



# Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review



November 19, 2019: Volume XXVII, Issue 21

MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



## German American Heritage Center & Museum

Guest speaker at Rock Island Rotary today was Corey Pearson, Museum Director at the German American Heritage Center. Pearson has his Master of Museum Studies from Western Illinois University and his

bachelor's in history from Monmouth College. The German American Heritage Center was incorporated in 1994, and the board of directors purchased the Standard Hotel on the Davenport riverfront in 1995. The building was built by John Brus and opened in 1862 as the Germania House, a gasthaus (guest house), for immigrants. In 1876 it was bought by John Frederick Miller and renamed the Miller Hotel. He was a German immigrant who had been a manufacturer in the city since the 1850s. Miller also operated the restaurant, billiard room and saloon in the hotel until 1889. The hotel was used at this time by Scott County farmers when they came to Davenport. The hotel's name was changed several times in the 20th-century. It became the Arcade Hotel around 1906, the Henry Blessing Boarding House around 1917, and the Standard Hotel from 1924 to 1995. The retail space on the main floor was occupied by various tenants over the years. In 1983, the building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, and on the Davenport Register of Historic Properties in 1996. In 2009, extensive renovations to the center were completed with enhanced multimedia and exhibit spaces. The building is a fine example of high Victorian commercial architecture in Davenport. Of merit is the metal cornice that was apparently added by John Miller, whose name appears on it. The original storefronts had been removed and were restored in the 2009 renovation. The easternmost bay, where the hotel's main entrance was located, is more decorative than the other six and is below the cornice arch. Completely restored, the building today has become home for the Center's archives, museum and gift shop. The center offers classes, programs, and special events year-round to educate and enlighten anyone interested in German heritage. The museum facility includes a large, permanent exhibit showcasing the history of the German people, the push-pull factors that contributed to immigration at various points in history, and the immigration experience itself. An orientation theater, six interactive education stations and two restored hotel rooms appeal to visitors of any age. One highlight is called "Step Into My Shoes." Visitors who step onto footprints outlined on the floor activate a series of video recreations of the lives of real immigrants who tell their personal stories. It's a convincing way to bring history to life. Other exhibits showcase German contributions to the city of Davenport—the unique cultural heritage of these German founding fathers which would otherwise be lost, and which can tell us so much about the lives of our own German ancestors. The first floor provides space for the gift shop and rotating exhibits. The top floor, once a ballroom, has been converted to a banquet hall, available for weddings, parties and other special events. Mr. Pearson stated that the museum presents six exhibits each year. Most recently the Gold Coast Glass exhibit featuring selections of stained glass from the German mansions of the Gold Coast-Hamburg District of Davenport opened. This exhibit explores the history and significance of the beautiful glass that adorns our places of worship, businesses, schools, and homes. Other current exhibits include THE GERMAN IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE, an interactive experience showing the immigrants' journey by sea, train and foot, to their final destination at the museum's building: WITNESS TO THE REVOLUTION as communism fell in Europe in the fall and winter of 1989, several Americans were in Czechoslovakia and had the opportunity to witness a pivotal moment in history. This exhibit uses eyewitness accounts from Americans who were there, including a professor, a student, a reporter and U.S. Embassy staff. Their notes, pictures and videos are part of the exhibit. Thanks to Corey for a very informative presentation. Let's go to the museum!!

### November – January Calendar

- Nov 26 - Katie Benson, RIHS Orchestra
- Dec 3 - Scott Voigt, RIHS Chamber Choir
- Dec 4 - Rotary Holiday Party at Circa 21 Dinner Theater
- Dec 8 - ROTARY RAMBLE
- Dec 10 - Paul E. Pedersen, MD, President Illinois State Medical Society
- Dec 17 - Tom & Molly Hammar
- Jan 6 - Mayor Mike Thoms, State of the City
- Jan 14 - TBA
- Jan 21 - Dr. Joseph Rives, Senior Vice President for Strategic Planning and Initiatives, Western IL University
- Jan 28 - TBA



P.O. Box 4514  
Rock Island, IL 61204  
[www.rirotary.com](http://www.rirotary.com)

## Officers

Mark Mayeski, President  
Angela Campbell, 1st VP  
Justin Peterson, 2nd VP  
Anne McGlynn, Secretary  
Carrie Crossen, Treasurer  
Sue Cassatt, Past Pres.  
Co-Sergeants at Arms  
Cindi Gramenz  
Bob Swanson

## Board Members

Rick Emery  
Kathy Lelonek  
John Oliger  
Bill Stengel  
Howard Beck  
Kim Calhoun  
Cindi Gramenz  
Eric Westphall

## Program Chairs

### 2019-20

Aug. – Sep. Kathy Trone  
Oct. – Nov. Cindi Gramenz  
Dec. – Jan. John Wetzel  
Feb. – Mar. Volunteer Needed  
Apr. – May. Gary Rowe  
June – July. Volunteer Needed

Have a program idea? Contact  
the chairman listed above for a  
possible date.

