

ROTARY REPORTER

January 13, 2026

*Speaker schedule and upcoming events can also be found on
Charlotte Rotary's website under "Events / News"*

**Tues., Jan. 20 - Weekly Meeting: Blair Stanford, Executive Director,
Charlotte Executive Leadership Council, Foundation for the Carolinas**

**Sat., Jan. 24 - District Meeting - Mid-Year Assembly, 9 a.m. - noon, Unity
Center, 1145 Salisbury Road, Statesville, NC.**

This Week's Meeting



Jenni Gaisbauer
***Executive Director of the Charlotte Mecklenburg
Library Foundation***

by [Elly Clary](#)

Stunning views of the new Charlotte-Mecklenburg main library sparkled in the presentation by Jenni Gaisbauer, executive director of the Library Foundation.

The five-level structure at North Tryon and East Sixth streets uptown will encompass 115,000 square feet. The exterior is designed to complement the facade of its next-door neighbor, the original First Baptist Church. That building, long known as Spirit Square, houses the McGlohon and the black box Duke Energy theaters, each refurbished in the long-running project Gaisbauer likened to birthing a baby.

Library trustees decided in 2014 to raze the existing library and it was demolished in 2021. The new main library is scheduled to open at the same location in spring 2027. It's a \$137 million project funded jointly by Mecklenburg County and the Library Foundation, whose Common Spark campaign is raising \$72 million. Finding that private support is Gaisbauer, who called the drive 97 percent complete.

"I would not be doing my job if I didn't say we've got a little bit left to raise," she said. "There are a few really key opportunities for naming left."

She praised support the Foundation has found, which includes the biggest ever Charlotte investment from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation as well as major involvement from The Tepper Foundation.

"We've had 2,600 donors," she said. "This spring we will announce a book campaign to fill the shelves. This will be small gifts – \$25 and above. I'm excited to launch that and finish it off."

The exterior of the library's flagship boasts sweeping facades. The inside features books throughout, and architects' images show unique offerings on each floor. The street level will house archives, host large events and include a café. "This is not meant to be a quiet floor," Gaisbauer said. "It's the community floor."

Just above is the innovation level with the Bank of America Opportunity and Newcomer Center, designed to acclimate those new to Charlotte. Besides a technology hub, a career center will be there.

Reference and research is the theme for level three, with a community "living room" for salon-style conversations. Also there will be study carrels and a multi-purpose classroom plus enclosures for meetings or quiet contemplation.

The Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room will grace floor four, heavy on history and genealogy. It will include an eight-foot digital map table. "Our library has one of the largest map collections in the country," Gaisbauer said.

The top level is the destination floor with an event space seating 275 and a catering kitchen. It will include an outdoor terrace with views of center city. A spiral staircase will connect all five floors. The McGlohon and black box theaters are restored beautifully, Gaisbauer said.

Renderings revealed vivid stained-glass windows and rich wood surfaces. The entrance to those venues will be through the library's first floor.

"All people are welcome in the library space," Gaisbauer said.

Club News



Our Executive Director, Christine Cipriano, continues to recuperate from an ice skating accident with her family this winter. We're excited as she continues making a full health recovery. Let's help with medical expenses. Check out the **link & give: Give Here:**

Photos from the Meeting



Rotarian's in Service

Insider Tips

Insider Tip: Invite Visitors to our Upcoming Meeting

Be sure to check out the latest **District 7680 newsletter** for updates, opportunities, and Rotary news from across the district. It's a quick read and full of great info!

Membership Update

07/01/2025 224

12/31/2025 206

(Resigned: Ronald McDonald House (Denise Cubbedge, Darrell McGill, Leslie Teiro, Shaketa Wright, and Kristin Young), Julian Hall, Tashara Brown (LIG), PJ McAfee (LIG), Ugo Oriaku (LIG), Hillary Southworth (LIG), Josh Wood (LIG))

Meeting Attendance - Jan. 13, 2026: 80

Guests & Visiting Rotarians:

Jan. 6: Julie Stockman (guest of Greg Reagan), Bill McNamara (guest of John Galles), Bob Morgan (guest of Fred Wagner), Christopher Patterson (guest of Richard Malnati), Carmen Odom & Judith Sutton (guests of Tchernavia Montgomery)
Rotary Members: Kevin Utsey (LIG) & Don Seitz (LIG)

Jan. 13: Angie Myers (guest of Jenni Gaisbauer/Colleen Brannan), Julie Stockman (guest of Greg Reagan), William Herndon (guest of Pierce Ward), Larken Lancaster (guest of Bill Gill), Sammy Minsk & Laura Little (guest of the Club)
Rotary Members: Kevin Utsey (LIG) & JC Cousar (South Charlotte Club)

Potential New Member:

William McNamara (Bill)

Sponsor – John Galles

Endorsers – Luther Moore

Chase Saunders

Employer – Bank of American – Vice President

Children – Tim and Dan

Potential New Member:

Julie A. Stockton

Sponsor - Greg Reagan

Endorsers - Bill Gill

Robert Freeman

Employer - Reagan FVL, LLC

Milestones

(Week of Jan. 6 - 19)

Rotary Anniversaries

36 years: Jim Woodward

Birthdays

25 – Pender McElroy

Wedding Anniversary

24 – Maryl & John Galles

2025 - 2026 Board Members

- President Patrick Baker
- President-Elect Bill Bartee
- Immediate Past President Kim Brattain
- Secretary Bill Gill
- Treasurer Craig Field

Current Directors: Benton S. Bragg, Byrd Bergeron, John F. Cantrell, Karen N. Calder, Tish Atkins Charles, Dena R. Diorio, J Hill, Jesse G. Hite, Ayo M. Johnson, Lori Keeton, Michael B. Orzech, Robert Shaw, Elizabeth Teagarden, Virginia Owen, Michael Wollinger

Contact Us

For more information about how to get involved, volunteer opportunities and meeting topics, contact **Christine Cipriano**, Executive Director, at christine@charlotterotary.org



Photos from our luncheons, historical photos, and other events and projects can be found on the club's Flickr site. Click here [charlotterotary6006](#) to view pictures from recent meetings.



Recordings of weekly club luncheons can be found on the club's Vimeo site. Click here <https://vimeo.com/user24733153> to watch recent videos.



Guest Check-In If you have a guest who would like to preregister for the weekly meeting, a QR code is provided for easy scanning, or the link can be found here: [Visitor Pre-Register \(jotform.com\)](#)

Rotary Club of Charlotte | 1850 E 3rd St, Ste 220 | Charlotte, NC 28204 US

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