



HOW I GOT WHERE I'M AT

Ranjay Sarda, Glenn Bouley, Christian Hidden, Graham Wilson

Chris Kemper of the How I got Where I'm At Committee brought four new members to introduce themselves to the club. As always, the program was informative and entertaining.

First up was Ranjay Sarda of the Superior Group. He hails from the northeast of India in the tea growing area and after a year in the U.S. says the two questions he gets most often have to do with technology and language. "No," he says, "I cannot fix your computer." As to why his English is so good, he noted, it's his first language and it probably is now for most Indians.



Ranjay said the two things that bring together the some 1.25 billion Indians are cricket and Bollywood. Growing up, he was not much into cricket but admits that he's joined the Cricket Club of Charlotte. Perhaps his team can bring a championship to Charlotte.

His first introduction of Rotary was back in India when a first cousin, a Rotarian, invited him to a meeting but he admits he was "much more interested in the sodas and chips" at the meeting than in the meeting itself.

Ranjay got his MBA at a university in Bangalore – which is sometimes referred to as the "Silicon Valley of India" because of its role as the nation's leading information technology (IT) exporter. He admitted that his least favorite courses dealt with human resources and he often deliberately skipped them. So, what does he do now? He works for a US company that specializes in human resources staffing and recruitment.

His company asked him to come to Charlotte a year ago to head its operations here. He admitted that networking was a weakness so he actively sharpened his skills in that area. He arrived in the Queen City knowing two people. Today, he says, he knows more than 1,200. "I don't know if they know me but I know them," he quipped.

Ranjay also said he wanted to put more emphasis on "progressive" networking – working to give back to the community – and that is a big reason for his excitement in joining Charlotte Rotary.

Glenn Bouley of the Bouley Printing Co. Inc. comes with 18 years of Rotary experience; he was formerly a member of the Fort Mill club. He grew up in Charlotte and at 19 spent 21 days in Europe visting 13 countries. He says he thinks his parents arranged the trip to cool a budding romance. Glenn attended UNC where he joined Delta Sigma Phi and

“learned to never ever drink boilermakers again.”



After graduation, he joined the family business but soon got restless and went back to Chapel Hill “to try premed.” That didn’t work so he tried traveling, joining Delta for six months in the winter in New York and six months in summer in Fort Lauderdale. Then it was back to the family business.

He took up free fall skydiving. On his second jump his suspension lines got tangled. “That was an interesting day,” he admitted. Skydiving lead to his getting his flying license, then he decided the FBI was his calling. He passed the basic requirements and was ready to move on to interviews when he decided to stay with the family business (a recurring theme).

Glenn was introduced to Rotary by the former girlfriend of a friend; she was a member of Charlotte South. There are a lot of good networking opportunities in the Charlotte area, he said, but he was attracted to Rotary because at its core Rotary wants to do good and that was something he learned from his family.

Glenn is looking forward to getting married at the Mandalay Bay Las Vegas on June 9 but there will be do boilermakers.

Christian Hidden of Pirangi Capital said he got to Charlotte by accident after growing up on a farm outside Vancouver, WA, (not B.C.) which is on the north bank of the Columbia River and the largest suburb of Portland, OR. He was home schooled and got an early introduction to giving back. His grandfather helped establish Clark College in Washington and his family has a trust which annually awards academic scholarships. He participated in the process while growing up.

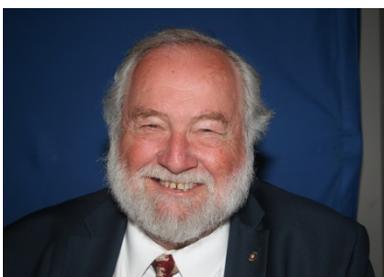


Christian attended Rose–Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, IN, and got a master’s degree in London.

From London, he came back to the U.S. and landed in West Virginia where he “never ever expected to be.” He worked for a small gas company “and loved it.” He got to visit all parts of the state. “It’s really beautiful.”

A suggestion by a West Virginia realtor led Christian to Charlotte. She suggested he should check Charlotte out. He knew nothing about the city and knew no one, but has since fallen in love with the city. He’s on the board of the Mint Museum’s Young Affiliates program.

A friend from church suggested he check out Rotary. His grandfather and uncle were Rotarians and he had met another Rotarian in London. He is pleased with his decision to become part of the club.



The final speak of the day was Graham Wilson of the Sterling Financial Group Inc. “How I got where I’m at,” Graham began. “I haven’t got a clue.” He suggested that we’re the product of our experiences which he categorized in three areas – “accidents, luck and fate,” referring to the all as “happenings.”

