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Kiwanis
CLUB OF ROANOKE

April 2026
Vol. 107 No. 26

"Year of Inspired Action"

In this Issue

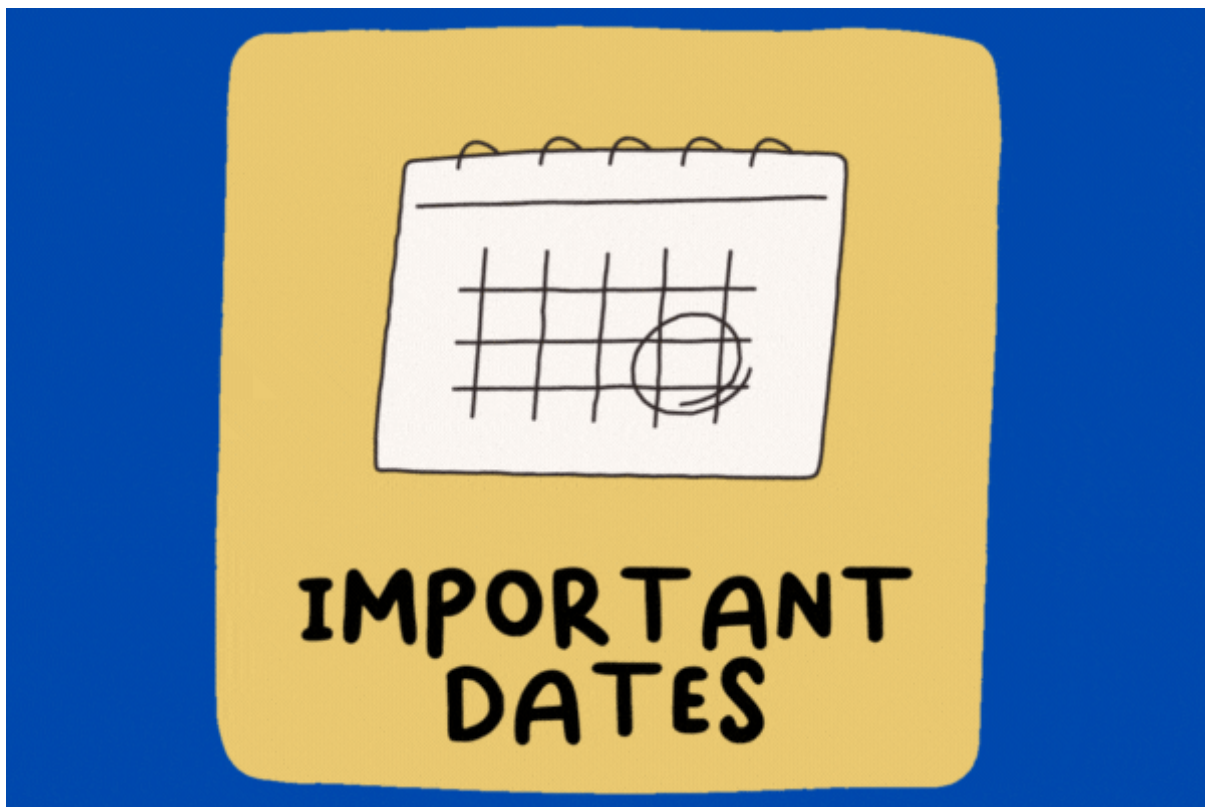
Important Dates

Speakers' Info

Feature Photos

Kiwanis Happenings

Kiwanian Birthdays



April 15 - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting, Brynnen Beierle - Blue Ridge Hydroponics

April 15 - (5:30 pm) Book Club

April 18 - (6:45 - 10:45 am) Blue Ridge Marathon

April 18 - (10 am - 3 pm) Earth Day Booth

April 22 - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting, Star City Compost

April 25 - (7 am - 12:30 pm) Kiwanis Pancake and Auction Day (KPAD)

April 29 - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting, Maureen McGonagle, Roanoke Foodshed Network

May 7 - (7 - 8:30 am) Prayer Breakfast

May 16 - (9 am - noon) Kids' Fishing Day

May 30 - Spring Fun Day

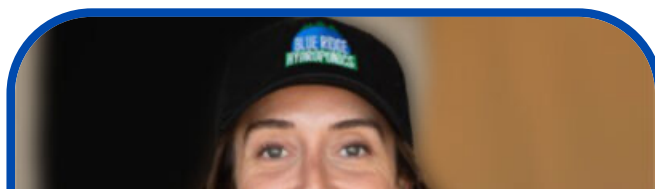
You can always stay up-to-date by checking out the calendar on our [website here](#).

