

Meet our Speaker: District Governor, **Will Miller**

Will Miller is a retired US Navy Commander, decorated Vietnam-war combat veteran, educator, consultant, advisor, public servant, and futurist. Originally from Hampton, Virginia, Will is the oldest of three boys. His Grandfather, Elton, was the Director for Aeronautics at NASA's predecessor, NACA, and worked with the Wright brothers and Amelia Earhart. Hence Will's interest in all things space-related. Will was commissioned a US Navy Officer, and in 1968 married his wife, Gray, immediately serving two tours in the Vietnam War. His first assignment at sea was as Damage Control Officer aboard the destroyer, USS Leary (DD-879), followed by shore duty as Assistant Officer-in-Charge of Military Sealift Command operations in Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam, during a massive rocket attack on the base. Over the next 30+ years, Will's varied career included: briefer for Admirals, Generals, and White House Staff, public school teacher, obtaining a Master's in Education degree from the College of William & Mary, serving as a Civil Service (GS-13) Senior Program Analyst, community volunteer, large-business employee, and small business owner. Will has worked for Honeywell, Inc.'s Commercial Division, been a future space-systems analyst for SAIC, and served as Deputy Counter-Drug Operations Officer for US Atlantic Command in Norfolk, VA. He has been a consultant on many projects including: alternative & advanced energy systems; space weather & warfare; WW-III planning & survival, and natural and technological disaster recovery. He has held Top Secret (TS) military clearance, with Special Compartmented Information (SCI) access. Will's public service includes: American Red Cross' Mid-Atlantic Region Board Member and Disaster Response Teams Chairman; City of Belleair Bluffs Adjustment and Planning Boards; and Pinellas County's Long-term Disaster Recovery organization, "Recover Pinellas", Board of Directors. Joining Rotary in 2003, he served as a Club President, District Disaster Committee Chair, Assistant Governor for six St. Petersburg Rotary Clubs, and Board Member of the Largo Rotary Club. He was a Board Member & Chairman of Rotary's Camp Florida's Resources Development Committee, and Senior Advisor to D-6950's Disaster Preparedness & Response Committee. Will is an AMSOIL synthetic lubricants independent Certified Dealer, and a technology consultant and strategic planner for private clients. He enjoys sailing, music, and technology research. Will and his wife, Gray, live in Belleair Bluffs, Florida, and have a son who works for Boeing Aircraft Corp. with the V-22 "Osprey" program, a daughter who is a Special Education Department Head with Hillsboro Schools, and four grandchildren.



SEMINOLE SMOKE SIGNALS



ROTARY 2015-2016

Club Number 4289

September 9, 2015

PRAYER FOR TODAY: Lord, let us not forget that Your blessings are to be shared. Amen.

PROGRAM THIS WEEK: District Governor, Will Miller

PROGRAM LAST WEEK: Jo Brower, Patriot Day Memorial Breakfast

PROGRAM NEXT WEEK: Neil Brickfield, PCSO, Police Athletic League

Upcoming Events:

- Sept 10th: Auction Meeting, 5:15, IMapp office, 13035 Park Blvd
- Sept 23rd: Michael Ostrander, Pastry Chef and Educator
- Oct 3rd: Beerfest
- Nov. 14th: Auction
- Dec. 4th: Holiday Christmas Party at the Club at Treasure Island

Rotary Club of Seminole Officers 2015-2016:

President	Tim Ingold	Sergeant at Arms	Jim Woodworth
President Elect	Bob Matthews	Bulletin Editor	Jeff Graves/Ruth Berry
Secretary	Lorie Whitney	Past President	Gerry Miller
Treasurer	Mike McQuilkin		

District 6950 Website - www.rotary6950.org
Website - www.seminolerotary.org
Rotary Club of Seminole P.O. Box 3313 • Seminole, FL 33775-3313

Making a difference through Rotary Youth Exchange

When Gabriela Vessani was 12 years old, her mother took her to stay with friends in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA, for the summer.

“I loved it, so when I heard about Rotary Youth Exchange, I knew that was something I wanted to do,” says Vessani, who is an Interactor from São Paulo.

This year, Vessani participated in the program. Hosted by the Rotary Club of Waterdown, Ontario, Canada, she stayed with four families, one of which included adopted children from different parts of the world.

“They had seven children, and it was crazy for me. But I loved it,” she says. “It was such a unique experience getting to know all of my host brothers and sisters, and learning about so many cultures.”

Changing lives

Vessani and 104 other Rotary Youth Exchange students visited Rotary World Headquarters in Evanston, Illinois, in July as part of a 31-day Discover America cross-country bus trip that was a finale to the exchange experience.

“This is the best program Rotary can be involved with, because Rotary is all about changing lives,” says Vessani.

Rotary Youth Exchange has been providing intercultural exchange opportunities for secondary school students ages 15-19 since the 1920s. Students become cultural ambassadors for up to a full academic year, and the host families can help build peace and international understanding, serving one of Rotary’s six areas of focus.

Club benefits

Mike Lubelfeld, an elementary school superintendent and member of the Rotary Club of Deerfield, Illinois, spent weeks making arrangements for his club to host its first exchange student in more than two decades. In August, Leo, a 17-year-old from Indonesia, was greeted at the airport by an enthusiastic welcome committee from the club.

Varda Shah’s family was asked by a friend to host an exchange student two years ago in Mumbai. At first, family members were reluctant.



“We have just started the process and, already, there is so much excitement,” says Lubelfeld. “Working with youth of the world is one of the best ways to ensure a better future. And for our club to be able to take part in this cultural exchange is a huge opportunity that will not only benefit Leo but our members as well.”

Building self-confidence

Varda Shah’s family was asked by a friend to host an exchange student two years ago in Mumbai. At first, family members were reluctant.

“We were like, he’s a boy, he’s German, I don’t know how this is going to work,” says Shah. “But we decided to take a chance, and I never would have thought I could grow so close to someone in three months. We still Skype and connect through social media constantly and are always in touch.”

Shah decided she wanted her own exchange experience. She stayed with three host families in New York, learning about camping, tailgating at sports events, and ice hockey. But the biggest change was to her self-confidence.

“Before, I would never be able to make a conversation with a person I didn’t know,” she says. “Now, I can proudly say it isn’t like that anymore. I can go up to people. I have become more open, more mature.”

Accepting others

Juliana Kinnl of Vienna decided to follow in her older sister’s footsteps and take part in a Rotary Youth Exchange. She was hosted by two families from the Rotary Club of Newtown, Pennsylvania, and says she learned to be more accepting of other people and their differences. “Meeting exchange students from all over the world, I have grown to accept people for who they are and not to judge them because they are different,” says Kinnl. “I’ve also grown more confident in my own abilities and who I am.”

Growing bolder

Minerva Lopez Martinez of Marcia, Spain, spent her exchange in Canada, hosted by the Rotary Club of Simcoe, Ontario. She said some of her friends at home chose not to pursue an exchange because they felt they would be losing a year of schoolwork. But she has a different perspective on that.

“You have your whole life to go to school and learn. You only have one opportunity for a youth exchange,” she says. “The reason I came on the exchange is that I can be shy, and I didn’t want to be like that anymore. Now, I am trying new things, talking to people I don’t know. It has changed me a lot.”