



## KeyWay Weekly Newsletter

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### **This Week's Program:**

*W. Imara Canady, Board President of the Hammonds House Museum*



We are honored to welcome W. Imara Canady, Trustee of the Hammonds House Museum, as our featured speaker on Friday, August 22, 2025. A highly regarded civic and cultural strategist, Imara is known for building impactful partnerships and leading with vision and integrity. As a longtime leader at Hammonds House, he has helped shape its renewed mission to preserve and amplify the artistic legacy of the African Diaspora.

Imara also serves as National Director of Communications & Community Engagement for the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, and chairs the Black Leadership AIDS Crisis Coalition (BLACC). His career spans leadership roles with the United Negro College Fund, the National Center for Civil and Human Rights, and multiple mayoral administrations in Atlanta and Washington, D.C.

Join us to hear from a transformative voice on art, service, and community-building in Atlanta and beyond.

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### ***August's Theme is Membership & Extension: Fridays: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29***

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### **Rotary Club of Atlanta West End KeyWay Report August 15, 2025 Member Showcase – Carolina Ramos**

This meeting of the Rotary Club of Atlanta West End, a Member Showcase, was led by **Co-President Elect Chris Hempfling** who presided over the meeting. Following an invocation by **Ms. Frances Ellison Dansby** and the Pledge of Allegiance. **Marilyn Jackson** recalled in her DEI Moment the opening of Woodstock on August 15, 1969, which was one of the first times rock musicians and top billing performers such as **Jimmy Hendrick, Joan Baez, The Who, Sly and the Family Stone, Richie Havens, Joe Crocker**, plus other greats of different races performed at the same venue.

**Community Updates**

**Mark Newman** shared progress on the Mall at West End redevelopment — the impending implosion of the existing structures, the signing of three anchor tenants, and a longer-term phased construction plan, which includes three separate phases, each with its own building.

**Sonia Hantman**, Membership Director, will circulate ideas for a September social event.

**Member Showcase – Carolina Ramos**

Carolina Ramos, AWER’s Director of Service Projects and Government Affairs Manager at MARTA, shared her deeply personal story. Born into a remarkable and faith driven family from El Salvador during years of civil unrest, she spoke of her grandfather’s role in the FMLN militia, the political assassination of Archbishop Romero, the violence experienced at his funeral. and her family’s eventual immigration to Northern Virginia. Carolina cited the influence of her Catholic faith and strong female role models, including two aunts, one serving in Guatemala, one in the United States as nuns, and another who is a Pentecostal Clergy.

Her professional journey includes campaign work for **Stacey Abrams**, and internships on Capitol Hill: positions with **U.S. Congresswoman Lucy McBath** and **U.S. Senator Jon Ossoff**. Today, she brings her advocacy, planning and organizational skills to MARTA, and also as a volunteer member of the Hope Atlanta Professional board. She spoke about the realities and visibility of Atlanta’s Hispanic/Latino communities. Carolina provided MARTA updates: new trains, a modernized payment system ahead of the World Cup, station rehabilitations, and a bus network redesign. Carolina shared many excellent photos including one of her in "humble" beginnings, and also one of her and **Vice President Kamala Harris**.

The history of her El Salvadore homeland has seen much violence since its founding -independence in 1821. In the 1930s there have been a brutal dictatorship and fraudulent governments. *She said the trauma has been too much to describe.* Her grandfather was missing for ten years and presumed to be dead, but reemerged. The family is remarkable, taking responsibility through many leadership roles driven by their faith in God to be accountable to build better living opportunities. Her Godfather served in the U.S. Navy for 45 years and her Godmother also in the U.S. Navy for 20 years.

Carolina lives in the West End and feels fully dedicated to MARTA. Its leadership team is working on 136 separate projects ... and is unified in its commitment to create the best possible service for MARTA's metro Atlanta riders.

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*Neil Shorthouse, KeyWay Reporter*

**Building Rotary**

*August is Membership and New Club Development Month*

August is Rotary International’s month to celebrate membership and new club growth—reminding us that Rotary’s strength lies in both our current members and the fresh ideas of new ones.

At the Rotary Club of Atlanta West End, our impact comes from the diverse talents, perspectives, and commitment of our members. This month, let’s each help grow Rotary by

inviting someone to a Friday meeting, sharing why we joined, or connecting them to our service projects.

A personal invitation can open the door to Rotary for someone new. Together, we can build a stronger, more vibrant AWER community.

