

# The Gateway

The Quarterly Newsletter from Fellowship Hall

## A Fellowship Hall Legacy: 44 years of the Annual Conference



What began in 1972 as a way to bring together newly sober men with others from the established AA community, has since grown to an event where men and women from all walks of life, all substance use histories, and all stages of recovery gather for three days to support each other and celebrate their shared recovery.

For Gina B., this year's Voice, the Conference is like coming home. "[The Conference] is a very special annual event where I can reconnect with people in the recovery community that I don't typically see the rest of the year. It's a time to celebrate the recovery way

of life and listen to great speakers. Kind of like a family reunion."

Gina first became acquainted with The Hall more than a decade ago. After relocating to Greensboro from Boston post-divorce, life was pretty lonely. "It was just a few weeks after 9/11; the world was a very scary place. I didn't know anyone. I didn't have any friends or relatives close by. It was just me, my greyhound, and three cats."

In the midst of that loneliness, Gina turned to alcohol for solace.

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SUMMER 2016

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### MISSION: POSSIBLE

We are focused on helping people who suffer from alcoholism and drug addiction, by providing compassionate, cost-effective care and maintaining our commitment to a 12-Step philosophy.

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### NEW BOARD MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome Tina Harris, David Guise, and Russ Robinson as the newest members of the Fellowship Hall Board of Directors.

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### IT'S TOURNAMENT TIME!


Have you registered yet? Join us for the 15th Annual E. Raymond Alexander, Jr. Memorial Golf Tournament on Friday, August 5th.

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**REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!**  
[www.fellowshiphall.com/annual-conference](http://www.fellowshiphall.com/annual-conference)

#### STAY IN TOUCH!

 336.621.3381

 [info@fellowshiphall.com](mailto:info@fellowshiphall.com)

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*Fellowship Hall*

Ever Onward:  
*Eugenia Leggett-Frank*



It is with much sadness that we share news of the sudden May 7 passing of our dear friend, Eugenia Leggett-Frank.


Eugenia first became acquainted with Fellowship Hall through her professional friendship with former Board Chairman, Tom Smith, and long-time Board member, Mose Kiser.

Eugenia and her husband Barry Frank were named honorary chairs of the *Changing Lives* Capital Campaign and contributed a major gift of their own just this past fall. Eugenia also served as Interim Director of Development at The Hall from May-December of last year.

Eugenia was the Associate Dean of Development at Elon School of Law for nearly a decade until her recent retirement. Active in the Greensboro community, Eugenia served on the board of directors at the Carolina Theatre, Greensboro Science Center, NC Museum of Art, NC Theatre, and was a former board member of Hospice and Palliative Care of Greensboro.

Though many were her professional accomplishments, it is her friendship, her energetic spirit, and her joy for life that will be missed most. Eugenia never met a stranger, and gave freely of her time and knowledge to anyone who asked.

She is survived by her husband Barry, daughters Lydia, Kelly, and Katie, mother Alice Jean, and innumerable friends and loved ones.

Memorials may be made in her honor to Elon School of Law, Elon University, NC Theatre Conservatory, Carolina Theatre of Greensboro, or a charity of one's choice. 

## 66th Fellowship Hall Conference on Substance Abuse

**August 5-7**

**Registrations Now Open!**  
[www.fellowshiphall.com/annual-conference](http://www.fellowshiphall.com/annual-conference)

**Only \$25 for the entire weekend – or register by the day**  
Friday \$10 | Saturday \$10 | Sunday \$10 | Picnic \$5

**Downtown Greensboro Marriott**  
For reservations call 336-379-8000 or 800-236-2427

### CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

#### Friday, August 5

**8:00PM** Opening Remarks  
*Spirit of Ray* Award Presentation  
Sara M., Los Angeles, CA (NA)  
Southern Crescent Ballroom

