



# THE HUB

## The Rotary Club of Park Cities

Volume 75, Number 21

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

January 16, 2026

*Serving to Make a Difference Since 1948*

### TODAY'S PROGRAM

Program Chairs of the Day: Happy Franklin



**Matthew Wilson, Assoc. Professor of Political Science**

**Politics in Interesting Times: A Look Ahead at 2026**

Matthew Wilson is Kairo Endowed Director of the Center for Faith and Learning and Associate Professor of political science at Southern Methodist University. He is also a senior fellow of the John Tower Center for Public Policy and International Affairs and of the Italian Institute for International Political Studies.

He is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Louisiana State University in political science and history, and holds a Ph.D. in political science from Duke University. His research focuses on public opinion, elections, representation, and the role of race and religion in politics, both in the United States and abroad.

He is the author, co-author, or editor of three books, including *Understanding American Politics* and *Politics and Religion in the United States*, and dozens of articles and essays. His teaching and scholarship have been honored with multiple awards, including SMU's President's Associates Outstanding Faculty Award. He routinely serves as a commentator on political affairs for local, national, and international media outlets.

**John Tower Center for Public Policy and International Affairs** excerpted from their website

The Tower Center manages inter-related research and teaching programs on the foundational themes of public policy and international affairs with particular focus on National Security; International Political Economy; Japan and East Asia; and U.S. Economy & Politics.

#### National Security and Defense

The National Security and Defense Program at the Tower Center serves to raise student and public awareness of national and international security affairs. The Tower Center gives students the opportunity to interact with policymakers, military officers, intelligence officials, and diplomats. Along with the Tower Center National Security Symposium, they organize regular forums and seminars that give the public the chance to converse with leading scholars about cutting edge research in security studies, as well as with government officials and defense industry executives.

#### International Politics and Economics

This program explores the interconnections between politics and economics by focusing on issues of

- international trade and finance and its effect on the well-being and security of people in the U.S.;
- the intensifying competition for resources (particularly energy, water, and human capital);
- climate change;
- international migration; and economic and political development in Latin America (especially Mexico), Asia (with a focus on Japan and China), the Middle East, and Africa with emphasis on the ethics of development.

#### U.S. Economy and Politics

This program focuses on the way in which the changing economic and security environments affect America's institutions and policies; the well-being of its people and traditional American liberties.

#### It's 2026!

Six volunteers needed for **Meals on Wheels**. Ask **Jim Weichel** about [details and times available](#).

Sat., Jan. 31: **Strategic Planning Session** in the morning (8:30-Noon) at the Meeting Place, 13612 Midway Rd #601, Dallas, TX 75244 (at Alpha and Midway)

Thurs, Feb. 12, 6:00-7:30 pm, **Wine and Chocolate Tasting** at Total Wine and More, 9350 N Central Exp, Dallas, 75231

#### District 5810

Sat, Jan. 24: Join us at the **Public Image Brunch**: A hands-on working brunch to sharpen your club's visibility and credibility, designed for Rotarians who want real traction, not theory.

Tues, Feb. 10, 2026, 5:00pm – 7:30pm. **Rotary Means Business** Social Networking Event at 12 Cuts Brazilian Steakhouse, 18010 Dallas Pkwy, Dallas, TX 75287. Network Like Only A Rotarian Can!

Thurs, Feb. 12. *Save the Date!* Join us for the 2026 **Foundation Gala**. For registration details, see the eBulletin.

#### Do you know a difference maker?

*excerpted from an email from Pat Martin*

**Know a young professional under 40 making a difference in the Park Cities or Preston Hollow communities?** We want to hear about them!

