



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

December 20, 2016; Volume XXIV, Issue 24



Don Wooten Broadcaster/Columnist Patron of the Arts

Don Wooten was the guest speaker at today's Meeting of Rock Island Rotary. Mr. Wooten, is well known as a local figure from his days as a local television weatherman, Illinois State Senator, WVIK Radio General Manager, and

a key leader in the Genesis Guild. Today Don focused his comments on the Genesis Guild. The Genesis Guild is unique in the United States, perhaps in the world. It is, first and foremost, a community theatre which draws its actors and audience from eastern Iowa and northwestern Illinois. Mr. Wooten founded the Genesis Guild in 1956 and served as its Executive Director until 1999. Since its founding, the Guild has performed on indoor and outdoor stages, in television and cinema (an Academy Award winner), in the Quad Cities and at sites as far away as Chicago. They draw audiences from a wide area of the Midwest to enjoy the unusual and accessible summer program of classic theatre.

The Genesis Guild's well-established opera series (since 1972) was the cornerstone on which the Quad City Mozart Festival was built. Performances by the Ballet Quad Cities have been included in the Guild's annual seasons since 1996, spurring a rapid growth in its training program.

What makes the Guild's summer program unique is its diversity and operation. It is free, open-air (on an outdoor stage in Lincoln Park, Rock Island), open to any area resident who wishes to participate, devoted to a range of productions most unusual for a community theatre including Opera in English, Greek tragedy in mask, Shakespearean comedies and tragedies, Greek comedy in contemporary re-writes, and professional ballet. Mr. Wooten stated that 60 years ago, the Guild presented a Greek tragedy as a stunt, however the performance was so well received that they continue performing Greek tragedies to this day. He also indicated that the message of the tragedies is so simple and yet so moving that they are now being used to help wounded warriors, their care takers, and families because the plays deal with such timely issues as suicide, betrayal, and terrible injury in battle. Wooten said that there is a moving message in each play. In illustration, the seasoned performer gave narration of just one of the Greek tragedies performed by the Guild. In 10 minutes, he was to be able to bring alive a tale of adventure, battle, death, and tragedy written more than 2,500 years ago.

Over the years more than 250,000 people have attended Genesis Guild performances. Nowhere else in the country can one find such a mix of free, classical productions: works designed to give our citizens, especially our youngsters, an easy acquaintance with the classics. The Genesis Guild has long been pointed out as an ideal in community arts, but no other area has been able to sustain a program of this scope and diversity. It has been built on the talent, commitment, and abiding interest of those who perform and those who attend.

The Genesis Guild is one of the Quad Cities' most unusual assets; one which enriches and educates citizens of all ages, of all social and economic backgrounds. Our guest speaker probably had no idea of the major impact his creation would have when he founded the organization 60 years ago.

November - December Calendar

- Dec 27 - Linda Cook – Film Critic
- Jan 3 - TBA
- Jan 5 - "Wine Down" at the Grape Life Wine Store and Lounge. 6:00pm
- Jan 9 - Joint Meeting with Kiwanis Mayor's State of the City
- Jan 17 - Katie Benson and the RIHS Orchestra
- Jan 24 - TBA
- Jan 31 - TBA



Rock Island, IL 61204
www.rirotary.com

Officers

Steve Morenz, President
Bruce Peterson, 1st VP
Sue Cassatt, 2nd VP
Anne McGlynn, Secretary
Carrie Crossen, Treasurer
John Phillips, Past President

Board Members

Dave Geenen
Jim Nordquist
Molly Shattuck
Al Metz
Tricia Barron
Angela Campbell
James Benson
Billy Puckett
Co-Sergeant At Arms
Bob Swanson & Vic Boblett

Program Chairs

2016-17

July – Aug: Kyle Vietti
Sept – Oct: Dave Geenen
Nov – Dec: Gary Rowe
Jan – Feb: John Wetzel
Mar – Apr: Julie Gelaude
May – June: Bob Swanson

Club Notes & Announcements!

□ **Welcome Guests!** At today's meeting Rock Island Rotary welcomed Janey Locander and Alison Locander accompanied by their Dad, Mike Locander. Also in attendance was Virginia Johnson, wife of Rotarian, Don Peterson. Exchange daughter Agata was absent today, dutifully taking her first term final exams at Rock Island High School. Rock Island Rotary always welcomes guests, particularly prospective members! Invite a friend next week!!

