



July 11, 2017

TOUSSAINT ROMAIN

What Are You Going to do With Your Brick?



Toussaint Romain, Assistant Public Defender, Adjunct Professor at UNC Charlotte, community leader and “The Guy in the White Shirt,” silenced the room (you could have heard a pin drop) as he stood at the podium, holding a red brick in his right hand. He quietly told us how he had seen a brick cause irreversible damage during the Rodney King incident in Los Angeles in 1992. He talked about visiting Dachau in 1992 and experiencing the anguish of seeing the brick ovens where so many spent their last moments and he talked about the tumultuous days following the death of Keith Lamont Scott in Charlotte in 2016. “A brick can destroy or it can create, he said, smash windows or build a hospital to care for the sick.” And then he asked us to consider his words a call to action to help make Charlotte, our community, a better place for all.

Using bricks as a metaphor for building a better community, Romain described bricks as the cornerstone, an essential element, of building a structure. They constitute the foundation, the base for building a community that is predicated on justice for all. They are woven into the fabric of a community and are the building blocks to a comfortable lifestyle, safe living conditions, and stability. Each of us are the bricks in our community and world.

The Four Way Test provides a guideline for how we might use our bricks—with truth, justice, deeper relationships and mutual benefits. As Rotarians, Toussaint says that the foundation of our organization is built on community service, education and knowledge, and relationships. He cited an example of how Rotarians have used their bricks to solve a problem in the world: the ongoing battle to eradicate polio. As an organization, we have used our bricks worldwide to heal and create; how can we use them to make Charlotte a better city for all?

And, how are you going to use your brick to make Charlotte a better place?

Speaker Write-Up: *Suzanne Bledsoe*

Head Table: *Don Steger, Katie Tyler, John Nicolay, Herb Harriss*; Invocation: *David Anderson*; Visitors & Guests: *Bill Bradley*; Photos: *Sandy Osborne*; Piano: *Em Syrewicze*

CLUB NEWS

Michael Elder introduced **Chris Jackson** as the club's first new member of the Rotary year. Chris joined Goodwill Industries of the Southern Piedmont in 2010 and was named President & CEO in May 2017. Michael officially retired as Goodwill's president & CEO in June. Chris is from Washington, DC and he and wife, Renee, have three (grown) children. He is very active in the community and connects strongly to the mission of Service Above Self. Be sure to add chris.jackson@goodwillsp.org to your Rotary roster. Welcome!

Health concerns in our Rotary family: Norma Burgess (**Tom's** wife and **Katie's** mom) fell last week and broke her left wrist and left hip and is in rehab; remember **Tom Robertson** as he works through his treatments for cancer; **Alexandra Myrick's** husband emailed this morning to say Alexandra had a very bad bicycle accident and was in intensive care over the last 48 hours. She has just been moved to a regular room and has suffered a broken clavicle, fractured skull, bleeding on the brain, and lots of scrapes and bruises. Lots of well wishes and prayers for all.

Thanks to **Bill Loftin** (Loftin & Company) for his work on the club's membership roster. Copies will be available for pick up over the next few Rotary meetings.

14th Annual Rotary Scholarship Golf Classic will be held October 17 at Ballantyne Golf Club. Proceeds from the tournament provide four-year renewable college scholarships to help educate children of our Fire, Police, Medic and Sheriff. The application and credit card slip can be found at www.charlotterotary.org (click on the Events tab). Thanks to Bill Gill and Luther Fincher for their work to organize this event. President Katie personally asked every club member to support this stellar tournament in some way. Hats off to the first team that's signed up – **Bryan Adams, Chris Kemper, Steve Meckler** and **Bill Bradley**.

Chase Saunders is looking for volunteers to help register kids for the AYSO soccer program that will be kicking off at Starmount Elementary. The date is August 30 & 31; 2-3 hour shifts; bilingual would be very helpful. A lot of time, resources and money have been put into this project and it is taking shape. Your support is critical to the success of this program. Chase (chase@chasesaunders.com) or Carolyn (c.carlburg@gmail.com).

100 SERVICE PROJECTS (90 completed; 212 participants; 2563 volunteer hours)

10 more service projects to complete. 2 new ones are below and there is an update from Mark Norman on locating a vehicle. **Tim Newman's** group of 11 volunteers during the PGA will be completed in August, bringing us to just 9 more projects to complete our goal.

- **NEW:** The Salvation Army has partnered with Denali Moose Track Ice Cream and Mayfield Creamery and will be serving FREE ice cream on Wednesday, **July 27**, 11am to 3pm on the corner of Trade & Tryon. Let me know if you participate in this effort, which brings a \$1 contribution to The Salvation Army for each scoop of ice cream. How easy is this!

