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# THE ROTARY CLUB OF ATLANTA WEST END

Friday, September 8, 2017 @ 12:15 PM  
Georgia Tech Hotel & Conference Center  
Basic Education & Literacy Month

Call to Order	Elma McCutchen
Invocation	Richard Gerakitis
Pledge	Rachel Floyd-Nelson
Introduction of Guests	Don Schewe
Tasse Trivia	Don Schewe
Program	Leyla Compani
Announcements	Elma McCutchen
Adjournment	Elma McCutchen



**ROTARY:  
MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE**

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## **This Week's Speaker: Joe Sarra, Georgia Advocacy Office**

**Joe Sarra**, MSW, supports people with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities as well as families/caregivers to identify and access home and community-based services so people remain in their communities and avoid institutionalization. The Children's Freedom Initiative is an example of the work being done around the state to move children out of nursing facilities and into loving, permanent homes.

Joe serves as an Advocate with the Georgia Advocacy Office, the independent, federally-mandated Protection and Advocacy System for people with disabilities in Georgia. GAO envisions a Georgia where all people have value, visibility and voice; where even the most difficult and long-lasting challenges are addressed by ordinary citizens acting voluntarily on behalf of each other; and where the perception of disability is replaced by the recognition of ability.

Joe presents at conferences throughout Georgia with the goal of educating families and professionals who support children with special healthcare needs on the various Medicaid services and waiver programs available so children transition to adulthood with the opportunities and supports necessary to lead rich and rewarding lives.

## **Last Week's Speaker: Javier Mayora, GRSP**

**George Siggins**, GA Rotary Student Program (GRSP) Rotarian from the Henry County Club, one of our four GRSP partner Clubs, introduced **Javier Mayora**, our 2017-18 GRSP student sponsoree. Javier presented a story about himself – one of five children, 3 sisters and one brother, ranging 21 to 10 years. He is part of a very close extended family that gets together weekly for dinner and conversation. He's an avid sports fan stating his love of baseball, basketball and even football. He's thankful for El Salvador, his home nation, which celebrates its independence from Spain in 1821 on September 15th. Unlike **Alejandro Perona Morales**, last year's student who was a senior, Javier is a freshman, skilled in the English language (Spanish is the official language of El Salvador); he shows humility, gratitude for GRSP, and enthusiasm about El Salvador. He reported that his nation covers 8,124 square miles, population of 6.4M – Georgia has 10.3M people, but is 7 times larger (58,000 square miles). He wants to find ways to overcome poverty in El Salvador, which stands at about 19% poverty (13.5% poverty in the U.S.) and seeks to become an engineer with a focus on finance. He comes to us as a friendly, determined and serious student, curious about the U.S., wanting to learn everything he can about American culture and traditions, stating that he's hoping to travel widely. He fully enjoyed the recent GRSP trip to Bainbridge, GA on the FL border. Javier gave us one specific goal: meet personally with each AWER member! - *Neil Shorthouse*

## **Mark Your Calendars**

- **September 15:** Moveable Feast at Frazer Center. 7-10 PM. For info & tickets: [www.fraziercenter.org](http://www.fraziercenter.org) or email Paige at [p.kubik@fraziercenter.org](mailto:p.kubik@fraziercenter.org)
- **September 23:** WEND Concert, 7 PM
- **December 14:** Rotary AWE Holiday Celebration
- **April 26-29:** District 6900 Conference
- **June 23-27:** Rotary International Convention, Toronto, Canada

Atlanta's West End has historically been fertile ground where ideas and leaders take root and branch out to change the social environment. That history is reflected in the membership of the Rotary Club of Atlanta West End. We are diverse...young and old, male and female, from varied racial, ethnic, religious, and geographic backgrounds. Our membership has included leaders in the civil rights movement of the 60s, and leaders in social change today. We work in many professions...higher education, community service, law, government, business...but we have in common a commitment to building a stronger community, one committed to social justice and the celebration of diversity. The Rotary Club of Atlanta West End is living, breathing proof that fellowship flourishes when we seek our common humanity and celebrate our differences. If you are a visitor and would like more information about joining us, please speak with a club officer today. **Follow us on [Linked In](#), [Facebook](#), or [Twitter @ATLWEndRotary](#)**

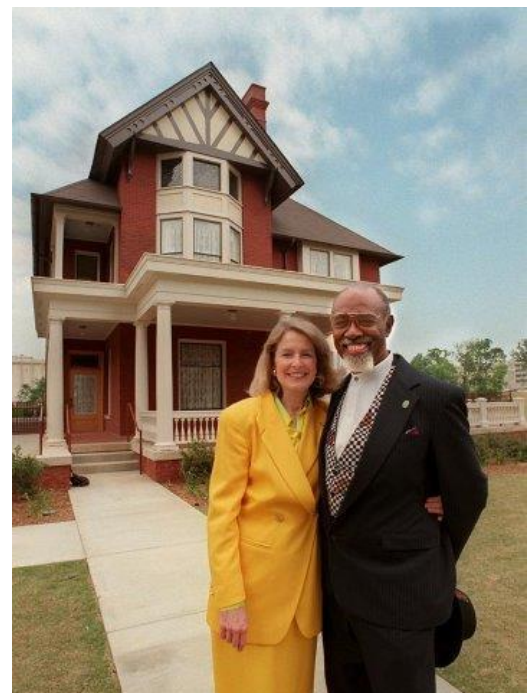
**Club Leadership, 2017-18**

President: Elma McCutchen  
 President Elect: Ernie Hughes  
 Vice President & Foundation: George Dobbins  
 Immediate Past President: Rachel Floyd Nelson  
 Treasurer: Don Schewe  
 Secretary: Neil Shorthouse, Sasha McBurse  
 Membership: Leyla Compani

Administration: Richard Gerakitis  
 Community Service: Pearlie Perryman  
 Public Relations: Bailey Webb, Judith Fuller  
 New Generations: CJ Stewart  
 Vocational/Civic: Kimberly Weaver  
 Historian: Eric John, Kimberlin Butler  
 Membership Editor: Paige McKay Kubik




**West End Neighborhood Association Concert**

The West End Neighborhood Association (WEND) will host its 9th annual candlelight concert at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 23. The featured artist is Keke Wyatt, an up-and-coming R&B songstress who in 2002 was nominated as best new artist at the Soul Train Lady of Soul awards and in 2012 starred as a cast member in TV One's R&B Divas Atlanta. Tickets are \$38 and must be purchased in advance. If you would like to join fellow Rotarians at a table, please email Don Schewe at [dschewe@mindspring.com](mailto:dschewe@mindspring.com) or Kim Carlisle at [callmekim@me.com](mailto:callmekim@me.com).



*Last week, Rotarian **Eric John** presented a remembrance of beloved member, the late **Dr. Otis Smith**, and friend of the club, **Mary Rose Taylor**, who is currently battling ALS. Dr. Smith and Ms. Taylor were leaders in preserving the Margaret Mitchell House. The author secretly funded the scholarship that allowed Dr. Smith to complete his education and become Georgia's first African-American pediatrician.*

**Celebrations**

-  **9/1 - Ali Jamal**
-  **9/5 - Ernie Hughes**
-  **9/13 - Elma & James McCutchen**