



Rock Island Rotary Weekly Review



June 20, 2023 Volume XXX, Issue 50
MEETING TUESDAY NOON - QUAD CITY BOTANICAL CENTER

Nathaniel Kraft, Exec. Dir. BIX BEIDERBECKE MUSEUM

If you live in or near the Quad Cities you've heard the name Bix Beiderbecke from the Bix Jazz Festival, The Bix 7 Race, or the many "Bix" activities and events held particularly during the summer months in the Quad Cities. Many people are not aware of the Bix Beiderbecke Museum housed on the first floor of the Common Chord building in Davenport. The Museum and World Archives is dedicated to collecting, preserving, and displaying material related to the life and musical legacy of Bix Beiderbecke, an icon of the jazz age. Their goal is to educate the public, both here and abroad, about Bix and his colleagues, and their vital contributions to American music. The Bix Beiderbecke Museum & World Archives is a 501(c)3 nonprofit located in Davenport, the hometown and gravesite of Jazz Legend Bix Beiderbecke. Opening in 2017 in what was then called the River Music Experience, the Bix Museum is the premier location in the Quad Cities to learn about the life and legacy of Bix Beiderbecke. The museum is accompanied by the most extensive archive resource on Bix in the world and serves to preserve and teach that knowledge to future generations to come. Recent flood damaged cause the temporary closure of the Museum in April, however it is expected to reopen in the near future. Our guest speaker today was Nathaniel Kraft, Executive Director and Interim President of the Bix Beiderbecke Museum and Archive. Mr. Kraft earned a Bachelor of Arts in Fine and Studio Arts from Gustavus Adolphus College in 2017 and a Master of Arts in Museology/Museum Studies from Western Illinois University in 2019. He began by stating the Davenport Bix Museum is the largest and most complete collect of Bix Beiderbecke materials in the world. He provided an interesting biography of Bix stating that Leon Bismark "Bix" Beiderbecke was born March 10, 1903, the son of Germans immigrants that settled in Davenport. His father, Bismark Herman and mother Agnes Jane (Aggie, Agatha Hilton) Beiderbecke and the family lived at 1934 Grand Ave., Davenport, Iowa. His father was Manager of the East Davenport Lumber and Coal Company. His mother was a musician who played piano; she also was the organist for The First Presbyterian Church. Bix had one older brother Charles Brunette (Burnie) and one sister Mary Louise (Sis). Bix had an early fascination with music and an incredible ability to hear and then repeat music note for note, never learning how to read music. He taught himself how to play the piano at age 3 and by age 7 could play anything he heard on the piano. He obtained a coronet and self taught himself how to play it, although holding and keying the instrument "incorrectly" which he continued throughout his career. Davenport was the home base of the largest river boat excursion company in America in the early 1900s and the boats brought numerous New Orleans Jazz Combos to Davenport on trips from Duluth to New Orleans. Bix listened and learned if he heard a song once he could replay it on his piano or coronet and could also improvise harmony to the songs. As a teenager he would sit in with the bands and became well known for his talent and incredible ability to play "by ear". He was amazingly talented and got jobs playing at local dance schools providing music for the dance instructors and students. He also sat in every chance he got with musicians off the river boats when they came ashore and hung out and "jammed" in local clubs. He lost several jobs because he could not get a musician's union card because of his inability to "read" music. If they would play it once for him, he could repeat it perfectly, but that did not meet the union requirement of being able to read sheet music.

June = July Calendar

- June 27 - Rotary Year Wrap Up
Cindi Gramenz, Pres
- July 4 - Holiday: No Meeting
- July 11 - Board & officer
Instillation - Dist.
Gov. Eave Emerick
- July 18 - Richard Hammar -
Amateur Astronomy
- July 25 - Kathy Trone - Human
Trafficking
- Aug 1 - Katrina Kuening -
Digital Marketing
Storyteller for Visit
Quad Cities
- Aug 8 - Mike Petersen -
Illiniwek and Amôwa
Forest Preserves
Ranger
- Aug 15 - Brian Baxter - QCSO
Exec. Dir. - Pops
Concert and 2023-24
Season
- Aug 22 - Sheriff Darren Hart - RI
County EMA director
- Aug 29 - Patrick Allie - Rock
Island Arsenal
Museum



