



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

# Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

November 9, 2021: Volume XXIX, Issue 19

MEETING TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



## Deb Bowen – “A BOOK By ME”

Sometimes described as “A New Way to Tell an Old Story”, A BOOK by ME is a literacy project for youth, which

includes interviewing a subject in order to write and illustrate a 10 page children's book on their life. The project is designed for students 18 and younger and integrates skills such as interviewing, researching, writing, editing, and illustrating. Never Forget Publishing, Inc then publishes the story complete with

photographs, a two-page biography, and matching curriculum. In the beginning, the book project started as a dream of Deb Bowen's to preserve stories of Jewish survivors, specifically three women each named Esther. Today with over 80 books in their Holocaust series, the books tell true stories of Jewish survivors, WWII Veteran liberators and eye witnesses, and Righteous Gentiles, non-Jews who risked their lives to help Jews. Now there are two other series: Human Rights and Heroes. Several children's books are now published and available to purchase on Amazon. They also have a newsletter for continued information of new releases. Their organization's Mission Statement says, “A BOOK by ME seeks to preserve the history of the WWII generation and other human rights issues. Our desire is to preserve the stories for the classroom so lessons of tolerance, empathy, hope and respect are not lost. Deb Bowen of Aledo, Illinois, was focusing children on stories that would be lost once the Holocaust survivors have passed away. She started preserving these stories with the help of young writers and artists in 2003. Then one day, she spoke in a small town outside of Peoria, and young Jon Mattern was in the audience. He was captivated with the project and wanted to write about a survivor who immigrated near his area. Jon's mom bought the memoir of Marion Blumenthal Lazan, later titled Four Perfect Pebbles. He read it cover to cover. Then he wrote a short version of the story called Never Lose Hope which was published by Deb Bowen in the "A Book by Me" series. Many students have told Deb over the years that these small, easy to read storybooks led them to read chapter books on the topic of the Holocaust. The door will soon be closed to interview someone from the WWII generation so action must be taken now. If you know a story that needs to be written, please find a student who would be willing to interview, write, and illustrate a "Book by Me." (perhaps two students working together on the project together). Perhaps one of your own children or grandchildren would like to get involved in this project. (Writer's guidelines are at [abookbyme.com](http://abookbyme.com)) or just contact Deb Bowen and let her know you have a lead for a story. You can contact Deb Bowen at [abookbyme@gmail.com](mailto:abookbyme@gmail.com). Deb and husband formed Never Forget Publishing in Aledo and now have three distinct series of books: The Holocaust series, The Hero series, and The Human Rights series. With Veterans Day this week, Deb concentrated her comments on the Hero Series. Deb sets up interviews for students to meet with their “subject” usually in person, but at time via ZOOM. The students glean as much information as they can and then have the task of putting together a 10 page story based on what they learned in the interview. The stories are often fascinating and would have been lost for the Books By Me program. Just a few of the stories Deb recounted were of a WWII veteran that was part of the Monuments Recovery team that searched and found much of the art items stolen by the Nazis during the war. The soldier was part of the protection squad that guarded the items after they were found. Another story was of veteran Jessie Drawfor that helped liberate a Nazi concentration camp. A marine veteran, John Moon was part of the Iwo Jima invasion and was friends with several of the men who raised the iconic flag on Iwo Jima. Naval veteran Dick Thelen was on the crew of the Indianapolis that was sunk in shark infested waters and many of his crewmates were attacked and eaten by sharks. Fred Foster was an army veteran who participated in the Battle of the Bulge. He told of feeling as if he could die at any moment. Mrs. Bowen's 100 book was about veteran John Fairbanks who was 100 years old when interviewed. In every case the student interviewer/authors reported learning more in their short interview than in all their history classes. Deb also stated that each book includes a curriculum section with exercises, reference materials, and a vocabulary glossary and a timeline. She said her goal was to preserve the stories, and hope to cause impact, compassion, and tolerance in the readers. Thank you for a most interesting program! .

### Sept. – Nov. Calendar

- Nov 12 - Rotary Trivia Night
- Nov 16 - Cecilia O'Brien – United Way
- Nov 23 - Norm Moline – China
- Nov 30 - Chad Pregracke – the Bison Bridge
- Dec 7 - RIHS Chamber Singers 2021 Holiday Show



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

## Officers

Justin Peterson, President  
Cindi Gramenz, 1st Vice Pres.  
Eric Westphall, 2nd Vice Pres.  
Anne McGlynn, Secretary  
Carrie Crossen, Treasurer  
Angela Campbell, Past President

