



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD

Rock Island Rotary Rock Island, Illinois

WEEKLY REVIEW

October 31, 2023

Volume XXXI, Issue 18

Meeting Tuesdays at Noon – Quad City Botanical Center



Aaron Baker Education and DEAI Coordinator for the German American Heritage Center



Aaron Baker is Director of Education for the German American Heritage Center located in Davenport. Previously he worked as a teacher for 12 years and is now using that experience within the classroom in his role at the GAHC. One of his chief desires in his role is to provide museum resources to teachers to essentially strengthen the education that they are able to provide to their students. He is thankful for the opportunity to share information about the history, mission and vision of the GAHC. The German American Heritage Center, also known as the Germania-Miller/Standard Hotel, is a cultural center and museum that chronicles and preserves the history of German-Americans in the Midwest region. The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. The German American Heritage Center was incorporated in 1994, and the board of directors purchased the Standard Hotel

on the Davenport riverfront in 1995. The building was built by John Brus and opened in 1862 as the Germania House, a gasthaus (guest house), for immigrants. In 1876 it was bought by John Frederick Miller and renamed the Miller Hotel. He was a German immigrant who had been a manufacturer in the city since the 1850s. Miller also operated a restaurant, billiard room and saloon in the hotel until 1889. The hotel was used at this time by Scott County farmers when they came to Davenport. The hotel's name was changed several times in the 20th-century. It became the Arcade Hotel around 1906, the Henry Blessing Boarding House around 1917, and the Standard Hotel from 1924 to 1995. The retail space on the main floor was occupied by various tenants over the years. In 1983, the building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places, and on the Davenport Register of Historic Properties in 1996. In 2009, extensive renovations to the center were completed with enhanced multimedia and exhibit spaces, and all four floors were opened to the public.



Germans were and remain the largest immigrant population to the Quad Cities. Most of the immigrants arrived before Ellis Island and New York became the entry center for immigrants. When the large German influx came in the 1840s-60s New Orleans was the major entry port and many newcomers migrated up the Mississippi finding the Iowa and Illinois climate and farmland similar to what they were accustomed to in Germany. The GAHC not only works to keep German immigrant history and culture alive but provides Exhibits and features all immigrants that have come to our area. In addition to the permanent German Heritage Exhibit the Center features two rooms renovated and furnished as they were when the Center opened in 1862. They also have two Special Exhibits that are changed periodically. Past exhibits include German Toys and their influence on American toy makers, Art created by German immigrants, and coming soon an exhibit on "Walls" featuring the Berlin Wall. The center provides lectures, classes, workshops, and walking tours. They also visit schools taking exhibits to display to area youth and make educational presentations to classes.

Nov - Dec Calendar

- Nov 7 - TBA
- Nov 14 - Janessa Calderon
QC Hispanic Chamber
of Commerce
- Nov 21 - Patrick Olson
Toastmasters
- Nov 28 - Dr Sharon Varallo
Augustana's Prison
Education Program
- Dec 5 - RIHS Chamber
Singers
- Dec 12 - Kevin Koski - "Your
Mother (and Lots of
Other People) Were
Wrong"
- Dec 19 - Rock Island Rotary's
Kenya Water Project
- Dec 26 - NO MEETING
- Jan 2 - NO MEETING

Thank you Mr. Baker for a great presentation!

