

Rotary



Club of Asheville THE COG

Tuesday, November 3, 2020



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

By Sally Ekaireb

NEW MEMBER TALKS

It's that time again! This Thursday we will be hearing from new members Charles Thompson and Scott White. Everyone enjoys learning about the lives, adventures and accomplishments of our new members and this member program will not disappoint you. Come Zoom with us on Nov. 3rd as we formally welcome Charles and Scott into our club.

Club Meeting

Asheville
Meets at During the Covid-19 pandemic our club is meeting virtually via Zoom. Sign in early between 12-12:30 for informal breakout groups. Email avlrotary1915@gmail.com to request Zoom link.

Asheville, NC 28801
Time: Thursday at 12:30 PM

Speakers

November 05, 2020
New Member Talks
Short, autobiographical talks from new members

November 12, 2020
Chris Wells
The Rotary Foundation

November 19, 2020
Jason Walls
Duke Energy Update

November 26, 2020
Thanksgiving Day - No Meeting



Charles P. Thompson

Sr. Financial Advisor at Parsec Financial Management

Member since Nov. 2019



Rev. Dr. Scott White

Rector at Trinity Episcopal Church

Member since March 2020

CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanksgiving Breakfast Volunteers Needed for ABCCM

Every Thanksgiving, members the Rotary Club of Asheville serve as the ♦food crew♦ for the breakfast

Coming Events

November 3rd
Club Board Meeting
November 4th

Hike with Rotary

November 10th

Happy Hour Sip & Learn

November 11th

Around the World With Asheville Rotarians

December 1st

Club Board Meeting

December 2nd

Hike with Rotary



shift at the ABCCM Veterans Quarters, allowing the regular staff to be off that morning. If you are interested in joining us on

Thanksgiving morning, Thursday, November 26, from 7:00 - 9:00 AM, please [click here](#) to sign up. We need a total of ten volunteers.

The COVID safety measures at the ABCCM are very strict; [click here to read more about those measures](#). If you have registered in past years, then you are in the volunteer data base. If not, please [click on this link to do so](#). Or contact Tom Leavesley for additional information.



Happy Hour Sip & Learn via ZOOM - Upcoming 11/10

Learn more about what it means to be a member of the Rotary Club of Asheville. On the 2nd Tuesday of every month the membership committee will facilitate a chance for you to learn more about Rotary and ask questions on numerous topics including: Leadership, Service Projects, Committees, DACdb, Club History, and Financial Structure. Meeting will begin at 5:30 PM. Janet will send a ZOOM link the day of the scheduled meetings: 11/10 and 12/8

November Rotary Hike - Upcoming 11/04

Hike will start at 4:30 PM. Park at Keller Williams, 86 Ashland. George will meet you there with parking passes. Please wear masks. The route is up to Clingman, Haywood, through town - down Church Street to cruise through Banks & Buxton(South Slope). Wrap up will be outdoors at Urban Orchard. Look forward to seeing you there.

Cart Fund



The CART Fund is dedicated to raising funds to provide **seed** money for cutting edge, high impact research in hopes of finding a cure/prevention for Alzheimer's disease. Consider contributing \$1 a week per quarter; \$13.

Weekly Meeting Zoom Instructions

Please look for Dustin Schlabach to email the weekly meeting Zoom. Click on the link or copy and paste in your web browser. If that will not work go to zoom.com, click join a meeting and enter the meeting ID included in Dustin's email.

Club Leaders



Sophia S. Ungert
President



Katherine Morosani
President-Elect



Richard T. Devereaux
Past President
Secretary
Webmaster



David A. Kozak
Treasurer



Stephen F. Anderson
Club Director



Bradley A. Arnold
Rotary
Foundation Chair
Club Director



Melissa R. Drennan
Club Admin
Chair
Club Director



Mark A. Knollman
Club Director
Vocational
Service Chair

Sharon Kay LeDuc



Club Director
International
Service Chair



Sara L. Marshall
Bulletin Editor
Club Public
Image Chair



Donna W. Prinz
Club Director
Youth Services
Chair



Ross Sloan
President-
Nominee



Patrick A. Snyder
Club Director
Community
Service Chair



Eva-Michelle G. Spicer
Club Director



Patricia M. Puckridge
Membership
Chair



Dustin L. Schlabach
Sergeant-at-
Arms



Ford Willis
Sergeant-at-
Arms



Megan E. Robinson
Club Programs
Chair



Janet L. Whitworth
iPast President



Donna Rogers Ensley
Assistant
Governor

Birthdays

**For Birthday/Anniversary/Happy Dollars/CART Funds
please mail your check to
Rotary Club of Asheville Foundation
P.O. Box 1954
Asheville NC 28801.**

