

Habitat project approaching money goal, construction planned to start early 2023

Wilmington-area Rotarians still need to find \$4,600 to meet our \$60,000 budget for our joint Habitat House project. All funds should be in hand by Dec. 31. Volunteers will begin construction work early in the new year.

Members of this and other Wilmington clubs got a briefing on the home-building process at a Dec. 7 reception at Cape Fear Habitat's warehouse. We will be helping build a home in a new Castle Hayne subdivision for a single mother of three who works as a school bus driver.

Of the \$55,400 raised so far, our club contributed \$6,000 and our members another \$13,100. That sum includes a \$7,500 match from Past President **Reid Murchison**, for which another \$1,900 in individual gifts is needed. A District Grant supplied \$8,000. Other clubs and individual Rotarians put in another \$28,300, with \$17,000 of that from the Wilmington West Rotary Club and its members.

Our project will place a house in a brand-new subdivision developed by Habitat. Called Legacy Landing, it is reached via Rock Hill Road off Castle Hayne Road.

Those attending the Dec. 7 reception contributed \$1,100 on the spot and heard from Habitat staff members who explained the project and its remaining budget needs.

Habitat home buyers contribute work alongside volun-



Rotarians socialize amid prefab wall sections in Habitat warehouse. We will build similar sections for our project on our first work day in February.

teers and pay their own closing costs and mortgages. Eligibility is based on income: high enough to make their monthly mortgage payments but not high enough to qualify for a loan in the commercial market. For a family of four, that means between \$27,750 and \$68,150 a year.

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More nominations needed for Leaders in Service

With just a few weeks before the Jan. 15, 2023 deadline, our Leaders in Service project still badly needs more nominations for the awards, due to be presented next May 4.

Sponsorships, however, are coming in very well, with commitments of \$30,500 in hand as of Dec. 13. That is more than a third of the way to our fund-raising goal of \$85,000. We are soliciting sponsorships now because many businesses set their budgets—including gifts to non-profits like ours—before year's end.

Leaders in Service is the club's only major fundraiser, meant to replenish our non-profit foundation and support next year's projects.

\$30,500 raised so far

The sponsorship team, led by **John Hatcher** and **Chris Riley**, has been at work for a month. Sponsorship levels are Platinum, \$10,000; Gold, \$5,000; Silver, \$2,500, and Friend, \$1,000. Individual tickets to the May 4 awards banquet will be offered for sale early next year.

Nominees for the Leaders in Service awards should be top executives who have contributed to their organizations improving the community. They should be in harmony with the principles of Rotary's Four-Way Test. Awards will be given in three categories: private, non-

profit, and public organizations.

It is important that nominations include detailed information, ideally from 350 to 500 words, about the nominee's accomplishments. Nominations should be submitted using the interactive form on the club's website, wilmingtonrotaryclub.org.

Club members who want to become sponsors can contact a member of the sponsorship team or fill out a sponsor form on the website.

We have asked the public for nominations through ads, both print and online, in the *Greater Wilmington Business Journal*.

For more about our first Leaders in Service honorees, SEE: *page 3*.



R.B. Richey with new Paul Harris Fellow Erica Talbert.

Talbert is Paul Harris Fellow

Erica Talbert became the club's newest Paul Harris fellow on Nov. 15, in recognition of \$1,000 in contributions to The Rotary Foundation. The club's Foundation chair, **R.B. Richey**, presented Erica with her PHF badge, medallion, and certificate. She reached PHF status just a year and a half after joining the club in April 2021.

Meet our newest member

Donna Cameron was inducted as a Rotarian on Nov. 1, sponsored by Albert Corbett. A veteran of community banking in Wilmington, she joined First Carolina Bank in 2019 as a senior banking officer to manage its expansion into the Wilmington market.



Donna Cameron

EVERY
ROTARIAN
EVERY
YEAR

If every member gives at least \$25 to the Rotary Foundation this year, we will qualify as an ERAY club, as challenged by District Governor Nancy Carr.

Right: Cleve Callison shows off our district-level Foundation recognitions at the Nov. 15 meeting.