The Rotary Club of Park Cities is once again partnering with People Newspapers publishing *Park Cities People* and *Preston Hollow People* for their 20 Under 40 program. **Please consider nominating someone you know.**

Nominees must reside in either the Park Cities or Preston Hollow or have a strong connection to either community and must be 39 years old or younger as of April 2026. We also are looking for teens to spotlight as Youth on the Rise. The nominations period has been extended for RCPC till Wed., Jan. 21

*Be a Vibrant and Visionary Model of Service Above and Beyond Self*

## LAST WEEK

Presiding: President **Sarah Oliai**  
 Invocation and Pledge: **Richard Stanford**  
 Advertiser of the Week: **Eric Heitkamp**  
 and Packaging Plus  
 Photographer: **Ley Waggoner**  
 Speaker: **Dr. Mike Rockwood**,  
 Superintendent  
 Program: **Highland Park ISD**

**Beginning in January, the cost of lunch will be \$22.00 and the cost for non-eaters will be \$7.00**



President **Sarah Oliai** called the meeting to order. PP **Richard Stanford** gave the Invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem. Our visitors and guests were introduced. President **Sarah** called for Happy Bucks.

Sgt-at-Arms **Jack Carpenter** asked for all the members with birthdays in January to stand and be recognized. He explained about the RCPC Foundation and some of its recent grants.



**Mark Neace** recognized our Marketplace Advertiser of the week, PP **Eric Heitkamp** and Packaging Plus.

PE **Mark Kashar** introduced Dr. Kyle Francis, Director of Donor Relations & Grants at the Visiting Nurse Association PE. **Mark** presented him with a check for \$5,000, which is a grant from the RCPC Foundation. The grant will go to support the Meals on Wheels Program which serves homebound seniors with a low to moderate income who, due to illness, advanced age, or disability, are unable to obtain or prepare their own meals. This grant aligns with the club's priority of tackling hunger.



**Jack Carpenter** introduced our newest member **Benedict Voit**. He and Jack knew each other through their mothers who grew up in the same small town in Michigan.



*Please remember and keep them in your prayers.*

*Please let us know your concerns.*

*This program could not be recorder so there is no recap of the meeting, but the following are the highlights of Dr. Rockwood's powerpoint presentation.*



- Highland Park ISD will be the pre-eminent public school district in Texas heart and soul of the Park Cities. HP Scots will be honorable in conduct, devoted to scholarship, and charitable to all.
- HPISD's overall district rating, as given by the Texas Education Agency for 2025, is the #1 Rated 5A/6A Public School District in Texas.
- High school students achieved unrivaled post-secondary success: ACT 27.3 (7 points higher than state average), SAT 1281 (271 points higher than state average) and 97%+ attend college.
- The girls volleyball team were state champions
- The cross country team were state finalists.
- The football teams have had 912 wins which is the most wins in Texas football history. It is one of only eight high schools in the nation with 900 wins.
- For the 25-26 year the Board of Trustees approved a 7%-10% raise for all teachers based on years of experience.
- At HPISD we believe
  - The best interest of students must be at the center of all decision making.
  - Sustained excellence comes only through seeking continuous improvement.
  - Education is a cooperative endeavor between schools, parents and community requiring effective collaboration and transparent communication among all stake holders.
  - Good citizenship requires a well-rounded development with a balanced emphasis on academics, arts, athletics and service.
  - An excellent education provides foundational knowledge, stimulates intellectual curiosity, cultivates critical thinking, fosters growth through academic challenge, and develops capacity for both sustained individual effort and productive collaboration.
  - An excellent education instills habits of personal responsibility and integrity in both academic work and personal conduct.

## Our Mission

Building a legacy of good works and fellowship, we strive to:  
 REACH those in need in partnership with others  
 INSPIRE tomorrow's leaders with high ethical standards  
 FOSTER lives of service above self  
 - A supporting member of Rotary International

The Hub is the weekly newsletter of the Rotary Club of Park Cities (Dallas)

