

Rotary
Club of
Charlotte



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

July 11, 2023

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Molly Grantham – A Mermaid-In-The- Making

by **Marilynn Bowler**

The news anchor so many of us watch faithfully each evening on WBTV News spoke candidly to Charlotte Rotary members - with frequent touches of humor - about her twenty years on-air at Charlotte's oldest and most esteemed television station.

Molly Grantham ~ wife, mother of three young children, public speaker, published author, four-time award-winning journalist, and founder of a pediatric non-profit network ~ shared her career steps from November 10, 2003 when she joined WBTV as an investigative reporter through her amazing journey into the present where she is – and has been for four years - the solo anchor female of the eleven p.m. news. That feat is not only unique and rare in TV-land but a huge testament to her skills and talent as a broadcast pro. We've learned to trust her to deliver us the latest and most factual news every single evening, secure in knowing she has checked and confirmed the news she presents. When Molly gives us the news, we know it's been researched and found to be true.

Part of what we saw and heard from Molly as she spoke was her deep love of Charlotte as evidenced via her choice to remain here, and her commitment to the Charlotte community demonstrated by her public service. She gives generously of her personal time to promote worthwhile charitable and civic causes that are helpful to others. So often she's at the MIC at large and small events, helping to raise awareness and dollars for organizations which assist the entire spectrum of people in our city.

She shared a typical day in the life of TV anchor Molly Grantham. From her early afternoon arrival, through taping promos, writing intros, updating the current news stories, verifying the news, and then presenting it on-air, Molly is the epitome of what television news anchors should be. "I love all of it!" she told us.

Molly spoke of the changing landscape of the media and then segued into hints on getting your story told on-air which she noted is best accomplished by building relationships with on-air broadcasters. "Reach out," she told us. "It's easy to get in touch with us through phone calls or emails."

She easily responded to questions from the audience about decisions made on how and when the station presents "good" and "bad" news. She spoke poignantly of the horrific helicopter crash in November which killed two of her colleagues at WBTV and she shared how much she - and others at the station - appreciate Charlotte's loving and caring reaction. She closed with comments on how society has changed the delivery of news, citing the addition of the internet, Twitter, and other social media. And, finally, she read a beautiful passage from *SMALL VICTORIES*, one of her two published books (the other is *THE JUGGLE IS REAL*) which reinforced that she is, indeed, not only a hands-on mother but a skillful writer who can put us right in the moment in the stories she writes. (Molly is currently writing the third in the trilogy.) On that note, she left us laughing and wishing for more.

Molly Grantham is a superb representative of television's finest. She is a star at WBTV and also in OUR lives as her huge fans.

Best of all, Molly hopes to be a mermaid in her next life.
I think she'll make it!

*A recording of the program is available here: <https://vimeo.com/844350195>
The program introduction begins at 21:55 minutes.