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**Kiwanis**  
CLUB OF ROANOKE

December 2023  
Vol. 105 No. 10  
"OUTREACH"

### **In this Issue**

President's Message

Important Dates

Speakers' Info

Feature Photos

Kiwanis Happenings

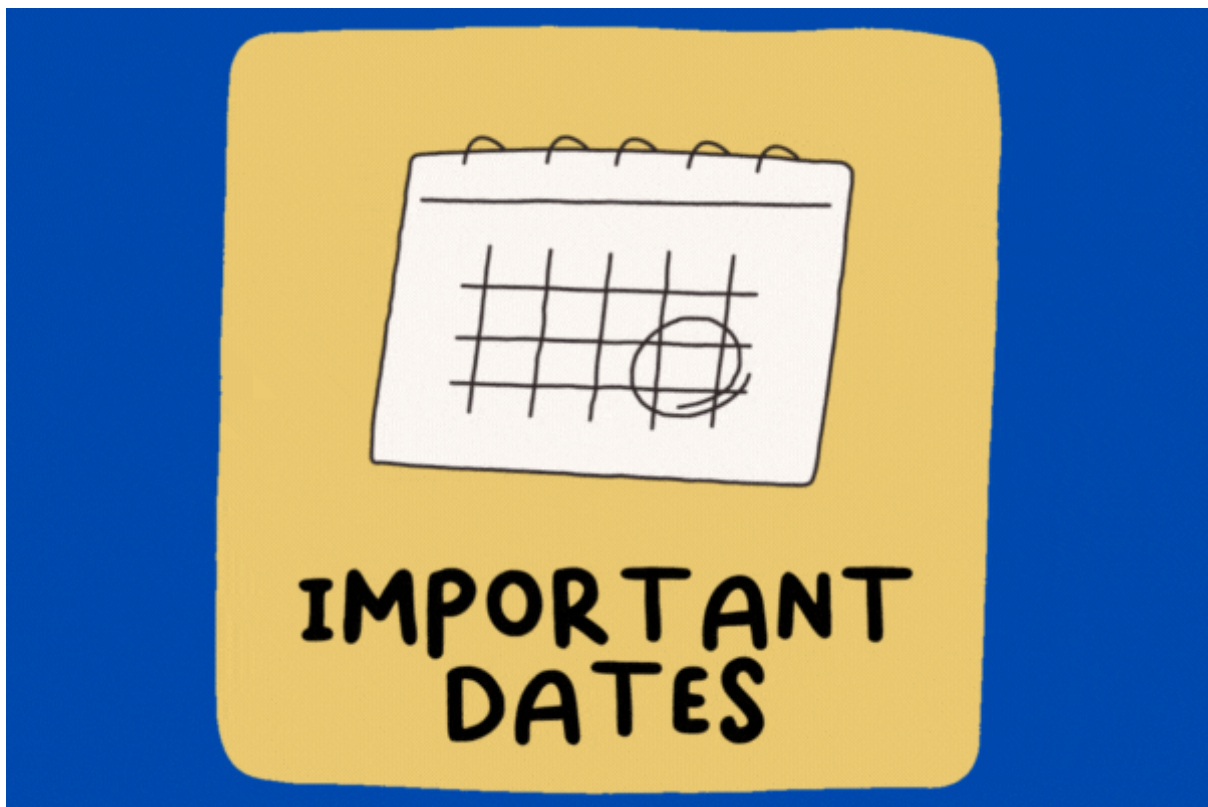
Kiwanian Birthdays

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## **President's Message by Mike O'Brochta**

No message, let's focus on the West End Holiday Party!





**December 12** - (6 - 7:30 pm) West End Holiday Gift Wrapping

**December 13** - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) West End Christmas Party during Club Meeting

**December 14** - (8 - 9 am) Membership Committee Meeting

**December 14** - (7 - 8 pm) Book Club Meeting

**December 15** - (6-9 pm) Salvation Army Ringing of the Bell

**December 16** - (9:00 am - noon) Strategic Planning Committee

**December 18** - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Environment Committee Meeting

**December 20 & 27** - No Club Meeting - Happy Holidays!

**January 3** - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting - Mike Hutkin

**January 15** - (10:00 am - noon) Clean Up Day


**May 4, 2024** - Kiwanis Pancake Day

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**Wednesday, December 13th - Club Meeting, West End  
Christmas Party\***

A huge thanks goes out to the sponsors of the event! Please see below.

\*There will be no zoom option in accordance with our club policy regarding youth protection.