Betty Dawson, Editor

Shutterbug Committee

Ley Waggoner, Chair

Bulletin/Internet Advertising

Mark Neace, Interim Chair

ROTARY CLUB

DALLAS TEXAS

PARK CITIES

## OFFICERS and DIRECTORS 2024-2025

**Sarah Oliai, President**

**Mark Kashar, President Elect**

**Eric Harrison, Vice President**

**Patti Schaub, Secretary**

**Paul Pirok, Treasurer**

### Directorsp

**Susan Harris, Fostering Leadership**

**Sergio Poppe, Tackling Hunger**

**Herb Ziev, Supporting Health and Wellness**

**Van Oliver, Club Operations**

**Siobhan Abraham, Membership**

**Mark Neace, Public Image, Marketing, Communications**

**Jill Jordan Youth**

**Happy Franklin, At Large**

**Nolan Duck, Immed. Past President**

**Jack Carpenter, Sgt-at-Arms**

**Richard Gilman, Parliamentarian**

**Laurie Aldredge, Club Administrator**

8350 N. Central Expwy, Ste 1900

Dallas, TX 75206

Office Phone: 469-242-9448

Francesco Anzidi@rotary.org

Rotary Club of Ragusa, Italy  
 President of Rotary International

www.rotary.org

UNITE FOR GOOD

Mary Bedosky

RC of Richardson East

Governor, District 5810

www.rotary5810.org



January						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				M	Mtg	
4	M	M	M	M	Mtg	Dist
11	M	M	M	M	Mtg	
18	Mc	M	BD	M	Mtg	Dist
25	M	M	M	M	Mtg	Stra Plan

A=Agape Health Serv Day

BD= Bnd of Dirs Mtg, 8am

BF=Bonton Farm

Cn=PCR Connect Event.

CP=ChildsPlay Work Mtg-Jill Jordan.

D=District 5810 Event

DH=Dentistry with a Heart- Michael Rainwater

F=Fellowship Event

FF=RCPC Foundation

Fund Mtg- Ed Fjordbak

FC= Foot Care Clinic

FB=NTFB Event-Susan Glen I

CM+Cafe Momentum

LL=Legacy of Leadership

M= Meals On Wheels- Jim Weichel

various days and times

Mn= Mentoring at Hillcrest HS

various days and times

Mc=RonaldMcDonaldHouse

1 x/mo-Kathleen Klaviter

NM=New Member Event

Pr= Program CommitteeMtg

RL=Readers2Leaders-various

days, times- Rob Levy

Rct=Rotaract- Ruth Alhilali.

SP=Strategic Planning Mtg

SpE=Special Service Event

VA=Veterans Support-

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS



Jan. 23 Kevin Randles  
Camp John Marc



Jan. 30 Glynnis Worthington  
Pickleball



Feb 6 Yolanda Walker  
The Vision for Texas A&M Ft Worth



Feb 13 Dave Tanner  
TBA

## CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Please note** that RCPC meetings and other events are public events where photos and video are customarily taken. By attending you are consenting to free use of your likeness on RCPC and related websites, social media, streaming video, emails, newsletters and similar methods.

**Have a Great Idea for a Speaker? Your ideas are needed!** Send your ideas with the details to Richard Stanford.

**Help Wanted! At ANY RCPC Event or Project.** Take a few pictures, include a few sentences (who, what, when, where and WHY) and send to Betty for The Hub

**RI Foundation:** \$100 (or more) Every Rotarian Every Year! See Greg Pape.

**RCPC Foundation:** \$100 (or more). See Birthdays below, then Jack Carpenter.

**Attendance Rule Change.** For those wanting to maintain Perfect Attendance, make-ups may now be completed within a year. RI is no longer tracking attendance.

Like Us! <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Rotary-Club-of-Park-Cities/115439238516325>

## THOUGHTS ON . . .

### Congress

Suppose you were an idiot and suppose you were a member of Congress. But I repeat myself.

~ Mark Twain

This country has come to feel the same when Congress is in session as when the baby gets hold of a hammer.

~ Will Rogers

Think of what would happen to us in America if there were no humorists; life would be one long Congressional Record.

~ Tom Masson

We may not imagine how our lives could be more frustrating and complex—but Congress can.

~ Cullen Hightower

You can lead a man to Congress, but you can't make him think.