If you would like to add an announcement in an upcoming COG please email to Sara Marshall smarshall@firsthorizon.com by 5pm on Saturday prior to Tuesday publishing.

Additional Volunteer Opportunities :

*Please let your friends, family, and neighbors know that Asheville City Schools is hiring substitute teachers for the 2020-2021 school year. All candidates need to complete an online application that includes three references. The application is located on the ACS homepage under the careers tab. Applicants must be a minimum of 18 years of age and hold a high school diploma. Substitute teaching allows individuals to work with our amazing K-12th grade students and have a flexible schedule. To learn more about how to become a substitute teacher, please contact Kimberly Dechant, Ed.D. at 828-350-6140 or email Kimberly.dechant@acsgmail.net.

*Contact Salvation Army Commander and fellow club member [Phil Swyers](#) if you'd like to help out with Covid-19 relief efforts

*Contact the Red Cross of WNC at redcross.org/volunteer. (Rotarian Megan Robinson, Executive Director Red Cross of WNC)

*Contact the Asheville Y downtown or Ferguson branch to give shopping bags for their food packages. (Rotarian Jessica Hendrix, Executive Director Asheville Y)

*Contact handsonasheville-buncombecounty.org for all volunteer opportunities in the area. (Rotarian Kevin Montgomery, Director of Resource Development)

AROUND THE WORLD WITH ASHEVILLE ROTARIANS

By Betty A. Doll

Sheep vs. Humans

Tune into *Around the World with the Asheville Rotarians* (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89000348835>) at 7 pm on Wednesday, Nov. 11 to hear Dave Kaverman share his adventures in a country where the number of sheep far exceeds the number of humans. Tune in to learn

Ken Nelson
November 7th
Dena B Whalen
November 12th
Katherine Morosani
November 14th
Avtar Singh Dhaliwal
November 14th
John C. Martin
November 14th
Miles Mennell
November 24th
William C. Rawlings
November 24th
Michael E. Greene
November 28th
Lacy A. Hagan
November 29th
David A. Kozak
November 30th
Levon B. Reese
December 2nd
James W Baley
December 2nd
Celeste B. Collins
December 3rd

Wedding Anniversaries

Richard T. Devereaux
November 3rd
Ford Willis
November 7th
Scott B. Carter
November 13th
John S. Donahoe
November 16th
Avtar Singh Dhaliwal
November 17th
Stephen E. Aschmann
November 20th
Oscar P. Wong
November 25th
Sharon Kay LeDuc
November 28th
William E. Chandler Jr.
November 28th

which country that is. Our second presenter will be Josh Abrams sharing his adventures in some of our western national parks.

Remember, family members and guests are invited to join us. It's okay to eat dinner while you watch. You don't need to dress up--in fact pj's are allowed. You don't even have to show your face if you don't want to. Pour your favorite beverage. Sit back, relax, and **travel vicariously**. Join us!



LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

By Melissa R. Drennan

DIFFERENT STROKES: CHANGING THE WORLD ONE PLAY AT A TIME



It was an early Halloween treat at our October 29 meeting to hear from Stephanie Hickling Beckman, the Managing Artistic Director for Different Strokes! Performing Arts Collective. Different Strokes is committed to ♦ Making Theatre, Building Community, Facilitating Awareness, and Changing The World, (One Play at a Time). ♦ Stephanie spoke of how the theatre works at the intersection of Art and Activism to

help audiences see beyond themselves and they enhance this by facilitating discussions following performances. They are continuing this important work during the pandemic by hosting spoken word poetry slam competition performances with great success. Their last performance had over 500 viewers. Many thanks to Stephanie for sharing her energy and optimism with our club.

