

# THE ROTARY CLUB OF MARIETTA **ROTALIGHT**

*Putting "Service Above Self" in Marietta Since 1919  
January 23, 2019 • Volume 82, Number 24*



*The Rotary Club of Marietta  
Welcomes  
Today's Speaker:  
**Randolph Russell**  
"Our Fading American  
Heritage"*

**Rotary**  
Club of Marietta



## Today's Guest Speaker Randolph Russell

According to a recent study, three-fourths of the country can't name the three branches of our government. Randolph G. Russell will speak about restoring the connection to our national heritage. Numerous audiences across the South have enthusiastically received his informative, entertaining, non-political presentations. He is the author of *American History in No Time*, the quickest and easiest way for anyone to learn the basics – in just a few hours. It is also the perfect refresher and a great way for parents and grandparents to ensure that their families have a solid foundation. The book has been used at a number of colleges but is easy for anyone to understand, even children and people who haven't liked history before.

In addition to his expertise in American history, Russell is an accomplished musician who has performed in many European countries and throughout the United States. He concludes his presentations by playing "America the Beautiful" on the saxophone. In business, he held a number of financial management positions with companies in Georgia and Florida. Russell holds degrees from the University of Miami and the University of Florida.



In the past three months, volunteers from our club have processed and readied for shipment 3113 pieces of mobility equipment that have been provided to us by the Stone Mountain Rotary Club. This has been a lot of work in a dark, dusty, noisy warehouse environment. Thanks to the efforts of **Ben Worley, Jim Fausett, John Knox, Chuck Core, Dan Kirk, Walt Walker, Fred Beloin, Reuben Green, Jim Kellogg,** and several non-Rotarians, we will be making life-changing contributions of mobility to people in Uganda who have been crippled by polio, other diseases, civil war, and accidents of all kinds.

### FOUNDER OF CRUTCHES 4 AFRICA: DAVE TALBOT



Founder Dave Talbot

While producing a documentary film in Uganda, I saw people who had survived the disease of polio. Often they are rejected in their communities. I'm a polio survivor myself. Back in the United States, I realized that many people have a lightly-used and no-longer-needed mobility device from a twisted ankle, ski accident, or operation. I saw crutches at garage sales, in dumpsters, and unfortunately in roll-off containers headed to landfills. I knew that I had to do something; this was the genesis of Crutches 4 Africa.



ROTARIANS WHO WORKED ON THE CRUTCHES 4 AFRICA PROJECT: (L-R) WALT WALKER, DAN KIRK, RICHARD COPE, FRED BELOIN JOHN KNOX AND BEN WORLEY

# WHEN WE LAST MET

## Minutes from the January 16 Meeting

The January 16th, 2019, Rotary luncheon was called to order by President **Jesse Evans**, and the food blessed by **Jennifer Nelson**. Several members brought family members as guests to this meeting, and the guests were introduced to the club by **Sandeep Kapoor**. President Jesse then transitioned to member announcements, beginning with recognition of the Rotaract Club of Kennesaw State University. ADG **Mark Barbour** delivered Rotary regalia, including Rotary ties, to KSU Rotaract students who were graduating, on behalf of our Club. In response, the Rotaract Club wrote a very gracious thank you note to us, which President Jesse read to our Club. **Richard Cope** provided an update on the *Crutches 4 Africa* program, alerting the club that Friday, February 1st will be shipment day, and that only the strong of back and will need attempt to help with the heavy lifting.

President Jesse then Sunshined us all with the "Rotarians in the News" portion of the program. One of our own, **Dan "Mencken" Kirk** penned not one, not two, but THREE letters to the Marietta Daily Journal, with the target of his quill being Publix. Not to be outdone by the grocery store skeptic of our time, President Jesse announced that **Neera Bahl** was accepted into the Honorary Commanders program. Also on the move among Marietta Rotarians was **Bert Reeves**, announced by Governor Kemp as one of his Floor Leaders in the House of Representatives for the 2019 Legislative Session. Finally, President Jesse recognized Past-President **Adele Grubbs** and the MDJ coverage of her portrait unveiling. Also recognized for mention in that coverage was Past-President **Reuben Green**, but appropriately Reuben was merely second fiddle to Judge Grubbs.

Speaking of Past-President Reuben playing second fiddle, he was kind enough to introduce the day's speaker, his wife Heidi Green. While Heidi is no doubt a leader in her field as the Managing Director in Deloitte's Policy & Government Relations team, her story and career left the club members in awe of what she has accomplished at such a young age. From her beginnings in Washington, D.C. working with Congressman Bill Thomas, to her time as a Senior Aide to former Governor Sonny Perdue, and then to her four years in the Georgia Department of Economic Development as Deputy Commissioner and then Commissioner of Global Affairs, Heidi has spent her career serving and representing our State in an honorable and efficient manner. While she has served in many interesting and impressive capacities, Heidi treated the club to a number of stories and her unique insight obtained from recently serving as the Chief of Staff to Secretary Perdue at the United States Department of Agriculture.

Heidi recalled missing a pretty important phone call, from Secretary Perdue after he had been nominated for the Cabinet position. Upon finally returning that call, she recalled Perdue telling her about the nomination and his simple question: "are you coming with me?" Heidi took that opportunity of a

lifetime and joined Secretary Perdue with the USDA from his confirmation until leaving for Deloitte in 2018. While she toiled in D.C. helping run a federal department with a \$140 Billion (yes, with a B) budget, Past-President Reuben finally picked up the slack at home, toting the kids to events, doing laundry, and other tasks he previously thought himself incapable of tackling. But thanks to Heidi's sacrifice and dedication to our country, Reuben grew up a little as well.

