

**Rotary**  
Club of  
Charlotte



# REPORTER

March 8, 2016

## **Dr. Shimon Gibson** **Archeologist on the City of Jerusalem**



Images of archeological discoveries in Jerusalem – including one from the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC – mesmerized Rotarians Tuesday.

Presenting them was a former British child actor who at 6 asked Joan Collins to marry him. Her response? “Come back in 20 years.”

Dr. Shimon Gibson spoke and narrated slides. One included the image of a stone cup from the first century. Its cryptic writing can be deciphered well enough to discern that it is a letter to God. The only other find with similar cryptic script is the Dead Sea Scrolls.

“The love of my life is the history and archeology of Jerusalem,” Gibson said.

Gibson’s connection to Charlotte is that he is a visiting professor of archeology for the spring semester in the UNC Charlotte History Department. Through him, UNC Charlotte is the only university in the world outside Israel with permission to work on archeological excavations in Jerusalem.

An Israeli archeologist with whom he worked as a teenager in the 1970s decided to pass his Jerusalem excavations on to Gibson. The digging opportunity came to UNC Charlotte along with its agreement for Gibson to be a visiting professor.

UNC Charlotte has been a major sponsor of archeological explorations at Mt. Zion, where Gibson met John Snyder while Snyder was visiting the Holy Land last November. Snyder introduced Gibson, calling him a modern day Indiana Jones.

Gibson showed slides of his excavations within the ancient city, which became a virtual ghost village after indiscriminate slaughter by invading Crusaders in 1099. One image showed Jerusalem’s Jaffa Gate as it appeared in the 1880s in the first color photograph made in the city, and contrasted that to how it looks today.

Some of the artifacts Gibson and his team are uncovering “are quite amazing,” he said, adding they are lucky that the Armenian Museum has agreed to store them under lock and key.

Some may end up in a Charlotte museum, however, for practical reasons. Israeli law stipulates the artifacts ultimately must be turned over to the government. But the Israelis can’t find enough storage space.

Known internationally as a senior associate fellow at the W.F. Albright Institute of

Archaeological Research, Gibson since 2000 has headed the Archeology Department of the University of the Holy Land in Jerusalem.

He started investigating historic visual representations of Jerusalem while completing his doctorate in Landscape Archeology in the Southern Levant. For this, he studied at the Institute of Archeology, University of London. He has spent the last two decades on excavations and surveys in Israel, including the southern desert region.

Gibson plans a dig in an area that includes part of the palace for King Herod the Great as well as the Praetorian where Jesus faced Pilate.

“We want to make this one of the best archeological explorations that have ever taken place in Jerusalem,” he said. “We’re doing that to explore the past that belongs to all of us, whether Jewish, Christian or Moslem.

Speaker Write Up: Elly Clary; Head Table: Angela Mauldin, Jerry Coughter, Tom Bartholomy, John Snyder, Tony Zeiss, Lee Tabor; Invocation: Meg McElwain; AV: Jessica Dupree & Nikki Keith; Visitors & Guests: Ty Hands; Song: Steve Eanes; Health, Happiness & History: Natalie English

## **CLUB NEWS**

Club members offer sympathy to **Elly Clary** and family upon the death of his mother, Betty Clary, who passed away March 3, 2016. The family will receive friends from 12:30-1:30 on March 14<sup>th</sup> at Wilson Funeral & Cremation Service and the funeral will follow in the chapel.

**Leland Park** will continue rehab at The Oaks for another week or so (12019 Verhoeff Dr., Huntersville, NC 28078); **Vernon Anderson** returned to Rotary this week after battling health issues over the last five months; **Chase Saunders** retired from McNair Law Firm; **Natalie English** touched on all that’s going on with the club’s Centennial: gala on 12/1/16 at the Charlotte Convention Center; fund raising is underway and everyone has an opportunity to participate; Charlotte Business Journal will tell the story of Charlotte Rotary’s 100 year impact; and the first (expecting additional benches) bench will be placed at the BB&T Ballpark.

**Tony Zeiss** extended an invitation to attend the fifth Global Competitiveness Summit at CPCC’s Harris Conference Center on March 23, 7:30a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Visit [www.cpcc.edu/global](http://www.cpcc.edu/global) for additional information.

APPROVE FOR MEMBERSHIP (comments to the Rotary Office by 3/15/16)

George H. Edmiston, Jr.

