



# Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

March 15, 2022: Volume XXIX, Issue 37



## Welcome Jennifer Teres of World Relief QC

Jennifer Teres, Operations Manager for World Relief Quad Cities, did an exceptional job filling in for Laura Fontaine, their Executive Director. (It was one of those situations that couldn't be avoided thanks to a surprise Federal audit!) Not only did Jennifer enlighten the club on the recent Afghan refugee situation, she brought one of their amazing Afghan volunteers to tell us about the importance of this local organization.

But first, here's a little more info about World Relief Quad Cities— World Relief offers a number of different services including Citizenship Classes, Immigration Legal Services, English Language Programs, Youth Mentoring and a culturally appropriate food pantry (meaning that in addition to fresh fruits and vegetables found in most grocery stores, their food pantry also contains many of the staples that immigrant neighbors would have eaten in their home countries.) Their programs focus on addressing the root causes of poverty, vulnerability and injustice. Beyond physical change, they focus on driving mental, social and spiritual transformation. They understand that lasting change requires more than quick fixes and band-aid solutions. World Relief also relies on local leaders to implement their programs. Over 95% of their staff are local - people who know and love their communities and will remain long after World Relief departs.

Jennifer was hired in September 2021 to implement the Afghan Resettlement project. Since that time, she and her coworkers have helped settle 257 Afghan people in our community. Admittedly, this has been difficult. But when she was ready to throw in the towel, Mohammed Arif walked in the door and indicated that he wanted to volunteer. He told them "You helped me, and now I want to give back and help my people."

Mohammed, known by his American name Adam, came to America in 2005. He said of his experience, "People were very nice and helped me a lot with whatever I needed."

*Continued on Page 3...*

### Upcoming Programs

- Mar 22 - Mikhayla Hughes-Shaw, former Miss Iowa - currently hostess of "Living Local" on WHBF-TV - "How About H.O.P.E. 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

world relief   
QUAD CITIES

World Relief is a global Christian humanitarian organization that brings sustainable solutions to the world's greatest problems – disasters, extreme poverty, violence, oppression, and mass displacement. We partner with local churches and community leaders in the U.S. and abroad to bring hope, healing and transformation to the most vulnerable.

Contact them by email at  
[wrquadcities@wr.org](mailto:wrquadcities@wr.org)



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  
Co-Sergeants at Arms  
Cindi Gramenz  
Bob Swanson

## Program Chairs 2021 - 2022

Aug. – Sep	Gary Rowe
Oct. – Nov	Frank Lambert
Dec. – Jan	John Wetzell
Feb – Mar	Kai Swanson/ Dave Hodge
Apr– May	Kathy Trone/ Jeff Rose
June – July	Tom Hammar

## Club Notes & Announcements!

### WELCOME GUESTS!

All guests were in-person at today's meeting:  
Mohammed "Adam" Arif, John Hammar, and Sue Hammar

**EARLY LEAVERS:** Holly Sparkman, Kim Calhoun

**SPECIAL THANKS TO BOB & BUD** for their continued Water Filter cheerleading talks to other Rotary Clubs. We just received a \$350 donation from the Geneseo Rotary Club for the project!

**DON'T FORGET – KEEP THEM ENGAGED!** For **March**, we are collecting **new or gently used books, appropriate for ages 5-12 years old.** We have 300 Earl Hanson students to supply with a fully stocked summer activity bag to "Keep Them Engaged." Bring your donation for the March cause or just drop a few dollars in the collection box on the badge table and we'll do the shopping for you!

**WINE RAFFLE TICKETS** – We still have a number of members who have not picked up their 5 wine raffle tickets. Gary Rowe has them at each Tuesday meeting. If you are not able to attend, please email Gary at [gnrowe47@gmail.com](mailto:gnrowe47@gmail.com) or call 309-948-3403 and he will send them to you. Tickets are \$20 each and you are welcome to keep or sell them as you please. All proceeds from the raffle will go to fund our Fred Houlton "Service Above Self" scholarship which will be presented annually to a deserving graduate from Rock Island High School

**GREETERS NEEDED** - Greeters are needed! All that is required is the ability to come a few minutes early and bring your great smile. Handshake, fist bump, elbow bump - whatever your pleasure is fine. It's a great way for newer members to get to know your fellow Rotarians. Sign-up at the Sergeant-at-Arms table.

Email Bob if you have any content for the newsletter: [bobdebswanson@att.net](mailto:bobdebswanson@att.net)

# Rotary Rock & Roll

Friday,  
March 25, 2022  
6p - 9p  
Upstairs at the  
Blue Cat Brew Pub  
Downtown  
Rock Island



Playing is simple and fun. You buy 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!

