



# THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

February 25, 2025

## 2024-2025 Board Members

President Kim Brattain

Pres Elect Patrick Baker

Past Pres Edwin Peacock

Secretary Bill Gill

Treasurer Craig Field

Sergeant at Arms

Mike Wollinger

Exec Sec Christine Cipriano

### Directors 2023-2025

Linwood Bolles

Terri DeBoo

Andy Dinkin

Donna Dunlap

Joel Ford

David Head

### Directors 2024-2026

Woodson Bradley

Benton Bragg

John Cantrell

Tish Atkins Charles

Dena Diorio

Stuart Hair

Jesse Hite

Virginia Owen

Membership John Cantrell

Foundation Joe Morris

Programs Luther Moore



## *Patricia Shafer Peace in Our Time: What's a Charlottean to Do?*

by **Bill Barte**

**Patricia Shafer** has travelled the world, obtained multiple graduate degrees, and taken on the title of Rotary Peace Fellow. However, how this Charlotte Rotary member became a Global Peace Builder was only the beginning of her presentation to her home club.

The start of her journey in this realm came from encouragement from our own PDG **Luther Moore**. The former District 7680 Governor was described by Shafer as her own "Mr. Miyagi" - the fictional character played by Pat Morita in the Karate Kid movie franchise.

It was Moore that first stated, "You could be a Rotary Peace Fellow" to Shafer. That, along with the encouragement to join the club as a member, followed by Moore continuously showing up for every Peace event, was impactful in her journey. It was also indicative of Rotary International and its members advocating for peace through "the fourth object of Rotary" to "promote international understanding, goodwill, and peace."

Rotary International's investment towards the pursuit of the aforementioned goals included the creation of seven Peace Centers around the world. The closest to us is the Duke/UNC Rotary Peace Center, which will host a "Stories of Peace" Conference on April 5, 2025. These Centers identify leaders with experience in service and those that would benefit from fellowships for the study and implementation of peace in action. The 120 years of Rotary history and the

current 1.4 million members align well with world understanding and the pursuit of peace. Rotary was on-hand at the creation of the United Nations, Patricia explained, and continues with a presence in the organization.

“Establish your purpose and stick with it, along with a creative, disruptive edge” fits the mantra of Rotary and the want for peace. Plus, Rotary founder, Paul Harris, used trees as a symbol of goodwill and friendship everywhere he travelled. Shafer used these examples as representation of how we can have our own impact. Three Peace Fellows are chosen from hundreds of applicants, which can seem overwhelming.

Then Patricia Shafer, one of the 44 Rotary Positive Peace Activators in North America and a recipient of the national award for US Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding, helped make Peacebuilders visible and local to those in attendance and watching via Zoom. She not only recognized Past District Governor **Luther Moore** but also recognized four important visitors to the Rotary Club of Charlotte as Peace Builders:

1. Scott Gartlan, the Executive Director of the Charlotte Teachers Institute. Scott’s organization has helped encourage and support thousands of teachers, curriculums, and classrooms. Professional development, creativity, leadership, and collaboration are ways that peace occurs through education.
2. Lexia Gianopoulos from Furman University. This twenty-year-old is heading to Denmark to learn about global initiatives regarding collaborative communication and its effect on peace.
3. Phillips Bragg from Bragg Financial was recognized for his work with the Raising South Sudan project and the Lost Boys of Sudan. This group of 3,000 (30 of which came to the Charlotte-area) were supported with the help of Phillips, his family business, and St. John’s Baptist. They continue to play a part in the lives of those affected.
4. Greg Jackson was recognized for his work involving relationships between law enforcement and the Charlotte community. His role as a Peacebuilder continues with his work as an advocate for affordable housing and home placement.

**Patricia Shafer** described the five recognized Peacebuilders as “ordinary people doing extraordinary things.” Her work, her words, and her examples of “Peace in Our Time: What’s a Charlottean to Do?” brought to life the abilities that we have to make a difference.

A recording of the meeting can be found here:

Without slides: <https://vimeo.com/1061465821>

With slides: <https://vimeo.com/1061465649>

The presentation starts at about 20 minutes and 55 seconds.