Rotary

Club of Rock Island



P.O. Box 4514
Rock Island, IL 61204
www.rirotary.com

Officers

Cindi Gramenz, President
Sue Rector, 1st Vice Pres.
John Olinger, 2nd Vice Pres.
Anne McGlynn, Secretary
Tom Hammar, Co-Treasurer
Frank Lambert, Past President
Bob Swanson, Sgt. at Arms

Board Members

Rebecca Arnold, Director
Amber Brummit, Director
David Hodge, Director
Ruth Lee, Director
John Phillips, Director
Tracy Pugh, Director
Molly Shattuck, Director/Co-Treas.
Tyla Sherwin-Cole, Director

Program Chair 2023-24

Rebecca Arnold
Presenters

| | |
|------------|-----------------|
| July: | Tom Hammar |
| August: | Kai Swanson |
| September: | Rebecca Arnold |
| October: | Holly Sparkman |
| November: | Rebecca Arnold |
| December: | Bob Swanson |
| January: | John Wetzel |
| February: | Kai Swanson |
| March: | Angela Campbell |
| April: | Gary Rowe |
| May: | Gary Rowe |
| June: | Tom Hammar |

Club Notes & Announcements!

- ★ **WELCOME GUESTS** – An extremely rare day at Rock Island Rotary we had no guests and no visiting Rotarians! Maybe the cold weather? Maybe we failed to invited friends and colleagues who might be prospective members! Let's make sure we don't have another "guestless" week at Rock Island Rotary!
- ★ **ROCKY INTERACT REPORT RESCHEDULED** – Duty called and Interact sponsor Lonnie Behnke was not able to attend our meeting today due to staffing issues at Rock Island High School. He plans to be in attendance NEXT WEEK AND WILL PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON THE Interact Club's activities thus far in 2023-24.
- ★ **IT'S CRUNCH TIME!** - We are in the final stages of taking reservations for our Rotary Holiday Party December 9th at Circa 21 Dinner Theatre. See the full pay flier at the end of this newsletter for details. All Rotarians and your guests are welcome to attend, but you must reserve in advance. Those that have reserved can start bringing your ticket payments to Bob Swanson next Tuesday. Tickets will be distributed at Rotary on December 5th.
- ★ **TRIVIA PLAYERS AND TEAMS NEEDED!** - We are now just **10 days** away from our 2023 Rotary Trivia Night! There is still time to sign up and unfortunately there are open tables available! It is great fun, and extremely inexpensive entertainment (just \$10 per person to join a table of 10)). You can sign up individually and we'll pair you up with a table of fellow Rotarians or you can take a whole table and bring friends and family to fill your team. Trivia Night is annually one of our most fun social events and a major fundraiser for our Club! We need your help for a successfully night!
- ★ **WAITING FOR OR NEEDING A NEW CLUB NAME BADGE?** – Email Cindi at cgramenz15@gmail.com. She requests a reminder from those who need badges. With much to do it's easy to lose track! We want every member to have an accurate name badge to wear at our meetings and Rotary events.
- ★ **Friendly Alert From VP John Olinger** - If you hope to avoid a fine next Tuesday, you might want to wear your Rotary pin to next week's meeting. Not promising that will keep you free of all fines, but it might just help! In our recollection this is the first advance alert ever given!
- ★ **HAVE ITEMS FOR OUR NEWSLETTER?** Send to bobdebswanson@att.net. The newsletter goes out each Tuesday afternoon so be sure to get your request to bobdebswanson@att.net by Tuesday noon..

The Object of Rotary

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

FIRST: The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

SECOND: High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

THIRD: The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;

FOURTH: The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

The Four-Way Test

(of the things we Think, Say or Do)

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

OCTOBER MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| Steve Morenz | October 8 |
| Mike Thoms | October 26 |
| Kenda Burrows | October 27 |
| Sam Doak | October 27 |

PUMPKIN PALOOZA AMAZING AGAIN!

Rotarians Julie Gelaude, Angela Campbell, John Oliger, Kathy Lelonek, and Chair Sue Rector joined 73 Earl Hanson 1st and 2nd grade students and 11 teachers/chaperones for a fun filled Rotary sponsored field trip to the "Pumpkin Patch" at the Corn Crib Nursery in Coal Valley on October 20th. Angela arranged for the Bookmobile to be on hand and the kids each got a chance to step inside and have a library experience! Thanks to Sue and our Club members who helped and to IH Mississippi Valley Credit Union for sponsoring the event. As you can see, the kids and our members had a wonderful experience!