ELK HILL ADVISORS  
STEVE BOWERY  
WILBANKS SMITH & THOMAS  
ASSET MANAGEMENT  
NORTHWEST ACE HARDWARE  
DAN and DIANE CHITWOOD  
JAIME BAILEY  
and  
*Rindy Lionberger, in Honor of  
"Samta Sam"*

The Kiwanis Club of Roanoke especially thanks our generous sponsors who made possible our West End Center Christmas Party for 2023. Along with contributions from our Club members, more than \$5,000 was expended to make this Christmas merry and bright for 60 children and families in our community.

**LUNCH SPONSOR**  
EVERGREEN MEMORIAL TRUST

Also, special thanks to Don Wilson and Evergreen Memorial Trust for sponsoring lunch today for our young guests and their chaperones.

**KIWANIS CLUB OF ROANOKE  
2023  
WEST END CENTER  
CHRISTMAS PARTY**

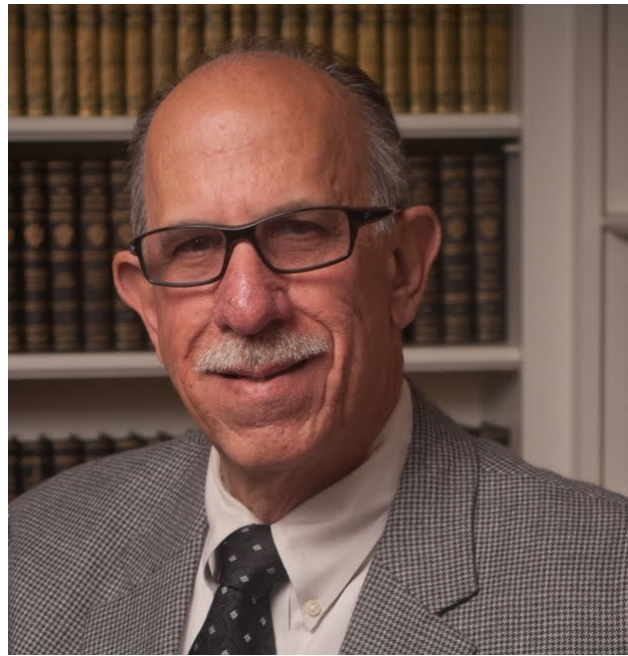
**SPONSORED BY**

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## **Wednesday, January 3rd - Club Meeting, Mike Hutkin, Astronomy 2024 Highlights**

Mike Hutkin is an electrical engineering graduate of Drexel University in Philadelphia (BSEE) and received his MBA degree from Lynchburg College in Lynchburg Virginia. After spending four years with the General Electric Company in Philadelphia, he transferred to Roanoke Virginia with the expansion of the Salem GE facility, where he spent the next 32 years. Initially he focused on the design of power and control automation equipment used in steel, paper, material handling, and other related industries around the world.

In the late 1970's he began a series of transitions through engineering management positions, spending his last twelve years with GE as a project manager at the international level. Upon retirement from GE in 2003 he joined the faculty of Roanoke College as a lecturer where he brought his experiences in manufacturing, production, operations, and global business to the classroom until his retirement in 2017. His hobbies include amateur astronomy and painting. He and his wife, Barbara reside in Roanoke county. His son and two granddaughters live in Sydney, Australia. His daughter and two granddaughters live in Mason, Ohio.



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## Highlights from our last meeting



Don Wilson inducts new member



Betsy Osborne receives grant for



Courtney Plaster receives grant for  
Clean Valley Council



Rev. Dr. Amy Christine Hodges  
delivers a message of hope for those  
who are depressed



**Kiwanis**  
CLUB OF ROANOKE

Happenings

### **Calendars for Residents at Salem VA**

Please recycle the calendars you receive in the mail that you are not going to use by bringing them to the Kiwanis meeting for the resident at the Salem VA. They are used to help the patients follow the date. Only 2024 calendars are needed. Thanks for recycling and supporting this Kiwanis

### **Meeting Recordings**

Note that club meeting recordings can be found on our YouTube channel [here](#).

### **Notes from John**

- Please note that in accordance with our club policy regarding youth

protection, we will not offer the zoom option tomorrow due to the program featuring children with Santa.

- Get well wishes go out to Emily Bailey, who is suffering from vertigo; our sympathy goes to Larry Kufel, who recently lost his younger brother John.
- No Kiwanis meetings for the next two weeks; we resume January 3, 2024.