REMEMBERING GEORGE CECIL

By Richard Travis Hall

George Cecil: A Man Who Liked To Laugh

Dick Hall tells of an occasion when he and Yolanda, his wife, were traveling with George Cecil on a chartered Grey Line tour bus. Some Rotarians from France were in town participating in the International Friendship Exchange Program and they were being given a tour of downtown Asheville hosted by members of our Club. George had elected to go along so he could

practice his French.

Dick was seated behind George toward the rear of the bus and as the tour approached the Basilica of St. Lawrence, the driver (who doubled as the tour guide) began to describe the construction of this Catholic Church. ♦And♦, said the driver, ♦as you know the Cecil♦s are good Catholics and they gave the money to build this magnificent church♦. Dick realized the driver was likely confusing the Basilica with All Soul♦s Church in Biltmore Village, but before he could say anything, George turned around and in a hushed voice said, ♦Don♦t you say a word♦don♦t say a word.♦



The tour proceeded without further incident and, after the guests had filed off the bus, George Cecil approached the driver, introduced himself and thanked the driver for the wonderful tour. ♦Most particularly♦, George noted with a bit of a smile, ♦I learned things today about my family that I never knew before.♦ George continued, ♦As good Episcopalian♦s who had endowed the All Souls Church in Biltmore Village, it is interesting that we also did the Basilica!♦

In the moment, as you can imagine, the driver was a bit nonplussed by the remark. But It ultimately proved to be a moment of good fun and gave that driver a story to tell for years to come.

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE CECIL

By Christena Southwick

REMEMBRANCES OF A GENTLE GIANT: ROTARIAN GEORGE CECIL PASSES AWAY



The longest standing member of the Rotary Club of Asheville, George H.V. Cecil passed away peacefully on October 19 at his home surrounded by his six children. George, who followed his father, John, into membership in our club on June 28, 1951, truly lived by the values of a Rotarian. George Cecil, grandson of George Vanderbilt, who built the Biltmore Estate, became a successful business leader in his own right, serving the region and the people he loved all the days of his life.

Glenn Wilcox, a long-time Rotarian, friend and business associate remembers George as a smart businessman who lived the Four Way Test. He was easy to build a relationship with. It was just his nature. I really think George Cecil loved people and wanted the very, very best for people, all the people of Western North Carolina not just for him and his family. He always wanted to do a deal that was good for the other person as well. Rotarian Ed Broadwell, who knew and worked with George for over 50 years agreed. George knew our region and what our needs were. He would quietly help folks. His regional perspective was par excellence.

One of George's biggest passions was education. Ed Broadwell said, George recognized the need for educating the young people in WNC. George not only started scholarship funds himself, he was a heavy supporter of Rotary's scholarship funds, raising money and generously donating to the Tennent Scholarship fund and also worked on the Morrill Scholarship committee.

Margaret Gormley-Chapman said, George served as a member of the Board of Directors and silently supported the club's many fundraising projects, requesting no recognition be given for his generosity. He was a Major Donor to Rotary International's Foundation. George honored his commitments as a member and was a regular attendee of the weekly meetings. He was a friend of Rotary, and I was pleased to call him my friend as well.

Foundation Chair Carol King tells of George going from a Level 1 to a Level 2 Major Donor. That story is all about polio. George's wife, Nancy, was a polio survivor. I knew that and decided that it was important to keep him updated on our progress in wiping polio off the face of the earth. In the last few years George would approach me at Christmas time with a reminder to send him the information and an individual donor form. To the very end George stayed a very generous donor to Polio Plus.

George has been described as hard-working. Very few people work that hard when they have all that they need, Glenn Wilcox said. George was a worker all the time. He was going all the time.

George has been described as enjoying a good story. George Cecil was a man who had a good sense of humor, said Dick Hall, our club historian. Past president Rick Devereaux told of sitting with George at Rotary meetings in recent years and how George loved to talk about his Navy Days in England. According to Rick, George said that he served with the man that the world would come to know as Prince Phillip, stating that the BBC Series, The Crown was very accurate in its portrayal of the man, Prince Phillip, and his freewheeling days.