~ Milton Berle

No one who has read official documents needs to be told how easy it is to conceal the essential truth under the apparently candid and all-disclosing phrases of a voluminous and particularizing report....

~ Woodrow Wilson

## ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

**Restoring natural order** by Monique Chambers, partner of presidential aide John de Giorgio  
*excerpted from Rotary 360, dated 1/13/2026*

Restoring Natural Order is a project of the Rotary Club of Hulu Langat Eco in Malaysia trying to reconnect children with nature through immersive workshops and simulations.

In Malaysia, that connection is slowly slipping away. The majority of students in government schools encounter science almost exclusively through textbooks. For many, soil is an abstract concept rather than something to touch, examine, and nurture. Biodiversity is something read about, not observed.

It was within this context that the Rotary

### HE WHO LAUGHS LASTS

Doctor: "I am not exactly sure of the cause. It could be due to alcohol." Patient: "That's OK. I'll come back when you are sober."

### Proposed New Member

**Dr. Ron Clinton**

Type of Membership: Individual  
Classification: Higher Education  
Proposed by **Siobhan Abraham**

The Hub is printed by

**Minuteman Press**

7010 Greenville 75231 • 214.691.6377

## ROTARY CONNECTED



<http://bit.ly/RCPCfacebook>



<http://bit.ly/RCPC/linkedin>



<http://bit.ly/RCPC/twitter>



##parkcitiesrotary <http://bit.ly/tube> <http://bit.ly/RCPC/googleplus>



RCPC

**Miss a Meeting? Watch it on** YouTube or as an event on **Facebook!**



<http://bit.ly/RCPC/youtube>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/>

**Share Rotary!** Post on your social media when you're at a meeting or event. Use our hashtags!

**Like and Follow us** on Social Media: Website: <https://parkcitiesrotary.org/>

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/RotaryClubOfParkCities](http://www.facebook.com/RotaryClubOfParkCities)

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/channel/UCf4ZH-2nwIscW8XNTnsbnw](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCf4ZH-2nwIscW8XNTnsbnw)

LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/company/park-cities-rotary-club/?viewAsMember=true](http://www.linkedin.com/company/park-cities-rotary-club/?viewAsMember=true)

**Make a post about or while at Rotary and use these hashtags**



#PeopleOfAction



#parkcitiesrotary



#district5810proud



#goodthingshappene  
nonfridays

Club of Hulu Langat Eco, Malaysia's first environment cause-based club, launched a pioneering global grant project driven by a simple but urgent vision, to help children rediscover natural systems, not through theory alone, but through hands-on experience, scientific exploration, and regenerative practice. The year-long program integrates circular economy education, regenerative agriculture, microplastic science, soil health composting, biodiversity observation, and behavioral change. Students and teachers take part in immersive workshops, guided experiments, regenerative gardening sessions, waste audits, and circularity simulations. These activities transform abstract sustainability concepts into lived experiences.

