



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review

November 22, 2022; Volume XXX, Issue 21

MEETING TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER



AZUBUIKE COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS Gaye Shannon Burnett

Nov. – Dec. Calendar	
Nov 29	- Dr Kit Ford, Director of Argrow's House
Dec 4	- Rotary Reindeer Ramble 5K
Dec 6	- Rock Island High Chamber Singers
Dec 7	- Rotary/Kiwanis Circa 21 Holiday Party
Dec 10	- Rotary Rings the Bells for Salvation Army at Rock Island HyVee
Jan 9	- State of the City, Mayor Mike Thoms Monday with Kiwanis

The name Azubuike when translated means, “The past is our strength.” The history of Azubuike Council for the Arts organization predates the official incorporation in October of 2014. The organization founders gathered together years of experience as community members, activists, artists, educators, writers, and mentors channeling a passion for helping youth and our community, into one entity of service, the Azubuike African American Council for The Arts! The Azubuike Studio offers Saturday morning art classes for kids, the Urban Exposure Summer Film program for teens and young adults, and screens Independent Films with Q&A sessions. They are also the home to the “Wrapping Ourselves in God’s Love” African American Breast Cancer support group. The Council participates yearly in the Quad City Arts Festival of Trees and exhibit emerging artists at our studio located in Bucktown Center for the Arts monthly Final Friday open gallery event. Studio hours of operation are Wednesday- Saturday 11-5:00 and Monday & Tuesday by appointment only! They are closed Sundays & All Major Holidays! The stated vision of the Council is to use the Arts to help us understand our past, show us how to shape our future while telling a compelling story about why our lives matter. Azubuike’s Mission is to reconcile the racial divides that exist in our community by giving at-risk youth a voice to express themselves, be heard without bias, and spark a much larger conversation about race relations in the Quad Cities through the Arts. Their programs introduce Black Culture to our youth through the contributions of African Americans in art, music, theater, cinema, literature and history. Exposure to cultural enrichment fosters good self-esteem and allows our youth to become more responsible and respectful citizens groups, and in-turn provides access points for non-Black communities to experience the rich Black culture of the Quad Cities. Ms. Burnett presented a series of photos showing various aspects of the Azubuike program. Among the many offerings were the Voice & Vision Program that teaches youth both voice and dramatics with performance opportunities on stage. Another very successful program is their Summer Film Program which they call “Urban Exposure”. Participants are taught film making, script writing, and editing. The Azubuike Studio in the Lincoln Center in Davenport has a well equipped film studio, and film editing lab. Participants in the program have won international film festival awards. Four of those who have gone through the program have gone on to cinematography schools at Iowa, Boston, and Chicago. A program for younger participants is called Coloring Between the Lines. Kids receive training in all aspects of art at the Azubuike studio. Another program that has become very popular and successful is A Film and Conversation. The studio presents showings of selected films at various sites such as the Figge Art Museum, Rock Island High School, and churches, and includes a opportunity for conversation about the film and the message it conveyed. Azubuike also teamed up with Gilda’s Club to design and make a large quilt and developed a cancer awareness program titled “Wrapping Ourselves in God’s Love”. More recently they have initiated the Ubuntu Project dealing with discrimination and restorative justice. In addition to all of these programs the Azubuike Studio also offers “Azubuike Presents” an online presentation of films and art, and an Azubuike YouTube channel. Ms. Burnett said they are doing all they can in as many ways as possible to reach the public and to teach, preserve, and honor Black culture. We thank Ms. Burnett for her very informative and interesting presentation.



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Officers

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

Board Members

Rebecca Arnold, Director
Amber Brummit, Director
Rick DeVinney, Director
David Hodge, Director
Mariah Johnson, Director
John Phillips, Director
Monta Ponsetto, Director
Kathy Trone, Director
Bob Swanson, Sergeant at Arms

Program Chairs

2022-23

July	- Tom Hammar
Aug-Sept	- Tyla Sherwin-Cole
Oct - Nov	- Rebecca Arnold
Dec-Jan	- John Wetzel
Feb-Mar	- David Hodge
Apr-May	- Gary Rowe
Jun-Jul	- Tom Hammar

Club Notes & Announcements!