George was described as kind spirited. According to Glenn Wilcox, He was too clever than to put anybody down. I don't think he wanted to do that or hurt anyone. He was an honest man, a straight-shooter,

pleasant. ♦ Richard Douglas said, ♦ There was no pretense about him, no airs. He was a regular guy that just wanted to be in Rotary. ♦ Ed Broadwell added, ♦ He was a gentle giant to me, and also a calm, firm mover. He was quiet and easy to work with, but when George spoke, people listened! ♦

George was described as a gentleman. Rotarian Oscar Wong, owner of Highland ♦s Brewery said that George and his son, Jack, invited him to lunch in January 2019 just to visit. ♦ He graciously asked for a ♦ pint of Oscar ♦s beer. ♦ He had lunch and the pint, commenting to Jack that he would probably need to nap in the office that afternoon. It was such a thoughtful gesture along with many compliments made at our Rotary meetings over the years. George was a gentleman of the first order. ♦

Carol King adds another Rotary memory. ♦ As District Governor in 2009-2010, we started the first Stop Hunger Now food packaging event. We asked George if he could offer us space in Biltmore Park to do the packaging for the Asheville event. It turned out that he had a large retail space he hadn ♦t leased yet and offered it to us. George also offered himself as part of that commitment. I cannot begin to tell you how my heart skipped a beat when I looked across the room and saw George sitting at the table, just like the rest of us shoveling ingredients into meal packages. Wow! What a wonderfully quiet, humble, and generous soul he was. ♦

His generosity, his humility, his love of people and dedication to his family, to education and to our region, set George apart. He was a man big in stature and heart who left a large footprint on the lands he loved and the hearts of those who knew and loved him. A lifelong goal of his was to leave the land better than he found it, a goal he truly exceeded. He was a model Rotarian on so many levels, and to the end, lived a life of ♦ service above self. ♦

MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

By Christena Southwick

HIGH ENERGY ROTARIAN

Rotarian Ken Nelson likes to put maximum energy into his pursuits, whether it be business, community or leisure oriented. Born in Elmhurst Illinois, he began his energy industry career at Texaco in 1985 working in the company ♦s natural gas marketing department. After twenty years in the traditional energy world, he pivoted to renewable energy and has been at the forefront of the rapid evolution of the technologies, the policies and the corresponding markets that form the foundation of the clean energy revolution.

Today Ken is co-partner of Blue Delta Energy, working with clients to navigate the complexities of the environmental marketplace. A

recognized policy wonk, he serves on several national and international industry association boards and represents companies throughout the



Southeast, Northeast and Midwest. His company is working quietly but energetically to ♠decarbonize the world economy. ♠

On top of that, Ken is a nice guy. He is positive and brings his up-beat energy into his private and community life. We have his wife, Julie, to thank for bringing his energy and expertise to Carolina, as she is a native of the Blue Ridge Mountains. They met in Houston in 1993, married in 2003, and in 2015 they made the move to Asheville. By 2018, Ken was looking to get involved with the Asheville community and met Sharon LeDuc, who directed him to Rotary. Currently, Ken is one of the pioneering members of our club's new sustainability committee and is a past contributor to Membership Spotlight articles in the COG. Ken also gives his time to Asheville Sister Cities where he serves as President.



Hobbies include ownership of thoroughbred horses. He also is a huge Packers fan, a food, beer and wine geek, and loves to run both for physical and mental release, completing eight marathons so far.

Asked about all the craziness in the world today, Ken said, ♠I always try to be optimistic. It's what's gotten me through life. Challenges are constant and change is inevitable, but I believe in keeping on plugging away, keeping your options open by continually educating yourself, and once you choose a path then keeping on moving forward. I'd like to think that I'm realistic, but I also like to think that things will always work out. At

the end of the day, it's too exhausting to always focus on the negative! ♠

FOUR WAY TEST



Rotary

THE FOUR-WAY TEST Of the things we think, say, or do

The Four-Way Test is a nonpartisan and nonsectarian ethical guide for Rotarians to use for their personal and professional relationships.