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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 we were pleased to welcome Duncan Cameron a visiting Rotarian from the Naples, Florida Rotary club. We also had 3 guests from the Rock Island Milan Little League. Kirk McKnight, Ray Tuckmanni and Kevin Nolan were on hand to receive an important Rock Island Rotary donation. Welcoming guests, potential members, and new members is one of our favorite tasks. Have you invited a friend or colleague to join you at Rotary recently? Prospective members are guests of the Club for lunch.
- ❑ **NEW ROSTER BOOKS DISTRIBUTION IS JULY 11TH** – When you get yours **BE SURE TO TURN TO THE 2023-24 COMMITTEES ROSTER.** President Cindi assigned nearly every member to at least 2 committees. If you provided a preference sheet, she tried to honor that up to a point where a committee was too large. You may have also been added where she felt your talents would be important! If you didn't hand in a preference sheet, you were assigned where we felt your talents would be most helpful. Look through all the committees to ensure you know where your responsibilities lie. We appreciate all of our members and know that most of our important work gets done in committees! If you feel you are unable to serve were assigned, please contact Cindi.
- ❑ **INCOMING DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS** – are reminded that you will be officially installed into office by District Governor David Emerick at our July 11th Club meeting. Please make every attempt to be present.
- ❑ **BACKWATER GAMBLERS** – The Backwater Gamblers Ski Show is this coming Sunday! We have plenty of seats so even if you did not sign up you are welcome to come and bring your family and friends! The parking lot opens at 5:30pm and the show starts at 6:30. Turn South (toward the Rock River) off John Deere Road at 44th Street in Rock Island. Just drive past Heritage Church and into the parking area. It is recommended you stop prior to hitting the river!
- ❑ **HAVE ITEMS FOR OUR NEWSLETTER?** – Send to bobdebswanson@att.net
The Weekly Review is distributed each Tuesday afternoon.



Silent Auction on our minds!

As you do your late spring cleaning - or find things that are just don't seem right for that summer garage sale - or just have some gift cards that you can't seem to remember to use - or have that bottle of wine or spirits that you really don't care for and will never use - PLEASE think about your Rotary Club and the fall Trivia Night Silent Auction instead of parting ways with them elsewhere. I've cleared a spot in our spare bedroom to take items off your hands anytime you want. I will even pick things up if you need me to do that. So, the message is, if you have items you don't need or won't use that would be great silent auction items for our fall fundraiser, please let me know - or bring them to Rotary. We hope to have a better than ever silent auction and Trivia night this fall - with your help! Contact Sue Rector at srector3614@gmail.com or 563.3437985. Thank you!



FOUNDATION MINUTE

Welcome to Week 3 of Rotary Fellowships and a Happy Fathers' Day to all Rotarians and Friends! Every Global Grant must impact at least one of The Rotary Foundation's 7 Areas of Focus. This week's report, from the June 2023 edition of *Rotary News Plus*, is on Disease Prevention and Treatment. **The Rotary Club of Ambala, India (RID 3080), recently installed a sophisticated ultrasonography machine at the Rotary Ambala Cancer and General Hospital through a Rotary Foundation Global Grant worth \$172,078.** The international partners for this grant include **RIDs 6930 and 7090, Rotary Club Boca Raton Sunrise, Florida and Rotary Club Buffalo, NY. Two districts in India, RID 3080 and 3011 also supported the project through their DDFs.** The 100-bed super specialty hospital is managed by the Rotary Ambala Cancer Detection and Welfare Society. The state-of-the-art facility boasts of clinical services in the fields of anesthesiology, cardiology, chemotherapy, interventional radiology, dermatology, surgical oncology, nephrology, and orthopedic surgery, among numerous others. **Diagnostic services include 2D Echo, CT scanning, MRI, EEG, EMG/EP, mammography, treadmill testing and USG to name a few.** The nominal charges --- 30 Rupees (\$0.37 US) for a specialist consultation and 250 R (\$3.05) for advance specialist's opinion--- **makes this hospital quite affordable for many.** Ajay Madan, the IPDG explained that the hospital was initially established in 2005 has now been upgraded "...to provide quality medical treatment at affordable costs to benefit the underprivileged." The new ultrasonography machine provides a platform for high-end clinical performance to detect ultrasmall pathologies especially in fetal and maternal studies. The machine is specially loaded with unique software that detect early breast tumors and liver disease without surgery. **"This is the most modern ultrasound machine available within a 200-kilometer radius."**

FOUNDATION RAFFLE



Today's raffle featured a 50/50 cash drawing and a bottle of refreshing wine. The first lucky winner was Amber Wood who took the cash and donated it to our Rock Island Club Foundation. The second winner was Jeff Dismar who took home some excellent vino! All proceeds from our weekly raffle go to support the Rotary Foundation. We appreciate all who play!



HOW ABOUT JOINING THE RAFFLE TEAM?

We need some Rotary International Foundation Raffle assistance. Please consider volunteering to join Bud Phillis or Sue Rector to sell raffle tickets one week each month. The third Tuesday is covered by Anne McGlynn and Tammy Weikert. Sue is still waiting for those calls and emails! Let her know if you can help staff the raffle table the 1st, 2nd, or 4th Tuesdays of each month, or if you could be a sub if needed. It is an easy job and a fun way to meet and greet fellow members! Email srector@gmail.com! Or call 563-343-7985. Thanks!