## Board Members

Amber Brummit  
John Daly  
Rick DeVinney  
Monta Ponsetto  
Sue Rector  
Gary Rowe  
Molly Shattuck  
Kathy Trone  
Bob Swanson Co-Sgt.-at-Arms  
Cindi Gramenz Co-Sgt.-at-Arms

## Program Chairs

### 2021-22

Aug-Sept – Gary Rowe  
Oct - Nov – Frank Lambert  
Dec-Jan – John Wetzel  
Feb-Mar – Kai Swanson/  
Dave Hodge  
Apr-May – Kathy Trone/  
Jeff Rose

# Club Notes & Announcements!

- ❑ **WELCOME GUESTS** – Today our Club welcomed Alleman Jr. Rotarians Gabbie Coronado and Galilea Campos. Visiting Rotarians Duncan Cameron from Naples Florida and Bruce Peterson from the River Cities Club. Dick Fislar was a guest of wife Mary. Shellee Showalter. Cindy Lukasik and Barb Cady of the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation were guests of the club. Joan Bertrand-Jones and her granddaughter accompanied our speaker and were guests of the club.
- ❑ **WINTER NIGHTS WINTER LIGHTS** – Help is needed for a crew of Rotarians (with family and friends welcome) to help lay and hang lights for the Botanical Center's annual holiday light display. The display featuring over 160,000 lights has become one of the Quad Cities' most popular holiday destinations. We have agreed to staff a 2 hour shift placing lights from 6-8pm tomorrow, Wednesday, November 10th. There will be staff assistance to direct us. Those who helped last year can attest to it being a fun and easy project! No heavy carrying or climbing ladders required! It's a great family outing for children of all ages. All they need is the ability to help! Rumor has it there will be some refreshments at the end of the shift! Contact co-chair Rebecca Arnold or Sue Rector to help.
- ❑ **DON'T FORGET – KEEP THEM ENGAGED** for November our collection is educationally motivating items such flash cards, puzzles, math/science oriented activities – word games – mind stretching activities, etc. We need 300 to make sure every Earl Hanson student gets a fully supplied summer bag..
- ❑ **HOLIDAY PARTY SIGN UP NOW!** – Reserve your seats now for our Rotary/Kiwanis joint Holiday Party at Circa 21 on Wednesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. We started with 75 reserved seats for our two Clubs and they are going fast! You can use your Quad City Dining Tour Book coupon from Circa 21 for great savings. Plus in addition to a great show, beautiful meal and pre-show entertainment, we'll have a before-show private party in the salon with delicious hors d'oeuvres. Reserve your tickets now, pay later, by signing up at the Sergeants Table. Don't get left out!
- ❑ **NEWSLETTER** – Send items for our newsletter to [bobdebswanson@att.net](mailto:bobdebswanson@att.net)

## BELL RINGING – ALL SIGNED UP AND ALL SHIFTS COVERED – THANKS!



Rock Island Rotary is scheduled to ring the bell for the Salvation Army on **December 11<sup>th</sup>** at the Rock Island HyVee from 10am until 3pm. We will be covering both doors, so we need four people for each shift. Club members have all shifts covered! Thanks.

Email [mark.mayeski@edwardjones.com](mailto:mark.mayeski@edwardjones.com) if an emergency will force you to cancel. Backups, in case needed, can sign up!

Time	East Door	West Door
10:00	<u>Gary Rowe</u>	<u>Ruth Lee</u>
10:00	<u>Bill Stengel</u>	<u>Cindi Gramenz</u>
11:00	<u>Bud Phillis</u>	<u>Jim &amp; Judy Nordquist</u>
11:00	<u>Sue Rector</u>	<u>Anne McGlynn</u>
12:00	<u>Rick Devinney</u>	<u>Steve Morenz</u>
12:00	<u>Howard Beck</u>	<u>Judie Gelaude</u>
1:00	<u>Holly Sparkman</u>	<u>Ametra Carrol</u>
1:00	<u>Tom Sparkman</u>	<u>Jo9hn Phillips</u>
2:00	<u>Kai Swanson</u>	<u>Molly Shattuck</u>
2:00	<u>Jenni Swanson</u>	<u>Tom Hammar</u>
3:00	<u>Linda Golden</u>	<u>Kim Calhoun</u>
3:00	<u>Kevin Koski</u>	<u>Rick Emery</u>



## WE GOT SOMETHING STARTED!

Last month our club hosted the first in-person joint meeting of the 11 Quad City Area Rotary Clubs in celebration of World Polio Day. From the start the evening was a great success with delicious hors d'oeuvres, a tasty buffet dinner, representatives from all clubs present, the Iowa side District Governor and our Assistant Governor present, two outstanding local polio survivor speakers, a informative Polio Day video, and participation in the program by club presidents from North Scott, Bettendorf, Davenport, Moline, East-Moline-Silvis, Geneseo, Illinois Quad Cities, River Cities, Twin Rivers RAH, and Rock Island. We had before the event television coverage on all four local television outlets and local PBS radio. WQAD come to the event and did a video and interviews on the 10pm news after the dinner. Our Club held the first Quad City area joint celebration of World Polio Day with the 7 Illinois side Rotary Clubs in 2020 via ZOOM. The expansion to include the Iowa Clubs and being able to gather together in person was a tremendous improvement this year.