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! Please let Kathy Trone or Sue Rector know if you will attend.

Adam went on to explain that in Afghanistan, he was a successful farmer, but everything was destroyed during the war. He had no other choice but to carve out a new life for him and his family.

He closed his talk by saying, "Please support the Afghan people. Kids have a bright future over here. There are many still left behind, and we need to bring them here. I thank World Relief - they help everybody."

Jennifer came back to the podium to finish up the program. She is amazed at how understanding our Quad City communities are towards the immigrant and refugee populations, which is not always the case in other areas. More specifically, she couldn't say enough to praise the Rock Island County Health Department for their help and organizational skills.

"In the long term, everyone is here to stay. How can we make it a great experience for all?"

Other interesting tidbits we learned during the presentation included:

- The Jewish Federation of Chicago is their fiscal agent, which allows them to apply for grants and other funding opportunities;
- With only 48 hours to find temporary housing for the first wave of immigrants, the East Moline Hyatt stepped up to the plate and gave World Relief the governmental rate so that could buy some time to find our newest residents more permanent places to live;
- The average age of the most recent Afghan immigrants is between 15-20 years old;
- Roughly 73% of the Afghan immigrant families are children;
- World Relief QC budget has gone up 670% since Laura Fontaine became its director;
- There are 34 people on staff at World Relief
- World Relief has 20 different offices around the United States, with 3 in the state of Illinois, which is why our local office is called "World Relief Quad Cities"

Jennifer summed it all up with a beautiful sentiment: "Sometimes it is impossible to understand all of the issues. At the very least, do no further harm."

Thank you to Jennifer, Adam, and the whole World Relief team for the amazing work you do in the QCA!



Nawroz is the Afghanistan new year. It falls on March 21st, which also marks the first day of spring. On Nawroz, families wake up early, put on new clothes, and begin the day with prayer.

*A Traditional Afghani Recipe from the World Relief Website...*

## **HAFT MEWA**

- 1/2 cup walnuts (peeled if possible)
- 1/2 cup cashews
- ½ cup pistachios (without shell)
- ½ cup yellow raisins and 1 cup red raisins,
- ½ cup dried bing cherries
- 1 cup dried apricots
- ½ cup blanched, slivered almonds
- ½ tsp. rosewater or pure vanilla extract (optional)
- 5 cups cold filtered water

If you cannot find peeled nuts, blanch walnuts and pistachios. Boil 3 cups of water, remove from heat, and add nuts. Cover and let sit for 20 minutes. Remove from hot water, rinse in cold water, and then remove the peels with your hands. Make sure to remove all the skin.

Rinse dried fruits in cold water. Add fruit and nuts to a large lidded bowl or container.

(Optional) Add rosewater or vanilla extract. Pour in 5 cups cold filtered water and stir. There should be at least one inch of water above fruits and nuts. Cover and put in fridge for 2-3 days. Haft Mewa will get sweeter the longer it sits. Serve in bowls without draining.





## Numerous Paul Harris Fellows Honored!

Tom Hammar earned a Paul Harris +1 and honored his son, John, who came into town from Cedar Rapids to accept the honor.

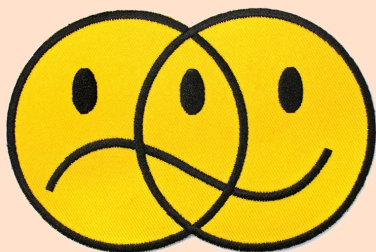
Ruth Lee earned a few more Paul Harris pins by honoring her son-in-law, Michael, and grandson, Owen Lee.

Cindi Gramenz earned her Paul Harris +3 and John Oliger earned his Paul Harris +2. Both encouraged the club to do automatic withdrawal - it's simple, and before you know it, it adds up to be enough for a Paul Harris Fellow!

## We Need Your Help with a Special Birthday Books Celebration!

**Thursday, March 31st at 2:30pm**  
**Earl Hanson Elementary School**

**TWO MONTHS WORTH OF BIRTHDAYS IN ONE CELEBRATION!**



## FINES & HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

Ruth returned from visiting grandchildren, which earned the club a happy dollar. She also donated another dollar for the exceptional play of tennis star, Madison Keyes.

Angela paid a dollar for distributing the Rock Island Library's Annual Outcomes Report.

There were a lot of sports-related dollars. Justin (supporting the Illini), Bud (\$5 for supporting the Illini and for being in Florida the last couple of weeks), Frank Lambert and John Wetzel donated dollars in the hopes that the baseball season will soon start; Sue Rector and Frank each donated a dollar in support of the Hawkeyes, and Mark Mayeski donated only \$1 for supporting Gonzaga.