## Club Notes & Announcements!

□ **WELCOME GUESTS!** Rock Island Rotary was pleased to welcome several guests at today's meeting. Our Exchange son, Emil Rosin from Finland and Alleman Jr. Rotarians Aidan Gorishek and Matt Bjork joined us. Dora Villarreal, Rock Island Country States Attorney, was a guest of Tammy Weikert and assisted Tammy in selling raffle tickets. Flint Znamenacek from Davenport was a guest of Bill Stengel. We had two visiting Rotarians today and were particularly honored to welcome our Assistant Rotary District Governor, David Bills, a member of the River Cities Club, along with frequent guest, Mark Zimmerman from the Davenport Club. Guests are always welcome at the **Number One Club**, Rock Island Rotary!

□ **SERVICE** – Rotary members are needed to help with the Heart of Hope Food Pantry. We help every Thursdays from 5:30 to 7:30pm. It's easy duty and is truly *Service Above Self* at its most basic definition. Volunteers have been scarce lately, so please, contact Steve Morenz to join our team of volunteers! Used but sound plastic bags are needed too. They also are collecting men's and women's clothing for their free clothing exchange. Drop off anytime the Heart of Hope Center is open. Call Steve Morenz to volunteer to help at 309-721-7632 or just show up any Thursday at 5:15. It's easy duty!

□ **HOLIDAY PARTY DEADLINE APPROACHING** – We must release the seats we are holding for our December 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday Party no later than November 25<sup>th</sup>. If you have not made your reservation you must do it by next week's Rotary meeting. Notify Bob Swanson if you want seats. Bud Phillis will have more Dining Books next week if you want the coupon. Don't miss this once a year, fun evening!

□ **ROTARY REINDEER RAMBLE** is quickly approaching on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Know anyone who might like to join as a runner or walker? Encourage them to sign up. Sign-up forms are available at every Rotary meeting. One is attached as the last page of this newsletter. Volunteers are needed to help with runner supervision, food service, finish line, and a number of other important duties. To volunteer see John Oliger, Mary Fislar, or Kim Calhoun.

□ **SEND ITEMS** for publication in our newsletter to [bobdebswanson@att.net](mailto:bobdebswanson@att.net)

## FOUNDATION RAFFLE REPORT



Today's raffle featured a 50/50 cash drawing and a bottle of fine wine from the Lo Milani cellar, a Reindeer Ramble Tee Shirt, and a Circa 21, 2 for 1 coupon.. Steve Morenz had the first lucky ticket and took the cash and donated it to the Rotary Foundation. Trisha Barron held the next ticket drawn and won the wine. Another of her tickets was drawn next and she won the shirt. The final ticket drawn was held by Ruth Lee and she took the Circa 21 coupon. Rotary thanks Lo Milani for donating wine each week for our drawing!! Proceeds from our raffle go to the Rotary Foundation. **Thanks to all who participated!**

## LAST CHANCE TO GET A DINING BOOK!



Chairman Bud Phillis sold out of the new 2019 – 2020 Quad City Dining Books. But ordered more and will have them for the final time at next week's meeting. The cost is \$35 per book and the Circa 21 coupon alone is worth more than \$35 if you use it to attend our club's Holiday Christmas Party. \$10 from each purchase is donated back to Rock Island Rotary, so besides being a great money saving coupon collection, it is also a fundraiser for our club. So far, the project has raised \$620 for Rock Island Rotary! Thanks to Bud and to all who have purchased books! If you need a book for our Circa 21 party, remember, next Tuesday is your last opportunity.

# ROTARY HOLIDAY PARTY

**Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Ticket includes: Pre-Show Salon Party with  
Complimentary Hoers Devours and Cash Bar (5:00-6pm)**

**Buffet Dinner (5:45-7:00pm)**

**Bootleggers Warm-up Show (7:15pm)**

**Elf the Musical (7:30pm)**

**Special Group Rate**

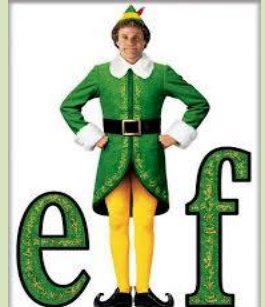
**TWO WITH DINING BOOK COUPON \$62.71**

**\*Tip included (not including deserts & bar)**

**WITH NO DINING BOOK COUPON:**

**ONE ADMISSION \$ 51.25**

**TWO ADMISSIONS \$102.50**



**Circa Subscriber? Pay Just \$3.50 per person for gratuity**

**NEXT TUESDAY IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO SIGN UP. PAYMENT AND COUPONS, IF  
YOU HAVE ONE, MUST BE TURNED IN AT NEXT TUESDAY'S MEETING.**

