Atlanta West End Rotary Club

KeyWay
NOVEMBER 11, 2025

Nov. 14, 2025

This Week's Program

Margaret Nagawa, Emory Ph.D. student in contemporary African art

Join us this week as we welcome Margaret Nagawa, an art historian, curator, and Ph.D. candidate whose work explores the vibrant intersections of sculpture, performance, and national identity in contemporary African art.

An experienced educator and curator, Margaret has taught at Makerere University and curated for both the Makerere University Art Gallery and the Uganda Museum. She has also worked in commercial galleries in Kampala and London, and held prestigious Andrew W. Mellon fellowships at both the Michael C. Carlos Museum at Emory University and the High Museum of Art. Currently, she is guest curating Insistent Presence: Contemporary African Art from the Chazen Collection at the Chazen Museum of Art.



Come hear Margaret share her unique perspective on art, identity, and creative expression across cultures.

JOIN ONLINE

Zoom Link - Click here

KeyWay Report on Our Speaker, Nov. 7, 2025

MEETINGS

November is Rotary Foundation Month

11/14	Program Speaker
11/21	Program Speaker
11/28	Happy Thanksgiving
12/5	Program Speaker
12/12	Program Speaker
12/19	Program Speaker
12/26	Happy Holidays
1/2	Club Assembly

BIRTHDAYS

11/11	Debra Stokes
11/15	Bridgette Long
11/21	Mark Newman
12/7	Jacqueline DeVane

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

11/23	CJ Stewart (28)

ROTARY ONLINE

https://atlantawestendrotary.org
https://rotary6900.org/
https://rotary.org/

ROTARY CLUB OF ATLANTA WEST END

Fridays, 12:15 pm
Georgia Tech Hotel & Conference Center*
800 Spring St NW
Atlanta, GA 30308

Member Showcase — Leo Chancey

AWER Program at Georgia Tech | November 7, 2025

Co-President Elect Debra Stokes , program chair for the month of November, introduced one of our own for a Member Showcase presentation. **Leo Chancey**, a dedicated Rotarian and Senior Policy Analyst with the Georgia House of Representatives, shared his professional journey, insights into the state budget process, and reflections on service as both vocation and civic duty. The meeting also included updates on the club's ongoing projects, announcements about upcoming events, and open discussion about Georgia's fiscal and social priorities.

Leo began by sharing how his path into public service was inspired by family and grounded in purpose. His grandfather, a United States Magistrate Judge for the Northern District of Georgia, helped implement the Civil Rights Act in the state, modeling a life of integrity and public impact. Following that example, Leo has devoted over fifteen years to state government, currently serving in the Georgia House Budget and Research Office. In his role as Senior Policy Analyst, he supports the Rural Development, Urban Affairs, and House Rules Committees, bringing analytical expertise, collaboration, and ethical stewardship to his work.

Leo's career has focused on shaping and interpreting the state budget while ensuring that fiscal policy serves real people. His portfolio has included projects to increase foster care per diem rates, expand children's health coverage, and develop a suicide prevention app through the Department of Behavioral Health. He reminded members that every line item in the budget represents a person or a community in need, and that good governance depends on empathy as much as efficiency. He described his approach as nonpartisan and relationship-centered, emphasizing that trust and institutional knowledge are the lifeblood of effective government.

The discussion shifted to Georgia's fiscal picture, with Leo providing an overview of how the state manages its $38 billion of state dollars in the general fund budget, which rises to approximately $67 billion when federal dollars are included. Georgia currently holds close to $15 billion in reserve funds, a balance that has prompted debate about whether those savings have grown beyond what the state reasonably needs. Leo explained that the combination of zero-based budgeting,

SOCIAL MEDIA

LEADERSHIP

President	Victoria Seals, PhD
President-Elect	Christopher Hempfling
Immediate PP	Jared Evans
Vice President	Christopher Hempfling
Treasurer	Rose Caplan
Secretary	Neil Shorthouse
Public Image	Jared Evans

strong revenue from the film industry, and pandemic-related federal support created unusually large reserves. While such reserves protect against future downturns, they also mean that immediate needs in education, healthcare, and infrastructure may go unmet.