Now the GREAT NEWS! Both Bettendorf and North Scott volunteered to host the 2022 World Polio Day joint event. They may host it together or one may step up and the other take a future year. East Moline-Silvis signed up to host in 2023, and Muscatine Rotary want to join next year. One thing is for sure, the ball is now rolling, and it looks as if what started as an idea of Bud Phillis will continue and thrive in the future. Thanks to our seven members who provided the hors d'oeuvres and the 37 who attend from our club this year. We need to be sure to support and attend the event next year!



ROTARIAN SUE RECTOR  
IS OBVIOUSLY DOING  
HER PART TO ENSURE  
HER GRANDSON IS BEING  
BROUGHT UP RIGHT!

Nice cap little guy!

Thanks for sharing grandma

## MEMBER GENEROSITY FUNDS ROTARY PROJECTS

Rock Island Rotary was honored to receive several generous donations in honor of some of our longest and most loyal members.

\*Don Peterson was taken from us in July. In honor of what would have been his 94th birthday, wife Virginia Johnson sent a \$94 check to Rock Island Rotary.

\*John Wetzel sent a \$1,000 check in honor of his and Martha's wedding anniversary.

\*Stan Coin, in honor of his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday today, donated \$25,000 to our Rock Island Rotary Club Foundation.



*Don Peterson*



*John Wetzel*



*Stan Coin*

Rock Island Rotary Literacy Committee Introduces

## “Keep them Engaged”

Summer Packs for Earl Hanson School



The Goal: Collect and assemble items in engaging Summer packs for every student at Earl Hanson. There are 300 kids, and we hope to provide options for kids at each grade levels.

**October Goal – 300 packs of crayons, colored pencils, or markers. ✓ Goal Made!**

**THIS MONTH – November: We are looking for Educational Activities (flash cards, puzzles, Math/science oriented activities – word games – mind stretching activities etc.)**

**Bring your donations to our meetings each week in November**

## The New 2021-22 QUAD CITY DINING TOUR BOOKS ARE HERE!!

Chair Bud Phillis had the new Dining Books at our meeting today and they are going fast! The cost remains just \$35 for over 300 Buy-One, Get-One-Free coupons at 150 Quad Cities area restaurants! Better yet, for each book sold Rock Island Rotary receives a \$10 donation! In addition to numerous restaurants from fast food to luxury dining, the Book contains a Circa 21 Coupon you can use for our Rotary Holiday Party. **That savings alone more than pays for the book!** See Bud next week to get your 2021-22 Book!



## BIG DONATION FOR OUR SCHOLARSHIP



Shellee Showalter, Monta Ponsetto, Cindy Lukasik, Justin Peterson

Our recent Wine Auction along with a substantial memorial gift in honor of Tom Showalter and memorials in honor of Don Peterson were combined to make a \$7,573.74 donation to the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation to provide additional funding for our Fredrick Houlton “Service Above Self” Scholarship. On hand to participate in the donation were Shellee Showalter, daughter of former member Tom Showalter; Monta Ponsetto, executive director of the Rock Island-Milan Education Foundation; Cindy Lukasik President of the Foundation, and Barb Cady, a member of the Foundation Board.

## FOUNDATION RAFFLE – FINES – HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

**Today's raffle** featured Wine and Cash. The first lucky ticket drawn was held by a guest at today's meeting, Joan Bertrand-Jones. She took the wine. The second ticket pulled was held by Frank Lambert who took the cash. Proceeds from our raffle go to the Rotary foundation and we appreciate all who participated!

**Fines today** were led off by Bob Swanson who paid dearly for his telephone ringing just as President Justin began fining. Ruth Lee and Kim Calhoun paid for early leaving privileges. Jim Moran had a happy dollar for his granddaughter who plays high school volleyball in Georgia. Her team not only won the state high school championship, but she individually set an all-time Georgia record for assists! Congratulations, “Champ” and Grandpa too! Jeff Dismar had a sad dollar paid in honor of the loss of his mother-in-law, Millie Murray. Justin Peterson, John Daly, and Gary Rowe each had a happy dollar in celebration of Illinois' football victory over Minnesota. (Minnesota was leading the division prior to losing to the Illini!)