## LIZ NINO IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

Liz is one of our newer members, having joined as part of the Augustana College corporate membership in 2018. Liz was born and raised in Hampton, Illinois. Her father was an immigrant from Monterey, Mexico and her home was a bi-lingual, multi-cultural home. She is a trained educator and spent seven years teaching abroad prior to accepting a position with Augustana as their International recruiter. Her job involves extensive worldwide travel. Today she concentrated her talks on an organization near and dear to her heart, The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Its mission is to: support, promote and enhance the growth and success of our local businesses and to leverage the community's assets, contributions and unique Hispanic Cultural identity to generate new business. In particular, Liz is most proud of "ELLA", (Empowering Latina Leadership Alliance) a sub-group of the Chamber. Liz helped found the group which concentrates on empowering young Hispanic women. ELLA's mission is to ensure Hispanic women are recognized and rewarded for their worth, knowledge, skills and successes. They seek to inspire and empower Latinas and facilitate opportunities to benefit Latinas who are interested in pursuing networking opportunities and small business development. The group now numbers over 300 members and hosts quarterly events to help members learn to market, become entrepreneurs, and become community leaders. ELLA also hosts periodic social events where members enjoy an evening of fun and networking while also honoring past Latina Leaders. The group also sponsors guest speakers for their organization and is responsible for bringing a number of prominent Hispanic leaders to our community for summits and seminars. Liz is passionate and enthusiastic when speaking about ELLA and is also quite proud of her Hispanic heritage and is pleased to help other Latinas gain the recognition and success they deserve. Now we know a bit more about Rotarian Liz Nino. Thanks Liz!



## FOUNDATION MINUTE

There is no better time to remind ourselves of the good that Rotary International does, through our well-managed and effective Foundation, than in November, which is The Rotary Foundation Month. The current edition of The Rotarian lists the commendable contributions made by Rotarians in the past five years. Based on the article, Rotarians have given over **\$500,000,000** in Global Grants to support various projects in the Six Areas of Focus:

Basic Education & Literacy	\$ 53,261,360	Community Economy Development	\$ 54,118,305
Disease Prevention & Treatment	\$ 151,761,859	Peace Building & Conflict Prevention	\$ 18,659,168
Maternal & Child Health	\$ 35,233,163	Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	\$100,657,464

During the same period, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has contributed matching funds to the End Polio Now Fund in the amount of \$409,000,000. To give to Rotary, visit: [rotary.org/donate](http://rotary.org/donate)



# The Rock Island Rotary Club Foundation

Today, John Phillips and Tom Hammar spoke to us about our Club's Foundation. John began by attempting to clear up confusion that often exists between the Rotary International Foundation and the Rock Island Rotary Club Foundation. Both are fully accredited 501(C)(3) charitable organizations. When we speak of "The Rotary Foundation", John explained we are typically talking about the Rotary International Foundation. Dollars donated to the "Rotary Foundation" do wonderful things worldwide in the areas of Peace and conflict prevention/resolution; Disease prevention and treatment including ending polio worldwide; Providing clean, safe water and sanitation education; working for Maternal and child health; Supporting basic education and literacy; and working for Economic and community development. Our Club is a major support of the Rotary Foundation. The Rock Island Rotary Club Foundation concentrates its efforts on our local community. This Foundation is intended to support projects and programs that benefit the people of Rock Island. The Board's policy is to use only the net income and appreciated value of the fund to further the goals of Rock Island Rotary to help the Rock Island community. The Foundation board is comprised of Rock Island Rotarians. Initially funded in 2008 by a \$200,000 bequest from the estate of Rock Island Rotarian, Stan Harris. Since then with additional donations and accrued earnings the fund has grown to well over \$300,000. Each year up to 3% of the fund balance may be withdrawn and used as directed by the Rotary Board of Directors, with the restriction that the funds may only be used for the benefit of Rock Island and Rock Island citizens. Currently the funds available for spending annually amount to \$9,000 - \$10,000 dollars. Over the past several years Club Foundation funds have been used to assist with the purchase of a new van for Spring Forward Learning Center; Funding the installation of lights at the Rock Island Girls Softball Complex; Funding for constructing the Children's Garden at the Quad City Botanical Center; provided \$10,000 to allow the Club to be a key donor for the Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Class at Rock Island High School; and funding for Summer Enrichment Programs for Rock Island school children. The more the Club Foundation Fund grows, the more we can do for our community. Tom Hammar then stepped to the rostrum and spoke of ways we each can support the Club Foundation. He noted that in addition to periodic donations, which are greatly appreciated, another way of support is through creating a legacy by naming the Rock Island Rotary Club Foundation as a beneficiary in your will. Tom noted that he and his wife made the decision to donation 10% of their estate, whatever that might eventually be, to be divided equally between three charities that they support. Our Club Foundation is one of those three. Making a legacy gift does not impact their current financial needs or decisions. It simply provides what they want done with whatever estate remains after their passing. Tom urged others to consider legacy giving and offered to speak with and assist any Rotarian who might like to pursue the idea further. John then returned to the rostrum and recognized the following Rotarians for supporting the Club Foundation at a level of \$500 to \$5,000:



Ernie  
Beane



Howard  
Beck



Stan  
Coin



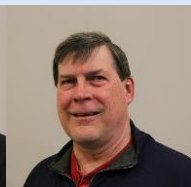
Marsha  
Green



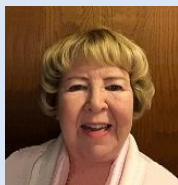
Tom  
Hammar



Ardo  
Holmgren



Frank  
Lambert



Ruth  
Lee



Fred & Nancy  
Luckenbill



Mark  
Mayeski



Anne  
McGlynn



John  
Phillips



Bud  
Phillis



John  
Slover



John  
Wetzel



Dr. Tricia Barron was recognized as a Foundation "Sponsor" in recognition of a contribution of \$25,000 or more. Thank you Tom and John for an informative and inspiring presentation' and thanks to those dedicated Rotarians that have made significant contributions to the Rock Island Rotary Club Foundation. We hope all members will consider supporting this worthy cause whether by legacy giving, occasional small donations, or an annual donation commitment.



# ROTARY REINDEER RAMBLE

Sunday

December 8, 2019

9:00AM

START & FINISH – CIRCA 21, 1828 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, Rock Island, IL 61201

COURSE - Flat & Fast, scenic, accurate, wheeled distance.

SHIRTS - Size guaranteed to pre-registered runners and walkers

RUNNER'S AWARDS -- Overall male and female 3 awards per ages 0-9, 10-14, 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70-74, 75-79, 80+

WALKER'S AWARDS -- Overall male and female, 3 awards per age groups 0-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60+ ALLL THIS PLUS GREAT FOOD & DRINK!

REGISTER ONLINE - [GETMEREGISTERED.COM/ROTARYREINDEERRAMBLE](http://GETMEREGISTERED.COM/ROTARYREINDEERRAMBLE)

REGISTRATION FEES -- Pre registered, postmarked not later than 11-25-19 \$25.00.

Rotary members \$23.00 After Nov 25, \$30.00 for all!

PACKET PICKUP & REGISTRATION 7:30AM to 8:45AM RACE DAY

GRAND PRIZE! TRAVEL GIFT CERTIFICATE \$250.00 for pre-registered runners only! MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN! NO EXCEPTIONS!

If you have questions call Dick or Mary Fislar at 309-788-0500 or e-mail [cruisemaster18@yahoo.com](mailto:cruisemaster18@yahoo.com)

-----CUT HERE-----

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM (MAY BE DUPLICATED) PLEASE PRINT!!!

First name \_\_\_\_\_ Mid \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age race day \_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_ Run \_\_\_\_ Walk \_\_\_\_

Circle shirt size S M L XL XXL (ADD \$2.00 for XXL) Phone \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

No shirt option \_\_\_\_\_ deduct \$5.00 if you choose no shirt!

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

WAIVER (MUST BE SIGNED) In consideration of the acceptance of my entry, I for myself, my executors, administrators, and assignees, do hereby release and discharge Rock Island Rotary, the City of Rock Island, any sponsors, supporters or volunteers, for all claims of damages, demands, actions whatsoever in any manner arising or growing out of my participation in the ROTARY REINDEER RAMBLE 5K Run or Walk. I attest and verify that I have full knowledge of the risks involved in this event, am physically fit, and sufficiently trained to participate in this event.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Participant, or Parent or Guardian if under 18 years of age.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO ROCK ISLAND ROTARY Mail entry and payment to ROTARY, P.O. Box 4271. Rock Island, IL 61201. NO REFUNDS RACE WILL BE HELD REGARDLESS!

We're happy to announce CHIP TIMING FOR THE RACE!