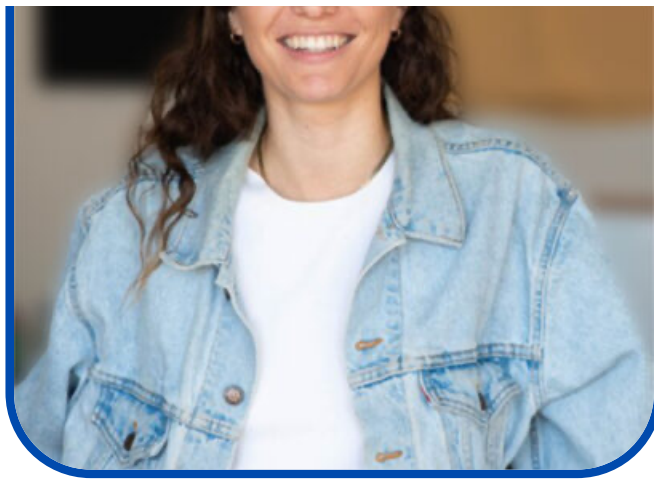
April 15th - Club Meeting, Brynnen Beierle with Blue Ridge Hydroponics

Join us Wednesday for our weekly meeting in Charter Hall on the third floor of the City Market Building; networking and lunch begin at 12:00PM. We will listen to Brynnen Beierle, Owner of Blue Ridge Hydroponics and Garden Supply, talk about being a small seasonable business. The rest of our April speakers will focus on the outdoors and the environment.

Brynnen will discuss the importance of shopping local, buying small, and growing your own food. She will also talk about local farmers and large-scale gardeners.

Brynnen was in the wellness world where she helped open up a wellness facility in LA - working with clients, teaching classes, and planning the overall functionality of the business. Her passion still remains focused on wellness, but in a different way; now it is about people caring for what they put in their body and where they buy their food.





Highlights From Our Last Meeting

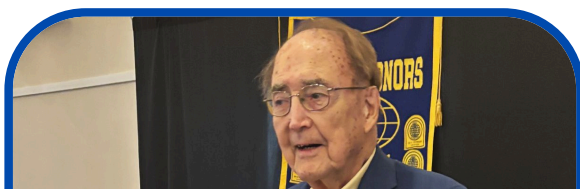
Most photos are taken by our resident photographer extraordinaire, Don Witt, who also adds the captions.



Jeff Vick offers bling for high ticket sales



Rita Joyce kicks off National Day of Prayer Breakfast tickets





Rupert Cutler sings Michigan's pep song to brag about their basketball championship



Speaker, Vicki Gardner receives honorarium for the SML Center



Introspection from April 8 meeting as offered by Kiwanian John Montgomery and reprinted by request:

"How will you ever know if you can paint that picture, run that business, sell that vacuum cleaner, earn that degree, hold that office, make that speech, win that game, marry that girl, write that book, bake that souffle, build that house -- unless you try it!" (*Richard DeVos*)

"Beginning today, treat everyone you meet as if they were going to be dead by midnight. Extend to them all the care, kindness and understanding you can

muster, and do so with no thought of any reward. **Your life will never be the same again.**" (*Og Mandino*)

"If you want happiness for an hour -- take a nap.
If you want happiness for a day -- go fishing.
If you want happiness for a month -- get married.
If you want happiness for a year -- inherit a fortune.
If you want happiness for a lifetime -- help others."
(*Chinese proverb*)



Kiwanis
CLUB OF ROANOKE

Happenings

FUN – FUN- FUN – FUN -FUN!!!

Questionnaire

Please rate your interest in the following (1-10, 10 highest):

Mill Mountain Theatre cocktail party and play. _____

Rail Yard Dawgs Hockey game. _____

Salem Ridge Yaks (Red Sox) Baseball game. _____

Stoney Brook Winery lunch and music. _____

Twisted Track Brewery Pop-Up Party. _____

Dinner Dance for holiday. _____

Pop-Up Party at El Rodeo. _____

Pop-Up Party at Franks at Brambleton. _____

Outdoor Family Picnic. _____

Bowling event. _____

Hiking and cookout. _____

How much are you willing to spend for an evening event? \$ _____

Suggestions: _____

Would you like to join the FUN Committee? Yes No

Name _____

Please return to FUN Committee:

André Brooks, Kenny Brooks, Amy Carter, Eric Danielsen, Lois
James, Larry Kufel, Mike O'Brochta, Dave Spangler.