“All my life I’ve believe that the more I give the more I get so I truly, truly thank you for allowing me to speak today,” he said.

For Graham, coming up with a way to deal with “things he didn’t like” helped set him on the right course. He said he learned to internalize them, to turn them over and over in his mind until he found a way that he could live with them, that he liked. “That’s really helped me get through some pickles.”

The first big happening came about before he was born but he didn’t learn about it until he was in middle age. His mother told him she had thought about getting an abortion when she was pregnant. It was during WWII and she had another child. “Let me tell you, I am passionate about prolife.” And he turned that news over and over in his mind until he decided that “the big man upstairs must have big plans for him otherwise I wouldn’t be here. From that day on I just can’t wait to see what those plans are.”

Graham is an engineer and came to the U.S. to work in the space industry, but shortly after the country put men on the moon funding for space exploration was cut back and he lost his job and there were three or four years of tough times with a new wife, children and no job.

Graham was sitting in a bar in Glen Cove, NY some 50 years ago when a group of women walked in. He smiled at them and one smiled back at him. Next week, he will have been married to that young lady for 49 years. “The morale of the story is always, always, always smile at the world. Someone’s going to smile back and who knows it might be the love of your life.”

The native of Birmingham, England, was asked to join Rotary 20 years ago and he said, “It just clicked.” He said the more he gives the more he gives back. He’s made up meetings throughout the world.

Now semi-retired Graham says, “Life is good. Life is good. But remember, if I rest I rust.”

(Graham was called back to say a few words about a special Rotary project he’s working on in Ethiopia. He said there would be an article about the project in the next district newsletter.)

Speaker Write-Up: *Henry Bostic*

Head Table: *Tom Bartholomy, Christian Hidden, Chris Kemper, Glenn Bouley, Ranjay Sarda, Graham Wilson*; Invocation: *Harriman Jett*; Visitors & Guests: *Bill Bradley*; Health, Happiness & History: *Tim Newman*; AV: *Jessica Dupree, Steve Eanes*; Photos: *Bert Voswinkel*

CLUB NEWS

John Nicolay introduced **Carla DuPuy** as the club’s newest member. Carla is not a stranger to most everyone in the room. She has served numerous civic and community organizations including the Chamber, Children’s Theatre, UNC Charlotte, Charlotte Country Day, Junior League, NC Environmental Management Commission, and the list goes on and on. She is interested in the service aspect of Rotary and looks forward to making a difference. Contact Carla at carladupuy@me.com.

Eric Davis and **Kim McMillan** welcomed the Allenbrook Elementary School team and provided an overview of the work being done through our three-year commitment to help raise the literacy and academic level at this very special school. Parents and students stay engaged year round and this funding allows them to think out of the box. Allenbrook’s North Star Reading Partners program remains as one of the club’s ongoing projects, where volunteers are needed to read to a 3rd grader one hour a week.

New Member Table: Jeff Atkinson had an announcement for any new members of the club who've joined since last summer. Starting next week – and on the first Tuesday of each month – we're inviting all new members to sit together at a "New Members Table." We hope this will grow to be several tables. This is a great club and a big club. If you are new to the city/area and don't know anyone, it can be pretty intimidating trying to meet people and make connections. We hope getting together as "newbies" will help. Jeff will follow up with an email invitation.

District Conference: District 7680 has sent a flurry of email invitations to attend the District Conference April 28-30 in Greenville, SC. If you would like to attend, Sandy will be glad to walk you through the registration process.

Hotel Parking Lot: The hotel is replacing the parking gates and everyone will have to pull a ticket to enter the lot. As of Tuesday, the exact plan of how to get you out of the gate was a bit fuzzy. We'll see what happens on Tuesday.

Two members would appreciate a call or card – **Byron Bullard** fell a few weeks ago and has hurt his back. He's flat in bed with hopes of getting back to Rotary soon. **Carolyn Carlburg** had back surgery last week and will be out on a leave for several weeks. (addresses are in the Roster.)

Opera Carolina is hosting the sixth Marcello Giordani International Voice Competition. Semi-finals are April 26, 1-4pm, free and open to the public. Finals Concert on April 28, 7pm, is a ticketed event. The entire competition takes place on stage at the Belk Theater. Lots of other "offers" with this event: www.marcellogiordani-foundation.org or www.operacarolina.org. Contact: **Phil Volponi**, volponipc@gmail.com.

