

Rotary
Club of
Charlotte



REPORTER

December 6, 2016

JOHN FALKENBURY

USO Show Troupe



More than 150 Rotarians and guests stood clapping to a patriotic country tune sung by four artists from the USO New York. The audience favored the troupe with four standing ovations during Tuesday's musical revue.

The USO Show Troupe with members from across the United States was on a whirlwind tour of North Carolina with stops at Cherry Point, Charlotte, Fort Bragg, Camp Lejeune and other spots. In military-themed costumes, they performed to recorded music and sported snappy choreography to complement fine-tuned voices.

Inspiring the audience's rhythmic clapping was "Where the Stars & Stripes & the Eagle Fly," a number that closed the set. The cast of three women and one man opened with "America the Beautiful."

Sandwiched between those anthems, the troupe performed five holiday standards, including "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year," "Winter Wonderland," "Santa Baby," "Jingle Bells," and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." The middle tune was notable for each of the three young female singers picking a different Rotarian "Santa Baby" to favor with a close-up, tongue-in-cheek serenade.

The troupe was in the Queen City to perform a "Salute to the Troops 2016" Tuesday evening in partnership with the Charlotte World Trade Association. The theme of that event was "Force Behind the Forces – Heroes Among Us."

Rotarian Tim Chappell of the Charlotte World Trade Association introduced John Falkenbury of Concord, a retired US Army lieutenant colonel, who has served as president and chief operating officer of the USO of North Carolina since 2009.

In his preface to the revue, Falkenbury told Rotary the USO is celebrating its 75th anniversary. The association, whose initials stand for United Service Organizations, was established by President Franklin Roosevelt who encouraged consolidation of six groups serving military personnel. The Jacksonville, NC, center opened in December 1941 and is the world's oldest operating USO.

Though famous for entertaining troops, the USO is much more than singing and dancing, Falkenbury said. With centers in and near Jacksonville, Charlotte, Fayetteville and Raleigh-Durham, the USO of North Carolina provides a full-range of support initiatives. These include critical resiliency, transition assistance, Fallen and Wounded Warrior escorts, holiday feasts, job fairs, financial literacy, literacy programs for children of military personnel and extensive morale-building activities.

The quartet that appeared for Charlotte Rotary was part of a diverse group of 65 professional male and female performers with Broadway credits that include "Hamilton" and "Les Miserables" and many other well-known shows. Members have shared a stage with famous entertainers such as Katy Perry, Darius Rucker, Blake Shelton and Tony Orlando, among many others.

Speaker Write-Up: *Elly Clary*

Head Table: *Sandra James, Natalie English, Tim Chappell, John Snyder, Will Barnhardt*;
Invocation: *Chris Thomas*; Visitors & Guests: *John Cantrell*; AV: *Steve Eanes & Nikki Keith*;
Photos: *Bert Voswinkel*; Piano: *Em Syrewicze*

CLUB NEWS

Two new members were introduced this week. **President Natalie** introduced **Robbie Kirk**, who is associate vice president/Charlotte office manager for SEPI Engineering & Construction. Reach out to Robbie at Robbie.m.kirk@gmail.com. Next up was **Stephanie Hinrichs** to introduce **Ranjay Sarda**. Ranjay is a senior manager of business development for Superior Group. Ranjay was born in Siliguri India and relocated to the USA within this past year with his wife, Meghna. Welcome Ranja – sardar@superiorgroup.com.

Charlotte Evening Rotary Club is selling Christmas wreaths for \$20 and \$25 with a customized handmade bow. Place an order online at www.queencitywreathsale.com. Once the order is processed, a club member will personally deliver them within 48 hours.

Charlotte End-of-the-Week Rotary Club is hosting an Evening of Jazz and Silent Auction on Saturday, December 10th. Reception 7pm; Show at 8pm. The House That Rocks, 553 Indian Trail Rd South, Indian Trail, NC. \$25 per person included hors d'oeuvres & wine and the opportunity to win door prizes. www.cltendoftheweekrotary.org. Proceeds to support the Humanitarian School Adelia Felix, Tabarre, Haiti.