#### Saturday, August 1

**9:00AM**  
Lillie A., South Portland, ME (AA)  
Southern Crescent Ballroom

**10:30AM**  
Craig M., Alexandria, VA (Al-Anon)  
Southern Crescent Ballroom

**12:00PM** Picnic at Fellowship Hall

**1:00PM** Tours of new Women's Lodge and Outpatient Center

**2:00PM** Gratitude Meeting  
Fellowship Hall Dining Room

**8:00PM**  
Matthew M., Long Beach, CA (AA)  
Southern Crescent Ballroom

**9:30PM** Ice Cream Social

#### Sunday, August 2

**10:00AM**  
Rose E., Brooksville, FL (AA)  
Southern Crescent Ballroom

For more information, email or call  
[conference@fellowshiphall.com](mailto:conference@fellowshiphall.com) | 336-621-3381 or 800-659-3381

# MISSION:



Jerry Shelton

In light of recent leadership changes at The Hall, we want you to know that we are as strong, committed, and dedicated as ever to serving out our mission *“to help people who suffer from alcoholism and drug addiction, and to provide compassionate, cost-effective care while maintaining our commitment to a Twelve-Step philosophy.”*



John Tesh

We are currently under the secure and steadfast leadership of Board Chairman Jerry Shelton, Vice Chairman John Tesh, and interim President Mike Yow. With a combined 30+



Mike Yow

years of service to Fellowship Hall, these gentlemen, along with our growing staff, are moving our organization forward in positive and impactful ways.

We know that change can be uncertain

and scary, but we have no doubt that with our combined efforts, Fellowship Hall is, and will remain a bastion of the 12-Step recovery philosophy and a beacon of hope for the many who suffer from alcoholism and addiction and the family and friends who love and support them.

Fellowship Hall, Mission: Possible.

## NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Fellowship Hall welcomes three new Board members, Tina Harris, David Guise, and Russ Robinson.

We asked them to tell us a little about themselves.

**The Gateway:** What is your day job?

**Tina Harris:** I am a Forensic Accountant. I investigate financial crimes and reconstruct financial data in litigation.

**GW:** What drew you to serve on this board?

**TH:** I believe that there is no service more worthwhile than the mission of Fellowship Hall: helping others to recover from addiction.

**GW:** What do you hope to accomplish by serving?

**TH:** I hope to ensure that Fellowship Hall is always available to lend a hand to those in need.



Tina Harris

**GW:** What are some of your previous volunteer experiences or leadership roles?

**TH:** I served on the Board of an organic community garden that contributes food and serves meals to the homeless.

**GW:** What are your personal dreams or aspirations that could be enhanced by service on our board?

**TH:** I would like to help others experience the healing benefits of nature by exploring the feasibility of adding activities such as an organic vegetable/flower garden and equine therapy for guests.



David Guise



Russ Robinson

**GW:** If this organization were to be on the cover of your favorite newspaper or magazine in five years, what would the story be about?

*continued from page 1*

“I drank most of the time when I wasn’t working. My life had gone so far off course I knew something had to change.” Gina spoke with a therapist and told of her plans to visit a spa in Arizona. Fortunately, her therapist talked her into coming to Fellowship Hall instead. “I was only going to stay 7 days, 10 at most, so I didn’t bring many clothes. Lucky for me, the Hall had washers and dryers. Twenty-eight days later my life had changed.”

*“I don’t usually use religious language, but I can’t describe my change in any other way than I was reborn.”*

And now, almost 14 years later, Gina is still living a healthy and sober life. A long-time volunteer, this is Gina’s second time serving on the Council. She has also been a van driver (although she says Wayne S. has since deposed her of that duty.) As for her service as The Voice, “it feels good to be trusted and asked to be part of something so special.”

Together with Council President Donna R. Voice-Elect Kyle H., and President-Elect Rick W., this conference promises to be just as uplifting and rewarding as in years past.

The 66th Fellowship Hall Conference on Substance Abuse will be held Friday, August 5th - Sunday, August 7th at the Greensboro Marriott Downtown.

Featuring guest speakers from Los Angeles to Florida’s Gulf Coast, this is an opportunity you don’t want to miss. 

