

**Rotary**  
Club of  
Charlotte



# REPORTER

July 18, 2017

## **ROBERT BUSH**

**Arts & Science Council**



The president of the Arts & Science Council took Charlotte Rotarians on a whirlwind history of the growth in the community's cultural arts which has become the envy and a guiding beacon for other communities throughout the nation.

Robert Bush, a Hickory native and Appalachian State University graduate, arrived in Charlotte 33 years ago as the first development director of the Mint Museum of Art.

"Not unlike today," Bush noted, "Charlotte had a lot of new cultural baubles. Discovery Place was sparkling new and had just hosted its first blockbuster exhibit, the Muppets.... Spirit Square was still new and Spirit Square was changing the performing art and visual arts scene."

"Charlotte was a different place then," said Bush, a nationally known leader in the local arts agency community. "However, I soon learned that Charlotte was a city that loved big ideas, just like we do to this day."

In the mid-1970s, Bush noted, Charlotte "civic and business leaders determined that development of our cultural sector would become the driver to separate use from our competitor cities and spur economic development."

That, said Bush, resulted in the first of four cultural action plans which have guided the growth of the cultural arts, science and history sector since. That plan led to two critical steps which solidified the public-private partnership that "defines us across the world," he said: cultural facility development on North Tryon Street would become Charlotte's Cultural District and the Charlotte Arts Fund (established in 1958 by the Chamber of Commerce) was reinvented as the Arts & Science Council.

"In many respects," the veteran not-for-profit leader said, "the reinventions that the ASC has undergone in its nearly 60 years of existence mirror the development and growth of Charlotte-Mecklenburg."

"Our first reinvention focused on building cultural facilities and ASC into a national force.

"The second focused on increased giving from the private sector, including endowment giving, increased local government support, privatizing the Mint Museum (once a city department) and taking the first steps in addressing issues of diversity.

"The third focused on a new public art program, increased programming efforts in suburban and underserved communities and bringing history into the mission of ASC.

“And now, the fourth is about engaging residents, local government and business in our work to ensure that every citizen of Charlotte-Mecklenburg has access to excellent, relevant, and sustainable cultural community.

“I may be biased,” Bush said, “but I think this reinvention may be the best yet.”

In answer to a question from a club member, Bush said the ASC hasn’t had blackout periods when art organizations cannot raise funds for themselves while the major unified campaign is under way for more than a decade.

Although Charlotte’s unified fundraising approach was successful for many decades, it has had to change, Bush said. Other communities let the organizations drive fundraising.

Said Bush, “I often say that people don’t come to Charlotte to see an Arts Council. They come to Charlotte to see great museums, great theater, great music, and great dance. We need to be more of a driver in the background.”

Bush used the analogy of the Duke Endowment. ASC is there but you don’t see it. You just see the results.

When Bush began his remarks, he noted that he has family connections to Rotary. A niece’s post-graduate studies in England were funded by a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship. That same niece just completed a year as president of the Rotary Club of Wall Street where she was named Rotarian of the Year. She is currently involved with Rotary at the United Nations.

“At least I feel like a Rotary relative,” he quipped.

Speaker Write-Up: *Henry Bostic*

Head Table: *Susan Evans, Katie Tyler, Edwin Peacock, Ed Syrewicze*; Invocation: *Mike Hawley*; Visitors & Guests; *Charlie Bones*; Photos: *Bert Voswinkel*

## CLUB NEWS

Welcome new Rotarians. **Bill Gill** introduced **Howard Hoyle, Jr.**, who is actually sponsored by **Ronnie Bryant**. Howard is president of HHJ Construction, Inc. (Construction, Business Development) and his company provides janitorial, construction clean-up, final clean and interior up-fit. Reach out to Howard at [president@hhjconstruction.com](mailto:president@hhjconstruction.com). Next up was **Biff Virkler** to introduce **Johnny Laub**. Johnny owns Atlantic Construction Solutions (Construction, Restoration), a locally owned and operated roofing company and can be reached at [laub.solutions@gmail.com](mailto:laub.solutions@gmail.com).

**President Katie** shared the message that Rotary International President-Elect, Sam Owori, passed away following a complication from a surgical procedure. After this sudden loss, which is the first time something like this has happened, RI finds itself in the unusual position of seeking another individual to lead the 1.2 million member organization beginning July 1, 2018. The nominating committee is in place and the process to handle this situation is governed by RI Bylaws. The committee is expected to name the new President-Elect in September, 2017.