Book Club

Please note that our next book club meeting will be held on April 15th. Get your taxes done and then join us at 5:30 pm! Happy Reading - can't wait to hear what you are reading this Spring! We are lined up to again meet at the Crystal Spring Grocery location on Crystal Spring Avenue.

Join the fun!

Cheri and Dave Hartman

Blue Ridge Marathon

April in Roanoke means spring flowers and the Blue Ridge Marathon! For the third year in a row, the Club will run the Aid Station midway up Roanoke Mountain supporting the race. This location has the best views on the course and is a favorite of the runners. The station is located at the Roanoke Mountain Overlook, on Roanoke Mountain Road, 24014 (click the link to see the location on Google Maps (<https://goo.gl/maps/gajAaWG8zaa1wbZF8>)). We will hand out drinks and enthusiastically encourage the runners. The shift starts at 6:45 and ends around 10:45 AM. You can drive up to the Aid Station by taking the Roanoke Mountain Parkway (on the right off the Blue Ridge Parkway just north of the intersection with Mill Mountain Parkway).

Note: Volunteers must be in place BEFORE the Blue Ridge Parkway closes at 7:00 AM!

If 6:45 AM is too early for you, we also need at least three (3) Kiwanians to be course marshals. The Club is committed to fifteen (15) volunteers overall.

[Click this link](#) for the Foot Levelers Blue Ridge Marathon Volunteer Registration. After it loads, scroll down to BRP Roanoke Mountain Middle hosted by the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke. Check the box and click the Volunteer button. This will take you to the registration page. The Task Password is kiwanis, all lower case. If you would like to sign up for a different task, scroll up to see other opportunities (no Task Password needed for those). When you register, make sure to select that you are with the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke. This is one of the choices to the question “Are you registering with an incentive group?” If you are already a registered user from past years, there is an option to pull up your information and avoid some typing! Remember to enter your tee shirt size!

Contact Fred Jeter if you have questions at (540)798-5267 or fred.jeter@icloud.com



Kiwanis Pancake & Auction Day April 25th



KIWANIS

Pancake & Auction Day

— **ALL YOU CAN EAT** —

Pancakes, Sausage and Drinks

Batter Up with the Salem RidgeYaks!

Admission \$8 In Advance • \$10 Day of • Kids under 5 FREE



Kiwanis
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roanokekiwanisclub.org



For tickets and information

GROUP PRICING

8 for \$60 • 25 for \$125 • 60 for \$400 • 90 for \$600 • 200 for \$1000

Saturday, April 25, 2026

7 am to 12:30 pm

The Berglund Center

— **PROCEEDS BENEFIT LOCAL CHARITIES** —

KPAD Countdown: Let's Get to Zero Zeroes

KPAD is right around the corner, and it's time for a full-team push. While the baseball spirit has been strong at meetings, we still need to reach every member—because every member matters. The goal is simple: Zero Zeroes. No one on the roster without ticket sales.

Even small actions make a big difference. Buying just two tickets helps move us closer to our goal—and it's something every Kiwanian can do, whether

you're working the event or not. Let's make it easy, let's make it count, and let's finish strong. Click the link, get your tickets, and help us knock this one out of the park.

Buy your tickets now!

KPAD 2026 is almost here. We need volunteers!

April 25th is the most important day of our Kiwanis year! Sign up yourself, your friends, your relatives...you get the picture! Help make this event successful!

Thanks!

Harry

Sign up toay!

Kiwanis in the News!

Our Immediate Past President, Jeanne Bollendorf, recorded a public service announcement about our Kiwanis Pancake and Auction Day (KPAD) event on WFJX 910 AM & 104.3 FM, whose parent company is one of our event sponsors! You can [listen to it here](#).

KPAD was also featured in the Roanoke Times. You can read it [online here](#) if you have an account or check out the picture below.



Kiwans Club of Roanoke is preparing, once again, to feed hundreds during its annual all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast from 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. April 25 at the Berglund Center.

Over its long history, Kiwanis Pancake Day has raised more than \$1 million with funds going to support community service projects, scholarships for local students, and grants to organizations that align with the club's mission of serving children, older adults, and the environment. The club's signature projects include Roanoke Valley Greenways, Kiwanis Playground in Melrose, and the Kiwanis Nature Park.

