Mary Waters serves as Deputy Commissioner, International Trade for the Georgia Department of Economic Development. In this role she oversees the state's International Trade program which provides services that contribute to the expansion of Georgia's exports, the creation and retention of jobs attributable to exports and the continued internationalization of Georgia's economy. The state's international trade program assists companies with exporting and matches Georgia suppliers with international buyers.

From 2008 to 2013, Mrs. Waters served as Senior International Trade Manager with the Department's Global Commerce Division, managing medical and biotech exports statewide, and helping small and

medium-sized healthcare companies successfully export to international markets.

Most recently, Mrs. Waters worked as an International Account Manager with Guided Therapeutics, Inc. a medical device manufacturer and exporter located in Norcross, Georgia. Mary was responsible for the Company's business development initiatives in Latin America and Africa.

A native Oregonian, Mary holds a Master of Arts in Latin American Studies from the University of Florida and a dual Bachelor's degree in Spanish and International Studies from Willamette University in Salem, Oregon. She speaks Portuguese and fluent Spanish.

Spreading the Love Valentine's Dinner

On Tuesday February 11, 2020, RCoM hosted the Spreading the Love Valentine's Dinner at the Marietta Garden Educational Center. This was a joint program with Marietta Kiwanis as well as with the Rotary Clubs of North Cobb and South Cobb. Exceptional fellowship was had by all over live music and an incredible meal of London Broil, Grilled Chicken, Tortellini, Salad, Rolls and some of the best Deserts I've ever eaten (mini chocolate peanut butter cupcakes were out of this world good)! The food was catered by Adriane Larson, who is also a Kiwanian. This was a continuation of the Fall Peanut Butter Drive for The Center for Family Resources. The new Director, Melanie Kagan announced at the event that CFR collected the most peanut butter ever from our friendly Fall competition event with Kiwanis. In true fashion, we were Spreading the Love, building Peace and promoting Conflict Resolution (Rotary International Themes of the month) for the betterment of our community.

Those in attendance were: RCOM – Bill and Dot Dunaway, Dawn and Tom McEachern, Mary Ansley & James Southerland (Rosser too!), Doug & Susan Haynie, Joe and Jo DeSantis, Fred & Brenda Beloin, Dan & Nancy Jo Kirk, Paul & Marta Stewart, Teresa & Mike Jones, Marla and Wayne Blackstone (South Cobb Rotary), Christopher Bethel and his parents, Charles and Dottie Bethel. 7 Couples from Kiwanis, Melanie Kagan – the new Director of CFR – and her husband Max, several community leaders, including Connie Smith, Hal and Becky Ayer. North Cobb Rotarians included Mel Stowers, Hicks Malonson and Audley Knight (Rotary International).

~ Chris Bethel



WHEN WE LAST MET

Minutes from the February 5 Meeting

President **Chris Bethel** called the meeting to order and immediately called **Kelly Maxwell, Kamal Fatehi** and **Joe DeSantis** to come forward. Each of these Rotarians were graced with a February birthday and **Mark Barbour** was called upon to lead the club members in a rousing rendition of Happy Birthday.

Mark Wright provided a meaningful invocation and asked for support for **Jennifer Nelson** who is beginning treatment for health issues.

Jeff Long introduced one visiting Rotarian and five visitors one of which was Dave Talbot, founder of Crutches 4 Africa, introduced by **Richard Cope**.

Melanie Kagan was introduced as the new Director for CFR replacing recently retired Jerri Barr. Melanie refreshed the memory of club members on the primary mission of the center. She indicated that much of the center's effort is finding housing for displaced persons and families. She shared situations where they have served as a safety net and thanked the club on its continuing support.

Sunshine produced many responses. **Lee Pence** highlighted a new program sponsored by Emory Healthcare to treat veterans who have suffered issues in action since 9-11 at no cost. **Neera Bahl** announced an expected grandchild and the presence of her mother. Richard Cope highlighted all the success of Crutches 4 Africa. Mark Barbour highlighted **Joyette Holmes'** recent choice as Cobb Person of the Year and Teresa Jones announced upcoming recognition of the Marietta Blue Devil football champions.

President Chris introduced the program for the meeting. **Chris Mitchell**, Neera Bahl and Mark Wright are to provide new member presentations to familiarize the club on their background.

Chris indicated that he was born in Memphis as one of four children. Life was good until at age ten when his parents announced that they were divorcing. He said this was devastating to him and his siblings. He moved to St. Augustine with his mother and became involved in local history theater of the area. At age 13 he moved to Mobile to live with his father, was there 21 years and graduated from the University of South Alabama. He said he was reluctant to become serious with girls because he was still scarred from his parents' divorce. He moved to Atlanta at age 34. All his apprehension evaporated when he met Ashley. Today they are happily married with 3 children. He said he was a born entrepreneur and today owns two businesses. One is Federal Flags - a manufacturer of flags and poles. The other is Transworld - a business brokerage business.

Neera was born in Karnal India. She has one brother and was raised in an affluent situation. She married an English/Indian and has been married 40 years. She has a 36 year old son who lives in New York. She and her husband moved to the United States to experience the American dream. They moved to Orlando and experienced immigration difficulty. Her husband had to move to Canada to try to regain entry to the U.S. Even though she had a BS in Chemistry and Masters in English she could not find work. She had never worked because of her background and ended up taking typing to secure a clerical job. In 1989 she moved to Atlanta for a job as a research specialist at Emory, but in 1990 was in a near fatal accident which took 6 months to recover from. She said in 1997 she took a 180 degree turn and was admitted to law school after which she joined an immigration law firm. She became a partner and founded her own law firm. She ended up selling the firm and is now pursuing her vision of serving on the bench. She said she has always believed in the ideal of personal responsibility for oneself. I wouldn't bet against her, would you?