## FOUNDATION RAFFLE REPORT



Today's raffle featured a 50/50 cash drawing a bottle of wine:

- The Wine went to David Hodge
- The \$25 went to Mary Fislar who donated it to Polio Plus

Proceeds from our raffle go to the Rotary International Foundation. **Thanks to all who participated!**



Rock Island Rotary Literacy Committee Introduces

## **“Keep them Engaged”**

Summer Packs for Earl Hanson School

**MARCH COLLECTION ITEMS:  
New or gently used books**

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**

### ***An update from Sue...***

- We have enough : coloring books, flash cards, construction paper, crayons/markers, gallon bags
- We could use a lot more craft supplies: pipe cleaners, Pom poms, Popsicle sticks, wiggles eyes, glue sticks, bottles of school glue, stickers (any kind)
- We have 170 reading books -need 130 more. Can be gently used and all age books-picture or chapter.
- Next month we'll be collecting something fun for kids - sidewalk chalk, bubbles, simple toys and games. Have about 100 already started.
- We will compile the crafts packets at my house sometime in early May.
- We are in need of a location for sorting and assembling the engagement bags in May. Will need help transporting all the supplies from my home.
- We will need help transporting 300 filled bags to Earl Hanson and distributing -still making arrangements with the school.



# 2022 ROTARY AWARDS LUNCHEON

April 12<sup>th</sup> is the date of our annual Rotary Awards Luncheon. At that time, we will present awards to the top two scholars from the senior class from Alleman, Rocky, and Augustana. We will also honor two Rotarians and two community members. Rotarians for the A.T. Peara Award and the Luckenbill-Wray Award; and community members for Professional Excellence and Community Service. The Rotarian and Community Awards are selected from people you nominate. Your participation in the nomination process is critical if we are to honor truly the best in our Club and community. Please use the following form to nominate your peers. Make as many copies as you need.

## ROCK ISLAND ROTARY CLUB 2022 AWARDS COMMITTEE

Rock Island Rotary's annual Awards Luncheon is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at noon**. The Awards Committee seeks nomination for the following awards:

**Excellence:** Recognizes distinction or superiority in a field of endeavor. This can be for a single accomplishment or for achieving high standards of achievement or performance over a sustained period of time.

**Community Service:** Recognizes individuals or organizations who have worked effectively for the betterment of our community.

**The Luckenbill-Wray Award:** Recognizes a current Rock Island Rotarian for outstanding service and dedication to our club over the past year.

**A. T. Peara Award for Service Above Self:** Recognized the Rock Island Rotary member who has exhibited the dedicated service and faithful commitment to the ideals of Rotary that were personified by A.T. Peara, for whom the award is named.

The first two awards are open to any individual or organization that has demonstrated excellence or worked for the betterment of the Rock Island community. The Excellence Award applies to all lines of work and to all ages.

The Luckenbill-Wray and A.T. Peara awards are limited to current members of Rock Island Rotary. The A.T. Peara Award is a one time, life-time recognition, previous winners are not eligible for that award.

To ensure that our committee has adequate time to evaluate, consider, make the selections, and have awards prepared, the **deadline for nominations is Noon, Tuesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**. Please consider making one or more nominations using the lower portion of this form. Additional copies are available if you need them, or feel free to print your own. We greatly appreciate your participation and assistance.

Submit nominations to Carrie Crossen: [ccrossen@choosethechief.com](mailto:ccrossen@choosethechief.com)

NOMINEE NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ EXCELLENCE AWARD    \_\_\_\_ COMMUNITY SERVICE    \_\_\_\_ LUCKENBILL-WRAY    \_\_\_\_ A.T. PEARA AWARD

Reasons in support of your Nomination:

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The Rotary Club of Rock Island  
is proud to present the 2022

# Wine Raffle

All proceeds benefit the  
Fred Houlton  
"Service Above Self"  
Scholarship  
of Rock Island Rotary

Drawing will be held  
on May 24, 2022

1st Prize— \$500 in Wine

2nd Prize— \$300 in Wine

3rd Prize— \$200 in Wine

PLUS 7 Additional Fine Wine Prizes

\*Winners get to choose their own  
wine from The Grape Life

**NEW for 2022:**

Only **300** tickets will be sold!

**\$20 per ticket**

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

Or email us at:  
[rotaryclubrockisland@gmail.com](mailto:rotaryclubrockisland@gmail.com) for more info.



Must be 21, need not be present to win