Club leads the district in total giving to Rotary Foundation

Rotary District 7730 recognized our club for its members' contributions to The Rotary Foundation during the 2021-22 Rotary year. Past President **Cleve Callison** accepted those honors, earned during his presidency, at the Foundation dinner in Wallace Nov. 12.

We were honored for giving the most to the Foundation, more than \$39,000, though as the district's largest club we lag in per-capita giving. Our club was also the second-highest contributor to the Foundation's Polio Plus fund, with an average of more than \$25 per member given to Rotary Inter-

national's signature project.

Since 1985, when RI undertook the goal of eradicating polio worldwide, Rotary's vaccination and public health efforts have eliminated the paralyzing disease from almost every country.

On Dec. 13, during District Governor **Nancy Carr**'s visit to our club, President **Dale Smith** presented her with a \$1,600 check to the Foundation, representing \$10 for each member.

DG Nancy challenged us to become an "ERAY" club, meaning "every Rotarian every year," by giving an average of \$25 each.

Ann LaReau, Alzheimer's advocate, dies in auto accident at age 77

Rotarian Ann LaReau died Nov. 25 in a car accident in east Tennessee. She was 77.

Ann was born in Cleveland and grew up in Sandusky, Ohio. She attended Kent State University and worked in hotel management for many years. She was married for 36 years to the late Ron LaReau. While working for the Chamber of Commerce in Grand Rapids, Mich., she was involved in hosting world leaders visiting the Gerald Ford Presidential Library & Museum. She came to Wilmington with Ron in 1993 and worked with WHQR public radio and Lower Cape Fear Hospice.

Ron was this club's president for 2000-2001. After his death in 2012, Ann became a

Rotarian herself, and was the club's chief advocate for research into Alzheimer's disease through the CART donation program.

For 30 years, Ann worked with dementia patients, first through the Home Instead agency and then her own consulting business.

Ann enjoyed a long and close relationship with Rotarian Wilbur Jones. For more, SEE: page 3. Other survivors include her son Mark Dunn of Butler, Tenn.; brothers Regis and Eric Weiss of Sandusky; three granddaughters and a great-grandson; and three stepdaughters, Lisa, Celest, and Corinne LaReau.

A celebration of Ann's life will be announced soon, to take place in January 2023.



Ann LaReau joined this club on Aug. 28, 2012, sponsored by Linda Pearce.

Club aids international work

Our International Projects Committee has directed club and district resources toward combatting human trafficking in an African war zone and toward a medical care project in Central America.

On Nov. 15, the committee's chair, **Gabe Rich**, presented a check for \$1,750 to **Louise Coggins**, representing Lift Up the Vulnerable. LUV provides clothing and supplies to permit children in South Sudan to attend school, as an alternative to forced labor, sex trafficking, child soldiery, and early marriage.

Still in the works is a \$45,000 Global Grant project to buy diagnostic equipment for the rural Santa Maria Clinic and Laboratory in Reitoca, Honduras.



Leaders in Service 2022 honorees Yousri Sayed and J.C. Lyle (Chris Coudriet could not attend) were guests at Nov. 1 meeting, where Dale Smith unveiled a plaque that will list all future awards.



Wilbur Jones, Norm Rogers and Dale Smith with 'Golden Bucket' trophy for most giving to Alzheimer's-research CART fund, now named in Ann LaReau's honor. On Dec. 6, in Ann's memory, our members donated a total of \$676 to CART.

Club & district remember, honor Ann

Following **Ann LaReau**'s death, Rotarian **Donna Shiro** presented a tribute in words and images during her Health & Happiness segment Dec. 6. Then on Dec. 13, **Wilbur Jones** offered another extended reminiscence about Ann and what she meant, both to him and to us.

Also on Dec. 13, during District Governor **Nancy Carr**'s visit to the club, the district's CART chair, **Norm Rogers**, made two important announcements. First was that this club had won the "Golden Bucket" trophy, for most giving to the Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust, which was Ann's favorite cause. Our members sent \$4,300 to CART last year. Norm's second announcement was that this CART trophy will henceforth be known as the "Ann LaReau Golden Bucket" in honor of her unswerving advocacy.



