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**Rotary**  
Club of Decatur



# WHAT'S HAPPENING



-September 10, 2015 | Be Involved, Be Engaged, Celebrate Rotary-

## In This Issue

### At the Podium

**Sept. 11**

Renay Blumenthal  
Grady Foundation

**Sept. 18**

Dave McCleary  
End Human Trafficking Now

**Sept. 25**

Dave Schmit  
Schmit & Associates

**Oct. 2**

Bob Hagan  
Rotary District Governor

**Oct. 9**

Rob Weintraub  
Author

**Oct 16**

Mark Johnson  
Mentalist & Psychic  
Entertainer



Join Us Tonight at Universal Joint in Oakhurst

[906 Oakview Rd., Oakhurst/Decatur, GA 30030](#)

## This Week at Rotary

### Renay Blumenthal President, Grady Foundation

In a career spanning nearly 30 years, Renay Blumenthal has forged a reputation as one of Atlanta's most respected community leaders, with deep ties to Atlanta's civic, foundation, business and political sectors.

As president of the Grady Health Foundation, she leads and manages all aspects of the foundation,



Friday Lunches  
catered by  
Oakhurst Market

## Decatur Rotary Club Officers

President:  
Scott Thompson

President-Elect:  
Amy Nash

Past President:  
Peter Michelson

Secretary:  
Doug Robinson

Treasurer:  
Pete Pfeiffer

Sergeant-at-Arms:  
John Drake

## The Four-Way Test

In everything that we  
think, say or do:

Is it the **TRUTH**?

Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?

Will it build  
**GOODWILL**  
and  
**BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?

Will it be **BENEFICIAL**  
to all concerned?

[For more information visit our  
website.](#)

[Check our club's calendar](#)

[District 6900 Website](#)



including setting the foundation's strategic direction, coordinating all fundraising activities, and providing community outreach to increase support for Grady. The foundation brings together philanthropists, corporate leaders and civic activists to increase public awareness, raise critical dollars and improve the quality of healthcare services for metro Atlanta and the state.

Blumenthal's career spans a rare mix of both public and private sector experience. For nearly 10 years, she served as senior vice president of public policy for the Metro Atlanta Chamber, where she directed initiatives to strengthen the region and city.

Blumenthal has been a trusted adviser to Georgia's top elected officials, serving as policy director to former Gov. Roy Barnes, budget and policy director to former Gov. Zell Miller, and budget chief to former Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin. She was also instrumental to former Gov. Sonny Perdue's transition team. In the private sector, Blumenthal worked as a program development and lending officer for Trust Company Bank in Savannah, Georgia and as a controller for Aratex Services, Inc.

Throughout her career, Blumenthal has used her positions of authority to strengthen Grady. The Greater Grady Task Force, run by the Chamber under Blumenthal's guidance, helped galvanize public support for Grady Hospital that led to a \$325 million infusion. During her tenure with Gov. Barnes, she was part of a team that secured state and federal funding for Grady and helped form the Georgia Cancer Coalition, which created Grady's Cancer Center for Excellence.

A native Atlantan, Blumenthal is a cum laude graduate of Georgia Tech and holds a Master of Business Administration from Georgia State University. She was a Georgia Trend "40 under 40" and honoree in 2001 and a member of the Leadership Georgia class in 2000 and Leadership Atlanta class in 2006. She has been named a "Power Chick" for four years in a row by *James Magazine* and a "Notable Georgian" by *Georgia Trend*. She was also recognized as a Woman of Achievement by the YWCA in 2009 and received an Impact Leader award from *Business to Business* magazine in 2010.

Blumenthal serves on several community boards. She is immediate past chair of Leadership Atlanta, immediate past chair of the Clean Air Campaign, and a member of the Emory University Board of Visitors, Georgia Forward and the Women's Forum of Georgia. She and her husband, Ned live in Atlanta and have two young children, Michael and Rachel.

## Speaker Recap from Aug. 28 Meeting





## Good to Know

### Meeting Place

Old Courthouse  
Downtown Decatur  
101 E. Court Square

### Meeting Time

Every Friday  
12:15 to 1:30 pm

### Our Club

#4132, District #6900.

### Mailing Address

Decatur Rotary Club  
PO Box 845  
Decatur, GA 30031

### Dues & Donations

\$275 quarterly dues  
\$700 annual donation

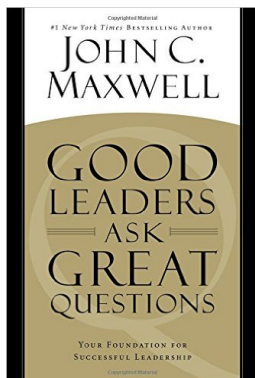
### Newsletter Submissions

Deadline is Monday at noon. Send  
your news to  
Adrienne Vinson at  
[adrienne.m.vinson@gmail.com](mailto:adrienne.m.vinson@gmail.com)

Betty Spiker (*left*) introduced Terri Kruzan, 25-year resident of Decatur and a member of the Lifelong Decatur Advisory Board. The board was established in 2013 to advocate and support Lifelong Community (LLC) efforts in the City of Decatur and facilitate Decatur becoming a place where people of all ages and abilities can live for as long as they desire.

Because we're all living longer, Lifelong Decatur surveyed Decatur residents about their current and future needs to help inform LLC planning efforts. Ninety percent of the respondents were homeowners and 21% live alone. Eight out of 10 want to continue living in Decatur, citing its safety, being a good place to retire, and its valuing of older residents. They place a high value on walkability, safe sidewalks, transportation options, a wider variety of housing options, high speed internet, and senior independent living facilities. The main challenges impacting their ability to continue living at home are affordability and maintenance.

The advisory board mobilized committees and goals around these common themes: transportation/mobility, housing, affordability/ taxation and communications and marketing. She ended by encouraging us to join one of the committees, invite a board member to speak at neighborhood, civic, religious or other community organizations, and to continue the Decatur tradition of being neighborly.



President Scott Thompson presented the book, *Good Leaders Ask Great Questions* by John C. Maxwell, to be placed in the DeKalb library system in honor of the speaker's visit.

## News and Announcements

### Invocation

Given by Todd Speed

### Guests

Tim Moore, guest of Keri Powell  
Dan Branch, guest of James Cobb  
Debra Furtado, Lee Ann Harvey and Terri Kruzan, guests of club



### Family of Rotary News

Bedros Sharian, Jr. is shown in a new commercial for the Atlanta Falcons.

Todd Speed's son, Matt Speed, is heading off to Buenos Aires for a semester abroad.

Alison Weissinger's mother passed away this week.  
Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

## Announcements

Jim Jarboe announced the restart of the club's after school literacy service project. Contact him for more information about volunteering.

## Save These Dates!



### September 10: Universal Joint

[906 Oakview Rd., Oakhurst / Decatur 30030](#)

[ujointbar.com](http://ujointbar.com)

404-373-6260

### October 1: The Imperial

[726 W. College Ave. / Decatur 30030](#)

[imperialdecatur.com](http://imperialdecatur.com)

404-464-5698

## Acknowledgements

Thank you to our photographer Dr. Mark Hastings, editors Lori Ronca and Adrienne Vinson, graphic designer Marcia Lampe, reporter Rhonda Davidson and Director Alison Weissinger. Great job!

Sincerely,

The Rotary Bulletin Committee  
Decatur Rotary Club

**Directions:** Old Courthouse on the Square

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