

Rotary



Club of Asheville THE COG

Monday, April 19, 2021



Club Meeting

Asheville
Meets at Online via Zoom. Pre-meeting chats begins at noon.
Email avrotary1915@gmail.com to request Zoom link.

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

Speakers

April 29, 2021

[Lucy Crown, City of Asheville
Greenway Coordinator](#)
Asheville Unpaved

May 06, 2021

[Dr. Joseph Fox](#)
Buncombe County
Remembrance Project

May 13, 2021

[President John Gossett](#)
A-B Tech Update

Coming Events

May 5th
[Hike with Rotary](#)

Club Leaders



[Sophia Stefanidis
Ungert](#)
President



[Katherine Morosani](#)
President-Elect



[Richard T. Devereaux](#)
Past President
Secretary

[David A. Kozak](#)
Treasurer

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

By Sally Ekaireb

LIONS, AND TIGERS, AND BEARS! OH MY!

Our April 22nd meeting features Ashley Hobbs who will discuss **◆Bears in Urban Asheville◆**. Ashley is the Assistant Black Bear & Furbearer Biologist for the NC Wildlife Resources Commission.

In addition to black bears, her work in the context of human-wildlife conflict also focuses on bobcats, otters, skunks, coyotes and any **◆furry◆** species prized for the use of its fur. Asheley attended the University of Georgia, graduating in 2015 with a B.S. in Forestry Resources and an emphasis in Wildlife Management.



ASHEVILLE CLUB and DISTRICT 7670 SEEKING GLOBAL GRANT SCHOLARSHIP PARTNERS

By Sharon Kay LeDuc

The Rotary Club of Asheville is proudly nominating Sahana Venkatesh, raised in Raleigh and a 4th year medical student at UNC, as an exceptional candidate for District 7670 **◆s** Global Grant Scholarship, and is **seeking other Rotary clubs willing to help support the grant.**

Sahana is an aspiring pediatrician whose interest in global health began as she was researching post-genocide reconstruction in Rwanda and Uganda. She was struck by the significant impact of healthcare workers **◆** not only in providing immediate care, but also in global advocacy and creating infrastructure changes for



Stephen F. Anderson
Club Director



Bradley A. Arnold
Rotary Foundation
Chair



Celeste B. Collins
Diversity Equity &
Inclusion



Melissa R. Drennan
Club Admin Chair



Mark A. Knollman
Vocational Service
Chair



Sharon Kay LeDuc
International Service
Chair



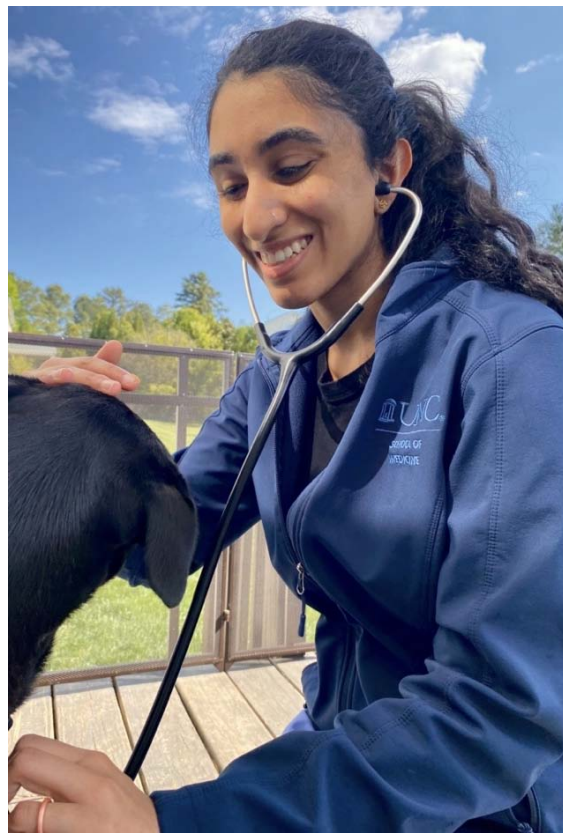
Sara L. Marshall
Club Public Image
Chair



Donna W. Prinz
Youth Services Chair



Ross Sloan
President-Nominee



sustainable and equitable health access. At UNC, she has continued pursuing these interests through leading monthly refugee citizenship evaluations,

volunteering with the Refugee Community Partnership, and helping bring healthcare access to recently incarcerated individuals through FIT (Formerly Incarcerated Transition) Connect.