- **NEW:** Most are aware of the Flight of Honor program, which was a huge effort to fly WWII Veterans to Washington to see their memorial. It's BACK and the first flight (under the name of Queen City Honor Flight) will be **October 7**, 2017. Rotarian Stephanie Bradley, who is a past president of the Lake Norman/Huntersville Rotary Club, is coordinating the flight, which is actually in memory of her father Ronald who passed away a couple years ago. Stephanie is looking for a few things: first of all, Veterans and they can be WWII, Korean, and Vietnam or from any conflict suffering a life-limiting

condition. She needs Guardians to assist the Veterans. She needs a secretary and treasurer to serve on the Queen City Honor Flight Board of Directors. For now, applications can be downloaded at blueridgehonorflight.com. Do not use the Asheville address that's on the form – return applications to Queen City Honor Flight, 17153 Doe Valley Court, Cornelius NC 28031. Stephanie is glad to answer your questions and can be reached at stephbradley1976@gmail.com. Several from Charlotte Rotary participated in the 2009 flights and it continues to be one of the top projects I've ever been associated with.

- **24 Hour of Booty Events – July 28 & 29.** Click [THIS LINK](#) for volunteer information. Contact: **Rhonda York:** ryork@teamwidesolutions.com.

- **Vehicle Needed:** Motivated by the recent race relations dialogue involving numerous Charlotte Rotarians, Mark Norman has partnered with a recent BofA retiree to adopt a family and help them break the cycle of poverty. This includes relocation, change of schools, child care and more. The 5 person family is in need of a donated reliable vehicle. If you are aware of a reliable vehicle that could be made available to this family, please contact **Mark Norman:** mark.norman@jwu.edu. **UPDATE –** currently considering a rebuild of a transmission for a 1999 Lexus SUV; cost around \$2500+; about \$600 has been raised to date.

- **Florence Crittenton** has offered several opportunities: serving a meal (can bring a meal or serve what the staff has prepared); facilitate a game day, planting in their garden, seal wooden decking, reading to children. Contact: Sarah Hyde, shyde@fcsnc.org. **Terri DeBoo,** terri@terrیدهoo.com.

- **Dilworth Soup Kitchen** provides a hot, home-cooked lunch every Monday to those in need. All food is donated and an all-volunteer team preps, serves and cleans-up. Housed in the Fellowship Hall of First Christian Church, 1200 East Blvd, volunteers are needed to pick up donated food on Saturday and Sunday nights, and Sunday mornings, at three locations: Trader Joe's Metropolitan, Harrisburg Food Lion and Trader Joe's Mallard Creek. Heavy lifting and a medium to large SUV to pick-up are necessary. Contact: **Tom Fedell,** tomfedell@gmail.com.

-**Platelet Donation:** Register at the American Red Cross or Community Blood Center of the Carolinas to donate platelets. 80 donations to date! **John zumBrunnen:** jzumbrunnen@zumbrunnen.com.

MEMBERSHIP

07/01/2017	309
07/11/2017	309
Net Increase:	
New Members: Chris Jackson	
Resignations: Harry Daugherty (deceased)	
Visitors & Guests	28
Club Members	148
Total	176 (56.3%)

Guests: Robin Sullivan, Danielle Newkirk, Drew Heath, Ryan Herbin, Blake Shell, Mahlek Pothemont, Robert Mackey, Anusree Venkatesh, Jackie Cunningham, Lynn Lee, Beverly Stevenson, Brittany Stone, Andrew Paustian, Vanessa Vaughn, Ella Hoyle, Howard Hoyle, III, Howard Hoyle, Joro Paulo, Lorena Prince, Rodrigo Borges Lins, Monique

Tesfilo, Joseph Giordano, Alexandra Gailey, Patrick Arnold, Elizabeth McKee, Caitlin Cornwell, Mike Walker, Zaman Rashid

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS (07/13/17 – 07/19/17)

07/13 Herb Harriss
07/14 Jerry Bryson
07/15 Erskine Harkey
07/16 John Snyder, Bob Moore
07/17 Tom Cottingham, Peirce Ward
07/19 Kay Peninger

UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES (07/13/17 – 07/19/17)

07/13 Marilyn & Bob Bowler
07/19 Joy & Ken Poe

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

07/18 Robert Bush, Arts & Science Council
07/25 Chris Elmore, AVID Xchange
08/01 Dr. Grant Thompson, Wingate University

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





Rotary
Club of
Charlotte



charlotterotary.org 704.375.6816
1850 East 3rd Street | Suite 220 | Charlotte, NC 28204 USA
Rotary Club of Charlotte