□ **WINE DOWN AFTER THE HOLIDAYS!** Our fellowship of "Wining Rotarians" invites all Rotarians to "Wine Down" at the Grape Life Wine Store and Lounge on Thursday, January 5, 2017. The fun begins at 6pm with the Phat Kat Jazz Ensemble playing at 7pm. No cover, just come enjoy the fun, music, and your favorite wine or other adult beverage.

□ **SAVE THE DATE** – Saturday January 28th is the date of our next service project. On that date, we are sponsoring a Mobile Food Pantry at the 2nd Baptist Church in Rock Island. Rotarians are needed from 9:45 until about 12:30pm. If you can't give the entire time, come for what you can! Our job will be to help patrons get food parcels to their cars. Rotary is the sponsor of the event, so the ball is in our court. As many as 40 volunteers will be needed. Make it a family affair and bring your spouse, family members, and friends. The only requirement is the strength to carry groceries or pull a wagon loaded with groceries from the Church to cars. See the flier included in this newsletter.

□ **Angel Tree Gifts** were delivered today to Earl Hanson Elementary School. Thanks to all who donated and to Anne McGlynn, Tricia Barron, and Tammy Weikert who headed up the project. Also thanks to those who helped deliver the gifts after today's meeting.

□ **Have Items for our Newsletter?** Email items for publication to Bob Swanson at bobdebswanson@att.net.

50 Things Every Rotarian Should Know About Rotary

Taken from an article by Steve Garret, District Governor 1994-1995

20 - INVOCATIONS AT CLUB MEETINGS

In many Rotary clubs, particularly in Judeo-Christian nations, it is customary to open weekly meetings with an appropriate invocation or blessing. Usually such invocations are offered without reference to specific religious denominations or faiths.

Rotary policy recognizes that throughout the world Rotarians represent many religious beliefs, ideas and creeds. The religious beliefs of each member are fully respected, and nothing in Rotary is intended to prevent each individual from being faithful to such convictions.

At international assemblies and conventions, it is traditional for a silent invocation to be given. In respect for all religious beliefs and in the spirit of tolerance for a wide variety of personal faiths, all persons are invited to seek divine guidance and peace "each in his own way." It is an inspiring experience to join with thousands of Rotarians in an international "silent prayer" or act of personal devotion. Usually all Rotary International board and committee meetings begin with a few moments of silent meditation. In this period of silence, Rotary demonstrates respect for the beliefs of all members who represent the religions of the world.

Since each Rotary club is autonomous, the practice of presenting a prayer or invocation at club meetings is left entirely to the traditions and customs of the individual club, with the understanding that these meeting rituals always be conducted in a manner which will respect the religious convictions and faiths of all members and visitors.

We'll follow up with more of the 50 Things Every Rotarian Should Know About Rotary in future issues.

Foundation Minute

Several years ago at the International Conference in Australia, two members from the Rotary Action Group Against Slavery and Trafficking gave a presentation about slavery in India and around the world. They specifically talked about a village in Pradesh, India. The total population of the hamlet was 400 – 132 of them were enslaved and others were at risk of debt bondage because of dire poverty. Only 203 individuals in the community knew how to write their name and most were illiterate and innumerate. Five children were enrolled in school but did not attend as they work with their parents instead. Their economic condition was dire. People were landless, and enslaved in debt bondage at the slaveholder's farm doing construction projects or working in brick kilns. Some family members including children have been trafficked to other states.

After the conference representatives from The Rotary Club of Binghamton met with Carol Metzger one of the presenters at the conference and with the help of an organization call School4Freedom was able to apply for a district international grant to help the village two years ago. The following progress report was recently sent .

The School4Freedom in India process is now underway – a school is built, kids are attending (some from families who are illiterate and innumerate), a solar streetlamp has been installed, hot lunches are being served and six kids were rescued from slavery in a brick kiln and are now attending the school. The rest of the village is slowly being educated so they are ready to demand their own freedom and be self-sufficient at the end of the 3-year process.

Your Rotary donation made this possible. Thank you.



CAN YOU REMEMBER?

Rotary will meet on Monday, January 9th in a joint meeting with Kiwanis to hear mayor Dennis Pauley's final State of the City Address. There will be no Rotary meeting on Tuesday, January 10th. 2nd Vice-President, Sue Cassatt has promised fines for any Rotarian that shows up on Tuesday! Mark your calendar and don't miss the mayor's speech on Monday, January 9th.