Sahana's long-term goals align with Rotary's focus on sustainable development, especially in regards to child health. Diarrheal illness (primarily linked to inadequate sanitation, hygiene, and clean water access) remains the leading cause of death globally in children under 5. It contributes significantly to child morbidity and mortality, and like many other endemic diseases it disproportionately affects the most vulnerable and perpetuates cycles of poverty. Sahana's goals are to create local partnerships and develop infrastructure that will not only provide broader access to healthcare, but also address the underlying barriers to clean water access. Sahana will be pursuing a MSc in Health and International Development at the London School of Economics next year.

How can you support Sahana? The Global Grant Scholarship will not cover all of Sahana's projected schooling costs. If you or your club is interested in donating, please [email Sharon LeDuc](#), Asheville Rotary's International Service Chair. Sahana will attend District 7670's Conference in August so you will have an opportunity to meet this outstanding scholar for Rotary!

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT ON CHRISTENA SOUTHWICK

By Kirk Borland

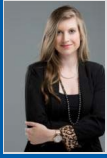
Perhaps Christena's greatest passion from an early age has been a love of writing. Raised in Amarillo, Texas, and introspective about everything, she started out as a young girl keeping a journal and many years later tried her hand at a young adult novel as well as short stories and journalism. To this day, she is innately curious about people and enjoys being a reporter and storyteller. She finds it is not only a way to make a connection with people but to also build community.



Patrick A. Snyder
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
Past President



Donna Rogers Ensley
Assistant Governor



Birthdays

Scott E. Raines
April 20th

Patricia M. Puckridge
April 23rd

Dieter H. Buehler
April 26th

Sharon Kay LeDuc
April 28th

Jacob Youngblood
May 8th

Joseph Benjamin Burrell
May 11th

Albert Davis
May 15th

Kirk Borland
May 18th

Wedding Anniversaries

Thomas A. Cannon
April 20th



Christena left the University of Arizona and moved to Denver in 1976 and worked as a paralegal and an oil and gas landman. In 1983, Christena attended a political fundraiser and met Tom, who would become her husband before the year was out. They started their family pretty quickly and she found a deeper joy in parenting than she knew possible. A good deal of Christena's time, energy and creativity was put into raising her two children, Grant, now 36, and Caitlin, now 35, while at the same time she continued her education always wanting to learn more.

Next to writing, Christena loved to learn and to teach. She loved sharing her knowledge with others even in elementary school, like the hula that she learned as a child from her favorite aunt who was then living in Hawaii. It is no surprise that teaching became her career, mostly the subject of writing.

When it came time to retire in 2010, she and Tom thought Hawaii might be the perfect location. Christena started a mom-tot program at the local library and moved on to a monthly Bingo program for seniors at the community center, both programs still running. She joined The Rotary Club of Hanalei Bay in 2014 as a way to find deeper community connection. There she discovered the service above self of Rotary, never having been in a service organization before, very much to her liking. Christena became deeply involved, serving on the board twice, and running the annual fundraising campaign twice.

At the eight-year mark, however, island life was going south with overrun tourism and the impact of climate change. They began looking elsewhere. Her favorite aunt, who was now in Chapel Hill, opened up North Carolina as a possibility, and a chance airport encounter with someone who couldn't stop talking about the beauty of Asheville opened the door to coming here.