This photo of Ann LaReau with Wilbur Jones at the club's Sept. 17 football-themed barn party was one of those Donna Shiro showed as part of her Dec. 6 tribute to Ann's memory.

Habitat House project

Continued from page 1

Typical Habitat participants work in education (including teachers, lunchroom and maintenance staffs, office staff and bus drivers), health care (social workers, medical assistants and nurse's aides), and other professions such as construction, trucking, retail, restaurants, and clerical.

We will work with a home buyer named Tysheia, whose children are 10, 9 and 6. She coaches youth sports, drives a school bus, and during summer breaks works to transport medical patients.

When construction begins sometime in February, the first volunteer day will be in the warehouse at 3310 Frederickson Road, off U.S. 421 North. The remaining seven build days will be on site.

The first several work days will need 25 to 30 volunteers, beginning with assembling prefabricated wall sections. Next will come wall raising, roof sheathing, miscellaneous framing, and attaching vinyl siding. With warmer spring weather will come painting, work on porches and hardware, cleanup, and landscaping. Volunteers are especially encouraged to attend the final event, a housewarming.

Contributions can be made by check (payable to Cape Fear Habitat) or online. Checks should say "Wilmington Rotary Club" in the memo line to ensure the funds are allocated correctly. Mail to 3310 Frederickson Road, Wilmington, NC 28401.

Online, enter our club's name in "Comments." www.capefearhabitat.org/donatenow/



This banner about our project was on display at Habitat reception.

DEI grant supports Our Stories, movies about race

A special District Grant is paying half of a \$2,750 initiative by our club’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, largely to expand “Our Stories—Brave Conversations on Race.”

Its purpose is to get Black and White people talking with one another about their experiences involving race.

The grant is creating and supporting a multi-club Rotary DEI collaborative, led by our club. The money will support Our Stories training and community events and encourage participation from all Rotary Clubs in Wilmington.

This builds on the original Our Stories project in Raleigh and Wilmington.

Rotarians **Terri Everett** and **Allen Quigley** brought Our Stories to Wilmington. In a year and a half, Our Stories has sponsored seven six-week sessions with 56 graduates. Participants have reported gaining better understanding about how to improve race relations.

In each six-week program, five people of color and five White people meet virtually or in person for two-and-a-half-hour discussions after some independent study. Trained facilitators guide participants through questions that stimulate honest but respectful conversation about their experiences with racial issues. About a third of the

participants have been Rotarians.

After the first year, the DEI Committee intends to ask all six Wilmington Rotary Clubs to sustain the project until can become self-sufficient.

The DEI committee also sponsors movie nights. These began with a film about Althea Gibson and Arthur Ashe, which explored their experiences as Black players in the largely White tennis world. That evening included a presentation by former tennis pro Lenny Simpson of Wilmington, who knew Gibson when she trained here.

Julie Rehder and **Althea Johnson** are the DEI Committee’s co-chairs.



Rotarians helped Williston Middle School’s Students of the Month celebrate on Dec. 14. A big Rotary delegation also turned out for the Nov. 16 awards.

Dessert sales to help Williston’s musicians

Members are being asked to dig deep at our Dec. 20 holiday party and help support Williston Middle School’s music programs. The day’s program will include musical entertainment, a raffle, and a live auction of cakes and other desserts. Proceeds will benefit Williston’s orchestra, chorus and band.

An anonymous Rotarian has committed to match all contributions today, up to \$1,000.

Anyone wishing to make a contribution towards this challenge should see **Steve Yates**, who will take checks or cash, or arrange to have you billed as part of your quarterly invoice for contributions to our foundation.

District polio helpers to India

Past District Governor **Nancy Barbee** is inviting Rotarians to join her to help with polio eradication work India. The trip, which will coincide with India’s National Immunization Day, will be Jan. 24 through Feb. 3, 2023. Participants will administer oral polio vaccines to children in Delhi, Agra, and Kolkatta, as well as visiting Rotary projects, meeting Rotarians, sightseeing, and enjoying fellowship.

Cost is estimated at \$2,950 per person. The district governor’s Dec. 7 weekly email includes a link to an online application form.