Mark is a CPA and Atlanta native. He grew up in Stone Mountain and later moved to Kennesaw. He said he was raised in an atmosphere of family, faith and friends. His parents grew up in Mt. Airy, NC of Mayberry fame and he said his family gatherings at holidays were something to behold. He was one of three brothers and he can't tell all the stories while Chief Flynn is in the room. He is a Georgia State grad in accounting. During his school days he worked as an EMT and youth pastor. His wife Kelly works with Glenn Owens and is an artist. They have 2 sons. He started as a CPA in Paulding County in 1991, was with the Grand Harbor company for 20 years and lost his job when the downturn occurred. He said this is when he learned God is in control. He joined the Marietta Housing Authority in 2011 and today is the Chief Operating Officer. He enjoys coaching, youth work and volunteering with Samaritan's Purse.

President Chris thanked all of our presenters and it was proven again as that wise sage **Glenn Owens** said "Some of our best programs come from our own members."

The opportunity drawing was handled by Jeff Long and **Jlm Kellogg, Harold Hobbs** struck out, but birthday girl Kelly Maxwell hit a home run with the red ball.

The meeting was adjourned with the pledge to the flag and the 4-way test led by **Will Allen**.

~ By scribe: Warren Gordon

Pictures from Last Meeting

by Jim Kellogg



THE BIRTHDAYS: KELLY MAXWELL, KAMAL FATEHI, JOE DESANTIS



COBB COUNTY PERSON OF THE YEAR: JOYETTE HOLMES



MELANIE KAGAN NEW DIRECTOR OF CENTER FOR FAMILY RESOURCES



CHRIS MITCHELL



NEERA BAHL



MARK WRIGHT

MUST Ministry Luncheon, February 13, 2020

Prepared By Marietta Rotary



On a rainy, cold February morning volunteers from the Rotary Club of Marietta gathered to prepare and serve lunch to 85 diners in the kitchen of MUST Ministries at the Elizabeth location.

Harold and Adam Hobbs materialized at SAMs Club at 8:00 am to purchase groceries, then delivered them to the MUST kitchen. Pots of pasta began boiling around 9:30 am. The entrée prepared today was Creamy Cheesy Chicken Spaghetti. Today's Food preparers were Chef **Harold Hobbs**, son Adam, **Morgan Robertson**, and **Marlys Williams**. The daily special was comprised of 8 quart cans of chicken breasts, 12 one pound boxes of angel hair pasta, 12 cans of cream of chicken soup, ½ gallon of sour cream, 8 quarts of salsa, 5 pounds grated Mexican cheese, 5 pounds grated cheddar cheese, various herbs and spices, and 1 ½ pounds of parmesan cheese. Lunch was served promptly at 12:00 Noon, and patrons took time to rise and extend a standing ovation to the Rotary volunteers. Assisting in serving were **John Knox**, Marlys Williams, **Jim Trapnell**, and **Lewis Lipsius**.

Noticeably absent and missed was **Doug Haynie**, long-time and faithful MUST volunteer, who is recovering from knee replacement. We wish you a quick recovery, Doug, and hopefully the new knee will allow you to continue to serve at MUST for many years to come.

Accompanying the entree was mixed salad with ranch dressing, mandarin orange sections, and an assortment of breads. A long line for seconds and even thirds extended around the dining hall. Several diners commented that this was the first meal they had eaten in two days -- a sad commentary, but a very worthwhile endeavor for Rotary in the community.

Scribe
Marlys Williams

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, February 26, 2020	12:15 PM	Luncheon Meeting - Mike Plant, CEO Atlanta Braves Development Company
Wednesday, March 4, 2020	12:15 PM	Luncheon Meeting - Major General Thomas Carden, Jr.
Wednesday, March 11, 2020	12:15 PM	Luncheon Meeting - Offsight Meeting Marietta High School with Coach Morgan and Project Reach
Thursday, March 12, 2020	10:30 AM	MUST Cook and Serve
Wednesday, March 18, 2020	12:15 PM	Luncheon Meeting - Town Center Community Improvement District and Alliance
Saturday, March 21, 2020	8:00 AM	District Training, Columbus, GA
Wednesday, March 25, 2020	12:15 PM	Luncheon Meeting - TBA
Sunday, April 12, 2020	6:30 AM	Community Sunrise Service, Kennesaw Mountain National Park

MARIETTA ROTARY CLUB

CLUB OFFICERS 2019-20 Christopher Bethel, *President*

Mary Ansley Southerland, *President Elect*
Marla Blackstone, *Co-Secretary*
marla@skeltonblackstone.com

Jeff Cooper, *Co-Secretary*
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DIRECTORS

Joseph Atkins, *Administration*
Tyler Stephens, *Service*
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Thomas Sherrer, *Public Relations*
Daniel White, *Foundation*

Meeting makeups may be emailed to:
jeff.cooper@wellstar.org

www.mariettarotary.org



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ROTALIGHT STAFF

Deborah Marshall, *Editor*

Joseph Atkins
Mark Barbour
Marla Blackstone
Dale Covington
Warren Gordon

Abbott Hall
Jim Peeler
Marlys Williams

We welcome and encourage all contributions.
Send articles, photographs and editorials to:
Deborah.Marshall@uss.salvationarmy.org

DISTRICT 6900

Jim Squire, *District Governor*
Mark Barbour, *Assistant District Governor*
mmlbarbour@bellsouth.net

www.rotary6900.org

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Mark Daniel Maloney
President

www.rotary.org