As she and Tom approached the idea of moving to Asheville, Christena looked up our Asheville club, met Janet Whitworth (who also became her realtor) and settled on a home in Biltmore Lake in 2018. Almost immediately, she found herself in the comfort of an engaging group of friends and colleagues. She joined RCA



She joined RCA

Mark A. Knollman
April 23rd
Celeste B. Collins
April 26th
Carolyn Cronin
April 29th
John S. Fisher
May 5th
Dustin L. Schlabach
May 9th
Scott E. Raines
May 13th
Richard J. Jacobs
May 18th
Edward L. Bleyntat Jr.
May 19th

in October 2018, and by March was the Public Image chair, serving until July 2020. This year, she is Chair of the Morrill Scholarship Committee, co-chair of the ABCCM Women and Children's Home Committee and member of several other committees, and still writes occasionally for the COG.

During covid, Christena found a sense of peace with the forced isolation and surprisingly enjoyed slowing down. She actually wrote a good chunk of her memoirs. She continues to write for Lake Life magazine and takes online writing and art classes and loves the hiking trails she and her husband walk daily. She looks forward to taking her lessons from covid and seeing what the new normal will be. Christena expressed her sadness for the deep losses from covid but believes a brighter day is ahead for us all.

SIMPLE SCHOOL IN GUATEMALA MILESTONES

By William C. Rawlings



Our Guatemala School Project committee would like to share the following video with our club members. This is the official kickoff of construction on our Simple School in Tzanchaj!

The school board, parents and teachers held a ceremony to celebrate the kickoff after all of the hard work put in to get this

project off the ground. They asked for our host club member Duncan Aitken from Panajachel to join them so they could express their thanks to Rotary. [David LaMotte School, Tzancha, Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala](#)

CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

Calling all Traveling Rotatians

Our fun monthly ♦Around the World with the Asheville Rotarians♦ (an initiative of the Fellowship Committee) is growing in popularity. **We would love for YOU to share your travel story with us.**

Foreign travel, domestic travel, a guided bus tour or a solo adventure, a tent or the Ritz. **What♦s been fun for you? What are your best memories? Won♦t you share?** We gather via Zoom on the second Wednesday evening of the month at 7 pm. If you would be willing to share, please contact Dave Kaverman (dave@acuityma.com) or Betty Doll (BettyADoll@gmail.com).

It♦s vicarious living at its finest!

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.

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

Additional Volunteer Opportunities :

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

*Contact [Rick Devereaux](#) if you would like to volunteer with vaccination distribution at A-B Tech. Rick will put you in touch with the volunteer coordinator for the Buncombe County vaccination center.

*Contact the Red Cross of WNC to volunteer with educating at-risk communities regarding home fire safety from April 8 to May 8. 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)

If you would like to add an announcement in an upcoming COG, please email Helen Stefanidis at helxstefani@gmail.com by 5 p.m. on Saturday prior to Tuesday publishing.

LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

By Melissa R. Drennan

MEMBER TALKS BY ANDREW MERCURIO AND HELEN STEFANIDIS

Our April 15 meeting felt like a celebration of new club members. The meeting started with the new member induction of Kimberly Hunter and continued with new member talks. We heard from two dynamic new members: Andrew Mercurio and Helen Stefanidis. While their life paths are different, it's clear why both of their journeys led them to Rotary

due to a shared interest in contributing to their communities. We are fortunate to have them in our club. If you missed the meeting, please tune into the recording to get to know Andrew and Helen in their own words.

Andrew Mercurio, Risk Advisor for CAI Insurance
Sponsored by Tanya Fletcher and Josh Abrams.
Joined Rotary Club of Asheville in Dec. 2020



Helen Stefanidis of
Weaverville, NC.
Sponsored by Sophia Ungert
and Tracey Eames.
Joined Rotary Club of Asheville
in March 2021



FOUR WAY TEST



THE FOUR-WAY TEST

Of the things we think, say or do:

first

Is it the **TRUTH**?

second

Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?

third

Will it build **GOODWILL** and
BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

fourth

Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to
all concerned?
