******Rock Island Rotary**

**Weekly Review**

**February 15, 2022: Volume XXIX, Issue 33**

**MEETING TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER**

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**Feb. – Mar. Calendar**

Feb 22:- Joel Vanderbush - Niabi Zoo

Mar 1 - Dave Hodge – Youth Hope

Update

Mar 8 - Carlene VanDyke – DCFS

Foster Care Parent Recruiter

Mar 15 - Laura Fontaine Director -

World Relief Quad Cities

Mar 22 - Mikhayla Hughes-Shaw,

former Miss Iowa - currently

hostess of “Living Local” on

WHBF-TV – “How About Hope

Mental Health Awareness”

Mar 29 - Steve Bahls – Retiring

Augustana College President

Apr 5 - Bert Blood Scholarships

Apr 12 - Rotary Awards Luncheon

Apr 19 - Chris Van Spybroek

Apr 26 - Luis Moreno

May 3 - Katie Powers

May 10 - Sarah Leonard – Earl Hanson Principal

**Rebecca Wee**

**Augustana**

**Poet**

Rebecca Wee graduated from St. Olaf College in 1984. She later attended George Mason University where she studied poetry and served as editorial assistant to Carolyn Forche on her 1993 anthology *Against Forgetting: Twentieth Century Poetry of Witness*. Ms. Wee currently holds the post of Associate Professor on the English faculty at Augustana College. Her first book of poems, *Uncertain Grace*, received the 2000 Hayden Carruth Award for New and Emerging Poets and was subsequently published in 2001 by Copper Canyon Press. In 2003 she was chosen by U.S. Poet Laureate Billy Collins to receive one of two annual Witter Bynner fellowships in poetry, supported by the Library of Congress and the Witter Bynner Foundation for Poetry. From 2003–2005 Wee served as the second Poet Laureate of the Quad Cities. Wee joined the Augustana English department in 1994; she teaches poetry, literature, first-year writing, and directs independent studies in creative writing. In 1995 she and her students established “After Hours”, a campus writing group which has since evolved to include fiction writing as well as poetry. Wee is a faculty advisor for Saga, Augustana's literary arts journal, as well as an instructor for the Mid-River Writers Workshop, a 2-week summer writing program for high school juniors and seniors. She has published poems in online and paper journals and is at work on her second book, "*Instead*." Ms. Wee began her comments much like she begins her Introduction to Poetry 101 class. First setting out a definition of poetry. She offered two, the first, “Poetry finds language for things we don’t have language for.” Then she offered, “Poems embody feelings.” She explained that prose typically tells or describes something with words. Poetry also tell or describes something but in addition to just telling the reader about the subject, it also activates other senses, causing the reader to “feel” the emotion the author felt when creating the poem. Ms. Wee stated that poems create an image. She then challenged all in the audience to really notice the things around us. Don’t just walk-through life; observe all there is to see along the way. She then illustrated one form of poetry, the “Haiku.” The haiku is a Japanese poetic form that consists of three lines, with five syllables in the first line, seven in the second, and five in the third. The haiku became a separate form of poetry in the 17th century. Professor Wee noted the short simplicity of the haiku and explained that the words need not rhyme. Rather, they should create an image making the reader feel and see what the words describe. Then she took a real gamble and asked all in the room to write down five things each of us had observed so far today. After allowing time for us to complete that task she asked that we each write a haiku about one of the things we had observed. She emphasized that we needed to count our syllables and make sure we followed the 5-7-5 form. Again, after allowing a few minutes, she asked audience members to share their creation. This was the essence of the gamble, were there any “poets” in the Rotarian audience? Amazingly one after another Rotarians offered their haiku to the delight of Professor Wee and surprise of fellow members. Those offered were quite good with each in just the 17 syllables allowed, creating an image, and evoking an emotional response from all who heard. Ms. Wee left us with an assignment. We were to each pick an emotion (love, hate, envy, rage, happiness, etc.) write about it with the intent of making the listener feel it. It was a very interesting, fun, and informative program. Thank you!



**DON’T FORGET – KEEP THEM ENGAGED** For **FEBRUARY** we are collecting craft supplies such as beads, pipe cleaners, yarn, felt material, craft sticks, pom-poms, glitter glue, colored tapes, water color paints, playdough, etc. We need to supply 300 Earl Hanson students and want each to get a fully supplied summer bag to “Keep Them Engaged”. Bring your donation for the February cause or just drop a few dollars in the collection box on the badge table and we’ll do the shopping for you!