Heidi expanded upon her USDA experience, enlightening club members about all of the responsibilities, duties, and accomplishments related to the USDA that are completed daily, yet go seemingly unrecognized by everyday citizens. The USDA finances half of the United States power grid. It sets dietary guidelines, supports farmers, ensures that our food is safe, and promotes trade of U.S. products around the world. The USDA, under the leadership of Secretary Perdue and Heidi, also dedicated time and resources to improving rural prosperity, including aiding with such issues as clean water, electricity, and broadband access. Other issues of note that Heidi oversaw while with the USDA were improving the operational systems at the USDA, working on bills to aid with the SNAP program and funding crop insurance, and fixing a problem with funding for cleaning and maintenance of government owned property to prevent wildfires most often suffered in the western part of our country.

Heidi close her remarks with a story about the 2018 College Football National Champion Alabama football team's visit to the White House. While most Cabinet members are invited to attend, Heidi expected Secretary Perdue to decline given the heartbreaking nature of his beloved Dawgs falling to the evil empire run by Nick Saban. Secretary Perdue, however, decided to attend. At the day-of meeting with Vice President Pence, Secretary Perdue arrived, but with a UGA tie around his neck, surely a move to show Saban that the Dawgs will not be intimidated any longer. Additionally on that day, Saban requested to make recruiting calls from the White House; fortunately, that request was determined to be an ethical no-no and denied... by Georgian and White House Chief Ethics Office Stefan Passantino.

Speaking of controversy, the opportunity drawing was announced by President Jesse, who informed the club that only two marbles remained and the pot had grown to over \$300. No doubt a club member was going to be very lucky.... But that proved to be utter and complete fake news. As **Kit Cummings** opened the purse to expose what would no doubt be the last, winning red marble, Mark Barbour pulled the final marble from its home. Only to reveal another black marble! Chaos ensued, calls for investigations rang out through the Marietta Conference Center, and Barbour appeared on the verge of a coup. Luckily, **Chris Bethel** quickly wrested the meeting from the threats of anarchy, and rose to lead the club in the pledge of allegiance and the four-way test. A good time was had by all. 🌟

# PICTURES FROM THE LAST MEETING



JENNIFER NELSON



PRESIDENT JESSE EVANS

Minutes from the last meeting by  
Chuck Boring. Photos by  
Dale Covington



REUBEN GREEN



PRESIDENT JESSE EVANS, SPEAKER HEIDI GREEN, AND PAST PRESIDENT REUBEN GREEN

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, January 30, 2019	12:15 PM	Luncheon Meeting – TBA
Friday, February 1, 2019		Crutches 4 Africa Packing. Contact Richard Cope
Wednesday, February 6, 2019	12:15 PM	Luncheon Meeting – Accountability Courts in Cobb County
Wednesday, February 13, 2019	12:15 PM	Luncheon Meeting – Tom Wilson
Thursday, February 14, 2019	10:30 AM	MUST Ministries Cook and Serve
Wednesday, February 20, 2019		No Meeting
Wednesday, February 27, 2019	12:15 PM	Luncheon Meeting – TBA
Wednesday, March 6, 2019	12:15 PM	Luncheon Meeting – The Extension, <b>OFFSITE MEETING</b> , 1507 Church Street Ext NE, Marietta, GA 30060
Wednesday, March 13,, 2019	12:15 PM	Luncheon Meeting – Dr. Hank Klibanoff; Georgia Civil Rights Cold Cases Project at Emory University

## MARIETTA ROTARY CLUB

### CLUB OFFICERS 2018-19 Jesse Evans, *President*

Chris Bethel, *President Elect*  
Marla Blackstone, *Co-Secretary*  
[marla@skeltonblackstone.com](mailto:marla@skeltonblackstone.com)

Jeff Cooper, *Co-Secretary*  
Brad Leskoven, *Treasurer*  
Fred Beloin, *Presidential Advisor*

### DIRECTORS

Brooke Cohen, *Administration*  
Lee Alison Rable, *Service*  
Kelly Maxwell, *Membership*  
Thomas Sherrer, *Public Relations*  
Chuck Boring, *Foundation*

Meeting makeups may be emailed to:  
[jeff.cooper@wellstar.org](mailto:jeff.cooper@wellstar.org)

[www.mariettarotary.org](http://www.mariettarotary.org)



## THE ROTALIGHT FOUNDED AUGUST 25, 1937

Published Weekly by  
The Rotary Club of Marietta  
Post Office Box 711, Marietta, Georgia 30061

### ROTALIGHT STAFF Deborah Marshall, *Editor*

Joseph Atkins	Warren Gordon
Mark Barbour	Abbott Hall
Marla Blackstone	Jim Peeler
Chuck Boring	Marlys Williams
Dale Covington	Russ Wood

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

## DISTRICT 6900

Court Dowis, *District Governor*  
Mark Barbour, *Assistant District Governor*  
[mmlbarbour@bellsouth.net](mailto:mmlbarbour@bellsouth.net)  
[www.rotary6900.org](http://www.rotary6900.org)

## ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Barry Rassin  
*President*  
[www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)