



Scuttlebutt

Thursday, March 18, 2021

President Gavin's notes

Greetings friends,

I understand that last Friday's meeting was terrific and was highlighted by an excellent program by Aaron Nelson. I want to thank Pat Phelan for standing in for me in my absence. A special thanks as well to Felix Muriithi for sharing his member minute. Our goal is to continue to offer insights into the unique lives of the exceptional people who make up our group. 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 3/18/21. If you are able to serve please use this [Sign-Up Sheet](#).
- Paul Ransford has recently been ill and was hospitalized at UNC. Please keep Paul in your thoughts and prayers
- You should have received a dues notice recently via email. The DACdb payment portal had been deactivated temporarily last month while DACdb and IPPay worked to upgrade security to prevent breaches from happening in the future. The portal is now operational and we have been assured that the security issue has been resolved.
- 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.

[Read More](#)

March 12, 2021 Speaker - Aaron Nelson

By Mary Roodkowsky



Jim Heavner welcomed Aaron Nelson, saying that you realize at a certain point in life that it is the next generation who are running the world and doing great things. Aaron last spoke to our Rotary Club a couple of decades ago when he was working at his previous job as Coordinator of Local Relations for UNC-Chapel Hill and he impressed the club mightily at that time. Aaron has brought transformational leadership to The Chamber which he joined as President and CEO in 2001. Aaron is a 1997 graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill where he studied philosophy and was the student body president.

One of the major themes Aaron address was growth in Chapel Hill. While it may seem that the population of Chapel Hill is expanding by leaps and bounds, it is growing relatively modestly at about 1% per year, for a total of around 12 percent over the past decade. In fact, the growth over the last ten years is the lowest since the 1930s. For those who say, it does not seem like that, Aaron explained that part of that is because more and more the growth goes upward in terms of taller buildings, rather than expanding over swathes of land.

He ran us through some of the projects that are taking place, several of which are housing construction. Paradoxically, this may wind up reducing traffic rather than increasing it. Right now, the population of Chapel Hill is 60 000 people, but another 60 000 drive in every day. (In turn, another 40 000 drive out.) If many of those commuting into Chapel Hill lived here, the traffic burden would diminish. Astoundingly to many of us, 70% of UNC employees do not live in Chapel Hill or in Carrboro; if at least some of them could live closer to work, it would improve traffic, reduce pollution, and increase civic participation. What commuter is going to coach local soccer in the evening and weekend?

Aaron spoke of the impact of the covid-19 pandemic on the local economy. It was hard for some: There are fifty permanently closed businesses. But 35 new business were started. The overall situation was very mixed. For 25 % of companies, business has never been worse. However, for another 25%, things have never been better. This applies particularly for those in the housing sector (think realtors, mortgage brokers, inspectors, etc.) and in finance. For the other half, things have been tough. But Chapel Hill-Carrboro are resilient: as a community, we are late into recessions, and among the first out. With the

Speakers

March 19, 2021

Gary Crunkleton
 Scotch Whiskey for Lunch, Anyone?

April 09, 2021

Anne Jones & Dan Gonzalez
 A new model to meet the education challenge of our time.

Birthdays

Jon K. Jester

March 20th

R. David Kimball

March 21st

Chislaine Duhamel

March 27th

Thomas Leuchtenburg

March 30th

Mathew R Groseclose

March 30th

Brian Kileff

March 31st

Michael Maxwell

April 7th

Walter W. Mallett

April 9th

Paul Milam

April 9th

Dan Jared Deacon

April 10th

William B. Aycock II

April 16th

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
 Service Projects Chair



David Baddour
 Club Fellowship Chair

Gregory E. Bradbury

reduction in infection rates, we have moved from crisis response to recovery. It will nevertheless take years of intentional thoughtful planning for us to recover.

The Chamber has guided business through the crisis in innovative ways: it served as a resource hub and found ways to give businesses access to PPE. This included working with other chambers of commerce to create a purchasing coop to get better access to PPE. The Chamber is also helping make recommendations for reopening, industry by industry. Most interestingly, many thought the pandemic would cut retail sales in such a way as to reduce tax revenues to local government. But in both Orange and Chatham Counties, the revenues were up, in Chatham, particularly strikingly. Aaron noted that when 80 % of population drives somewhere to work, if you keep them home, they spend locally. This is in large part because sales taxes on goods bought online revert to the county of the delivery address.

Some of the issues raised in questions included more on traffic. It turns out that the intersection of Ephesus Road and Fordham Boulevard will be redone as a super street/ giant roundabout, similar to what was done opposite the Sheraton on 15/501. There is a major long-term study being done on 15/501 covering several miles in the area where it crosses I40. It's not an illusion that there's more trash on the side of the road. That's especially because NCDOT hasn't been picking it up as they had done in previous years, due to major budget constraints.

Why is more office space being built? Hasn't the pandemic lessened the need for office space as more people work from home? On the one hand, Aaron said, it's true that more work will be done remotely. But, where people are in offices, they will be more spaced out than before; the era of people working cheek by jowl is over. In any case, most of the offices being built are spoken for; few are being done on spec.

What's the impact of UNC-Chapel Hill on tax revenues? As an educational institution it does not pay much tax per se, but a fiscal equity study has shown that they do pay a good and fair share. This includes maintaining their own police force, doing their own trash collection, and paying for fire services.

To view the recording click the below link.

https://youtu.be/8rM_RPVBEQ

Our next Speaker Bill Bolen

Today we are in for a very special program as one of our own is going to show us how he sustained a musical career as a performer and band leader over a half century and how music and life changed during that time.

Bill Bolen is from Charlotte, came to UNC in the class of '67, studying history music and religion. Bill went on to get a divinity degree at Duke in 1970. He then went on to Indiana University to study music and came back here to get a Masters degree in music education in 1974 from UNC.

Bill started playing music as a performer with bands in 1958 when he was still in school at Myers Park in Charlotte, as a drummer, and because he had been playing piano since he was 7 or 8 years old, he became the band's pianist, the role that he played with his bands throughout his career.

Although he considers himself retired, he is still the bandleader of choice and by demand at the debutante ball which she does every year.

We have asked Bill to talk about his music and his experiences, including how popular music changed during the decades when he performed. We may even hear a little bit of it

Zoom Information

Topic: East Chapel Hill Rotary Club Meeting
Time: Mar 19, 2021 12:45 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82838380800?pwd=cmNKdGp1NEw3aDFDTmJGbnxMWpwZz09>

Meeting ID: 828 3838 0800
Passcode: 852955
One tap mobile
+13017158592,,82838380800#,,,,*852955# US (Washington DC)
+13126266799,,82838380800#,,,,*852955# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
Meeting ID: 828 3838 0800
Passcode: 852955
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbDFuJm0Ow>



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