FINES & HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

V.P. Sue was in fine form today filling the Club coffers with fines and happy dollars. John Wetzel paid a fine for taking his name badge home. Sue paid a fine for failing to wear her badge today. Gary Rowe had a dollar which classified as both happy and sad in recognition of fellow member Father Dan Mirabelli's retirement from Alleman after nearly 60 years of dedicated service to the school and our community. Congratulations and Thank you Father! Other Alleman graduates and parents followed suit with a Happy Dollar for Father. Ruth Lee was not a graduate or Alleman family, but joined, "Just because it was Father!" Dave Hodge had a Happy dollar in honor of his daughter who at a recent camp of 800 kids was selected winner of the "I am 3rd" award. We didn't hear what "I am 3rd" means, but it is the top camp award given to just 1 of the 800 campers. To top it off, she also won the same award last year! Sounds to me like "I Am #1" would be a more appropriate title for her! John Olinger offered a happy dollar for the photo puzzle that appeared in last week's newsletter. He said it helped him a lot in getting to know fellow members. He also noted that there was an error in identifying two of the photos. SORRY ABOUT THAT! And said his fine would cover that boo-boo. Thanks John! Kai Swanson then paid a happy dollar saying in Swedish, "Glad Midsommar till Alla" which our on-site Swedish translator, Dr. Jim Nordquist informed me means, "Happy Midsummer Day to everyone". The Swedes use the occasion for dining, dancing, and tipping a few beverages. How did my Swedish Dad fail to tell me about it! I'll investigate that, in the meantime, THANKS to all who donated!

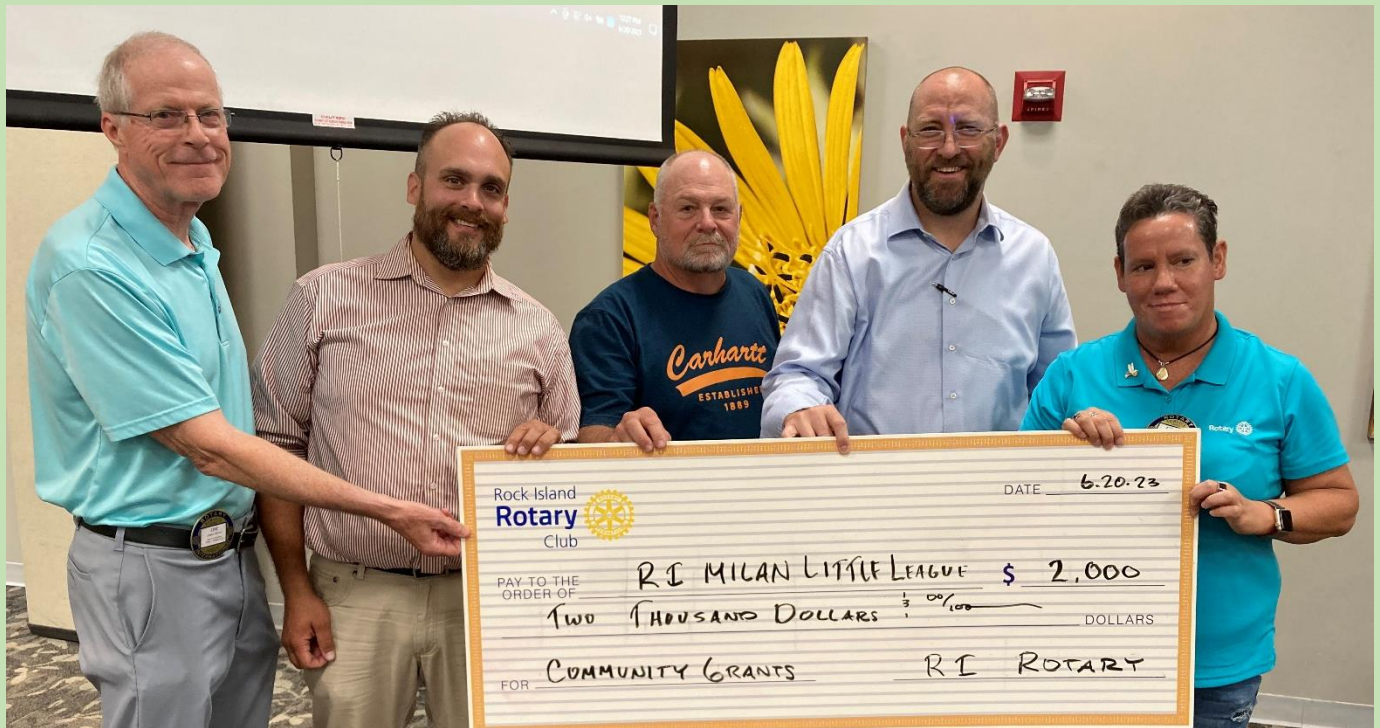
ROUND THREE OF THE SPINNER GAME!

