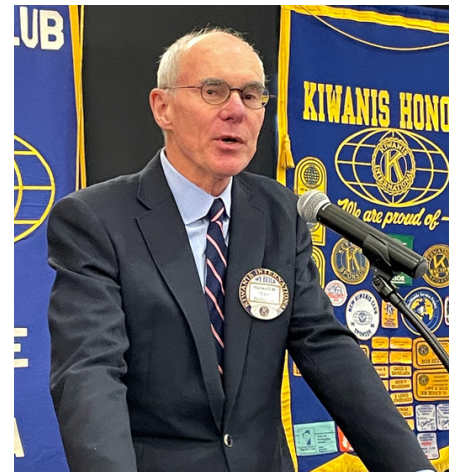




Sam Darby presented his autobiography last week and we enjoyed it so much we decided to print in the newsletter.

On November 23, 1943, a unit of the 34th Infantry Division of the United States of America's Fifth Army was making its way at night across a river and river bottom with the objective of attacking an entrenched German infantry unit in the hills on the other side of the crossing. This was in the mountains of Northern Italy. The unit was proceeding single file across a mined area, willing to take casualties to traverse the area and be in position to attack the next morning. Lt. Harwell M. Darby, from Florence, Alabama, age 22 was near the head of his column when a soldier next to him activated an anti-personnel mine." A "Bouncing Betty." It was propelled to waist height with a first explosive charge and then with a second explosion, discharged shrapnel laterally. Lt. Darby was seriously wounded and evacuated back to the United States. In the spring of 1944, as a patient in the Greenbrier Hotel in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, which had been converted into a rehabilitation hospital, he met and fell in love with a nurse from Roanoke, Virginia. Caroline Boxley. They were married in September, 1945 and had their first child, a son, in 1947.



I attended elementary school in South Boston. Then 4 years of boarding school; a 5th year of high school in an English boarding school, and graduated from Davidson College in North Carolina in 1970. I spent my junior year at the University of Montpellier in Southern France.

As Lt. Harwell M. Darby, Jr., I went on active duty with the U.S. Army in the fall of 1970. I had filled out an information card (do you remember the thick cards with a corner cut off and the admonition "DO NOT FOLD SPINDLE OR MUTILATE"?) The block for Major Course of Study was just large enough for me to write E-N-G for "English Literature." I was surprised when I was ordered to Fort Belvoir, Virginia, the home of the U.S. Army Combat ENGINEERS. My third day there I was called out of our class by our commanding officer. "Lieutenant, I want to know what in the Sam Hill you are doing here," he demanded. "I don't have any idea, sir," I responded. "Well, do me a favor, Lieutenant. Keep your mouth shut until you get out of here." I did.

After my tour in Vietnam with a land clearing company – we knocked down jungle along tactical roads to deny the enemy cover for ambush – I married my wife, Jean, and entered law school at Washington & Lee University in Lexington. Jeanie and I will celebrate our 50th Anniversary in June of this year. We raised four children in our house on Avenham Avenue, and both are still working full time, she at Habitat for Humanity and I with the law firm of Glenn Feldmann, Darby & Goodlatte. I can't believe it's been 50 years.

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This Week at Kiwanis - BEAM Diagnostics and Entrepreneurship

Join us Wednesday for our meeting at 12:30PM presented by Dr. Sarah Snider, CEO of BEAM Diagnostics, Inc. Dr. Snider will speak about her experience as an entrepreneur in the perception, development, establishment and growth of her business.

She is an expert in substance abuse, behavioral economics and decision making. Dr. Snider founded BEAM Diagnostics in 2017 and continues to lead the development of useful tools for healthcare providers.

Zoom Meeting Wednesday January 19 at 1230pm

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81785815453?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81785815453?pwd=Q3NQMQ00ySE9jdmdErbDhhR3FUZVZQ1dz09)
[pwd=Q3NQMQ00ySE9jdmdErbDhhR3FUZVZQ1dz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81785815453?pwd=Q3NQMQ00ySE9jdmdErbDhhR3FUZVZQ1dz09)

Meeting ID: 817 8581 5453

Passcode: 102906

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Dial by your location +1 301 715 8592 US (DC)
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January 5 -
Jeanne Bollendorf

January 6 -
Dirk Kuyk
Stephanie Moon Reynolds

January 7 -
John Bradshaw

January 8 -
Bob Rutherford

January 13 -
Chris Head

January 15 -
Tom Blake

January 23 -
Mark Michie
Terry VandeLinde

January 28 -
Pegram Johnson
John Montgomery
Andy Stone

January 31 -
Frank Rogan

IMPORTANT KIWANIS DATES

- **JANUARY 26, 2022** - ARCHIVECORE - LENNOX MCNEARY
- **JANUARY 28, 2022** - OUR 102ND ANNIVERSARY!
- **FEBRUARY 19, 2022** - DANCE MARATHON FUNDRAISER - KEY CLUBS
- **MAY 7, 2022** - KIWANIS PANCAKE & AUCTION DAY - DRIVE THRU @BERGLUND CENTER



Welcome New Member Don Evans!

Last week we inducted a new member. Don is a State Farm insurance agent in the Smith Mountain Lake area. He is sponsored by President Clark Goodman.

Don is married with three boys. He's heard a lot about our club from Clark and after visiting during the West End Center Christmas party, he was convinced by the club's energy and enthusiasm for doing good work.

Other News

Congratulations to our Grant Recipients!

Last week we awarded \$8,500 to the **Local Office on Aging (LOA)** for their Meals on Wheels program. This program is the largest Meals on Wheels in the entire state, serving 150,000 meals annually! We also awarded \$2,500 to the **Salvation Army**. Grant funds will support a refurbished children's play area near the Women's Shelter. The shelter provides a safe haven for abused women and their children.



Ron Boyd (LOA) with Don Wilson



John Montgomery with Jamie Clay (Salvation Army)

Those



are really getting around town! They showed up at Mike O'Brochta's house last week! Those little dudes have raised over \$1,500 for the club!



COVID Reminders for Lunch Meetings - We want to continue our Kiwanis meetings safely and in-person. Please remember to mind your COVID Ps & Qs - masks and social distancing. Please don't come in person if you are feeling unwell. If you think you've been exposed, please attend virtually until you're no longer contagious.