



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

February 16, 2021: Volume XXVIII, Issue 32

MEETING EVERY TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



Dr. Rebecca Heick



**Professor of
Public Health at
Augustana, and
Infectious
Disease Expert**

Feb. – Mar. Calendar

Feb 23 - Mike Halpin, Illinois State Rep.
Mar 2 - Rock Island Library –
Presented by Rotarians
Angela Campbell and
Kathy Lelonek
Mar 9 - Dr. Guilou Huang, President,
Western Illinois University
Mar 16 - Dave Heller, Q.C. River
Bandits
Mar 23 - Liz Murray Tallman, DARI
Mar 30 - Sara Leonard, Earl Hanson
Principal

Augustana's Dr. Rebecca Heick is an epidemiologist and assistant professor of public health. She never imagined she would become a regularly scheduled media spokesperson during a major public health issue. Dr. Heick has been a prominent source of advice throughout a series of COVID-19 Q&A sessions on KWQC Channel 6 in the Quad Cities. She has given perspective on the importance of social distancing, how to break the chain of transmission, and differences between COVID-19 and the flu. At times, she feels the weight of responsibility in sharing sound information. But even with so many looking to her for guidance, Dr. Heick is glad to provide a "measure of calm and comfort in the midst of what can feel chaotic and even a bit scary at times. 'My mission has become my motto – #spreadfactsnotfear!' Dr. Heick earned her B.A. in Biology from Augustana, her M.S. in Community Health Education from Western Illinois University, and her Ph.D. in Occupational and Environmental Health from the University of Iowa. Professor Heick contracted COVID-19 in mid-September and battled COVID-19 pneumonia. She documented her journey with a Facebook page called [Your Friendly Neighborhood Epidemiologist](#). The professor uses her personal health experiences as a teaching moment, sharing journal entries, updates, and facts about the virus. Today Rock Island Rotary was the beneficiary of her knowledge and experience. She began by reviewing some basic facts regarding COVID-19 and the vaccines that have been developed to battle it. Noting that she had a severe case of the virus last fall, she was pleased to advise that she had recently received her first vaccine shot. She also reported that next Friday the Johnson & Johnson vaccine will be reviewed by an FDA appointed team of outside advisers who after their investigation will make a recommendation to the FDA as to whether or not Emergency Use Authorization should be given. It is anticipated the FDA will approve the vaccine which will become the third available joining the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. The advantages of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine are eliminating the need for deep freeze storage and delivering the vaccine in one shot as opposed to two. Dr. Heick stated that along with the original COVID-19 virus, we now also have seen the South Africa and United Kingdom variants surface locally. Fortunately, she stated that the current vaccines are quite effective against the variants. When asked about "herd immunity", she stated that for COVID we will need to get about 80% of our population immune to achieve that goal, which essentially is having so many people immune that the virus dies off being unable to find vulnerable people to infect. She also identified two types of immunity: "Sterilizing immunity" which means one cannot be infected; and "Functional immunity" which mean one may be infected but with mild consequences as opposed to possible death. Heick said we only achieve sterilizing immunity through vaccination. She reassured us all by saying that the vaccines are absolutely safe and that their speedy development was not done by sacrificing any of the traditional safety and testing procedures. The main factor in the quick development was massive available funding. She also noted a future vaccine via a "patch" is in the offing. Many questions were answered, and the program was one of the best we have had. Thank you Dr. Heick!



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Officers

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Cindi Gramenz, 2nd Vice Pres.
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Sue Rector
Gary Rowe
Bob Swanson Co-Sgt.-at-Arms
Cindi Gramenz Co-Sgt.-at-Arms

Program Chairs

2019-20

Aug – Sept Rebecca Arnold
Oct – Nov John Daly
Dec – Jan John Wetzel
Feb – Mar Gary Rowe
Apr – May Bill Stengel
June – July Tom Hammar
Have a program idea? Contact
the chairman listed above for a
possible date.

Club Notes & Announcements!