**AWARDS LUNCHEON COMMITTEE –** Will meet immediately after next week’s club meeting. Members please plan to stay for a short planning session.

**GREETERS NEEDED –** Please sign up at the Sergeant at Arms table. Great way for newer members to meet fellow Rotarians! All you need to do is to arrive a bit early for your meeting. Bring a smile and handshake or fist bump.

**SORRY FOR THE ERROR ---** Last week we reported that Jim Moran’s son had been selected to give the student address at the upcoming Alleman graduation ceremonies. The error was a tribute to Jim’s youthful physique and demeanor. In fact, his son is 44 years old. His name is Brian, and he is a recently retired LT. Colonel with a Masters in Homeland security. He will be the keynote, featured speaker at the Commencement. Congratulations to Jim and Brian and our apologies for the error.

**NEWSLETTER** – Send items for our newsletter to bobdebswanson@att.net

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

Jun-Jul – Tom Hammar

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**WELCOME GUESTS –** We were pleased to have a visiting Rotarians with us on Zoom today. Mark Zimmerman from the Davenport club joined us. We also welcomed Jr. Rotarians from Alleman High School, Ellen Dopler and Elijah Farewell. Because they will not be in school next week, today was their final visit with us and they each gave their farewell to the club. We anticipate two new students will join us in March. Rock Island Rotary is always pleased to welcome guests to our Club and hope that you enjoy the meeting and will join us again!



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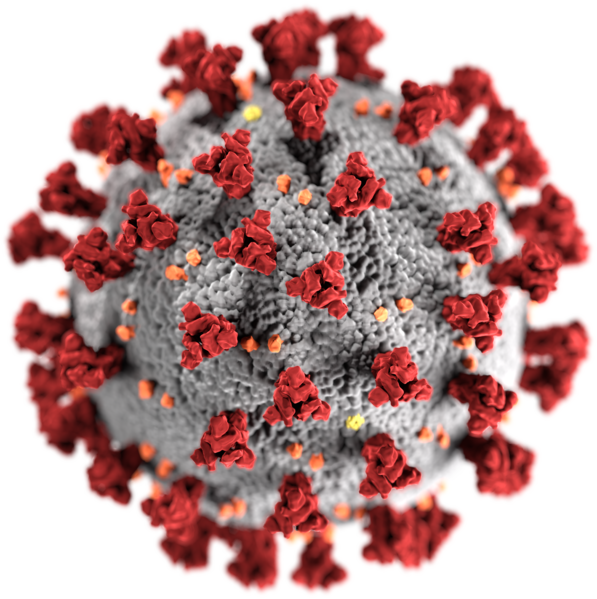








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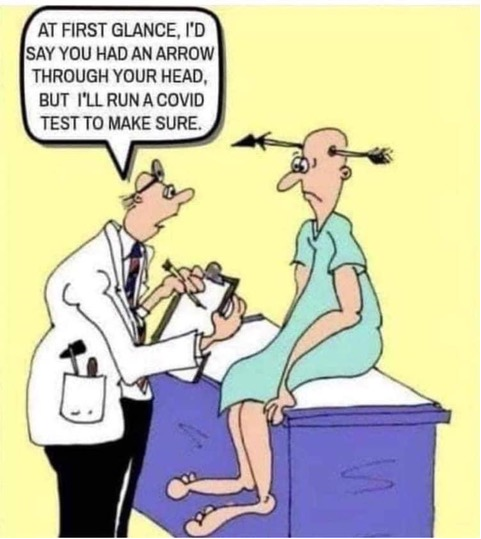
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**FOUNDATION RAFFLE WINNERS!**

This week our prizes were a 50/50 cash drawing, a bottle of fine wine. And a lovely fabric bowl. The holder of the first ticket was Jim Moran who took the cash and donated it back to the Rotary Foundation. John Wetzel had the second winning ticket and took the wine. Kathy Ruggeberg had the lucky ticket for the bowl. Thanks to all who participated!

