



Rotary Club of Durham

Connect. Collaborate. Serve.



March 7, 2016

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Post Office Box 51572 – Durham, North Carolina 27717

www.DurhamRotaryClub.org

The mission of Rotary International is to support its member clubs in fulfilling the Object of Rotary by:

- Fostering unity among member clubs
- Strengthening and expanding Rotary around the world
- Communicating worldwide the work of Rotary; and
- Providing a system of international administration

THE 4-WAY TEST

Of The Things We Think, Say or Do:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

- 03/07 **Rodrigo Dorfman: Mayor Bell's Second Chance PSA And Documentary Filmmaking**
Introduction: Don Stanger
- 03/14 **Dr. Paul Feldman, Intarcia Pharma Innovation**
Introduction: Don Stanger
- 03/21 **Coach Jerry Mack: NCCU Football: Saturday Night Lights**
Introduction: Anna Jones
- 03/28 **NO ROTARY! In Observance of The Easter Holiday**
- 04/04 **OFFSITE MEETING!!**
Sarah P. Duke Gardens: An Update & Tour
Bill LeFevre, Director
Introduction: Lois Deloatch

SERVICE SCHEDULE FOR MARCH 7, 2016

Music

Vocalist: **MARK HIGGINS**

Pianist: **SHARON LASSITER**

"INVOCATION: SHERIDAN VAN WAGENBERG"

DRC Raffle: RI Foundation Programs

Contribution: \$1/Ticket; \$5/6 Tickets

Proceeds: ½ RI Foundation; ½ Winner

Rotary International: \$51 Raffle Winner: \$50

Total: \$101.00

Raffle Winner: **MIKE WOODARD**

CART Fund (Coins For Alzheimer's Research Trust)

2/29 \$TBD

ANDRA WATKINS, AUTHOR

NOT WITHOUT MY FATHER:

ONE WOMAN'S 444-WALK OF THE NATCHEZ TRACE



Like he often does, Dallas Stallings had the right sentiment after Andra Watkins presented our program on Monday. He advised Rob Everett that he should give up his leadership of the Program Committee because he was never going to top this one. Rob, who introduced Ms. Watkins, has actually already turned the Committee over to Steed Rollins -- and besides this one, he still has lined up a program or two that will cement his reputation for great programs. Stay tuned.

The program might have been seen as a promotion for Ms. Watkins' book – *Not Without My Father: One Woman's 444-Walk of The Natchez Trace* – but you'll have to read the book to decide if her skills as a writer can exceed her skill as a motivational speaker. *Not Without My Father* was her memoir of what began as a book promotion for another book, *To Live Forever: An Afterlife Journey of Meriwether Lewis*.

Meriwether Lewis, of Lewis and Clark fame, led the famous expedition to explore the Louisiana Purchase in the early 19th Century. Her interest was sparked in part when she discovered that these twenty-something explorers...eh...partied their way up the trace with the women of the Native American tribes along the way who reckoned that copulation with the white men would still their powers. This resulted in many cases of what we now call STDs which were treated with mercury. Mercury, of course, is very toxic. Later analysis of some of the samples of the "soil" deposited in their campsites had such high concentrations of the element that archeologists wondered how so many survived the journey.



Meriwether Lewis died, either of suicide or murder, on the Natchez Trace years later at age 35. This inspired Ms. Watkins to write what she called "a paranormal historical action adventure novel" about Meriwether after his tragic death, a genre with little competition, she mused.

She described something many authors know, that is, that writing a book is often the only fun part of getting it published. She described it as her "baby," an apt analogy that many parents learn, that is, that most of the fun is on the front end of the process. She was turned down by many publishers and when it finally was born she conjured up the stunt to walk the 444-mile Trace to promote the book. Her goal was to do the journey 15 miles a day, 6 days a week and end up in Nashville for a scheduled book signing. She needed a wingman and searched until her only viable choice was her 80-year-old father -- who was that last person she wanted to spend that kind of time with.

If you imagine that this was physically challenging, it certainly was, but the moment of revelation was one day when she found herself exhausted and discouraged and collapsed in a field. There, she said, she found herself face-to-face with a daffodil. Each day then became a day of meditation and living in the moment seeing the beauty around her. She also grew closer to her father and commented, "We don't realize how quickly we lose people. Make memories with them and hold them in your heart, and you'll have those memories when they are gone."