- ❑ **WELCOME GUESTS** – Today Rock Island Rotary welcomed visiting Rotarian Duncan Cameron from the Naples, Florida Club. He and his wife will be joining us on December 7th for our Circa 21 Holiday Party. Annie Hewitt from Senator Neil Anderson's office was in attendance as was Anne McNelis from Transitions Mental Health Services. Rock Island Rotary is always pleased to welcome guests. We hope you enjoyed our meeting and will visit us again in the future.
- ❑ **ROTARY REINDEER RAMBLE IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4th.** We are looking for runners, walkers, and workers! Contact Chair Kathy Lelonek or Holly Sparkman to sign up! The entry form to run or walk is in this newsletter on page 4. Fill it out and get entered today. If you prefer to help in registration and packet distribution, starting line, race course helpers, after race refreshment help, handing out awards, or clean up, email Kathy at kathylelonek@mchsi.com. Please spread the word. We need runners & walkers!
- ❑ **CIRCA 21 HOLIDAY PARTY** is December 7th. Your reservation includes a gala pre-show Salon Party with hors d'oeuvres, plus dinner, the Bootlegger performance, and the main Stage show, **WHITE CHRISTMAS**. Email Bob at bobdebswanson@att.net to sign up. **We need payment for all reservations no later than Tuesday, November 22nd. If you did not bring your payment today contact Bob Swanson (309) 738-3476 to arrange to get your payment to him!**
- ❑ **CLUB MEMBERS WILL BE RINGING** the Salvation Army Bells at HyVee on December 10th. If you didn't volunteer to help, be sure to stop by, say hello, and drop a donation into the kettle in support of our members who are giving their time as volunteer bell ringers! Time is 9am to 3pm.
- ❑ **WINTER NIGHTS – WINTER LIGHTS** – Is open NOW. Hours Until December 11th are 5 to 9PM Wednesday – Sunday. From December 14 – January 1st, the display is open daily from 5 to 9PM. Stop in to see the amazing display!
- ❑ **FESTIVAL OF TREES** – See the schedule to 'visit' our tree on page 5.
- ❑ **NEWSLETTER** – Send items for our newsletter to bobdebswanson@att.net. Committee chairs be sure to send notification of upcoming meetings

ROTARY HOLIDAY PARTY AT CIRCA 21

Tomorrow is our deadline for giving Circa 21 our final count, taking them our payment, and getting our tickets. If you missed signing up or getting your check to Bob, you can email Bob right now and still get in, but you must act fast! Email bob at bobdebswanson@att.net stating how many tickets you need. You will need to get your check to Bob before noon tomorrow (Wednesday, November 23). Make your check payable to "Circa 21" for \$54.75 for one or \$109.50 for two. Drop off checks at 1300 – 23rd Avenue, Rock Island.

FOUNDATION MINUTE

The news this week is from Scotland where members of Greenock Rotary Club are helping Ukrainian refugees find their feet in Inverclyde by donating £1,000 of gift vouchers for them to use at local stores. The Greenock Telegraph reports that John Waddell, chairman of Rotary's West of Scotland District Foundation, presented the coupons to Karen Haldane of the community care group Your Voice, who have been helping the people resettling there. A spokesperson for the organization said: "As a result of the war in Ukraine, many women and children have fled from their country, seeking refuge and safety, leaving their husbands and sons behind to defend their homeland. Often, they escape with little more than the clothes they are wearing. Inverclyde has been delighted to welcome some of these people and provide them with the shelter they are seeking."

The donation is part of a £20,000 grant given to the west of Scotland region by the Rotary International Disaster Response Fund to help local refugees.

- The first Rotary International convention held outside the United States was in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1921.
- There are 3 districts and 200 Rotary Clubs in Scotland.

FOUNDATION RAFFLE



Today our raffle featured a 50/50 cash drawing and two bottle of fine Grape Life wine, one white and one red. The first ticket drawn was held by Sue Rector, who took the cash and donated it to the Rotary International Foundation. The second winning ticket belonged to Duncan Cameron who took the white wine for his lively wife. The third and final winning ticket was proudly held by Jeff Dismer who add the red wine to his Thanksgiving feast! We sincerely thank everyone who participated in today's raffle drawing. All proceeds go to our Rotary International Foundation account and help our club to continue offering support for those working toward Paul Harris Award honors.



FINES – HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

2nd Vice-President Sue Rector noted that our club has been extremely active during the past several weeks and that has been relentlessly fining members. So, she declared today a “No Fine” day. That brought an ovation of approval from the membership! But she did put in her own \$5 in appreciate for all members accepting their fines in good spirits and for playing along with the fun. She then opened the floor for others with happy/sad dollars. The first to speak up was Duncan Cameron who just returned from Naples, Florida for Thanksgiving and to attend our holiday party at Circa 21. He offered a happy dollar for, “Being back”. Stan Coin via Zoom offered a happy dollar for being in toasty Arizona for the next few months. Our ZOOM coverage works out well for our “Snowbirds”, like Stan. Amber Wood had a Happy Dollar in recognition of Skip-A-Long Child development Services being honored at the November 10th Community Caring Conference “Hero Awards Banquet”. Rebecca Arnold had a happy dollar in celebration of the Martin Luther King Center more than doubling their past free Thanksgiving Dinner give away, with 7,000 meals handed out to our community in the past week. She also honored HyVee for providing much of the food! Finally, Kathy Trone had two happy dollars. One for her work associate, Rotarian Pete Wessels for becoming a grandpa again last Thursday. His new granddaughter is doing great! Her other dollar was happy with excitement as she got tickets to go to her first Hawkeye Home Game in Iowa City this Friday. Kickoff is at 3pm so be sure to look for her!