Sweat and dedication of many volunteers, including Kiwanis club members, area Key Club students, and AKTion Club members — an active group of adults with brain injuries — make the fundraiser successful.

With tickets priced at \$8 per person in advance; \$10 at the door; and children 5 and under eating for free, the breakfast event includes an auction and live entertainment, including a special appearance by the Salem Ridge Yaks and Mac the Yak.



JOANNE POINDEXTER

Volunteers with the Roanoke Kiwanis Club prepare some 3,000 breakfasts for its largest annual fundraiser.

Advance tickets can be purchased from Kiwanians or online through the club website, roanokekiwanis-club.org.

Co-sponsors include Haley Toyota, Carilion Clinic, ServPro of Roanoke County, and Fox Radio 910AM/104.3FM.

Prayer vigil in memory of King

The Roanoke Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference is holding a prayer vigil and memorial service in remembrance and observance of the 58th anniversary of the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on at 1:30 p.m. Saturday.

Civil Rights leader King was murdered on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee.

The service will also remember deceased members of the Roanoke SCLS chapter.

The ceremony begins at The Dumas Center, 108 Henry St. N.W., where Rabbi Howard Stein will deliver the keynote address, and Colleen Hernandez will lead the assembly in a litany. It concludes with a wreath laying ceremony at the MLK statue at MLK Plaza. Light refreshments will be offered at The Dumas Center following the wreath laying ceremony.

For further information, please contact Bishop Edward Mitchell, president of the Chapter, at 540-400-2459, or Dan Callaghan at 540-266-2095 or danielcallaghan@gmail.com.

World Day of Prayer collection

During its early March "World Day of Prayer" observance, the Roanoke Valley chapter of Christian Women United collected more than 136 hats, scarves, gloves, blankets, and socks for the men and women served by the Veterans' Administration Medical Center in Salem.

The group also presented SHERO Awards, which honor women over 90 years of age who are still actively involved in "Kingdom-building work" through their church and Church Women United in the Roanoke Valley.

The recipient are Peggy Sue Mason, Hazel Moody, Annette Schell, and Betty Waldron.

Ballet scholarships

Star City School of Ballet, a newly established non-profit, recently hosted a Joffrey School of Ballet workshop where several dancers received acceptance letters to dance programs and/or scholarships.

Founded this year, the organization focuses on providing both performance experiences for its members and financial support through scholarships. The recipients are:

- Mikaela Marton, 15, a North Cross School and Star City School of Ballet pre-professional program student, who received a 50% ballet tuition scholarship to be used for several New York City Ballet and Joffrey dance programs, including admissions to the Joffrey 2026-2027 Year-Round Ballet Trainee Program.
- Will Vaughn, 16, a home school and Star City School of Ballet / Star City Dance Collective student, who received a 75% ballet scholarship to NYC and Joffrey ballet programs.
- Tatum Arbogast, 9, a home school student who earned a 25% ballet scholarship to the LEAP Performing Arts Academy in Blacksburg and Little Leapers in Roanoke; and acceptance to NYC and Joffrey programs.
- Kyrle Frost, 11, of Cave Spring Elementary School, who received a 75% ballet scholarship to LEAP Performing Arts Academy and Little Leapers; and acceptance to NYC and Joffrey programs.
- Olivia Chaffin, 16, a student at Virginia Western Community College, Star City School of Ballet, and Star City Dance Collective, who was accepted to several Joffrey and NYC summer programs.
- Sephira Metheny, 15, a student at William Fleming High School and Star City School of Ballet, who was accepted into several summer programs of the NYC Ballet and Joffrey.
- Bentley Robertson, 13, of John P. Fishwick Middle School, who was accepted into a NYC program and several Joffrey programs.
- Ella Martin, 9, a student at Auburn Elementary School, received a 25 percent ballet scholarship for the LEAP academy and acceptance to several NYC and Joffrey programs.
- Lillian Giuliano, 8, of Roanoke Catholic Schools and Little Leapers, received acceptance to an NYC and several Joffrey programs.

For more information on the dance school, call 540-206-2856 or visit information@starcityschoolofballet.com.

Contact JoAnne Poindexter at joanne.poindexter@roanoke.com.

