



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

December 3, 2019: Volume XXVII, Issue 23

MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



CHAMBER SINGERS ROCK ISLAND HIGH SCHOOL

December – January Calendar

- Dec 4 - Rotary Holiday Party at Circa 21 Dinner Theater
- Dec 8 - ROTARY REINDEER RAMBLE
- Dec 10 - Paul E. Pedersen, MD, President Illinois State Medical Society
- Dec 17 - Molly Shattuck Tom Hammar "The Twelve Days of Taxes"
- Jan 6 - Mayor Mike Thoms, State of the City – Joint meeting with Rock Island Noon Kiwanis
- Jan 14 - TBA
- Jan 21 - Dr. Joseph Rives, Senior Vice President for Strategic Planning and Initiatives, Western IL University
- Jan 28 - TBA

The annual visit of the Rock Island High School Chamber singers under the director of Scott Voigt is one of our most popular programs. The 2019 version of the choir did not disappoint and again presented an outstanding performance. Mr. Voigt, who earned his Bachelor of Arts in Music Education and a Master of Music Education degree from VanderCook College of Music in Chicago is now in his 13th year as director of Choral Music at Rock Island High School. Cheryl Bolt is the group's accompanist. A member of the RIHS music department for the past 20 years, Cheryl holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from St. Ambrose University and currently serves as the head organist at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Moline. The Chamber Singers are in high demand as a performing group throughout the Quad Cities area, especially during the holiday season, this year with 25 scheduled performances, including 5 performances today! The Singers perform a wide variety of choral literature, including madrigals, chamber music, vocal jazz, spirituals, contemporary, and various genres of popular music. They compete each spring as a madrigal group, chamber ensemble, jazz choir, and mixed choir. During the holiday season, they may be seen performing on KWQC-TV6. Members of the choir are selected by audition. A number have been honored as "All State Musicians" by the Illinois Music Educators Association. The choir began their performance with "*Carol of the Bells*", a popular Christmas carol, with music by Ukrainian composer Mykola Leontovych in 1914 and lyrics by Peter J. Wilhousky. They followed that with the ever popular "*Sleigh Ride*" by American composer, Leroy Anderson. Slowing the tempo, the Chamber Singers next performed "*Still, Still, Still*", an Austrian Christmas carol and lullaby. The melody is a folk tune from the district of Salzburg. The tune appeared for the first time in 1865 in a folksong collection of Vinzenz Maria Süß, founder of the Salzburg Museum. The words describe the peace of the infant Jesus and his mother as the baby is sung to sleep. Next the Singers performed "*Betelehemu*" a unique and energetic song composed by a Nigerian drummer named Babatunde Olatunji. Born in the village of Ajido, in southwestern Nigeria, Olatunji was a member of the Yoruba people, who are known for their progressive drumming tradition. It was popularized in the United States by a performance by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. The Singers performance was outstanding complete with drums, tambourines, bells, and traditional African chants and shrieks. That was followed by "*Good King Kong*", written by Peter Schickele, an American composer, musical educator, and parodist, best known for comedy albums featuring his music, but which he presents as being composed by the fictional P. D. Q. Bach. The song depicts King Kong looking out to see that he has big feet, a flat nose, ears he couldn't see, but he could see St. Nick in his sleigh way up in the sky!



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Officers

Mark Mayeski, President
Angela Campbell, 1st VP
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Kim Calhoun
Cindi Gramenz
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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. We had one visiting Rotarian today, Duncan Cameron from the Naples, Florida Club. Our Exchange son, Emil Rosin from Finland was with us. We had four Rotary spouses in attendance, they were Virginia Houlton, wife of Fred Houlton; Carol Beane, wife of Ernie Beane; Judy Nordquist wife of Dr. Jim Nordquist; and Debby Swanson, wife of Bob Swanson. We also greeted two very special guests, Hilde and Tim Wray, the wife and son of deceased member, Sam Wray. More about their visit appears in this newsletter. Guests are always welcome at the **Number One Club**, Rock Island Rotary!

□ **ROTARY REINDEER RAMBLE** is quickly approaching on December 8th. We need about 10 people for a max of 45 minutes to point people in the right direction at the intersections. So far very few members have volunteered to help. This is going to be a good fundraiser this year and your help is really needed to pull it off!! All you need to do is stand in an intersection and point runners where to go. Contact Jim Moran to sign up, bugsytennis52@yahoo.com.