FOUNDATION RAFFLE WINNERS!

Today's Foundation Raffle featured a bottle of fine wine from the Lo Milani Cellar, cold, hard, cash, a Dr. Larry Tadlock walnut bowl, and a tin of Boy Scout Popcorn! Chuck Austin won the cash and donated it to our Water Project. Marcy Bell snatched up the bowl. Mark Mayeski's ticket won the popcorn and past president Mike Locander was the lucky winner of the wine.

Thanks again to all who participated!

BIRTHDAY BOOKS THIS THURSDAY!



Rotarians are needed to help distribute books to Earl Hanson students who celebrate December birthdays. Start time is earlier this month since Thursday is the final day of school prior to vacation. Please arrive at 1:30pm.

ROTARY SUPPORTS GENESIUS GUILD



Rotary Budget Priorities Chairman, Frank Lambert presents Rotary's donation of \$500 to Don Wooten representing the Quad City Genesis Guild. The funds will be used for the Guild's summer intern program.



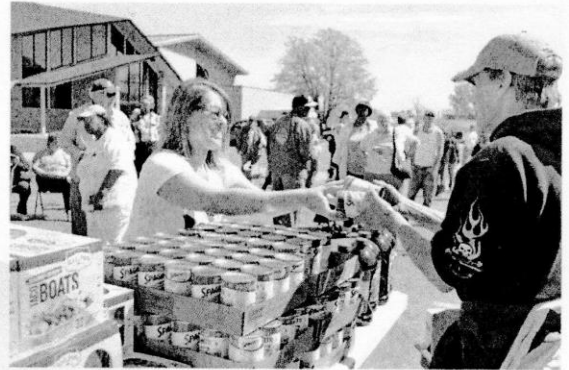
RIVER BEND
FOODBANK

Together we can solve hunger™

is partnering with



and Second Baptist Church
to deliver food assistance at no charge to your community!



RIVER BEND MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

Saturday Jan 28

Second Baptist Church

919 6th Ave, Rock Island, IL

- Registration is from 10:15am-11am
- Food Distribution begins at 11:00am
- Please do not arrive before 10:15am
- Distribution will be indoors, unless of beautiful weather
- Laundry Baskets are great for the Mobile Food Pantry
- Be prepared to wait as the process can take up to 2 hours

Thank you to all the volunteers who make this event possible!



UnityPoint Health
Trinity

Food provided by River Bend Foodbank



RIVER BEND
FOODBANK
Together we can solve hunger™

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**FEEDING™
AMERICA**

TALENTED PHILLIPS MAKE TRIUMPHANT RETURN!



Fresh from his "I love to Sing the Cubs Tour", John Phillips treated Rotarians to his 12-string and vocal wizardry with two special selections for the Christmas season. Suffice it to say his lyrics regarding the Vegamatic, Pocket Fisherman, Bamboo Steamers, and Ginsu Knives kept everyone in stitches. While his more traditional Christmas with a western swing ballad with intricate guitar riffs was warmly received with enthusiastic holiday applause. Thanks John for sharing your great talent and wit with us!

NOMINATION COMMITTEE SUBMITS SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2017-2018

President Morenz announced today that the Nominations Committee under the leadership of Frank Lambert submitted it's slate of candidates for Rock Island Rotary Club Officers and Directors to take office July 1, 2017 and serve through June 30, 2018. The slated nominees are:

President -	Bruce Peterson
1 st Vice-President -	Sue Cassatt
2 nd Vice-President -	Mark Mayeski
Treasurer -	Carrie Crossen
Secretary -	Anne McGlynn
Directors for 1 year (completing the 2 nd of their 2 year term)	
	Dave Geenen
	Dr. Jim Nordquist
	Molly Shattuck
	Al Metz
Directors for 2 year term	
	Tammy Weikert
	Sarah Gorham
	Chuck Austin
	Christy Filby
Past President -	Steve Morenz
Co-Sergeant at Arms -	Vic Boblett
Co-Sergeant at Arms -	Bob Swanson

Nominations from the floor and the election vote will be taken at our December 29th meeting.

Next week will be the last week for making a donation to the Rotary Foundation for the 2016 tax year. This year about one-fourth of our members have made a Foundation donation. We would love to get that number up to 30-35%! Bring your check and get it to Bud Phillis. If you need a year end statement of your Foundation Contributions, contact Bud and he will get it prepared for you.