*Happy Birthday\**

	Doug Gill 1.18
	Tom Rhodes 1.19
	Sergio Poppe, 1.21
	Walt Marcum 1.22

\*You are our RCPC Foundation Funders for this month

# Rotary Club of Park Cities Market Place

 <p><b>Gray Reed &amp; McGraw, P.C.</b> Board Certified in Civil Trial Law By the Texas Board of Legal Specialization</p> <p><b>Cleve Clinton</b> Shareholder 1601 Elm Street Suite 4600 Dallas, Texas 75201 P: 214.954.4135 D: 469.320.6032 F: 214.953.1332 cclinton@grayreed.com www.grayreed.com</p>	 <p><b>Richardson Timbers, LLC</b> <i>Custom Timbers Since 1960</i></p> <p><b>Lynn O. Surls</b></p>	<p><b>DBG Advisors™</b> Determine, Build – Get Full Value</p> <p><b>Dr. Nolan Duck, CEO</b> M&amp;A Advisor – Board Certified Broker – Real Estate Broker Certified Exit Planning Advisor – Certified Value Builder</p> <p>801 E. Campbell Rd. • Ste 250-L • Richardson, TX 75081 Office 972-200-0991 • Cell 972-358-0321 nolan@dbgadvisors.com • www.dbgadvisors.com</p>
 <p><b>Happy Franklin, AWMA, CRPS, AAMS, CDFA</b> Wealth Planner</p> <p>15770 North Dallas Parkway, Suite 850, Dallas, TX 75244 D   214.217.5823   C   214.621.4596 hfranklin@navigationfinancial.com www.navigationfinancial.com • www.happyfranklin.com</p>	 <p><b>People Newspapers</b> Park Cities People • Preston Hollow People</p> <p><b>"THE BEST COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER IN TEXAS"</b> Serving Park Cities since 1981</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Award-winning community news</li> <li>• Best demographics</li> <li>• 100% coverage of the Park Cities</li> </ul> <p>214.739.2244 parkcitiespeople.com An affiliate of </p>	 <p><b>RLG CONSULTING ENGINEERS</b> Where visions meet solutions</p> <p>David M. Goodson, P.E. Stuart A. Markussen, P.E. R.F.L.S.</p> <p>12001 N. Central Expressway, Suite 300, Dallas, TX 75243 (214) 739-8500 • Fax (214) 739-6355 www.rlginc.com</p>
 <p><b>OLIAI LAW FIRM, PLLC</b></p> <p><b>SARAH E. OLIAI</b> Attorney at Law Board Certified in Estate Planning and Probate Law.</p> <p>4521 San Jacinto Dallas, Texas 75204 soliai@oliailawfirm.com</p> <p>214.784.5077 www.estateplandallas.com</p>	 <p><b>SUSAN GLEN</b> SVP Client Relations &amp; Non-Profit Solutions</p> <p>susang@careermp.com 214.908.9981 www.CareerMP.com</p>  <p><i>Proudly a minority &amp; woman owned firm</i></p>	<p><b>Purpose Driven Content That Grows Business Value</b></p>  <p><b>markneace.com</b></p> 
 <p><b>CC YOUNG</b> CELEBRATING 100 YEARS! SERVING SENIORS SINCE 1922</p>	 <p><b>State Farm Sells Life Insurance.</b></p> <p></p> <p>Kathy L. Wall, Agent 214-350-2692 Kathy@KathyLWall.com</p>	 <p><b>Vista Bank</b> MEMBER FDIC EQUAL HOUSING LENDER</p> <p>Putting people first since 1912. vistabank.com</p>
 <p><b>McGriff</b> Insurance Risk Management Employee Benefits</p>  <p><b>Kyle Marmillion</b> Vice President, Advisor, Partner (512) 470-3297</p>	 <p><b>BRANDED PACKAGING MADE EASY.</b></p> <p>WWW.PACKAGINGPLUSUSA.COM</p>	<p><b>Allie Beth Allman &amp; Associates</b> A BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY AFFILIATE</p>  <p><b>Jason Graves</b> REALTOR 214.404.7787</p>
 <p><b>WaFd Bank TEXAS</b></p> <p><b>James Weichel</b> Texas Regional President Senior Vice President</p> <p>5420 LBJ Freeway, Suite 200 Dallas, TX 75240 o 972-419-4170 m 214-498-7000 james.weichel@wafd.com</p>		
	<p><i>Thank you to all our Marketplace Advertisers</i></p> <p>We have spots available for the 2025-26 Rotary Year.</p> <p>Purchase at the RCPC website "store" or with a check. Cost of the ad will be prorated during the year.</p> <p>To change or update your ad, send an updated digital Business Card to <a href="mailto:bedawson@swbell.net">bedawson@swbell.net</a> and to <a href="mailto:kyle.marmillion@protonmail.com">kyle.marmillion@protonmail.com</a>.</p> <p>Questions? Ask Mark Neace at <a href="mailto:mark@synclabmedia.com">mark@synclabmedia.com</a></p>	