- ☐ **WELCOME GUESTS** – Today was a very rare occasion. We had no guests at today's meeting! Truly unfortunate since we were treated to a fantastic program! Guests are always welcome at Rock Island Rotary, the "Number One Club". We hope you enjoyed our meeting!
- ☐ **WINE RAFFLE COMMITTEE** – Will meet via ZOOM immediately after next week's Club meeting (February 23rd). Committee members stay on the ZOOM when our regular meeting ends. All interested club members are welcome to join the meeting whether to helpout or just stay up on what is being planned.
- ☐ **HELP NEEDED – AT HEART OF HOPE FOOD PANTRY** Volunteers are needed from 3:30pm to 5:30pm every Thursday to help make up food packages and assist in handing them to needy recipients. It is strictly as drive thru, no contact distribution. Heart of Hope also needs old grocery sacks. They also have a clothing ministry and need donations of clothes. Older or slightly used men's, women's, and children's clothing will be appreciated. This time of year, coats, gloves, and caps, as well as warm pants and shirts/blouses are greatly appreciated. Project chair Steve Morenz will arrange to collect sacks and clothing. Email Steve at smorenz3@gmail.com.
- ☐ **TIME FOR A PAUL HARRIS FELLOW AWARD?** - Maybe you've never done one, or maybe you've not done any lately; either way isn't it time to get started? You can establish Paul Harris Sustaining Member status by simply committing to contribute \$100 per year. When your contributions reach \$600 our club will provide the final \$400 to complete your Paul Harris Award. Whether for yourself, parents, children, or grandchildren or great grand children, a Paul Harris Award is a way to recognize and honor the recipient in a way that is lasting and serves humanity. For details on how to get started, contact Foundation Chairman, Bud Phillis at rphillis35@gmail.com. Don't wait, do it today!
- ☐ **HAVE ITEMS FOR OUR NEWSLETTER?** Email items, including photos to Bob Swanson at bobdebswanson@att.net.

SAVE the DATE

The Rock Island Rotary TRIVIA NIGHT Has Been Rescheduled!

To Ensure we can have a large in-person crowd
we have moved Trivia Night to November 12th at the
Milan Community Center - doors open at 5:45pm
Proceeds used to support Earl Hanson Elementary School
and Rock Island Rotary Community Grants

THE TAB

The weather took its toll with our many of our members feeling neither happy nor sad, mostly exhibiting a “blah” kind of mood. A near shutout was avoided when Anne McGlynn volunteered two happy dollars for receiving her second COVID vaccine shot. That prompted Kevin Koski to add his own two bucks for also receiving his second shot and in recognition of Dick and Mary Fislar being referred to as an “elderly couple” in the report of the fire occurring at their home last week. Linda Golden put in a dollar as a fine for forgetting she was doing invocations this month and missing the February 2nd meeting. Jim Nordquist and Bruce Peterson each put in a dollar for having to be early leavers from today’s meeting. Bruce put in a second dollar celebrating his happiness that his snow blower started today. Happy/Sad Dollars and fines all go to our Club’s Rotary Foundation account and are used to support and further the work of Rotary International’s humanitarian efforts.



FOUNDATION MINUTE

Welcome to Week 3, Rotary International’s Month of Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution.

Past President of the Rotary Club of Everett (WA), Ed Petersen, along with two other members of his club traveled to the Dominican Republic with the sole intention of executing a long-planned Global Grant. In 2015, Petersen visited the Dajabon region of the island nation and met with needy farmers who were too poor to afford a garden. Before long, plans were put in place and funds were raised toward the creation of greenhouse gardens.

The Rotary Club of Everett raised \$5,000 that was matched by Rotary District 5050 comprising the state of Washington and British Columbia. A \$45,000 Matching Grant from TRF put the total grant at almost \$107,000. This grant provided local Dajabon residents with 10 greenhouse gardens, each measuring 3200 square feet.

Rotarian Petersen, who is also the strategic director of Housing Hope, was happy about the greenhouse gardens which would not only provide food for local consumption by the farmers and their families but would constitute a reliable source of income. “Our purpose is to train the garden owners in entrepreneurship. They will learn agricultural production, accounting, and sales skills to set them up for long-term success.”

Petersen promised to do 60 more gardens in 2021. “When the first phase of 20 gardens is completed, we will release the funds for 20 more...We have access to future grant opportunities in education, in health and the environment, in reforestation. We have built the foundation that opens opportunities to do more.” Another member of the Everett Rotary Club, George Bowden, acknowledged the “doing good spirit” universal to all Rotarians. According to Bowden, “There is a commonality among Rotarians and Rotary Clubs worldwide...whether it’s vaccinations against polio or clean water or in this case, gardens...somebody said, ‘why are you doing this?’ our response ‘because you’re our neighbors.’”