EDITOR SCREWED UP! 🤖 PAUL HARRIS FELLOW

One of the greatest honors and a very important event at Rotary is bestowing Paul Harris Fellow recognition. At our November 8th meeting such an honor was presented and although it was in my notes, it did not get into our newsletter. For that oversight I sincerely apologize and am very proud and pleased to acknowledge now that **Kathy Trone has received her third Paul Harris Fellow award**. She dedicated this honor to her son, Adam. Kathy is a tireless leader/worker for our Club and a dedicated supporter of the Rotary Foundation. Congratulations to Kathy and to Adam for achieving this wonderful honor and recognition. Thank you for your continued commitment to the Rotary Foundation!



ROTARY SUPPORTS TRANSITIONS MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Community Grants Chairman Frank Lamber had the pleasure of presenting a \$1,300 Rotary donation to Transitions Mental Health Services. Transitions improves the health and wellbeing of individuals with mental health challenges, their families, and the community, through services, education, and advocacy. They serve persons 5 years of age and older with mental illnesses, personality disorders, behavior disorders, and other conditions that affect behavioral, intellectual, and emotional functioning. Pictured are President Gramenz, Anne McNelis, Co-CEO of Transitions Mental Health Services, and Community Grants chairman Frank Lambert. The donation will be used to provide special training for the entire transitions staff in new therapy techniques that will be used at all levels of their services.





Sponsored by the Rock Island Rotary Club

Sunday, December 4, 2022 @ 9:00am

START & FINISH – CIRCA 21, 1828 3rd 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 0-14, 15-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65-74, 75+

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! – www.GetMeRegistered.com/RotaryReindeerRamble

REGISTRATION FEES – Pre-registered \$25.00 After Nov 20, \$30.00 for all.

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

If you have questions call Kathy Lelonek (309) 752-3014 or email kathylelonek@mchsi.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 _____

Phone _____ E-MAIL: _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

Circle shirt size S M L XL XXL (ADD \$2.00 for XXL) No shirt option _____ deduct \$5.00 if you choose no shirt!

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 **RI Rotary** & mail entry and payment to: RI ROTARY, PO Box 4514, Rock Island, IL 61204.

No refunds! Race will be held regardless!

ROCK ISLAND ROTARY JOINS “FESTIVAL OF TREES”

November 19-27, 2022

RiverCenter, Davenport, IA

Festival of Trees, where holiday magic comes to life each year in downtown Davenport!

Featuring over 150 designer displays, fun-filled attractions, special events and the largest helium balloon parade in the Midwest, join us as we welcome back this 10-day holiday extravaganza in-person, bigger and better than ever before!

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**OPENING DAY | November 19: 9 am – 7 pm**