Spanberger signs into law batch of education bills

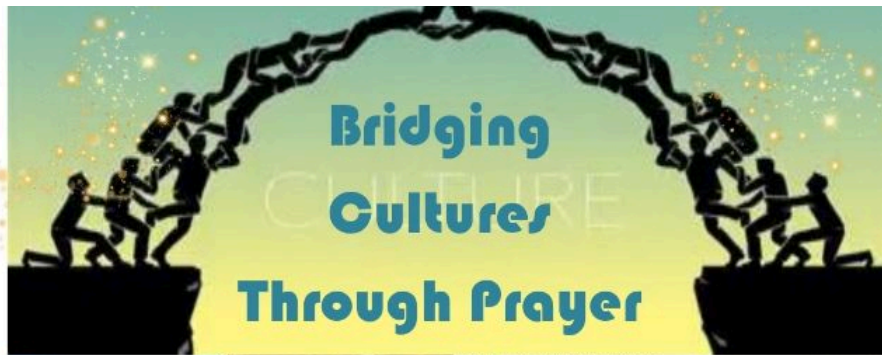
National Day of Prayer Breakfast, May 7, 2026

Your Kiwanis Club will bring folks together for our annual breakfast on Thursday, May 7, at the Kazim Shrine Temple, 628 West Campbell Avenue. Amy's breakfast buffet will be available at 7:00AM. The program is scheduled from 7:30-8:30AM.

Our theme will be "Bridging Cultures through Prayer". Prayers will be lifted in the Jewish, Muslim, and Christian traditions. Kiwanian Rev. Joe Cobb will bring our morning meditation.

Tickets (\$10.00 each) will be available at our luncheon meetings in April. (Kiwansians may elect to have the purchase of tickets added to their next quarterly statement). Reservations can also be made by contacting Kiwanians

Rita Joyce or Ken Briggs.



Join Kiwanis as we celebrate our annual
Interfaith Prayer Breakfast

Thursday, May 7, 2026 7:00am-8:30am \$10.00

Kazim Temple
628 West Campbell Avenue Roanoke VA
(free parking in back)

Join us in learning about the many faiths and cultures in the Roanoke Valley.
Facilitators will lead discussions at each table.

*Our Keynote Speaker for 2026 is Rev. Mayor Joe Cobb, Roanoke, Virginia.
Music provided by Judy Clark. A thank you to our sponsor, Howell's Motor Freight!*



For tickets contact any Kiwanian or call _____ and leave a message.



Spring FunDay May 30th!

Spring FunDay and Career/Community Resource Fair is scheduled for Saturday, May 30th and is open to the public from 11:00 to 3:00 pm. Kiwanians, we will need volunteers from 8:45 to 3:45 as we both prepare the

site (at Melrose Plaza) and clean up after the activities. Questions? Please reach out to Cheri Hartman at chartman2423@gmail.com.

Corporate Partner Spotlight

Gentry Locke

Who we are.

With 80 lawyers practicing across a range of disciplines, Gentry Locke is a full-service law firm that brings uncommon thinking and deep experience to the legal and business challenges of companies, institutions, organizations, and individuals — a commitment the firm has met since 1923. Operating from offices in Roanoke, Lynchburg, Richmond, and Norfolk, Gentry Locke serves clients in Virginia and across the United States.

Like the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke, Gentry Locke is committed to community service. Our lawyers serve (or have recently served) on the Boards of the United Way of Virginia's Blue Ridge, the Boys & Girls Club of Southwest Virginia, the Council of Community Services, the American Heart Association's Roanoke Heart Ball and Go Red for Women Luncheon, Roanoke Wildlife Rescue, Jefferson Center, Family Service of Roanoke Valley, Mill Mountain Theatre and Roanoke Symphony Orchestra, to name but a few.

Over the years, many Gentry Locke lawyers have been leaders in the Kiwanis Club including, most notably, the late Dick Rakes. We are pleased to be active again as a corporate member.





LOCKE

Meeting Recordings

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

Club Meeting Zoom Info

Here is the [zoom link](#)

Meeting ID: 817 8581 5453

Passcode: 102906

Please email any potential Kiwanian happenings by 7 pm on Monday to Alex at abargell@gmail.com.

Please consider sharing this email with a friend!

 **Forward**

Kiwanian April Birthdays

April 1 Chloe Willis

April 2 Andree Brooks

April 3 Eric Sichau

April 10 Tim Thompson

April 12 Bob Habermann

April 12 Bert Boyd

April 14 Gary Duerk

April 18 Jim Randles

April 19 Eddie Barnes



Kiwanis® 2025-26

CLUB OF ROANOKE

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