**REGISTER TODAY!**  
[www.fellowshiphall.com/annual-conference](http://www.fellowshiphall.com/annual-conference)



a conference speaker with an adoring fan, circa 1987



# POSSIBLE

**TH:** “The Miracle of Recovery: Restoring lives, families, and communities”.

**The Gateway:** What is your day job?

**David Guise:** I am the Vice President, Branch Manager at Carolina Bank.

**GW:** What drew you to serve on this board?

**DG:** Fellowship Hall has been a part of my life since I moved to Greensboro in 1989. I’ve known several alumni and have had the opportunity to work with many of the guests as a sponsor, friend, or fifth step participant. I met my lovely wife, Kimberly, at the Hall in 2005. She was a nurse and I was attending a meeting on a Sunday morning!

**GW:** What do you hope to accomplish by serving?

**DG:** I hope to be able to assist in carrying the message and furthering the reach of Fellowship Hall. I recognize the Hall has a long, rich tradition of serving the still suffering alcoholics and their families, and I am honored to be a part of that legacy.

**GW:** What are some of your previous volunteer experiences or leadership roles?

**DG:** I’ve volunteered at the Hall as a fifth step recipient and served as District Committee Member for District 23 AA. I

am currently club president for Guilford Rotary and have served on the Board or Directors. Through Rotary I have participated in several service projects, including Backpack Beginnings, Project Big Sweep, Project Rebuild, Habitat for Humanity, Toys for Tots, and as a volunteer at the Wyndham Championship.

**GW:** What are your personal dreams or aspirations that could be enhanced by service on our board?

**DG:** I love being a part of the community and giving back. I am grateful for the relationships that I have, and will continue to make. I look forward to working in the community with other active Board members.

**GW:** If this organization were to be on the cover of your favorite newspaper or magazine in five years, what would the story be about?

**DG:** The story would be how Fellowship Hall continues to further its reputation as one of the foremost treatment facilities in the country for alcoholism and drug addiction.

**The Gateway:** What is your day job?

**Russ Robinson:** I am a lawyer with Hagan Barrett & Langley in Greensboro.

**GW:** What drew you to serve on this board?

**RR:** I have met many people whose lives have been changed by their stay at Fellowship Hall.

**GW:** What do you hope to accomplish by serving?

**RR:** I want to help Fellowship Hall continue with its mission of helping guests on the path of recovery.


**GW:** What are some of your previous volunteer experiences or leadership roles?

**RR:** I formerly served as Chairman to the Board of Trustees for the Greensboro Public Library. I am also a Board Member of the Nature Conservancy of North Carolina and have served on several NC Bar Association Committees.

**GW:** What are your personal dreams or aspirations that could be enhanced by service on our board?

**RR:** I would like to gain a better understanding of the recovery process and how I can help others.

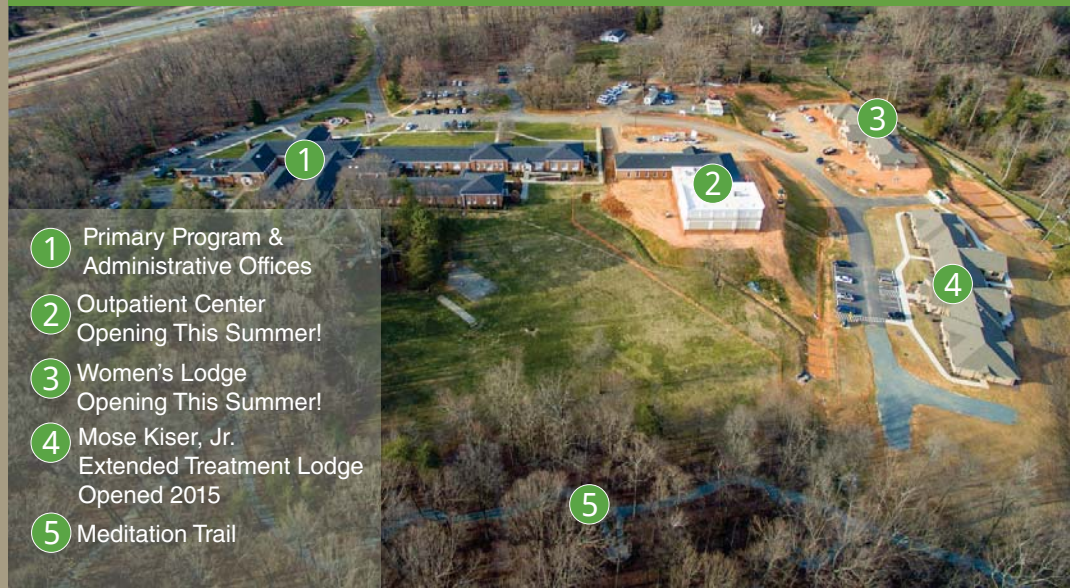
**GW:** If this organization were to be on the cover of your favorite newspaper or magazine in five years, what would the story be about?