**Mark Markanda** has received Retirement Income Certified Professional (RICP) designation from the American College of Financial Services; **President Katie** announced plans to reinstate the Better Business Bureau updates, Health Happiness & History, and Rotary Moments on a rotational basis.

A very successful Seminar for Tomorrow's Leaders (SFTL) was conducted at Davidson College over the weekend. Thanks to **Fae Shaffer** for her leadership of this program and to **John Luebke & Carla DuPuy** for their involvement over the four days.

**Bill Constangy** and family welcome the birth of their second grandson, Henry David, born July 5 to his daughter, Mary and her husband Eric. All are healthy and well.

Angela Wagner had to drop out of the club a few months ago to be with her son who had been diagnosed with Leukemia. A good-news follow up is that they are still working to get his blood counts in the normal range, but he is feeling much better. He has taken summer classes to make up for all that he missed and graduated from high school last week. He plans to become a firefighter.

Updates: **Alexandra Myrick** is out of the hospital and improving. Still in pain and very tired, but the doctors believe she is out of danger and will recover fully. She is very appreciative for your notes and prayers. **Tom Robertson** has completed chemo and for now has moved into the Stewart Care Center at the Cypress Club for rehab. **Norma Burgess** is improving and feeling better. **Marilynn Bowler's** daughter, Julie, is hospitalized.

Sandra & **Luther Moore** participated in a Rotary Friendship Exchange to India last February. See below for a link to the blog written by Kam Chandan, team member and past-president of the Rotary Club of Lake Norman/Huntersville. "In February, I had the opportunity to lead our first outbound friendship exchange to my home away from home – India. [Rotary Friendship Exchange](#) is an international exchange program for Rotary members and friends that allow participants to take turns hosting one another in their homes and clubs. Exchanges offer unique chances for cultural immersion and interchange. [Read more of this post.](#)"

Reminder that the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Rotary Scholarship Golf Classic will be held October 17 at Ballantyne Golf Club.

**Chase Saunders** has 11 volunteers lined up to help register kids for the AYSO soccer program that will be kicking off at Starmount Elementary. There is always room for more! 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](mailto:chase@chasesaunders.com)) or Carolyn ([c.carlburg@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:mark.norman@jwu.edu). **UPDATE –** currently considering a rebuild of a transmission for a 1999 Lexus SUV; cost around \$2500+; about \$700 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](mailto:shyde@fcsnc.org). **Terri DeBoo,** [terri@terrideboo.com](mailto:terri@terrideboo.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](mailto:tomfedell@gmail.com).

- **Platelet Donation:** Register at the American Red Cross or Community Blood Center of the Carolinas to donate platelets. **UPDATE - 73** donations (**not 80**) to date. Donations have fallen off in the last 3 months and not meeting the goal of 100 donations will jeopardize this effort. Contact: **John zumBrunnen:** [jzumbrunnen@zumbrunnen.com](mailto:jzumbrunnen@zumbrunnen.com).

## MEMBERSHIP

07/01/2017 309  
07/18/2017 309

Net Increase:

New Members: Chris Jackson, Johnny Laub, Howard Hoyle, Jr.

Resignations: Harry Daugherty (deceased), Claire Fallon, Angela Mauldin

Visitors & Guests 17  
Club Members 144  
Total 161 (52.6%)

Guests: Bernie Petit, Krista Terrell, Lynn Lee, Steve Israel, Ann Davis, Beverly Stevenson, David Sercy, Bo Dickens, Joe Giordano, Leasa Zelaska, Howard Hoyle, III, Ella Hoyle, Joy Davis, Denise Hallett, Mike DeAmicis, Margaret Marshall

**UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS (07/19/17 – 07/26/17)**

07/19 Kay Peninger  
07/20 Larry Broome  
07/21 Bob Brietz, John Phillips  
07/26 Bill Nichols

**UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES (07/19/17 – 07/26/17)**

07/19 Joy & Ken Poe  
07/21 Judith & George Gabel  
07/22 Sandra & Ronnie Bryant  
07/23 Peggy & Louis Watts  
07/25 Tracy & Brian Huber  
07/26 Debbie & Bruce Darden; Courtney & Rex Reynolds

**UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

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](#)





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