Carolinas Investment Consulting (Investments, Consulting)

Sponsor: Frank Martin

Endorsed: Ken Poe, Street Brewer

## **100 SERVICE PROJECTS**

Everyone’s help is needed to (1) volunteer and (2) recommend a project. REMEMBER to report your volunteer hours to the Rotary office.

**REMINDER of this weekend’s tree planting project: March 12:** District 7680 will partner with TreesCharlotte to plant 350 trees at Cochrane Middle School, 6200 Starhaven Drive, between 9AM and Noon (rain or shine). Tools, water & LUNCH (**SMS Catering**) will be provided. Volunteers should bring gloves and extra shoes (pretty muddy out there); wear long sleeve shirts, long pants and closed-toed shoes. 200 volunteers are

needed...Rotarians, Rotaract, Interact, family, friends, and children! **Phil Volponi** will be coordinating volunteers for Charlotte Rotary or you can sign up here: <http://treescharlotte.org/event/devonshire-elementary-and-cochrane-academy-treeday-event/>

- **April 15:** Green Teacher Network – Native Plant Pollinator Garden planting day: 2 volunteers per school (10 schools) for approximately 2 hours – contact Carolyn Carlburg, [c.carlburg@gmail.com](mailto:c.carlburg@gmail.com) for sign-up.

- **April 21:** Lakewood Preschool Cooperative luncheon 11:30 – 1:00, Wood Hall at First Presbyterian Church. Bill Loftin is serving as a table host. Anyone serving as a table host will count toward the 100 service project totals. [bill@loftinco.com](mailto:bill@loftinco.com).

- Allenbrook Elementary School (on-going): North Star Reading Partners with a commitment to read to a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student one hour a week. Eric Davis: [eric.davis@wellsfargo.com](mailto:eric.davis@wellsfargo.com).

- Platelet Donation (on-going): Register at the American Red Cross or Community Blood Center of the Carolinas to donate platelets.

### COMING UP

- **May 13-15:** District Conference at the Renaissance Hotel in Asheville. Registration opens at 3PM; opening reception at 6PM. Adjourn by lunch time Sunday AM. Conference registration available on database (Sandy can get you registered) before April 1 - \$100 per person (after April 1 - \$150 per person); Renaissance Hotel reservations \$159 per night; 1-800-468-3571. All are invited to attend.

### UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS (03/09/16 – 03/16/16)

03/10 David Veach, Luther Fincher  
03/11 Tim Chappell  
03/12 Bill Bartee  
03/13 Sam Ryburn, Dumont Clarke  
03/14 Fred Wagner  
03/15 Tony Lathrop  
03/16 Bill Loftin

### UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES (03/09/16 – 03/16/16)

03/11 Bonnie & Wes Jones  
03/14 Sandi & Hank Donaghy  
03/15 Cathy & Martin Grable

Visitors & Guests	23
Club Members	162
Total	185
Percentage	58.3%

### MEMBERSHIP

06/30/2015	319
03/01/2016	311
Net Increase:	-8

*New Members:*

*Resignations:*

Visitors: Parker Haynes, Ann Clausen, David Clausen, Doug Banez, Steve Hockfield, George Edminston, Von Clemans, Bill Marchant, Pen Peery, Bob Cooper, Richard Simmons, Lindsey McAlpine, Rob Hayden, Stephani Tucker, Bryan Taylor, Hugo Jaramille, Madine Fails, Marie Loudin, Sheila Bishop, Elizabeth Teagarden, Jim Hintz, Marty McCarthy, Linwood Bolles

## **UPCOMING LUNCHEONS**

([www.charlotterotary.org](http://www.charlotterotary.org) and click on the events tab)

03/15 – John Silva, Chief Economist, Wells Fargo

03/22 - Neale Bayly, TV Personality of Motorcycle Travels from 50 Countries & Co-Host of My Classic Car, “Experiences from travels around the world with billionaires to bank robbers”

03/29 – Anthony Foxx, U.S. Secretary of Transportation

04/05 – Sheriff Irwin Carmichael

04/12 – Don Brown, US Navy JAG Officer and Author

04/19 – Dr. Richard White, Chief of Oncology Surgery, CMC

04/26 – June Atkinson, NC Superintendent of Education

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

(Sorry....no pictures this week)



[charlotterotary.org](http://charlotterotary.org) 704.375.6816  
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