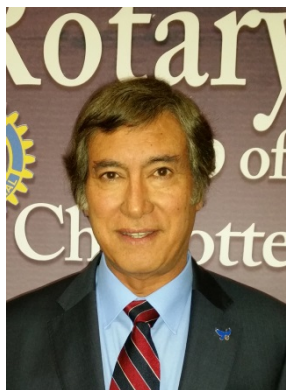




March 3, 2015



FIROZ PEERA

The Power of Rotary

Visualize Rotarians inspiring and toiling in a drive throughout India that immunized 170 million against polio in one day. Charlottean Firoz Peera participated in that effort while visiting the subcontinent in February, around the 110th anniversary of Rotary International.

“Rotary works best in countries where people take ownership for fixing their problems,” said the charter member of Ballantyne Rotary. Reflecting eradication success, the aspiration of last month’s drive was “Keep India polio-free.”

Club member LJ Stambuk of the World Affairs Council of Charlotte introduced Peera to Rotary of Charlotte by sharing his impressions from their first three meetings. First time: An interesting and nice man. Second time: Deeply caring and passionate. Third time: “What a deep strategic thinker.”

During 11 years in Rotary, Peera has attended eight Rotary International Conventions and visited Rotary projects in Peru, Haiti and India. A past District Governor, he used the India immunization example to illustrate five points about Rotary.

His points:

1. Rotary is alive and well throughout the world. More than two-thirds of Rotarians live outside North America.
2. Rotarians are excellent change agents. They use their connections to improve the human condition. Going forward, Rotarians must be even more self-reliant and resilient.
3. As Rotarians, we must become experts in shaping our own society. Demons in American life include substance abuse, domestic violence, pockets of extreme poverty and low rates of high school graduation. We must accept responsibility to use connections and mobilize responses to these issues.
4. The world appreciates the scope and scale of responsibilities Rotarians have accepted to lead and act as change agents.
5. We should be proud of who we are and what we represent. Rotarians continue to be united worldwide through our connections. We are working for the common good on some of the world’s most pressing problems. We transcend boundaries and bring understanding.

Responding to a question from former club president John Snyder, Peera said Rotary has the funding and commitment to eradicate polio from the three

countries – Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria – where it continues to cripple. He’s doubtful, he said, we can achieve the timeline goal of eradicating the disease from the planet by 2018.

“But does that really matter?” he asked. “We need to get rid of this so our children and grandchildren never get it again.”

Written by: Elly Clark

Head Table: Natalie English, John Tabor, Tony Zeiss, L.J. Stambuk, Tom Bartholomy, Catherine Browning; Invocation: Meg McElwain; Visitors & Guests: John Nicolay; Health, Happiness & History: Bill Bartee; Song: Ed Pickett; AV: Jessica Dupree & Nikki Keith

Club News

Mac McCarley was pleased to introduce **Patricia Zoder** as the club’s newest member. Patricia knew several people in the room through her work with the Arts & Science Council and Foundation for the Carolinas. She is currently director with Sockwell Partners and can be reached at pzoder@sockwell.com. Welcome, Patricia.

Posted for Membership

 (comments to Rotary Office by 3/10/15)

Peirce C. Ward, III, HF Financial (Financial Consultant, Chartered)

Sponsor: Dick Klingman Endorsed: Alan Simonini, Hank Donaghy

Upcoming Events

- March 5 CNP Technologies (Wes Clark), 9:30AM-5PM, technology solutions showcase, Charlotte Convention Center

- March 15 (rescheduled date) Tree Planting, 1PM-4PM, J. W. Grier Elementary (8330 Grier Road)

- April 24-26 Annual District Conference, Grandover Resort & Golf, Greensboro

Project Update

Carol Jordan, who serves as the club’s International Service Avenue chair, provided an update of several World Community Service projects that have been completed this year.

Project: **GIDC Sachin, Rehab Center of Surat**

Location: **Surat, India**

Description: **To provide needed supplies and equipment for the Navjivan Deaddiction Center, GIDC Sachin, Rehab Center of Surat. This is a center in Surat that belongs to a network of such centers across India. Services include identification and treatment for drug, alcohol and other substance abuses. Men, women and children receive treatment.**

Amount: **\$1,865**

Project: **Collection Development Library for Alto Cayma,**

Location: **Alto Cayma, Peru**

Description: **To provide books and supplies to the developing library of reading materials. Jim Hintz says “I have become convinced that this library is one of the best things we’ve done here in Alto Cayma.”**

Amount: **\$500**

Project: **Aid to Fukushima, Japan**

Location: **Fukushima, Japan**

Description: **Masaaki Yamashiro, Haramachi Chuo Rotary Club, visited our club this past year. Our donation was used to help offset printing of the English version of a book that explains the misfortune of the Earthquake and Tsunami that**

hit the Fukushima Dailchi Nuclear Power Plant in 2011.

Amount: \$1,000

Project: Literacy Program

Location: Rural Rwanda

Description: Establishing a reading program at a secondary school in Mwiko, by providing literacy development coaching and a disciplined reading program through the school library.

Amount: \$1,000

Project: Access to Youth Peace Literature and Literacy through NewGen Peacebuilders

Location: Virtual

Description: Establishing the online platform – including curriculum, student participant materials, and key readings about youth peace education and case studies.

Amount: \$1,000

Project: ShelterBox

Location: Syria

Description: Provide two ShelterBoxes to the refugees of Syria. Each box includes a tent for ten people, a stove and cooking equipment, blankets, ground sheets, water containers, and a substantial toolkit

Amount: \$2,000

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS (3/3/15 – 3/9/15)

03/05 Bobby Lancaster, Ken Samuelson

03/06 Edwin Peacock, Luke Maybry

03/08 Mary Vickers-Koch

UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES (3/3/15 – 3/9/15)

03/03 Caroline & Ed Driggs

03/07 Carol & David Jordan

ATTENDANCE

Visitors & Guests	11
Club Members	162
Total Attendance	173
Percentage	58.7%

MEMBERSHIP

03/03/2015 317

07/01/2014 317

Net Increase:

New Members: Patricia Zoder

Resignations: Matthew Brown, Liz Irwin

VISITORS ON 3/3/15

Lowry Harper, Steven Mendieta, Ben Pendry, Marcus Acosta, Genna Gordon, Dorothy Alexander, Aisha Strothers, Paul Bill, Allen Clark, David Nelson

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

03/10 – Klaus Becker, Honorary German Consul

03/17 – Jim Beatty, Sports

03/24 – Ted Abernathy, Economic Leadership

03/31 – Gene Cochrane, President, The Duke Endowment

Photos from this week's luncheon – thanks Bert!

Bert was under the weather and his photography skills were missed. Hope to see him back next week.

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



charlotterotary.org 704.375.6816
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