MORE PUMPKIN PALOOZA!



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION MINUTE

Welcome to Week 4 of RI's Month of Economic & Community Development.

The best report for this week is this current one from RI website:

For the 15th consecutive year, The Rotary Foundation has received the highest rating – four stars – from Charity Navigator, an independent evaluator of charities in the U.S. The Foundation earned the recognition for adhering to sector best practices and executing its mission in a financially efficient way, demonstrating both strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency.

"We are delighted to provide The Rotary Foundation with third-party accreditation that validates their operational excellence," said Michael Thatcher, President and CEO of Charity Navigator. "The Four-Star Rating is the highest possible rating an organization can achieve. We are eager to see the good work that Rotary is able to accomplish in the years ahead."

Charity Navigator assesses nonprofit performance based on four key indicators, including: The impact of the charity's program relative to cost; The organization's governance and financial health including its transparency, efficiency, and sustainability; A charity's leadership capacity, strategic development, and ability to adapt to internal and external changes; and Its overall culture and connectedness to its constituents and the communities they serve.

<https://www.rotary.org/en/rotary-foundation-receives-highest-rating-charity-navigator-15th-consecutive-year>

We Are an Award-Winning District!

Our Club is part of Rotary District 6420 which includes all of Northern Illinois with the exception of the Chicago area, and our District is part of Rotary Zone 29 which includes North and South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, part of Michigan and all of northern Illinois and part of Ontario, Canada...To say the least it is a HUGE area. We recently received word that our District has been named **District of the Year** out of all districts in Zone 29! Congratulations to Past District Governor Laura Kann and current Governor David Emerick and especially to our own Past Assistant Governor Gary Rowe and current Assistant Governor Cindi Gramenz. District of the Year is an amazing honor and one that our District has not earned in many years! Our support of the District and its projects including RYLA, the District Conference, the annual District Service Project, and the commitment of our members Mark Mayeski, Kathy Trone, Cindi Gramenz, Gary Rowe, Mary Fislar, Julie Gelaude, Sue Rector, and Bob Swanson who have volunteered and served in important District leadership positions and committees during the past year helped bring this award home to District 6420.

FOUNDATION RAFFLE



Today's Foundation Raffle offered a 50/50 Cash prize and a bottle of Pinot Grigio wine. Linda Golden pulled and announced the winning tickets. The first winner was Mark Mayeski who opted for the cash and promptly donated his prize back to the Rotary Foundation. The second lucky ticket was held by the person sitting next to Mark, Amber Wood. She was pleased to take home the wine. All proceeds from our Foundation Raffle each week go to the Rotary International Foundation. The credit for those funds is then available for matching member contributions toward Paul Harris Fellow honors.



Help End Hunger With This Year's District-Wide Service Project!

Thank you for your generous food donations in the month of September for Christian Care! For October, in September we collected canned fruit for Christian Care and in October we collected spaghetti sauce, cereal, and canned fruit for Heart of Hope! Although those months have passed, you can still bring donations and we'll get them to them. Please bring to any Tuesday meeting and Cindi will record the gifts and arrange the delivery of your items. If you need assistance or special arrangements or have any questions, please contact Danielle Scott or Cindi Gramenz. Our food collection schedule for the rest of the year will be **Jan – Project NOW Head Start** **Feb – SAL** **April – World Relief**

HATS OFF TO FELLOW ROTARIAN CLARENCE DARROW!



Clarence Darrow joined Rock Island Rotary in 1997 and for 26 years has been a loyal and dedicated member. Some of our newer members may not know that prior to retiring a few years ago, Clarence was a very successful practicing attorney, and distinguished himself as a State Representative in the Illinois Legislature, then as a State Senator, and then after returning to his legal practice became a Circuit Court Judge for our judicial district. In every aspect of his several careers he performed in the best traditions of Rotary, with integrity, honesty, and a mind for service.