“True Peace is Not merely the Absence of Conflict; it Is the Presence of Justice.”
(Martin Luther King Jr)

OUR MOST RECENT PAUL HARRIS FELLOW



Bob Swanson honored his brother, Laurence Swanson, making him our Club’s most recent Paul Harris fellow. “Larry” passed just about one year ago of pancreatic cancer. He did undergraduate work at Harvard University, earned a master’s degree in music composition from Boston University, a master’s Degree in Education from Western Illinois University, and a Juris Doctorate in Law from the Northern Illinois University College of Law. He was active in music as a percussionist and conductor all his life, and practiced law in Aurora, Illinois. After retiring he and his wife, Patricia, moved to Sun City West, Arizona where he played in the Sun City Symphony, the Arizona Brass, and was conductor of the Sun City Pops Band. An avid car enthusiast, Larry also was the Executive Editor of *Turning Wheels* magazine. Bob chose to honor Larry by establishing a Paul Harris Fellow award in his name. This was Bob’s 8th Paul Harris Fellow with three more in progress as Sustaining Members. If someone means a great deal to you, you can do the same! See Dr. Bud Phillis for details.

Rock Island Rotary Trivia Night November 2021

Serving our community through our generosity of time, talent, and treasure



It is NOT too early to start collecting great ideas and items for our Silent Auction.

Sue has already started collecting some favorite products to make a Sustainable Products Basket, and there are always great sales around the holidays, closeouts from the summer that we can take advantage of not to mention re-gifting opportunities!! And she's got a stash of baskets if you will need one and is happy to take random items and put them together to make great baskets if you don't want to do a full basket. Give Sue a call or e-mail with questions or donations. She will store things until the event! Call 563-343-7985 or email srector3614@gmail.com.



RI PRESIDENT-ELECT ANNOUNCES 2021-22 PRESIDENTIAL THEME



Incoming Rotary International President Shekhar Mehta urged members to become more involved in-service projects, saying that caring for and serving others is the best way to live because it changes not only other people's lives, but also our own.

Mehta, a member of the Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar, West Bengal, India, revealed the 2021-22 presidential theme, ***Serve to Change Lives***, to incoming district governors on February 1st during the Rotary International Assembly. The assembly, a yearly training event for district governors-elect, was originally set to take place in Orlando, Florida, USA, but was held virtually because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

EVERY ROTARY MEMBER SHOULD HAVE A ROTARY INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNT!

A Rotary International Account is free, they will not ask for a credit card, and they are not selling anything. The account gives you full access to the "My Rotary" section of the Rotary International website. Only through My Rotary can you check your personal records of donations to the Foundation and see if they were applied as you requested (for Polio eradication or General Foundation use). My Rotary is a place for members of Rotary to access tools and information to make your membership experience better. You will have access to Rotary Magazines, Newsletters, Blogs, News & Features, Calendars, Videos, Webinars, and can join Rotary Discussion Groups on scores or topics or even start your own discussion group on a topic of your choice. These are just a few of the many doors open to you through "My Rotary". If you have not created an account, **DO IT TODAY!**

How do you create an account?

Simply go to <https://my.rotary.org/en/>. Select "My Rotary". Sign In / Register, then Create Account. After answering a few questions, you will be sent an email asking you to activate your account. If you need more help, review the How to Create a My Rotary Account guide (PDF).

The Rotary Club of Rock Island
is proud to present the 2021

Wine Raffle

All proceeds benefit the
Rock Island Rotary
Service Above Self Scholarship
with the
Rock Island-Milan
Education Foundation

1st Prize— \$500 in Wine

2nd Prize— \$300 in Wine

3rd Prize— \$200 in Wine

* Winners get to choose their own
Wine from The Grape Life!

Tickets:

1 for \$5 or
5 for \$20

Drawing will be held
on May 25, 2021

Purchase Tickets Online via Square at:
[Facebook.com/rockislandrotary](https://www.facebook.com/rockislandrotary)

Or email us at:
rotaryclubrockisland@gmail.com for more info.



HAVE A PLACE OF BUSINESS OR PUBLIC LOCATION WHERE A
WINE RAFFLE POSTER COULD BE DISPLAYED?

PLEASE CALL KATHY TRONE 309-794-9400