Members raised thoughtful questions about the appropriate balance between fiscal prudence and social investment. Leo noted that agencies often hesitate to request the full funding they require out of concern for exceeding the Governor's expectations, leading to chronic underfunding. He also shared that leadership transitions in both chambers of the General Assembly have affected the continuity of budget processes. The passing of Senate Appropriations Chair Jack Hill and the retirement of House Appropriations Chair Terry England, both respected for their bipartisan cooperation, created a gap in institutional memory that new leadership is still rebuilding.

Leo also spoke about his experiences outside the Capitol, reminding the club that the spirit of service extends well beyond formal institutions. For nine years, he served as a youth director, mentoring young people who often just needed structure, support, and encouragement. Today, he and his wife continue that commitment through Impact Church’s food pantry and community garden program, which provides groceries and fresh produce to families across metro Atlanta. Demand has grown significantly, with some families traveling from as far as Dublin, Georgia. Senator John Ossoff recently visited the pantry to learn more about how it integrates sustainability and food security through its community garden initiative.

Leo shared that volunteering gives him a deeper understanding of the policies he studies at the Capitol. “Service,” he said, “fills the gaps where government and corporations cannot or will not.” His experiences in youth mentorship and food security work have affirmed his belief that compassion and consistency can ripple outward to strengthen communities. He closed by noting that Rotary gives him hope, offering a space where people of differing backgrounds unite to serve and to lead with integrity.

Leo’s presentation was both personal and instructive, blending civic insight with human connection. His reflections reminded members that public service, whether through government or volunteerism, depends on empathy, persistence, and collaboration. As the meeting concluded,

members expressed gratitude for Leo's candor, leadership, and example of service above self, a reflection of the Rotary ideal in both profession and purpose.

--- Jared Evans, *Keyway Speaker Reporter*

Service Project

Thanksgiving Food Drive for Booker T. Washington High School

Rotarians and community partners unite to support local students with pantry essentials

As part of our continued commitment to Service Above Self, the Rotary Club of Atlanta West End is organizing a Thanksgiving service project in partnership with Booker T. Washington High School. We're collecting non-perishable food items and gallon-sized Ziploc bags to help the school prepare weekend food bags for students during the holiday break. This project responds to an urgent need for pantry staples among families affected by recent disruptions, especially as schools aim to support students through Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks. Items Needed Include:

- Macaroni cups or noodles
- Applesauce or fruit cups
- Granola bars
- Other simple, shelf-stable snacks
- Gallon-sized Ziploc bags for packing

Rotarians and community members are encouraged to bring donations to any Friday club meeting by November 14, 2025. AWER member Bridgette Long will coordinate delivery to the school by November 20, 2025. This initiative exemplifies the values we uphold at AWER—integrity, fellowship, and commitment to youth and education. Join us in supporting our community with compassion and care this holiday season.

Calander, Agenda, Connections, & Four-Way Test

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
• 11/21: Dr. Temitope Walker, Georgia Senior Hunger Nutrition Coordinator
• 11/28: NO MEETING
• Dec. Program Dir. Bridgette
• 12/7: Jack Gerblick and Bob O'Brien
• Jan. Program Dir. Victoria
• Feb. Program Dir. CJ
• May Program Dir. Carolina
Sign up to be a program chair here today!
Mar. Apr. & June are vacant and need YOU!
westend@rotary6900.org

Meeting Agenda
1. Call to Order
2. Invocation & Pledge
3. Introduction of Guests
4. Tasse Trivia
5. DEI Moment
6. Announcements
7. Program/Speaker
8. The Four-Way Test
9. Adjournment

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THE FOUR-WAY TEST of the things we think, say or do

first Is it the TRUTH?

second Is it FAIR to all concerned?

third Will it build GOOD WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

fourth Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?