



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

October 5, 2021

2021- 2022 Board Members

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Past Pres Jerry Coughter
Secretary Colleen Brannan
Treasurer Edwin Peacock
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Membership Laura Little

Foundation Joe Morris

Programs Elly Clary



Hugh McColl's Chapter Two by Howard Covington

By Suzanne Bledsoe

Howard Covington, Jr., Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, historian and biographer is the author of more than 15 books about prominent businesses, families and individuals in North Carolina. Born in North Carolina, Howard began his career as a journalist for the Charlotte Observer covering politics and state government, where he earned a Pulitzer Prize for a series on occupational health issues. As an author, he has chronicled the lives of the Belks and the Cecils, Terry Sanford, George Watts and Henry Rye. He has written about his home city, Greensboro, the Biltmore Estate, UNC and many iterations of what is now Bank of America. He is a treasure trove of North Carolina lore.

Howard shared with us tidbits from his books as well as stories about in-depth and personal interviews with many of the individuals he has profiled. Playing to the crowd, knowing that we are always interested in hearing about local leader extraordinaire Hugh McColl, Howard shared how Hugh's deep humanity and concern for the common man is evident in his endeavors to build and better our community. In the 20 years since he retired from Bank of America, Hugh sees his job, as a wealthy man, to use his riches for the benefit of communities. As an example, when the Bank made a grant of \$10M to Habitat for Humanity in Hugh's honor, he recruited a few friends and for many years spent one weekend a month building Habitat houses in cities both within and outside the United States. Hugh has mentored small business owners, often investing in the growth of their businesses. He has forgiven loans and urged borrowers to use the funds to help someone else. He has mentored and encouraged younger generations of bankers to use their gains for the benefit of the larger

community. He has recently invested in Bright Hope Capital, a newly formed private equity investment firm focused on creating wealth and opportunities for Black and Hispanic owned businesses in the Charlotte region.

I think it is safe to say that Hugh puts his money where his mouth is. I can't wait to read the book!

*A recording of the program is available here: <https://vimeo.com/624565450>
The program introduction begins at 12:15 minutes.