□ **SERVICE** – Rotary members are needed to help with the Heart of Hope Food Pantry. We help every Thursday 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 helpers! 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. Email Steve Morenz to volunteer at smorenz@riverbendfoodbank.org or just show up any Thursday at 5:15. It's easy duty!

□ **CIRCA 21 TOMORROW NIGHT.** Just a reminder that our Rotary Holiday Party is tomorrow night at Circa 21 Dinner Theater. The Salon party with snacks and beverages begins at 5pm. The dinner buffet opens at 5:45 with serving until 7pm. The Bootlegger performance begins at 7:14 and the main show, Elf The Musical will begin at 7:45pm. Tickets were distributed at today's meeting;

□ **SEND ITEMS** for publication in our newsletter to bobdebswanson@att.net

FOUNDATION RAFFLE REPORT



Today's raffle featured a 50/50 cash drawing, two tickets to the RAH Club Pub Crawl, and a bottle of fine wine from the Lo Milani cellar. The first lucky ticket was held by Monta Ponsetto who took the cash and donated it to the Rotary foundation for the Polio Plus Campaign. Tana Hogen, a member of the Chamber Singers had the second winning ticket and took the wine and promptly delivered it to her teacher, Mr. Scott Voigt. The final winner taking the Pub Crawl Tickets was Bud Phillis. Thanks to all participants!

DINING BOOKS A GREAT HOLIDAY GIFT!



Bud Phillis was able to obtain additional Quad City Dining Books and is making them available for Holiday giving. The cost is \$35, now with **\$12** being rebated to Rock Island Rotary. These make an outstanding gift that will be used for months to come. Packed with two-for-one coupons for hundreds of Quad City locations, these books have everything from fine dining to fast food franchise restaurants. We all have friends and family that enjoy dining out, so what better gift is there. Keep in mind that the Circa 21 coupon is good for all shows throughout the year. Dining Books are particularly good for those hard to shop for people that have everything, or people you don't know well enough to buy more personal items. This gift fits all sizes, all ages, and all tastes! See Bud for yours! The more we sell the greater the rebate back to Rotary. See Bud to get yours!

Caring & Generosity Personified!

In 2016 Sam & Hilde Wray started our international water project with an initial donation of \$10,000. Over the next two and one-half years the generous couple made three more \$10,000 donations. Their support and commitment stemmed from a vacation in Africa where they personally witnessed children using drinking water taken from streams where people were also watering animals, washing clothes, and relieving themselves. The sight sickened Sam and Hilde and led to their decision to help bring safe drinking water to children of the third world. With their initial funding as the catalyst, our Club undertook the creation of our Western Illinois – Eastern Iowa Water Project. Now nearly four years later, Rotary Clubs throughout northern Illinois and Eastern Iowa have joined the project and through a partnership with Replenish, Inc., water filtration units have been purchased and delivered to rural areas in Kenya and are providing safe, water and sanitation education to more than 14,500 children.

Sadly, we lost Sam, a 44-year member of our club in March of 2019. Many memorials in Sam's name were received to advance his beloved water project. Today, Hilde Wray along with Sam and Hilde's son, Tim Wray, attended our meeting and asked to speak briefly to our club. Without fanfare or prior notice, Hilde and Tim presented a donation of \$20,000 in support of the water project. This donation alone will purchase 57 water filtration units which will provide safe, sanitary water for 4,000 children.

We miss Sam's wit, the sparkle in his eye, and his dedicated drive to help others. Through the love of his life, Hilde, and the support of his family, his legacy will continue far into the future. Hundreds of children will be saved from disease and even death through the generosity of the Wray family. Thank you so much, we are blessed to have you as our friends.



Tim Wray, Hilde Wray with Rotary Foundation Chairman, Bud Phillis, shortly after Hilde presented a \$20,000 donation for our Club's international water project. Thanks to Hilde and the Wray family.