**Helium Balloon Parade | 10 am in Downtown Davenport, IA**

**November 20: 10 am – 7 pm (Military Day)**

**November 21: 9 am – 7 pm**

**November 22: 9 am – 7 pm**

**November 23: 9 am – 7 pm**

**CLOSED THANKSGIVING DAY | November 24**

**November 25: 9 am – 7 pm**

**November 26: 9 am – 7 pm (Family Day)**

**CLOSING DAY | November 27: 10 am – 4 pm**

*Proceeds from Festival of Trees support Quad City Arts*

***Be sure to visit Festival of Trees and check out and vote for the  
ROCK ISLAND ROTARY TREE!***

## **HAVE A WONDERFUL THANKSGIVING**

The first Thanksgiving Feast in November 1621, when the newly arrived Pilgrims and the Wampanoag Indians gathered at Plymouth for an autumn harvest feast, is regarded as America's "first Thanksgiving." Had you been there here is what was on the table: There was great store of wild turkeys, plus ducks, geese, and swans. Instead of bread-based stuffing, herbs, onions were added to the birds for extra flavor. The Wampanoag "Indians" arrived with an offering of five deer, so there was plenty of venison roasted on a spit over a smoldering fire and the colonists used some of the venison to whip up a hearty stew. It is likely that the colonists feasted on the bounty they had reaped with the help of their Native American neighbors. Local vegetables that appeared on the table include onions, beans, lettuce, spinach, cabbage, carrots and perhaps peas. Corn, which records show was plentiful at the first harvest, might also have been served, but not in the way most people enjoy it now. In those days, the corn would have been removed from the cob and turned into cornmeal, which was then boiled and pounded into a thick corn mush or porridge that was occasionally sweetened with molasses. Fruits indigenous to the region included blueberries, plums, grapes, gooseberries, raspberries and, of course cranberries, which Native Americans ate and used as a natural dye. The Pilgrims wouldn't have made sauces and relishes with the cranberries. That's because the sacks of sugar that traveled across the Atlantic on the Mayflower were nearly or fully depleted by November 1621. Cooks didn't begin boiling cranberries with sugar and using the mixture as an accompaniment for meats until about 50 years later. There was also plenty of fish and shellfish. Mussels in particular were abundant in New England and could be easily harvested because they clung to rocks along the shoreline. The colonists occasionally served mussels with curds, a dairy product with a similar consistency to cottage cheese. Lobster, bass, clams, and oysters were also part of the feast as was eels. What was missing from our typical Thanksgiving menu? Potatoes! The Spanish began introducing the potato to Europeans around 1570. But by the time the Pilgrims boarded the Mayflower, the tuber had neither doubled back to North America nor become popular enough with the English to hitch a ride. The Pilgrims instead enjoyed Indian turnips and groundnuts, which the Wampanoag brought to the party. Sorry, but there also was no Pumpkin Pie. Both the Pilgrims and Wampanoag tribe ate pumpkins and other squashes indigenous to New England—but the fledgling colony lacked the butter and wheat flour necessary for making pie crust. Moreover, settlers hadn't yet constructed an oven for baking. Who attended the First Thanksgiving? The colonists were likely outnumbered more than two to one by the Native Americans in attendance. The preceding winter had been a harsh one for the colonists. Seventy-eight percent of the women who had traveled on the Mayflower had perished that winter, leaving only around 50 colonists to attend the first Thanksgiving. According to eyewitness accounts, among the pilgrims, there were 22 men, just four women and over 25 children and teenagers.

We have much for which to be thankful. As you enjoy your family feast, give a little thanks for those first "Americans", pilgrims and Indians, that gave us this amazing nation and laid the foundation for all we enjoy today!



## JORDAN EARLYACT AMAZES!

Rotarians Bud Phillis and Frank Lambert dropped by the last meeting of the Jordan EarlyAct Club just to see how they are doing. They came away “amazed”! Keep in mind that Jordan’s Club is made up of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students along with faculty sponsor, Jenn Heckenkamp. Here is what Bud and Frank learned:

There first project for the year is Christmas gifts for families/elderly of their parishes. They just completed the fundraising for this project. They had had a casual day where students could wear casual clothes for a money donation to “stuff the Turkey” for their grade level (the EarlyAct kids made paper bag turkeys for the kids to stuff the money into). The grade level that raised the most money earned a movie/popcorn party. The sponsors were blown away at the outcome – the kids raised over \$1,700!!!! They will be contacting their parishes and getting wish lists for children/families/elderly that need Christmas gifts or winter essentials. They plan to have a shopping day to go out and purchase these items and wrap them in time for Christmas. Leftover money will be used to buy hats, gloves, etc for the Catholic Care packages. Here is a picture of some of the EarlyAct kids and the turkeys they made.



After Thanksgiving, the Club will begin selling suckers afterschool on Fridays. The money we collect will be used for two projects:

The first project is to purchase a cart for the school’s gagaball pit (which was donated by last year’s 8th grade class). Gagaball is kind of like four square and dodgeball, but it’s played in an octagon-shaped pit. They have 8 large plastic panels that snap together to create the pit, but there’s currently no way to transport the panels without dragging them around by hand, and there’s nowhere to store them nicely. The cart will allow Jordan to store them easily and also be able to move them into the gym for PE and outside for recess, which will add another option for exercise for Jordan Elementary School.

Here’s what Gagaball looks like:

As if that wasn’t enough, they have a third project in mind which is a bit up in the air. They would like to get a sensory path painted in their parking lot for the pre-kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> graders to use at recess. A sensory path is a series of painted “obstacles” for students to follow, allowing them to get out some energy but also work on developing gross motor skills and even practice counting or the letters of the alphabet. Below is a picture of an example



This project will require the EarlyAct Club to formally present the proposal to St. Pius and get their approval, since the parking lot is church property. They are not sure how all of that will work at this point, so this project is a big “maybe”. But their fingers are crossed!

The EarlyAct kids came up with these projects on their own over the course of our first several meetings. They were involved in creating the turkeys, making presentations to each classroom about our projects this year, and counting the money from their fundraiser. They’ll be involved

in purchasing and wrapping the Christmas gifts, selling the suckers each week, and (hopefully) designing the sensory path. Jordan EarlyAct is going to be busy! Now along with Bud and Frank, we can all be very pleasantly “amazed”!