Headed ‘Gratitude,’ this letter from the Kyiv Department of Health thanks New Life Ministries for its help to Vorsel Village Orphanage. Last winter, its 60 children were evacuated just hours ahead of the Russian army, saving them from likely kidnapping and forced adoptions in Russia. Soon after the Ukraine war began, our club sent money to New Life Ministries.

Newsletter photos
by **Robby Collins, Mike Beaudoin, Charlotte Davis, Terri Everett, Marty Feurer, Lynne Hershey, Bob Kitchen, John Meyer, and Donna Shiro**

East club seeking help for Ukrainian war refugees

After giving aid to orphanages in Ukraine and war refugees in Moldova, Wilmington-area Rotarians are sponsoring Ukrainian refugees here.

Working with a group called Welcome.US, Area Governor **Dan Parks** of Wilmington East Rotary Club is leading efforts to support two Ukrainian families. Each consists of a mother and one child; men of military age may not leave Ukraine.

Dan has asked for help securing doctors, work permits and other paperwork, English-language classes, school enrollments, and furniture and household goods. He reports that the families have sufficient household goods, but he expects to be needing more soon when additional refugee families arrive.

The relocation process for the first two families includes plane fares totalling around \$4,000, plus \$12,000 to support them for three months.

Tax-exempt contributions can be mailed to Wilmington East Rotary Charitable Trust, PO Box 373, Wrightsville Beach, NC 28480.



Rotarians and high school students socialize at opening of RYLA conference at UNC-Wilmington. Thirteen students will go on to district RYLA.

Rotarians step up to aid, expand Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

The six Rotary Clubs of Wilmington will be sending thirteen high school juniors to the district’s Rotary Youth Leadership Awards conference. That annual weekend event takes place Jan. 27-29 at the Trinity Center in Pine Knoll Shores.

The thirteen students were chosen from among some 50 who attended the Wilmington RYLA conference at UNC-Wilmington Dec. 3.

In recent years, the participating local clubs have paid \$300 for each of ten students sent to the district RYLA weekend. This club pays for five, and other clubs make up the difference. But this year, Rotarian **Rob Zapple** personally contributed another \$900 to allow three more Wilmington students to attend. All thirteen will ride to Trinity Center in a large van donated by New Hanover County.

They will be among 100 students from around District 7730. Most clubs outside Wilmington make individual nominations. The RYLA weekend includes motivational speakers and inspirational leadership training led by Rotarian **Phil Panzerella** and others. The students make new friends and share experiences with each other as they learn about leadership styles and communication skills.

The thirteen Wilmington students were chosen by volunteer discussion leaders from several area clubs, including **Mike Beaudoin, Bob Kitchen,**



Hannah Morgan, assistant director of admissions at UNCW, tells RYLA students about the college application process, including advice about course selection, testing, essays, and campus visits.

en, Angela MacKinnon, John Meyer, Charles Mintz, Tyler Wooden, and Rob Zapple. Rotarians evaluated the students on their participation, the relevance of their contributions to the morning’s discussions, and their demeanor and communication skills.

RYLA participants were nominated by their counselors at eight New Hanover County and private high schools. To help encourage greater participation next year, **Fred Gillette** of the Wilmington East Rotary Club suggested thanking the participating counselors with a \$50 gift card each.

With contributions from the discussion leaders, the inter-club RYLA Committee chaired by **R.B. Richey**

will present those cards to the counselors, along with feedback about their students’ participation and formal letters of thanks.



RYLA students rotated among tables for discussions led by Rotarian volunteers. The event was in UNCW’s Golden Hawk Room.



Marty Feurer and Steve Yates.

Ernie Olds, Marty Feurer and Page Teer.

Bunny Donohue and Elliott O'Neal.

Rotarians in holiday spirit raising funds for Salvation Army

As we have for many years, our members volunteered to collect money for the Salvation Army. Every Tuesday starting Nov. 29, our bell-ringers have solicited donations

at Sam's Club. On just one day, Dec. 6, they collected \$2,502.73. We are vying with other civic clubs for the informal honors of this season's best kettle fund-raisers.