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## **An Invitation from M. Agnes Jones:**

*Join Us for W.O.W. Sessions*

Our community partner, M. Agnes Jones Elementary School (MAJ), has extended a special invitation to the Rotary Club of Atlanta West End to participate in their monthly W.O.W. (Working on the Work) sessions.

*W.O.W. Sessions  
Every 3rd Tuesday | 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM  
M. Agnes Jones Elementary | 1040 Fair St. SW, Atlanta, GA 30314*

As part of their STEAM initiative, “We Are the World: Conquering Hunger through Sustainability and Creativity,” MAJ welcomes Rotarians to collaborate with educators and students in shaping hands-on, standards-based learning experiences that directly connect to real-world challenges in the West End.

Over the last two Rotary Years, AWER has proudly invested \$4,000 in District Grant funds to help develop MAJ’s STEAM garden and outdoor lab. These sessions are a chance for us to see that investment in action and to deepen our partnership by contributing our expertise, creativity, and community leadership.

Your voice matters. MAJ emphasizes that business owners, urban farmers, chefs, nonprofit leaders, health advocates, and engaged residents all have a role to play in shaping these sessions. Together, we can inspire students to think critically, act creatively, and serve their community with purpose.

This is more than an event—it’s an opportunity to stand alongside our partners at MAJ and help empower the next generation of West End leaders.

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<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>MARK YOUR CALENDAR</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 8/23: Safe at Home Game</li> <li>● 8/29: Rebekah Enoch; Freedom United.</li> <li>● 9/5: Aretta Baldon - Member Showcase</li> <li>● 9/12: Dr. Bryan Johnson, APS Superintendent</li> <li>● 9/14: Streets Alive! Peachtree St.</li> <li>● 9/27: WEND Candlelight Concert</li> <li>● 10/25: ATL Tech. College 5K</li> <li>● 10/26: Streets Alive! West End</li> </ul> <p><b><i>Sign up to be a program chair <a href="#">here</a> today!</i></b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>CELEBRATIONS</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Happy Birthday</i></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">8/11 Debra Stokes 8/17 Victoria Seals, PhD 8/18 Robert Stephens 8/19 Jared Evans</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Happy Anniversary</i></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">8/23 Richard &amp; Mary Gerakitis</p>
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**Meeting Agenda**

1. Call to Order
2. Invocation & Pledge
3. Introduction of Guests
4. Tasse Trivia
5. DEI Moment
6. Announcements
7. Program/Speaker
8. The Four-Way Test
9. Adjournment

**RY2025–2026 Board of Directors**

**President:** *Dr. Victoria Seals*  
**Co-Presidents-Elect:** *Debra Stokes & Chris Hempfling*  
**Immediate Past President:** *Jared Evans*  
**President-Nominee:** *TBD*  
**Secretary:** *Neil Shorthouse*  
**Treasurer:** *Rose Caplan*  
**Club Admin. Co-Chairs:** *Debra Stokes & Chris Hempfling*  
**Membership Chair:** *Sonia Hantman*  
**Public Image Chair:** *Jared Evans*  
**Service Projects Chair:** *Carolina Ramos*  
**The Rotary Foundation Chair:** *Debra Stokes*  
**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chair:** *Marilyn Jackson*

<p><b>JOIN ONLINE</b>  Zoom Link - <a href="#">Click here</a>  Meeting ID: 874 0116 4307  Passcode: Service</p>	<p><b>Dial In</b>  1-646-558-8656  Meeting ID: 874 0116 4307  Passcode: 846122</p>
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 **Never a Bad Time to Catch Up!**

Your membership dues help to keep our service strong. Click [here](#) to pay on the District 6900 website. Your club, your club treasurer, and your community will thank you!

**Stay Connected with AWER**

-  **Email:** [inforotaryawe@gmail.com](mailto:inforotaryawe@gmail.com)     **Website:** [atlantawestendrotary.org](http://atlantawestendrotary.org)  
 **Facebook:** [facebook.com/RotaryAWE](https://facebook.com/RotaryAWE)     **Instagram:** [@rotaryatlantawestend](https://instagram.com/rotaryatlantawestend)

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**THE FOUR-WAYTEST of the things we think, say or do**

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- first*    **Is it the TRUTH?**
- second*    **Is it FAIR to all concerned?**
- third*    **Will it build GOOD WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?**
- fourth*    **Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?**