When we began our Water Filter Project six years ago, raising awareness of the desperate need for clean, safe water in portions of the third world, Clarence was among the first of our members to donate cost of a water filter for a remote, rural school in Kenya. Last year Clarence brought to our attention that he was acquainted with people supported by his church who had established and were running a school in Kenya. He inquired if it would be possible to supply a water filter to them, and he volunteered to pay for it. We contacted Barbara Lam, CEO of Replenish, who obtains, delivers, and provides training for the filters we purchase. Barbara asked us to provide the name of the people Clarence wanted to help and the location of their school. After some investigation and confirming that the school was indeed without available safe water, and would very much like to have our assistance, Barbara notified us that they would be able to provide filters to Clarence's friends. We then put Clarence in direct contact with Barbara to work out the details.

We are thrilled to report that it is now a "done deal". Clarence not only made the arrangements for his donation, but after hearing more information about the school (he has since learned that they have two schools and are building a third) he decided to purchase two filters and they are now on their way to the Maryknoll Fathers & Brothers who operate the schools located in a rural area near Nairobi, Kenya.

Through his generosity, Clarence is now ensuring that 140 children will soon have safe, sanitary drinking water from filters he funded that will provide years of service.

**Clarence gave his permission for us to relate his story with the hope that others might check with their churches/denominations to see if they have a relationship with one or more missionary schools in Africa. If so working through our Water Project more of us can impact the lives of children in need of safe drinking water and take part in "Service Above Self". If you would like more informant about our Western Illinois-Eastern Iowa Water Project see Bob Swanson or Bud Phillis.*



The Lifestraw
"Community" Water
Filter

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED



Our Trivia Night Committee is working hard to ensure the 2023 event has the best Silent Auction ever! If you have items to donate for the Auction, please contact Sue Rector and she will arrange to get or pick up anything you have and store it until auction time. Baskets need to be created, items photographed, and descriptions prepared for advertising. That all takes time and "time flies". So, it is not too early to take inventory of those gifts you received and done need or use, and purchased you made and never use. Contact Sue at srector@gmail.com or 563-343-7985 and she will gladly arrange to take it off your hands.

MORE DISTRICT HONORS WITH A ROCK ISLAND ROTARY CONNECTION



The Rotary District 6420 Public Image Committee won the District of the Year award at a recent meeting of Rotary Zone 29. The committee was cited for its work to ensure brand fidelity for Rotary, presentations to District Clubs on Public Image topics, and support for Clubs' marketing and communication efforts, among other criteria.

Rock Island Rotarians Cindi Gramenz and Gary Rowe are members of the District Public Image Committee. **CONGRATULATIONS!**

FINE\$ & HAPPY/SAD DOLLAR\$

V.P. John Oliger started today's session with an Early Leaver dollar from Jim Moran. He then levied a \$1 fine on all members who failed to attend our World Polio Day Gala last Monday noting that it was a terrific program and a great meal! Then John turned to happy/sad dollars and putting his own \$5 happy dollars in honor of past president, Justin Peterson, coming in his "Banker from the 80s" Halloween costume (see photo below). John also honored the GiGi's Playhouse Downs Syndrome Achievement Center Gala held last Saturday. John said it was truly uplifting to see those impacted by Downs Syndrome dance and party in a safe and welcoming setting. For those happy dollars, John received a round of applause. Amber Wood offered a Happy Dollar for SAL's Diaper Drive completed last week. She was pleased to report that they exceeded their goal of receiving 15,000 donated diapers. Justin Peterson then finished things off with \$3 happy dollars saying it had been a while since he bragged on his kids. Dollar 1 was for his son playing in his first travel basketball tournament. His is a 3rd grade team and the tournament was 4th grade teams, but they still took the 3rd place award! His second dollar was for his youngest daughter. Leila went to her first gymnastic practice and loved it! The final dollar was for the Illini's men's basketball victory over the Number 1 ranked Kansas Jayhawks. It was a pre-season "exhibition" game, but both teams went all out, and Illinois came out on top! We thank and appreciate all who contributed fines and happy dollars!