Friends of Alto Cayma: Jim Hintz would like to remind people of the opportunity to send a donation for Those Who Have Nothing so that no one will be left out on what should be the most joyous of holidays in Alto Cayma Peru. Donations can be written to Advent Peru Mission Support, with Those Who Have Nothing (or TWHN) on the memo line, and mail to Susan Hartsell, 2900 South Devon St., Charlotte 28213.

APPROVE FOR MEMBERSHIP (comments to Rotary office by 12/13/16)

Van Hall

Hewlett Packard (retired) (Computer Services)

Sponsor: Wil Bosbyshell

Endorsed: Chris Kemper and Greg Sizemore



A Century of Service

The Rotary Club of Charlotte celebrated 100 years of service December 1, 2016. The Gala held at the Charlotte Convention Center was a spectacular event that was enjoyed by about 300 people. President Natalie recognized committee chairs that have worked on this event for the last three years and thanked them by awarding points to bring them to their next level Paul Harris Fellow. Those receiving pins were **Catherine Browning** and **Marilynn Bowler** (Gala); **Kim Brattain**, **George Cochran** and **Kim McMillan** (Centennial film); **Nancy McNelis** (Marketing); **Terri DeBoo** and **Jill Santuccio** (Public Art Work); **Natalie English** and **Mac McCarley** (Co-Chairs); and **Sandy Osborne**. Every committee member (*and there were lots of them*) that supported this effort is to be commended. George Cochran

worked with a talented team of students over the last year to document the club's history. It is a piece of work that every club member should be extremely proud of. George has generously produced 99 CDs of the film that the club will sell for \$25. Pictures from the gala ([Click here](#)) have been loaded on the club's Flickr account and about 50 more of Bert's shots will be added to the folder this week. President Natalie reminded everyone of the commitment to complete 100 service projects and said our work is not done yet. Get involved; make a difference; be proud of this club and all Rotary stands for. It's an opportunity you don't want to miss. An insert that outlines the history and work of the club will be included in the Charlotte Business Journal's distribution within the next week or so – be on the lookout for this publication.

100 SERVICE PROJECTS

NEW PROJECTS in red

- **Children's Theatre Charlotte:** Volunteers needed for Santa's, elves, and cashiers for Santa's Bag (through 12/3/16); ushers for the holiday show (11/25 – 12/23/16).
Elves: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0c49a4ac29abf85-santas>
Cashier: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0b4aaca62ba46-santas2>
Santa: <https://m.signupgenius.com/#/showSignUp/10c0f4baea82aa46-2016>
Coordinating/questions: David Head, david.head@us.gt.com

- **Rotary Holiday Program:** Ed Pickett has volunteered to coordinate the club's Holiday program on December 22. Contact Ed at: Edward.pickett@raymondjames.com

- **Christmas Morning Breakfast served at Charlotte Rescue Mission:** 55 volunteers are needed between 5:45am – 8:30am. Coordinating/questions: Joe Penner, jpenner@medic911.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. **63 donations to date!**

- **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

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS (12/14/16 – 12/21/16)

12/16 Sheila Cox, Jim Rogers
12/18 John Tabor
12/19 Ed Wadsworth, Laura Thomas
12/20 Wes Clark
12/21 Cait Liddell

UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES (12/14/16 – 12/21/16)

12/16 Christen & Matthew Greer
12/17 Malinda & Bob Freeman
12/19 Norma & Tom Burgess, Alexandra & Alex Myrick
12/20 Kristi & Jerry Walters

MEMBERSHIP

07/01/2016	318
12/06/2016	321
Net Increase:	+3

New Members: Robbie Kirk, Ranjay Sarda

Resignations: Sean Preston

Visitors & Guests	17
Club Members	153
Total	170 (54.6%)

GUESTS: Danielle Newkirk, Michael Warner, Leslie Rivers, Lynn Lee, Libby Simonini, Connie Dorn Rist, Will Manning, Tom Waskow, Megan Grady, Ellyn Brotherton, Kathy Bull, Tom Klecker

UPCOMING LUNCHEONS

(www.charlotterotary.org and click on the events tab)

12/13 - Phil DuBois, Chancellor, UNC Charlotte

12/20 – Holiday Program

12/27 – How I Got Where I’m At (Irwin Carmichael, Jeff Atkinson, Pete Brunnick, Parker Cains)

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