AND THE WINNER IS ---- RUTH LEE! Each week In June Sue offers 16 chances to win a Gift Card valued no less than \$15 up to \$25. You buy a chance for \$2. As said, just 16 chances will be sold, so as soon as you enter the room see Sue to get a chance before they are gone. Sue will then spin the wheel and one of the 16 players will WIN. The person who WINS the spin then picks from envelopes each containing a gift card. Today there were three envelopes. Ruth won the spin and selected envelope #2. She was rewarded with a gift card worth many times her \$2 investment from Starbucks! Next week the first 16 to buy their \$2 chance will witness Sue spinning the wheel and one of the players will have the chance to select a prize from the remaining envelopes. Good luck! All proceeds go toward our fine fund used to continue our Club's charitable projects and activities throughout our community! .



ROCK ISLAND ROTARY HELPS ROCK ISLAND-MILAN LITTLE LEAGUE

Community Grants Committee member Jim Moran had the honor of presenting a Rock Island Rotary Donation of \$2,000 to Kirk McKnight, Ray Tuckmanni and Kevin Nolan representing the Rock Island Milan Little League. The money will be used for scholarships for players unable to handle the rising costs of gloves, bats, uniforms, and league fees. According to the gentlemen, the league has been growing significantly over the past decade and is now serving approximately 300 boys and girls. Roughly 35% of those playing receive scholarship help with the costs. RIMLL invites all skill levels at all ages from aged 4 - tee ball to coach pitch (minors) to kid pitch (majors) to advanced kid pitch (juniors & seniors) - aged 16, to play. No previous baseball playing experience is necessary. Boys and girls are welcome especially at the tee ball and kid pitch levels, but Little League welcomes all genders at every age.



LAST REMINDER

Rotary Night at the Backwater Gamblers is this coming Sunday. All Rotarians and families and friends are invited. The cost is FREE! Parking at Williamson Park opens at 5:30pm and the Thrilling Backwater Gamblers Ski Show starts at 6:30pm. Concessions available on site!



"BIX" Continued from Page 1

Bix attended public schools in Davenport and after completing his sophomore year at Davenport High School his father, fearing Bix was becoming too involved with music took him out of Davenport High and enrolled him in Lake Forest Academy in a Northern suburb of Chicago. Bix found that it was only a short bus ride from Lake Forest to Chicago which was a hub for Jazz in the Midwest. He met and played with numerous top-level stars of the music industry and became a regular "sit in" with their bands. His devotion and love of his music may have led to his expulsion from Lake Forest Academy in May of 1922. After leaving Lake Forest, he played with several bands around Chicago and Davenport, joining the Wolverine Orchestra in 1924. When he was just 24, Bix was making more than \$200 a week, which was quite a princely sum in the 1920s. In October 1924 Bix leaves The Wolverines and joins The Jean Goldkette Orchestra. He comes home in 1925 and briefly attends the University of Iowa, February 2-20. He returns to play with Jean Goldkette. In October 1927, Bix joins Paul Whiteman. The Whiteman Orchestra, who had its own train, was on national radio, and played every major concert hall in the USA, including Carnegie Hall where Bix played his own composition "In A Mist." Bix continued with Whiteman until September 1929. He played and became friends with Benny Goodman, Bing Crosby, Hoagy Carmichael, and others too numerous to list.

Bix was a genius, a jazz pioneer according to his peers and music historians. He wrote the compositions In A Mist, Candlelights, In The Dark and Flashes, Georgia on My Mind, as well as Davenport Blues. He became good friends with Louis Armstrong and the two were considered to top Cornetists in the world. His life was short and in just an incredibly short career Bix win three Grammys, composed scores of music, and played in numerous orchestras and bands in a whirlwind career that included seven years of making records.

Bix was known as the ultimate gentleman and in those days it wasn't considered proper to turn down a favor, including someone buying him a drink. He eventually became dependent on alcohol, a disease which contributed to Lobar Pneumonia and his death on Thursday August 6, 1931, at the age of 28 in his Queens, New York apartment. His mother and brother Bernie were on their way to NYC but arrived too late. His body was returned to Davenport with services on August 11, 1931, at Hill & Frederick's Funeral Home, and burial at Oakdale Cemetery, 25th & Eastern Ave. The Beiderbecke's family piano and cornet may be seen at the Putnam Museum and Science Center in Davenport at 12th & Division streets. Below are just a few of the photos and items on display at the museum, We thank Nathaniel for a highly informative and entertaining presentation!