**RR:** The steady, long-serving mission of carrying on what Bill and Dr. Bob began. 

## Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Makes \$10,000 Contribution to the *Changing Lives Campaign*

The Fellowship Hall Board of Directors are pleased to announce a recent gift of \$10,000 from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (BCBSNC) in support of the Changing Lives Campaign. The Campaign, which launched last summer, aims to raise support for new programs and services that will be offered in three new additions to the Fellowship Hall campus. The BCBSNC gift will be permanently recognized on a plaque in the Outpatient Center. For more information, or to make a donation, visit [www.FellowshipHall.com](http://www.FellowshipHall.com).

## The Fellowship Hall Campus *We're Growing!*



- 1 Primary Program & Administrative Offices
- 2 Outpatient Center Opening This Summer!
- 3 Women's Lodge Opening This Summer!
- 4 Mose Kiser, Jr. Extended Treatment Lodge Opened 2015
- 5 Meditation Trail

# It's Tournament Time!

## 15th Annual E. Raymond Alexander, Jr. Memorial Golf Tournament




**T**his year's tournament co-chairs, Matt Burkett and Stuart Gordon, are pleased to announce the 15th Annual E. Raymond Alexander, Jr. Memorial Golf Tournament!

Matt, a 2013 alumnus, never met Ray Alexander, but he has been fortunate enough to have a group of men in his life who champion recovery and having fun— much like Ray did. "Early in my recovery, golf became a way for me to spend time with other guys who were also in recovery. I learned that the things I love to do are still accessible and even better in sobriety."

Stuart, a 1999 alumnus and current board member, was close friends with the tournament's namesake, Ray Alexander. He was one of the original cadre of men in recovery, along with Dr. Jerry Davis and others, who played golf with Ray. He says, "After Ray's passing in 2001, Bill Benson came up with the idea to host a tournament in his honor. That first year I think we raised \$240, all of which we donated to The Hall in Ray's name."

Over the past 15 years, that first \$240 has grown to nearly \$300,000 in support for various programs at Fellowship Hall. This year, proceeds from the tournament will support the Family Program, which equips family members of those in treatment with tools and techniques to help themselves and their loved ones maintain a healthy recovery. Family participation being vital to recovery, support from the tournament allows each guest to enroll one family member in the four-day Family Program at no cost.

Getting to the heart of the matter, Matt says, "whether you're a scratch golfer or a once a year player, this tournament is a unique opportunity to have fun with great friends for a great cause. Our driving force is fellowship and celebrating God's grace in life and recovery". 

**SIGN UP NOW!**

Limited to 132 players

[www.fellowshiphall.com/golf](http://www.fellowshiphall.com/golf)

**WHEN & WHERE**

Friday, August 5th, 2016

The Players Course at Bryan Park

6275 Bryan Park Road

Browns Summit

7:00AM check-in

8:00AM shotgun start

**REGISTRATION**

\$100 per player | \$400 per foursome

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE**

Thursday, July 28, 2016

## THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS SO FAR...

### PLATINUM



David J. Robinson, Jr  
Senior Vice President-Investor Relations  
Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC

### GOLD



### SILVER



### BRONZE



Hedgecock  
Electric

### IN-KIND

### FRIENDS OF RAY

Premier Supply Mary Presgraves

Matt Burkett  
Long Beverage Bill Benson

## WANT TO BE A SPONSOR?

Visit [www.fellowshiphall.com/golf](http://www.fellowshiphall.com/golf) for details



# *The Gateway*

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A special thank you to Billy Wyrick and the FH maintenance staff for lighting up the fountain! Thank you to Board Vice Chairman John Tesh for the beautiful photograph seen here and on the front cover!