**IT'S THIS FRIDAY! JOIN A TEAM OR ENTER YOUR TEAM NOW!**



## **Rock Island Rotary TRIVIA NIGHT** **Friday, November 12th at 6:30pm**

**SAVE the DATE and get your team together for Rock Island Rotary's annual fundraiser! Cash prizes, cash bar, 50/50, silent auction and TONS of FUN with MR. TRIVIA!!!**

**This fundraiser supports Earl Hanson Elementary School and RI Rotary Community Grants.  
Corporate Sponsorships are available!**

**When: Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Where: Milan Community Center, 2701 1<sup>st</sup> Street East, Milan**

**Time: 6:30pm START time, doors open at 5:45pm**

**Cost: \$100 a table, up to 10 players**

**EMAIL OR CALL KATHY TRONE NOW TO JOIN: [kathy@wesselspc.com](mailto:kathy@wesselspc.com) or 209-794-9000**

**The Rock Island Rotary Club is challenging all other Rotary Clubs in the QC Area to participate and TRY to win the "Traveling Trophy" for the SMARTEST ROTARY CLUB!**

**CLUB!**

**NEW THIS YEAR – AN ONLINE ONLY SILENT AUCTION – STAY TUNED FOR DETAILS!**

### **Rock Island Rotary TRIVIA NIGHT**

**Proceeds benefit Rock Island Rotary Youth Programs**

#### **Sponsorship Opportunities:**

**Gold Sponsor** **\$500**

- Listed on all advertising material
- Complimentary Table for up to 10 players, including mulligans and double score sticker
- Day of event recognition as a Gold Sponsor

**Corporate Sponsor** **\$250**

- Complimentary Table for up to 10 players
- Day of event recognition as a Corporate Sponsor

**Friend of Rotary** **\$100**

- Day of event recognition as a Friend of Rotary





SAVE THE DATE



# ROTARY REINDEER RAMBLE

SUNDAY

December 5, 2021

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+ ALL THIS PLUS GREAT FOOD & DRINK!

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

REGISTRATION FEES – Pre-registered, postmarked not later than 11-20-20 \$25.00

Rotary members \$23.00

After Nov 20, \$30.00 for all!

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

GRAND PRIZE! GIFT CERTIFICATE for two for CIRCA 21. 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 \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ 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!

**SIGN UP AT NEXT WEEKS MEETING! SEATS ARE GOING FAST ...**

ROCK ISLAND ROTARY

# HOLIDAY PARTY 2021

The Magic of an Old-Fashioned Holiday at CIRCA 21



Rated: PG  
Area Premiere!

Wednesday  
December 8th

In this heartwarming new musical, a dad's wish to celebrate an old-fashioned Christmas leads him and his family on a magical journey to another time where he learns that while remembering the past is important, the best way to hold on to tradition is to enjoy the Christmas present! This one-of-a-kind show, written for Circa '21 by longtime Bootlegger Brad Hauskins, is a nostalgic celebration of family that will leave you filled with the peace and joy of the holidays.

**\*\*Rotary and Kiwanis have 75 seats which will be sold on a first come basis to Club members and their guests. No money needed until November, But you must sign up now to reserve your seats! Make your reservation at the Sergeant at Arms table this week!**

Tickets include a private pre-show Salon Party

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)

Winter Wonderland (7:30pm)

TWO WITH DINING BOOK COUPON \$67.21\*

ONE ADMISSION (NO COUPON) \$52.75

TWO ADMISSIONS (NO COUPON) \$105.50

\*Tip included (not including deserts & bar)

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

# PLAN YOUR SUMMER VACATION NOW!



**We dare you to watch this video and then decide you're not interested in considering a Texas vacation for June 2022.**



Houston  
Video.mp4



1. The Houston Museum of Natural Science 2. Minute Maid Park 3. Museum of Fine Arts, Houston 4. Children's Museum Houston 5. Houston Zoo 6. Space Center Houston 7. The Galleria 8. Cockrell Butterfly Center 9. Toyota Center 10. Rodeo Houston or Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo 11. Water Wall 12. NRG Stadium 13. Discovery Green 14. National Museum of Funeral History 15. Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens 16. The Menil Collection 17. The Music Box Theater 18. Buffalo Bayou Park 19. Houston Museum District 20. Saint Arnold Brewing Company 21. Lone Star Flight Museum 22. Rice University Campus 23. Houston Arboretum & Nature Center 24. Houston Graffiti Building 25. Smither Park 26. Memorial City Mall 27. Holocaust Museum Houston 28. Glenwood Cemetery 29. Karbach Brewing 30. Downtown Aquarium