### **Thank you!**

Our group of club members had a terrific two days at the Holiday Craft Show. Many thanks to Bert Boyd, Eric Danielsen, Lois James, LeeAnn Linkenhoker, Mike McEvoy, and Joyce Montgomery for staffing our table and sharing the K! Over 3,000 attended the show and our team was treated like royalty by the Savvy Events folks - lots of mentions in media promotions. We handed out several lunch invitation cards, sold a few ornaments and pancake tickets, and accepted some donations as well. We met Kiwanians from Ohio and Richmond and premiered our new eNews sign up form. Best of all - we met a family that benefitted from the CHIP Backpack program, who recognized us and thanked us for our support. We were joyfully told that their daughter has surpassed all Kindergarten benchmarks and her reading is well above average. So nice to be reminded of our “why”!

### **Star Ornaments**

Ornaments are available for purchase, cost is \$15 and proceeds will help support the club’s administrative budget. Contact Jeanne Bollendorf to get your ornament! In person, by phone/text 757-773-3312, by email [jeannekiwanis@gmail.com](mailto:jeannekiwanis@gmail.com)

### **Kiwanis in Media**

The Roanoke Times had an article sharing about some of the grants that the Roanoke Kiwanis club have presented. You can read it halfway down the page [here](#).

## **Kiwanis Book Club**

The Kiwanis Book Club led by David Hartman will have its inaugural meeting on Thursday, December 14th, 2023 at 7 pm - to be held virtually.

Topic: Kiwanis Book Club inaugural meeting

Time: Dec 14, 2023 07:00 PM

Join Zoom Meeting using link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84323534099?  
pwd=WHZJZ1dhV2RpemZoeTIIRjlYdzlaZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84323534099?pwd=WHZJZ1dhV2RpemZoeTIIRjlYdzlaZz09)

Meeting ID: 843 2353 4099

Passcode: 592901

One tap mobile +13052241968,,84323534099# US

David W. Hartman ([davidhartman4@cox.net](mailto:davidhartman4@cox.net); phone number in directory)

## **Horton's Branch Watershed Clean Up**

Details are finalized: the next Horton's Branch Watershed Clean Up event will be held in partnership with the Envision Center (Roanoke Redevelopment Housing Authority) at Lansdown's ENVISION CENTER facility (2607 Salem Turnpike, Roanoke) and with Shiloh Baptist Church, SERV, Clean Valley Council, our district's Key Clubs, Aktion Club - all who can join us! Start time is 10:00 am - we will finish cleaning up by 12 noon. Join us for light refreshments, camaraderie and TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE! Sign up sheets and flyers will soon be found on your luncheon table -- OR email Cheri Hartman to RSVP: [chartman2423@gmail.com](mailto:chartman2423@gmail.com).

Dress warm and appropriately - Clean Valley Council will have grabbers, bags and vests for us. Who will use this Nature Park the most and our adjacent playground? Answer: this very neighborhood we are joining for the Clean Up - on MLK Jr Day - a day ON, not a day OFF as



they say for this holiday!

Hope to see you then!

Cheri W. Hartman, Kiwanis Nature Park Co-chair with Don Witt and  
Rupert Cutler

### **Ringing of the Bell**

Salvation Army Bell Ringing continues during the 3 Friday Evenings of "Dickens of a Christmas". On December 8, \$604.20 was donated into our kettle.

Please see below our schedule of volunteers. Please call Joe Lemmer or Bruce Swanson if you'd like to ring with them on December 15. If you'd like to make a donation, please come by our kettle or give your gift to one of the ringers scheduled for December 15.

**Kiwanis Club of Roanoke**  
**Salvation Army Bell Ringing, 2023**  
*Dickens of a Christmas*

**Friday, December 1—"Christmas Tree Lighting"**

5 to 6PM—Dan Karnes; John Pendleton; Nancy Horn

6 to 7PM—Reif & Susan Kessler: **\$690.22**

7 to 8PM—Keith Hartman & Nancy Hartman; Mike & Tiffini Bell

8 to 9PM—Joe Lemmer & Sally Lemmer; Pegram Johnson;

**Friday, December 8—"The Christmas Parade"**

5 to 6PM—Bob & Ann Rutherford; Will & Carol Dibling

6 to 7PM—Glenn & Sue Pierce; Ben & Beth Spiker **\$604.20**

7 to 8PM—Ken Briggs; Jeff Schweiger\*; JJ Harper\*; Robbie Hairston\*  
\*Members of our Aktion Club

8 to 9PM—David & Margarita Bowers; Preston Tyler & Chauna Hardy

**Friday, December 15—"The SPCA Pet Costume Contest"**

5 to 6PM—John & Sally Ewart; Andy & Marjorie Stone

6 to 7PM—Rupert Cutler & Brenda McDaniel; Betsy & Chris Bohannon

7 to 8PM—Joyce Waugh & guest Traci DeGroat; Stephanie & Earl Reynolds

8 to 9PM—Joe Lemmer; Bruce Swanson;

This report was updated on 12/11/2023





## **Roanoke Kiwanis Environmental Scholarship 2023: Emma Land Graduate School Update**

Hi folks!