LO MILANI IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

Today, Italo, "Lo" Milani stepped into the Rotary Spotlight and helped us get to know him a bit better. Lo told us that his grandfathers both immigrated from Italy to the United States in the 1890's. Lo said he has traced his family tree to 1480 and learned that his name comes from the Italian word for "providers of meat". His ancestors were falconers and the Milani family crest contains an image of a falcon. After immigrating to America one of his grandfathers briefly settled in New Orleans where he invented *Milani 1890 French Dressing*, a product sold to this day at Walmart, Target, and other popular stores. Both grandfathers ultimately settled in Chicago and each became successful restaurateurs, one having several restaurants on the north side and the other with several on the south side. Lo was raised in Chicago where he met his wife. He entered Northwestern as a pre-med major, and after one semester decided that was not the career for him. He then joined the air force and served as a pilot, later getting his commercial pilot's license. After the service Lo enrolled at the University of Illinois School of Architecture and after graduation opened his own firm. As a result of doing much work for a Moline company, Lo ultimately moved and opened his office in Rock Island in 1963. Lo and wife JoAnn, a clinical psychologist, live and both continue to work in Rock Island. He is happy to state that both he and JoAnn love their work. He joined Rock Island Rotary in 2007. Thanks, Lo for sharing and helping us to know you a bit better!



FOUNDATION MINUTE

Rotarians are not only People of Action, but also people who GIVE. Our gifts are not always financial. Giving Tuesday is a reminder to each of us to consider what we ARE able to give – whether it is our time, our energies, our inspiration, our talents or our treasure.

What can WE give as Rotarians, this Giving Tuesday? Your gift to OUR Rotary Foundation supports:

- Eradicating polio
- Promoting peace
- Fighting disease
- Providing clean water
- Responding to disasters
- Saving mothers and children
- Supporting Education
- Growing local economies

Paraphrasing the English carol, "What can I give, poor as I am; If I were a shepherd, I would give a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part; but what I have I'll give... give my heart."

Please give generously from the bottom of your Rotary Heart not only this Giving Tuesday but every giving opportunity.

Everyone can give something – time, talent or treasure – whatever works. Thank you.

SINGERS - Returning to traditional holiday fair, the Singers invited all to join in singing "*Joy to the World*", by English writer, Isaac Watts, based on Psalm 98, 96:11-12 and Genesis 3:17-18. The song was first published in 1719. As of the late 20th century, Joy to the World was the most-published Christmas hymn in North America. Mr. Voigt was impressed with the singing of our club and with how many of us knew all three verses! The next piece presented was a new arrangement of "*The First Noel*", a traditional classical English Christmas carol, most likely from the early modern period, although possibly earlier. The Singers follow up with another much less known English carol entitled "*My Dancing Day*", date and composer unknown, however believed to have its origins in the Medieval period. Once again returning to well-known pieces, the choir performed a rousing version of "*Go Tell It On the Mountain*" with an outstanding soprano soloist. The song is an African-American spiritual song, compiled by John Wesley Work Jr., dating back to at least 1865, The Singers concluded their program with "*Brightest and Best*", a Christian hymn written in 1811 by the Anglican bishop Reginald Heber to be sung at the feast of Epiphany. The Singers added lively animation to many of their selections and show incredibility to scatter throughout the audience and continue singing as if still gathered at the front of the room, often performing without the benefit of the director's leadership. The Chamber Choir once again made us proud of our kids and our school. A Rotary standing ovation thanked them for yet another outstanding performance! Mr. Voigt invited Rotarians to hear more at the Choir's winter concert, on Friday, December 13th at the high school auditorium. The concert begins at 7pm and is free of charge and open to the public.

See photo collection of today's concert on page



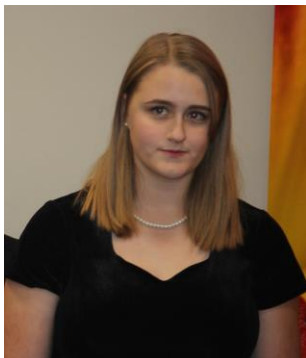
ROTARY REINDEER RAMBLE

**Remember the Rotary Reindeer Ramble
is this Sunday, Dec. 8..come walk it with
a friend or run it....the weather is supposed
to be GREATTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTTT for
a Dec. morning!!!**

**Also, if you'd like to volunteer before the
race, the SpeakEasy will be open at 6:30am..
registration starts at 7:30am...there is always
lots to do prior to the 9am start....so stop by,
help for awhile, talk with fellow Rotarians
and meet the walkers and runners who will
help our Club help our Rock Island Community**

**For further information, please feel free to call
Dick or Mary Fislar at 788-0500..**

SINGERS PHOTOS_--



Soprano Soloist



Director Scott Voigt



Singers having some very obvious fun entertaining Rotarians!!



Watch out, Santa is coming!

