



Scuttlebutt

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

President Gavin's notes

Greetings friends,

It was great to see so many of you last Friday. We were treated to an inspirational program from some truly outstanding young people. A special thanks to Lorenzo Mejia and Nick Vaughn for making it happen. I am excited about the speakers we have scheduled over the next several months, and I encourage you to keep tuning in.

I continue to be impressed by all of the good works that our members do in our community and beyond. I am also reminded of what a strong and wonderful network of friends our club is, and am proud of the support that our members offer one another during difficult times. I appreciate your willingness to remain engaged in our club meetings in a virtual format, and continue to look forward to a time when we can safely resume our in person meetings.

I appreciate all that you do to serve East Chapel Hill Rotary. Together we will strive to thrive despite these uncertain times. I look forward to seeing you soon!

Yours in Rotary,

Gavin Heymann
President 2020-2021

Announcements

- Our next meal service date at the SECU Family House is 1/21/21. If you are able to serve please use this [Sign-Up Sheet](#).
- The following announcement was sent via email to all NC rotarians in case you missed it:
The 6 Rotary Districts in North Carolina are joining together to elevate our knowledge about the COVID Vaccine Plan for North Carolina. Staff within the Office of the Secretary for the NC Department of Health and Human Services who are responsible for the response to COVID 19 will join NC Rotarians to lead a webinar to discuss the current status of COVID 19 in our state, the vaccines currently available and coordination as a state for vaccine distribution.

If interested, please join this call on Thursday, January 21st 1:00pm to 2:00pm on a Zoom webinar by [registering here](#).

- While we had hoped to be transitioning to limited in-person meetings early in the new year, recent COVID trends have hampered those plans. Guidance from our district still strongly discourages in-person meeting, and we agree with this prudent advice. We continue to monitor the situation, and will be poised to meet again physically when it is safe to do so. In the meantime, I ask that you do your best to attend virtually, and reach out to others who may have been absent to encourage them to do the same.

Sergeant-at-Arms ♦ Pam Herndon

Pam Herndon, the Sergeant-at-Arms, gave the invocation with the Serenity Prayer which she dedicated to our Rotary Club, to Rotary worldwide, and to our country. She then shared with us some of her collected wisdom from 30 years in the insurance industry.

- Burglars do watch the outside; if there are newspapers piled outside, or the flyer they ♦ve stuck in the door stays there, you are probably away for a bit.
- If a worker asks to use the bathroom, check the window lock after they leave.
- If someone rings the bell to see if you are there, and you answer, they might just ask to clean your gutters (don ♦t take them up on this!)
- Put your TV on a timer. A loud TV is likely to scare away someone looking for an opportunity to break in.
- Don ♦t tell people on Facebook or other social media that you are going to be away. Tell them after you get back!
- You have a perfect panic button on the key fob to your car. Setting your car honking with that is a great burglar alarm.

January 15, 2021 Speaker - Rotary Youth

By Mary Roodkowsky

All our speakers were young people involved in Rotary in various ways.

Nick Vaughn introduced our first speakers, who are UNC students in the ♦From Houses to Homes (FHTH) ♦ club. Lexie Couch, who is the Club Treasurer, and who has been part of Rotary in her hometown in Pennsylvania, told us about the Club which works with a Guatemala- based non- profit organization to provide safe housing, education and healthcare. Many families there live in unstable shacks made of corn stalk or corrugated metal. FHTH, run by Guatemalans for Guatemalans, builds new homes of cinderblock and with a solid roof and door, in five days. For many, this is the first time they ♦ve had a lockable door, increasing their security.

Speakers

January 22, 2021

J.B. Buxton
Education in North Carolina

January 29, 2021

Ed Roberson
The Changing American West

February 05, 2021

Hugh Stevens
Open Records & First Amendment Rights

Birthdays

Fred Carpenter
January 21st

Lida Lewis Coleman
January 22nd

David Magee
January 25th

Omar Zinn
January 25th

William C. Blackman
January 28th

J Michael Adair
January 29th

Chadd McGlone
February 1st

Gerald D. Benson Jr.
February 4th

John D. Grantham
February 5th

James R. Starling
February 9th

David H. Moreau
February 9th

Cecil Rambrat
February 11th

David F. Anna
February 11th

Club Leaders



Gavin Christopher Heymann
President



Patrick Phelan
President-Elect



Omar Zinn
Secretary



Courtney H Knoll
Treasurer



Christine Diane Jones
Club Director



Laurie Paolicelli
Public Image Chair

William B. Aycock II

FHTH also supports education for more children, including through school supplies and meals. For the families who have had a house built in the program, it also provides access to medical clinics. This is sorely needed as malnutrition, diabetes, and cervical cancer are prevalent in the population, and Guatemala is the Central American country which spends the least on health care. In normal times the clinics see 300 patients per month, but this has been suspended because of Covid-19.