Working solo, Don Wood is a double ringer.



R.B. Richey and Donna Shiro get a grip.



Paul Lawler and Bob Elliott.

Rotarians play in Carousel Center tourney



Three members played Nov. 12 in the Carousel Center's fundraising golf tournament: Elliott O'Neal, Larry Anderson and Steve Yates. Rotarian Laurie Taylor is the development director for the Carousel Center, which serves children victimized by physical and sexual abuse.

Tech Committee gains one, can use more

Chris Utesch has joined the elite crew that manages the club's audio-visual equipment and puts our meetings online using Zoom software. To consistently get meetings online and recorded, our tiny technology force still needs reinforcements.

At our Nov. 29 meeting, eleven people attended remotely via Zoom. Since returning from an extended vacation, during which several meetings could not be put online, Cleve Callison has resumed setting up Zoom. He has warned

that he expects to be traveling extensively and won't be able to regularly keep doing that work.

Technical setup has to begin around 10 a.m. "It's a complicated job," Cleve says. He has offered to create a tutorial to help any new volunteers. Any help will be valued, even if it can't be every week.

We could also use a couple more people for non-technical setup at meetings, Steve Yates reports. Those tasks include setting up tables and getting name badges and the check-in scanner ready.

Wilmington West's Young to be governor

Andrea "Andi" Young has been selected as Rotary District 7730's governor for 2025-26. Andi is a member and past president of Wilmington West Rotary Club. She has been an area foundation advocate and chairs the district's membership committee.

She works in the pharmaceuti-



cal industry and is a volunteer in Scouting, soccer and schools.

Andi came to Wilmington in 1998 and joined her Rotary club in 2016.

As district governor, she will follow Nancy Carr (2022-23), Allen Quigley (2023-24) and James Crooks (2024-25.)



D'Itri: transit tax



Kozlowsky: transportation



Wurtzbacher: sales tax



Richey: two foundations



Peterson: a spy in Moscow

Programs cover ballot measure, business, gardens, veterans, spy tales, music, and Rotary business



Pious: Swain Center



Smith: Honor Flight



Collogan: landscaping



Kennedy: Christmas tunes

A wide range of program topics, from a proposed transit tax and economic development to sustainable gardening and Cold War spy intrigue, have informed and entertained our members recently.

A quarter-cent sales tax for mass transit, sidewalks and other transportation needs was the topic of our Oct. 25 meeting. Mike Kozlowsky of the Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization, Brianna d'Itri of WAVE Transit, and Assistant County Manager Lisa Wurtzbacher all spoke. (On Nov. 8, county voters rejected that tax proposal.)

Bob Pious, executive director of UNC-W's Swain Center for Executive Education and Economic Development spoke Nov. 1 about the center's mission and current work.

Taking aging or disabled veterans to visit war memorials in Washington, D.C. was the subject of Ruth Ravitz Smith's presentation Nov. 8, in advance of Veterans' Day. She is director of Cape Fear Honor Flight.

Matt Collogan, consumer horticultural agent with N.C. Cooperative Extension, spoke Nov. 15 about sustainable landscaping and native plant species.

On Nov. 22, Martha Peterson, a retired CIA agent, told the story of communicating with undercover agents in Moscow and her arrest by the KGB during the Cold War.

Rotarian R.B. Richey made a Foundation Month presentation Nov. 29 about both the international Rotary Foundation and our club's own non-profit foundation.

The Dec. 6 program featured Christmas music from Opera House Theatre Company, introduced by Ray Kennedy and sung by Coleman Cox and Beth Crookham.

District Governor Nancy Carr made her official visit to the club on Dec. 13. Every district governor visits each of our district's 49 clubs at least once during their year in office. Nancy is a member of the Clinton-Sampson County Rotary Club.



Carr: district governor

In honor of Veterans' Day, St. Mary third-graders joined us Nov. 8 to sing 'God Bless America.'



Vocalists Coleman Cox and Beth Crookham, accompanied by Ray Kennedy, sing Christmas songs on the Tileston stage.