Now that my first semester of graduate school is wrapping up, I wanted to reach out and keep y'all in the loop on my time at UGA, since you all have helped this experience come to fruition for me. I cannot thank the Roanoke Kiwanis Club enough, and the Roanoke community for the continued support of me during this journey.

This first semester was quite tough! Moving to a new place where I didn't know anyone, or anything, was very intimidating, and quite difficult- on top of what turned out to be a not-so-great roommate situation was an unexpected challenge.

That being said... I absolutely love UGA, Athens, and I feel so lucky to be here. I can't believe I am here, working with such esteemed professors, who care about me, and want me to succeed, it is truly so inspiring. Graduate school has offered me such a refreshing change in my life, meeting people who have the same ambitions, same work ethic, and who are all in the same boat, I truly feel a part of a tight-knit community here at the Warnell School of Forestry. Graduate school is so different from the undergraduate college experience, and I am constantly reminded of how kind people are and how ambitious everyone is here- I feel a real sense of community amongst my professors and peers.

This past semester I focused on my courses and took the following classes: Plant Growth and Development, Graduate Teaching Seminar, GradFIRST, and Experimental Methods and Design. So now I know how to use R and am working on a teaching certification- exciting! I feel so supported in my

academic journey, something I wasn't sure I would find since UGA is such a large school. But they weren't joking when they said there are pockets for everyone to find their place here, and I really feel like I've found mine. I have made some amazing friendships here, and even began picking up new pastimes (running for fun... and training for half-marathons!). Athens' local community is very lively, with lots of free artist markets, live concerts, and community events, there is always something fun going on.

As for research, I am still narrowing down my exact research goal, and will have a finished proposal by the end of my spring semester. But as of right now, my Thesis will largely be investigating the relationship between headspace gases and Oregon Ash tissue culture in somatic embryogenesis- I am excited to really solidify my research aims for my MS! I have finalized my committee and feel very good about who is serving on it, as they are all incredibly kind, supportive, and well-established. My co-advisors are Dr. Scott Merkle and Dr. Kamal Ghandi, and then my committee members are Dr. Holly Munro and Dr. Savithri Nambeesan. I feel, once again, super supported by my committee and I know that they will help me to succeed throughout my time at UGA.

This was a huge leap for me, and an experience that will continue to help me grow into the person I want to become. As difficult as it may have been at times this past semester, and the hurdles that are bound for me in the coming semesters, I feel well-equipped to do well here at Warnell. I know that I am right where I am supposed to be.

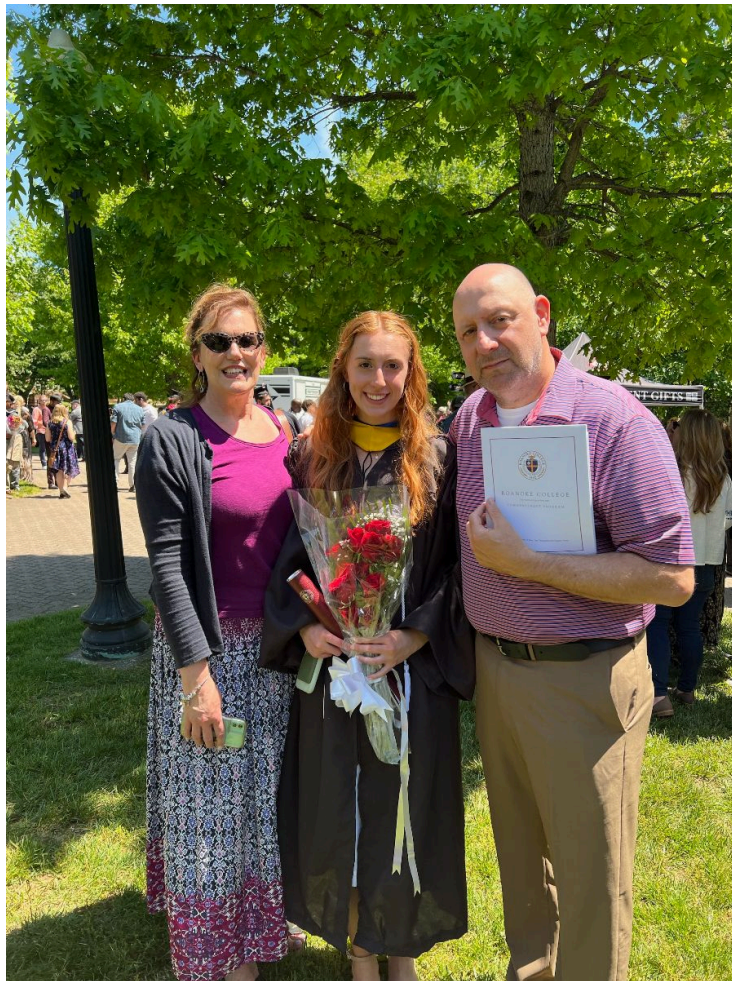
I should also mention that the UGA fever is real! I have school pride and yes, I do indeed bark! I am enjoying my time here in Athens, and I am thankful for folks like you all at the Roanoke Kiwanis Club who have supported me and believed in me! Although I love Athens, there is truly no place like the Roanoke Valley. I just wanted to update you all on my graduate school journey, and once again thank you for the encouragement, and the scholarship award.