Anna Blythe and Cristina Pastor Valverde also spoke for the Club.

In the past, they have done summer trips, during which they help to build a house for a Guatemalan family. When they go, the families welcome them and treat them to a local feast. The club takes steps to ensure that any students who want to participate can, even if they might have financial constraints to taking part. However, there weren't any trips in 2020 because of Covid-19; co-Presidents Regan Curtis and Ellie Baldwin did fundraising for these projects instead.

Nick then turned to presentation of the winners of this year's 4-Way Test Essay Contest, which is open to 7th and 8th graders. Each of the three winners read their essay confidently and convincingly.

Third prize went to 13-year-old Ellie (Eleanor) Vaughn. Her clear and excellent essay chosen by Lorenzo Mejia assured us that the world would be more peaceful if people lived by the 4-Way Test.

Second prize went to Catherine Copland, who told us that she loves to read, and that she gets a new watch every year for Christmas because she breaks them. Her essay used the 4-Way Test to analyse whether schools should stay closed during covid. She concluded that they should stay open.

First prize went to Philip Kirtley, who wrote about the 4-Way test and public policy, including transparency in government. He pointed out that the 4-Way Test would be a good guide to dealing with Covid fairly, including through the management of vaccines.

The world will be in good hands with people like these essay winners in charge!

Click below to view the recording.

<https://youtu.be/UPtGGKroDeU>

Our next Speaker J.B. Buxton



J.B. Buxton serves as the President of Durham Technical Community College. He began serving in this role in July 2020.

Prior to joining Durham Tech, Buxton ran the Education Innovations Group, a consulting practice focused on PreK-12 and postsecondary public education. Buxton worked with states, foundations, nonprofit organizations, and companies focused on improving public education.

Since September of 2018, Buxton has served as a member of the N.C. State Board of Education. He was appointed by Gov. Roy Cooper to an at-large seat and confirmed by the NC General Assembly. The Board is comprised of 13 members, including eight regional representatives, three at-large members, the State Treasurer, and the Lt. Governor. Buxton chairs the Board's Student Learning and Achievement committee.

Buxton also has an appointment as a part-time teaching assistant professor in the Public Policy Department at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Prior to starting the Education Innovations Group, Buxton served as the Deputy State Superintendent of the NC Department of Public Instruction. In this role, he reported directly to the State Board and was responsible for all operations of the Department. Under his leadership, the Department created the District and School Transformation division, intervening in and supporting 135 schools and six chronically low-performing districts; rolled out statewide principal and teacher standards and evaluation systems; and supported the expansion of the state's *Learn and Earn* Early College high schools initiative to 70 schools.

Before managing DPI, Buxton was senior education advisor to NC Gov. Mike Easley; legislative director for the N.C. State Board of Education; a White House Fellow working with the Domestic Policy Council under President Clinton; director of policy and research for the Public School Forum of N.C., and coordinator of special programs for the NC Teaching Fellows Program. He began his career as a high school English teacher and coach in Massachusetts.

Buxton serves on the national advisory board of the Friday Institute for Educational Innovation at NC State University and on the NC Center for the Advancement of Teaching Foundation board. He has also served on the Raleigh Planning Commission and as board vice-chair of North Carolina FC Youth, one of the nation's largest youth soccer clubs.

Buxton attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on a Morehead Scholarship, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in English. He received his Master's in Public Affairs from the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University.

Buxton and his wife, Hunter, have three children: Drake, a recent graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill working with Deloitte Consulting; Luke, a senior at UNC-CH; and Sadie, a sophomore at N.C. State University.

Zoom Information

This Friday we have J.B. Buxton joining us for our call.

Topic: East Chapel Hill Rotary Club Meeting

Time: Jan 22, 2021 12:45 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81224891326?pwd=RzVYa3hLbUpEb1A1SmNGOFVHME5GZz09>

Meeting ID: 812 2489 1326



Service Projects Chair



David Baddour
Club Fellowship Chair



Gregory E. Bradbury
Membership Chair



Will Bunch
CCO-Club Comm. Offer



Mike Clayton
Rotary Foundation Chair



Timothy Dalton
Club Fundraising Chair



David Grier Martin
Sergeant-at-Arms



John A Perry
Club Admin Chair



Nicholas Matthew Vaughn
Club Programs Chair



Lorenzo Mejia
Youth Services Chair



Matthew Arnold
iPast President



Carol J. Rives
Asst Governor