Upcoming programs & events

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

Family holiday party, with holiday jazz entertainment, raffles and auction to benefit Williston Middle School.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27

No meeting, Christmas holiday.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3

Annual economic update and forecast, with **Dr. Mouhcine Guettabi**, UNC-Wilmington economist.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

A sneak peek at the 2023 N.C. Azalea Festival, with **Denise Szaloky**, 2023 Azalea Festival president.

MONDAY, JANUARY 16

Board of Directors meeting, 5:15 p.m. LS3P Architects conference room, 101 N. Third Street, Fifth Floor.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17

Wilmington Fire Department's crisis-response canines, with Rotarian **Kyria Whisenhunt** of Paws4People.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24

Wilmington port update, with **Brian Clark**, N.C. State Ports Authority executive director.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31

Club assembly: updates from Board of Directors and committees. With President **Dale Smith**.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Program and speaker **to be announced**.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Annual Rookie Teachers of the Year awards, with **five beginning New Hanover County teachers**.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Board of Directors meeting, 5:15 p.m. LS3P Architects conference room, 101 N. Third Street, Fifth Floor.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Program and speaker **to be announced**.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Proposed railroad relocation, with **Aubrey Parsley**, Wilmington's director of economic development.

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

Service Above Self awards for law enforcement and first responders, with Rotarian **Ben David**, district attorney.

TUESDAY, MARCH 14

Fighting senior scams, with **Stephanie Bias & John Maron** of N.C. Senior Consumer Fraud Task Force.

For program updates, see wilmingtonrotaryclub.org

Rotary news briefs

All rookie teachers get gift cards. As the 2022-23 school year got under way, our club presented 100 Staples gift cards worth \$20 each to New Hanover County Schools' first-year teachers. Our larger effort to encourage beginning educators, the annual Rookie Teachers of the Year awards for five second-year teachers, will culminate at the Feb. 14, 2023 meeting.

President-nominee Urchick visits district. Rotary International's president for 2024-25, Stephanie Urchick of McMurry, Pa., was speaker at the District 7730 Foundation Banquet in Wallace Nov. 12. Urchick will be RI's second woman president. She was also the second top RI officer to visit our district this year, following 2021-22 President Shakher Mehta in January.

Rotarians rescued from elevator. The balky lift in the St. Mary School's Tileston building trapped a carload of Rotarians after the Nov. 8 meeting. They were quickly freed by the Wilmington Fire Department, summoned by cell-phone distress calls. Otis Elevator company finished repairs before our Nov. 15 meeting, when the school made a rear staircase available—just in case—as an alternative for apprehensive Rotarians.

Blood drive continues in December. The next dates for the citywide Rotary blood drive are Dec. 22 at Masonic Lodge #319, 2019 S. College Road, and Dec. 29 at Independence Mall.

Literacy Committee enlisting school bus drivers. A project to deliver “a stash of books” to every New Hanover County Schools bus driver will get under way in January, committee Chair Debby Gomulka announced Dec. 13. The idea is that the drivers, serving every grade, can help us to put books in students' hands.

Essay contest targets bullying. Rotary District 7730 is inviting sixth and seventh graders to enter its essay contest with the theme “Imagine a world without bullies.” District Governor Nancy Carr announced that project during her Dec. 13 visit to our club. Three prizes will be awarded, of \$500, \$300, and \$200.

Rotary 101 resumes in January. New to Rotary? Or just curious about the international movement in general and our club in particular? Sit in on the free Rotary 101 course at noon Jan. 10, 2023. Subsequent sessions will be the second Tuesday of every month.

Rotaract revived at UNCW. Rotarian Michael Gillespie reports that the new Rotaract Club received its charter as a UNCW student organization in early November. Immediately afterward, it won an on-campus “Souper Hero Can Drive” to benefit the food bank. Rotaract is Rotary's branch for young adults, typically college-based.

Board of Directors Meeting

5:15 pm, 3rd Monday of each Month
LS3P Architects conference room
101 N. Third Street, Fifth Floor
Wilmington, NC 28401

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Submit News Items

Send photos or other information for the newsletter to john@capefearpublishers.com. Please include all pertinent names, dates, etc.

Website

www.WilmingtonRotaryClub.org