I hope you all are doing well and happy holidays. I hope to hear from you soon!

Go dawgs,

Emma Land (she/her)

Graduate Student MSc Forestry and Natural Resources



**Outreach Awards (initiative and follow through):**

- Greg Lionberger
- Cheri Hartman (Pictured below receiving her ribbon)

**The Kiwanis Foundation of Roanoke**

The vision of the Kiwanis Foundation of Roanoke is to build an endowment that will support the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke in effecting meaningful and lasting changes in our community and our world. The Foundation contributes heavily towards the Club's support to the children of our community and the world, serving the needs of older adults in our community, and improving the environment of Virginia's Blue Ridge. Through donations, planned giving, and strong financial stewardship, assets exceed \$1M.

Everyone can help from a little to a lot by making donations, making annual tax-free contributions, contributing stock shares that have large gains, or listing the Foundation in your will or obituary. This year's Foundation contribution of \$50,000 helped 1,000+ local citizens.

The Foundation Board serves at the pleasure of the Club Board without compensation but with expertise. The Kiwanis Foundation of Roanoke is a Section 501(c)(3) organization. Our financial statement was prepared by Cole & Associates CPAs, LLC. Your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

**Donate Today!**

### **Highlights from the 12/11/23 Kiwanis Board Meeting**

The Kiwanis Club of Roanoke Board held their regular monthly meeting on Monday, December 11th. Minutes from all Board meetings can be found on the Members page on our Club website. Club financials were provided, and the club continues to be on sound financial footing. There were multiple mentions of Kiwanis/Kiwanians in the paper recently. Coordinated by Bill Bepitch, the programs for January have the potential to draw outside attention/media including hearing from the Roanoke City Chief of Police. An effort led by Ben Spiker is underway to host occasional board meetings at the sites of grant recipients so we can better get to know them. Lois James and Kevin Reeder presented their plans for the Fun Committee and Young Professional Committee respectively. Be on the lookout for regularly scheduled social outings.

*Please email any potential happenings to Alex at [abarge11@gmail.com](mailto:abarge11@gmail.com).*

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**Please consider sharing this email with a friend!**

 **Forward**

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### **Kiwanian Birthdays**

December 3 -- New member Fred Jeter

December 5 -- Jay Harlow

December 9 -- Lloyd Enoch

December 14 -- Jim Joyce

December 17 -- Mike McEvoy  
December 21 -- New member Randy Myers  
December 21 -- Diane DeHaven  
December 23 -- Chuck Baker  
December 26 -- Lois James  
December 27 -- New member Maritza Steele  
December 28 -- Judy Clark



**Kiwanis**  
CLUB OF ROANOKE

2023-24

Officers:

Mike O'Brochta, President  
Jeanne Bollendorf, President-Elect  
Joyce Montgomery, Vice President  
John Montgomery, Secretary-Treasurer  
Ben Spiker, Past President

Directors:

Lee Osborne, President, Kiwanis Foundation of Roanoke  
Kevin Reeder, 2024  
Stephanie Moon Reynolds, 2024  
David Hartman, 2024  
Bob Habermann, 2025  
Sheila Umberger, 2025  
Harry Zulauf, 2025  
Bill Bestpitch, 2026  
Greg Lionberger, 2026  
Alex Barge, 2026



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