
THE ROTARY CLUB OF ATLANTA WEST END

Friday, August 25, 2017 @ 12:15 PM

Georgia Tech Hotel & Conference Center

Membership & New Club Development Month

Call to Order	Elma McCutchen
Invocation	Rachel Floyd-Nelson
Pledge	Neil Shorthouse
Introduction of Guests	Don Schewe
Tasse Trivia	Don Schewe
Program	Neil Shorthouse
Announcements	Elma McCutchen
Adjournment	Elma McCutchen



**ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**

This Week's Speaker: Teela Spiller, Executive Director, Atlanta Micro Fund

Teela Spiller's career began in Real Estate in 1995. Since this time, she's evolved from leasing and property management to real estate negotiation and mortgage origination to economic development and community lending. Teela controls the Atlanta Micro Fund, a nonprofit revolving loan fund providing access to capital and technical assistance. She also controls teelaspillarinc., a community development and economic revitalization real estate firm. The focus of her efforts includes supporting Historical Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) as well as the communities surrounding them and the creation of commercial corridors in low-income communities.

Last Week's Speaker: Douglas B. Ammar, Georgia Justice Project

President Elma asked **Neil Shorthouse** to present our speaker. Neil thanked **Doug Ammar**, director of the Georgia Justice Project, a remarkable person leading a remarkable organization. Doug's been a part of GJP since its inception when it was founded in 1988 by former King & Spalding lawyer, **John Pickins**. GJP stands as a bridge of hope for many people coming out of prison who want to be financially and socially stable – and wanting to be useful and fulfilled members of society. For freed persons, this is difficult, so GJP challenges many barriers to gain true freedom, given the nature of the criminal justice system in Georgia. GJP (1) provides support on selected cases for persons who lack effective legal representation in the courts, sometimes gaining acquittals, (2) assists those inmates before and after their release in gaining stability and to reduce barriers to successful reentry, and (3) advocates for changes needed in the law through work with the Georgia legislature. Doug reported the USA is the world leader in the percent of the population incarcerated: While the United States represents about 4.4 percent of the world's population, it houses around 22 percent of the world's prisoners. In 2016, the Prison Policy Initiative estimated that in the United States about 2,298,300 people were incarcerated out of a population of 323.1 million. Incarceration rates (in 2010) by race in the U.S.: 380 whites per 100,000 are incarcerated; 966 Latinos per 100,000; 2207 blacks per 100,000 are incarcerated. Doug noted that while 600,000 persons leave the system each year, many return owing to the lack of a transition system and, significantly, a job that can enable them to have money to support a new and positive life. Fortunately, under **Governor Nathan Deal**'s criminal justice is reforming slightly. **Michael Boggs**, Georgia Supreme Court Justice and leader of Governor Deal's criminal justice reform program, says the costs of incarceration are way too high and positive results are lacking. One positive step: "banning the box" from employment applications. If one has a criminal record, employment is almost impossible. Doug explained that next to a good education as a tool of preventing crime and incarceration, blocking decent employment stands as the number one reason contributing to "perpetual punishment" – the "new Jim Crow" system that Doug says uses jail as a way to oppress indefinitely huge numbers of people. – *Neil Shorthouse*

Mark Your Calendars

- **September 1:** GRSP Student Presentation
- **September 15:** Moveable Feast at Frazer Center. 7-10 PM. For info & tickets: www.fraziercenter.org or email Paige at p.kubik@fraziercenter.org
- **December 14:** Rotary AWE Holiday Celebration
- **April 26-29:** District 6900 Conference
- **June 23-27:** Rotary International Convention, Toronto, Canada

Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build good will and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned?



A Legacy of Service Above Self

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
Keyway Editor: Paige McKay Kubik

Celebrations

- ♥ 8/18 – Alex & Grace Morgan
- 🎁 8/19 - Bailey Webb
- 🎁 8/23 – Kimberly Weaver
- ♥ 8/23 – Richard & Mary Gerakitis
- 🎁 8/28 - Leyla Compani
- ♥ 8/31 - Stacey & John Stevens
- 🎁 9/1 - Ali Jamal

Congratulations to Rotary AWE beneficiary Sheltering Arms on the opening of their 16th early learning and family center at Barack & Michelle Obama Academy, an APS elementary school serving Peoplestown and Summerhill. AWE Rotarians Paige McKay Kubik, Leyla Compani, and Neil Shorthouse attended the celebration.