**FREE COVID TESTING**

**Free, walk-in PCR Covid testing is now available at the Martin Luther King Center (630 9th Street) on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9am-3pm, and Thursdays from 9am-5pm. No appointment is needed, and this service is completely free. Call 877.444.4932 with any questions.**



Rock Island Rotary Literacy Committee Introduces

**“Keep them Engaged”**

Summer Packs for Earl Hanson School

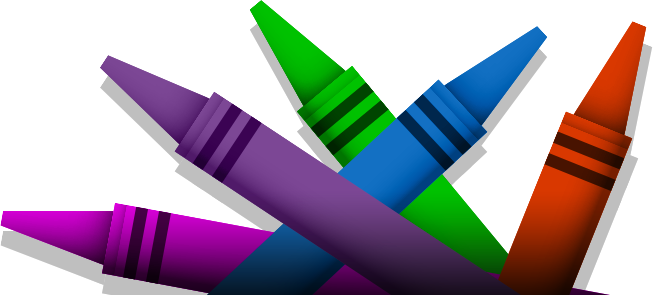
**FEBRUARY COLLECTION ITEMS:**

**Simple Craft supplies: stickers/beads/yarn/ pipe cleaners/felt, etc.**

The Goal: Collect and assemble items in engaging Summer packs for every student at Earl

Hanson Elementary School. That means we need 300 of each item!

**Bring your donation items or cash to purchase them to our meeting**

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**FOUNDATION MINUTE**

**It’s Week 2 of RI’s Month of Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution**

Rotary International approved the creation of Rotary Peace Centers Program in 1999, and the first set of students began their studies in 2002. **TRF awards Peace Fellowship Scholarship grants** to qualified candidates who become catalysts for peace in local communities and on the global stage. **Rotary Peace Centers are located at seven institutions across the globe, with the newest one in Uganda, East Africa.** Each year, TRF awards up to **50 Fellowships for graduate degrees and 80 for Professional Certificates at the cost of $40,000 per scholarship**.

Peace scholars study the causes of conflict and build practical skills exploring innovative solutions to real world problems in areas such as human rights, international relations and global health and development. ([www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)) Since their inception, the Peace Centers have enjoyed continued sponsorship by **TRF** which, so far, has funded over **$188,000,000** on peace building and conflict prevention projects around the world.

The host institutions for TRF Peace Fellowship Grants are:

* **Duke University and U of North Carolina** at Chapel Hill, NC., USA
* **International Christian University, Tokyo,** Japan
* **University of Bradford, Bradford**, England
* **University of Queensland, Brisbane**, Australia
* **Uppsala University, Uppsala**, Sweden
* **Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok**, Thailand
* **Makerere University**, Kampala Uganda.

**Rotary International hopes to establish a Peace Center in the Middle East or North Africa by 2024 and in Latin America around 2040.**

**FINES – HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS**

In the absence of VP Westphall, President Justin filled in and noted that Stan Coin and Marcy Bell were paying as early leavers today. He then offered $3 happy dollars, two for his former college, Knox, getting both mens and womens basketball wins over archrival, Monmouth College. He gave the 3rd happy dollar for the Covid positivity rate being significantly down in Rock Island County. Bud Phillis had a sad/happy dollar. Today was the 30th anniversary of the death of his son, Steven, who was shot down in Desert Storm, and also was the first release of a book about his son’s heroism. Kathy Trone had happy dollars for her granddaughter earning her “Brown Belt” and for her son obtaining a new job locally. Gary Rowe had a happy daughter for a photo of his daughter that appeared on the front page of the local papers. John Wetzel had a sad dollar for the death of Savanah, the Niabi Zoo lion. Sue Rector had $5 happy dollars for the Rams victory in the super bowl. Lastly, John Phillips and Frank Lambert each offered a sad dollar for what looks like might be a long lockout threatening the baseball season.

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**COAT DRIVE GOAL**

**EXCEEDED!**

In the past week more coats were donated to our collection moving our total donated number of coats to **60!**  We’re now well past our original goal of 50! The Heart of Hope Clothing pantry is happy to accept all we can provide, so if you discover additional coats you no longer wear, bring them to Rotary and we will see that they are delivered to Heart of Hope. Thanks to all for your generosity!

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**ROCK ‘N ROLL BINGO – MARCH 25th**