100 SERVICE PROJECTS *(80 completed; 203 participants; 2347 volunteer hours)*

The idea behind the commitment to complete 100 service projects is to TOUCH 100 organizations. We are starting to lap ourselves and although we can count the community service hours, we can't count the organization if we've already provided a service for them. Example: Christmas breakfast at Charlotte Rescue Mission, coat collection for Crisis Assistance, bell ringing. Do not read into this that we will not continue supporting these projects. Just that we need to identify new organizations that need something done....manpower, no funding, prefer minimum of 2 Rotarians (can be more) volunteering to make it count. I'm looking forward to your new ideas.

NEW PROJECTS *in red*

- **Hospitality House of Charlotte** provides a place to stay for families who are in medical crisis at area hospitals. They have reached out for help with household supplies. Most needed: toilet paper, dry cereal & breakfast bars, travel sized bars of shampoo & soap, sugar/coffee creamer/artificial sweetener, and paper/Styrofoam cups. Contact: **Sandy Osborne**: sandy@charlotterotary.org.

- **BBB's Annual Shredding Event** will be held Saturday, April 8, 2017 from 9am until noon. Location is in the parking lot at Charlotte Latin, 9502 Providence Road and a *couple more volunteers are needed*. Contact: **Tom Bartholomy**: tom@charlotte.bbb.org

- **Freedom School Partners** need help to supply 120 classrooms at 16 sites serving over 1,200 scholars. Items needed: basic school supplies, hygiene supplies (tissues, baby wipes, hand sanitizer), arts & crafts supplies, books & magazines (K-8 grade). Contact: **Nikki Keith**: nikki@freedom-schoolpartners.org

- **2017 PGA Championship**, Quail Hollow Country Club. Volunteers needed to help in their concession areas on August 9th. Several schedule options range from 6am-1pm, 7am-2pm; 8am-4pm, 9am-4pm, 10am-close, 11am-close. Contact: **Tim Newman**: tnewman@levineproperties.com.

ONGOING

- **Allenbrook Elementary School:** North Star Reading Partners with a commitment to read to a 3rd grade student one hour a week. **Eric Davis**: eric.davis@wellsfargo.com

- **Platelet Donation:** Register at the American Red Cross or Community Blood Center of the Carolinas to donate platelets. **75 donations to date!** **John zumBrunnen**: jzumbrunnen@zumbrunnen.com

-**American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO):** Coach, referee, board member, linesman, snack shack worker, etc. Kathy Riley at rc@ayso05.com or **Carolyn Carlburg** c.carlburg@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

07/01/2016 318

03/28/2017 318

Net Increase:

New Members: Carla DuPuy

Resignations: Lauri Eberhart, Todd Stevens, Cait Liddell, Jessica Blair

PROPOSED FOR MEMBERSHIP (comments to the Rotary office by 4/4/17)

George D. Gabel, Jr.

Holland & Knight LLP (Law, Admiralty)

Sponsor: Luther Moore

Endorsed: Leland Park and Ed Kizer

Robert B. Salmon, Jr.

George Brown Associates, Inc. (Debt Recovery, Collections)

Sponsor: Tripp Guin

Endorsed: Daryl Larner and Mark Duncan

Visitors & Guests 14

Club Members 134

Total 148 (47.8%)

Guests: Robert Salmon, Katharine Bonasera, Imogen Thomas-Williams, Ani Elizabeth Culler, George Gabel, Paul Bill, Chris Moses, Ivy Gill, Mike Clemence, Lynn Lee, Jonathan Schulz, Ray Bouley, Meghna Saboo, RJ Johnson

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS (04/06/17 – 04/12/17)

04/07 David Anderson

04/08 Bruce Darden

04/10 Russell Ranson, Karen Steffens

04/12 Mark Markanda

UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES (04/06/17 – 04/12/17)

04/06 Barbara & Graham Wilson, Kelly & Mike Wollinger, Lisa & Kelly Mirt

04/07 Vicki & Peter Brunnick

04/12 Ada & John Nicolay, Penny & Steve Eanes

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

04/04 – Kevin Poet, Head of Plant Operations, Siemens

04/11 – Mark W. Boyce, True Homes: Building a company culture that produces success

04/18 – Club Social – SMS Catering (evening meeting)

04/25 – International Youth Exchange Program (Franzi & Yseult)

Photos from our luncheons and other events can be found on **Flickr** [Click here](#)



Rotary
Club of
Charlotte



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