The appreciation went beyond daffodils; there were birds and animals that would follow and even beauty in the detritus along the road. Photographs of the journey rotated on the large screen in the room as she spoke. A discarded flossing pic colorfully set beside the highway strip comes to mind.

Ms. Watkins, it turns out, is not only an author, but an accountant and a highly-decorated Rotarian in District 7770 – Eastern South Carolina. She is the Past-President of The East Cooper Breakfast Rotary Club in Mount Pleasant and The District Communications Chair, a two-time Rotarian of The Year, a multiple Paul Harris Fellow, a Paul Harris Society Member, and recipient of her District's Distinguished Service award.

**Club Statistics as of
March 7, 2016:
Club Members: 243;
Active: 209
Active-LOA: 5; Honorary: 29
Staff Positions: 1**



MARCH 2016 BIRTHDAYS!

KEN LONDBSTROM	MARCH 01
KAY BRESHAM	MARCH 02
MARTON JOHNSON, JR.	MARCH 02
CAROLINE MELCH	MARCH 04
SUSAN ROSS	MARCH 05
JOHN KERR	MARCH 05
MATT KOPAC	MARCH 05
STEVE ROLLINS	MARCH 06
JAMES HEDRICK	MARCH 08
GRAY BROWN	MARCH 09
HOWARD CLEMENT	MARCH 12
RALPH SWYDERMAN	MARCH 18
BRUCE MILLS, JR.	MARCH 18
DENNIS MCILAIN	MARCH 16
BOY SOLZE	MARCH 27
JOHN STADDON	MARCH 19
DOUG BOWLER	MARCH 22
WALT SHACKELFORD	MARCH 24
MARIE BAKER	MARCH 25
THOMAS KERNIS	MARCH 26
EMILY PAGE	MARCH 27
INGRID MUCKER-MCCREE	MARCH 29
LARRY GRANT	MARCH 31

PENDING NEW MEMBERS:

BRUCE ALEXANDER (Sponsored By: Arthur Rogers)
AMANDA KURUC (Sponsored By: Arthur Rogers)
BURTON KING (Sponsored By: Jim Leak)
DAVE WALTERS (Sponsored By: Jim Leak)
SUSAN SCOTT (Sponsored By: Melissa Mills)

2015-2016 ROTARY LEADERSHIP

RI President: K. R. Ravindran
District Governor: Newman Aguiar
ADG-Area 7: Joyce McKinney

2015-2017 Club Officers

President: Lois DeLoatch
Immediate Past-President: Vandana Dake
President-Elect: B. C. Dash
Vice-President: Shelly Green
Secretary: Phyllis Coley
Treasurer: Susan Miller
Sergeant-at-Arms: Janene Tompkins
Finance Advisor: Barry Curtis
Legal Advisor: Deana Labriola

2015-2017 Board of Directors

Eric Miller
David Reese
Andy Esser
Blake Strayhorn
Meg Solera
Marge Nordstrom
Jen Noble
Ari Medoff
Danielle Kaspar
Club Website Master
Jay Zenner, Designer; Updates



Her closing comment was: "Don't let the petty little things steal the amazing from your day."

Gentle readers, if you are reading this because you missed the meeting, you missed a good one that these few paragraphs and a picture or two could not possibly capture in full. You can, however, get a fuller sense of this woman and her work on her website, at: www.andrawatkins.com. There you will also be able to purchase one or both of these books and see some of the pictures she took on the Natchez Trace.

Submitted By: Carver Weaver & Jay Zenner

PICTURE OF THE WEEK



Picture of the Week from the Archives of The Durham Library's North Carolina Collection. North Carolina Life Insurance Company Officers, ca. 1911 Left To Right: A. M. Moore, John M. Avery, John Merrick, Ed Merrick, & C. C. Spaulding

NANA'S FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER WINE DINNER

TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2016 – 6:00 PM

\$75.00 PER PERSON -- SIGN UP NOW!



DISTRICT CONFERENCE 2016

APRIL 29, 30, & MAY 1, 2016!!



Let's Support District Governor, Newman!!
Visit The District Conference Website To Register:
www.2016districtconference.org
(See Sharon If You Need Assistance In Registering)



Club Facebook link: www.facebook.com/DurhamRotaryClub

Executive Secretary: Sharon Lassiter
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