**Get Set for Fun in the Private Upstairs**

**Bar/Dining Room of Blue Cat Brewing Co.**

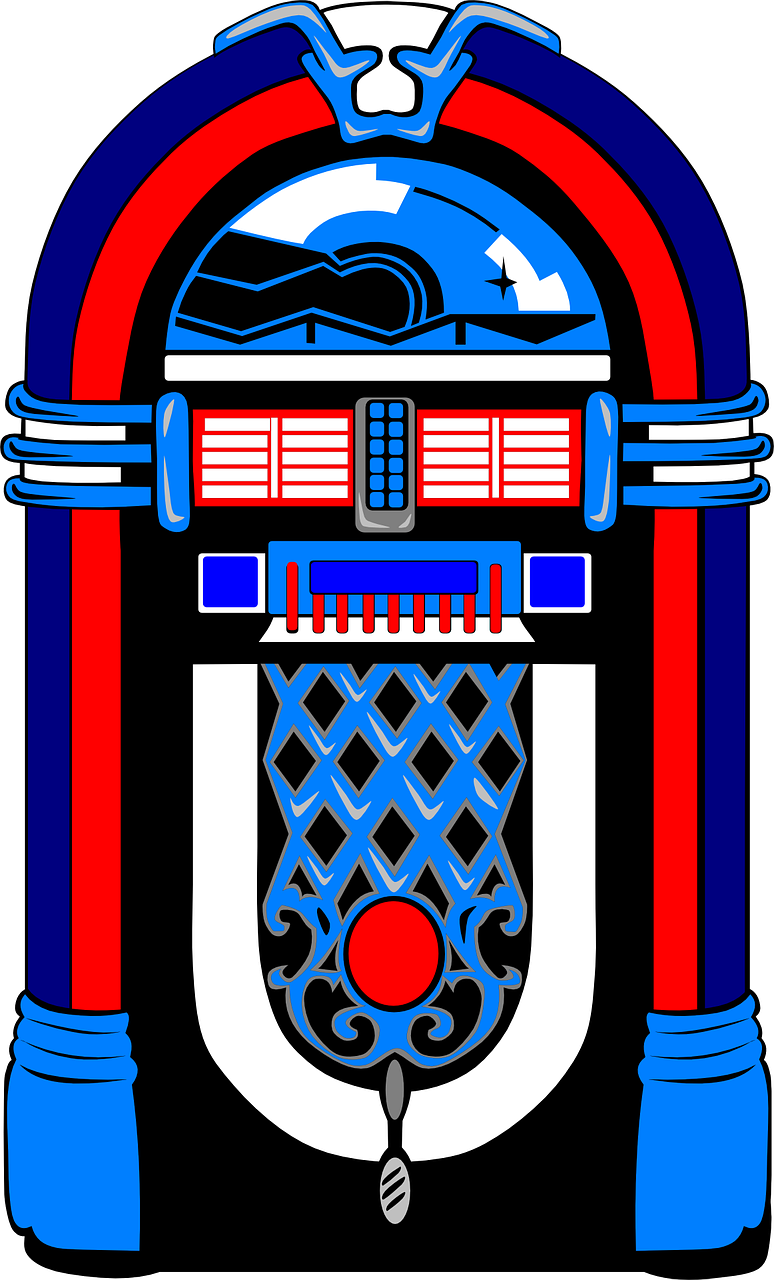
**6-9pm**

**Playing is simple and fun. You by a bingo card for $10 or 3 for $25**

**You’ll notice that rather than numbers on the card there are song titles. The moderator then plays segments of songs from the 70s up to the present, and you mark each song you hear that is listed on your card (don’t worry, the song titles aren’t secret). Get five in a row up, down, or diagonally, and you’ve got BINGO! 5**

**There will be 10 rounds of Bingo and a prize for the winner of each Round. Your purchase of Bingo cards and participating in the accompanying silent auction and 50/50 drawings is the “funding” for the fundraiser. Plus, the Blue Cat is donating a portion of their food and drink sales from the event.**

**You have fun, hear lots of great music, and help fund Rotary projects!**



**FOUNDATION TUESDAY**

Each month we designate the third Tuesday as “Foundation Tuesday.” On those days small envelopes are placed on all dining tables and our Foundation chairs, Bud or Sue, offer a few words about the Rotary Foundation. It is hoped that every club member will support the Foundation to whatever extent is possible. Contributions can be placed in the provided envelopes or members can set up an automatic monthly electronic transfer to make regular donations. Any amount, large or small is welcome. Giving to our Foundation is a way to be a part of humanitarian philanthropy that has impact all over the world, Currently the Gates Foundation matches every dollar given 2 to 1, so a donation as small as $5 becomes a $15 donation with the match.

Today Sue Rector spoke for the Foundation and her message bears repeating. Charity Navigator, an independent fact-finding organization rates the Rotary International Foundation a “4-Star Charity” and labels the Rotary Foundation as “Exceptional”. Rotary scored 100 in each of the following categories: Finance; Accountability & Transparence; Leadership & Adaptability; Culture & Community. They also found that 92% of the funds collected by the Rotary International Foundation go to programs and direct benefits to the intended recipients. Just 8 cents of each dollar are spent on administration and fund-raising expenses. See Bud or Sue to set up an electronic funds transfer program. The dollars you donate count toward Paul Harris Fellow recognition.

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