Is this what your banker looked like in the '70s?

Kevin Koski Gives Final "Birdies" Report



Our Rotary "Birdies for Chairity" chairman, Kevin Koski made his final report for 2023 and presented a nice big check to our Club Foundation today. Kevin reported that Club members donated \$6,173 and the Deere Charitable Foundation added a 7.5% match bringing our total Birdies collection this year to \$7,835.98! Thanks to every member who donated and to Kevin who works hard to make sure we take advantage of the matching bonus added by Deere. Our club Foundation provides the large grants we can provide each year for Rock Island community projects.



Club of
Rock Island

Rotary Reindeer Ramble *5K Run/Walk*

9:00 a.m. Sunday, December 3, 2023

START & FINISH Schwiebert Riverfront Park Bike Path.
Course is out and back; wheeled distance.

RUNNER'S AWARDS Overall male and female top 3 finishers. Age group awards 0-14, 15-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65-74, 75+

COMPETITIVE WALKER'S AWARDS Overall male and female top 3 finishers. Age group awards per age groups 0-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60+

REGISTRATION \$25 Pre-registered before Nov 19; \$30 after Nov 19.

PACKET PICKUP & REGISTRATION 7:45 to 8:45 AM RACE DAY Sunday, December 3 @ Holiday Inn, downtown Rock Island, 226 17th Street, Rock Island, IL 61201

**Proceeds benefit Rock Island
Rotary Youth Programs!**



< Register

www.GetMeRegistered.com/RotaryReindeerRamble



Rock Island Rotary TRIVIA NIGHT **Friday, November 10th at 6:00pm**

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!**

When: Friday, November 10th, at 6:00pm

Where: Holiday Inn, Rock Island IL

Time: 6:00pm START time, doors open at 5:30pm

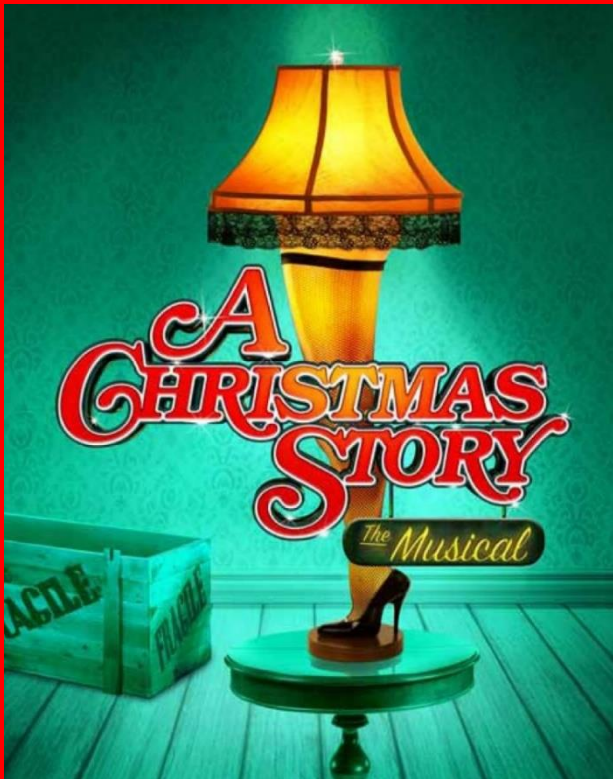
Cost: \$199 a table, up to 10 players

RSVP: Kathy Trone 309-794-9400 or Kathy@wesselspc.ocm

This fundraiser supports Rock Island Community Youth Projects. Corporate Sponsorships are available!

ROCK ISLAND ROTARY

HOLIDAY PARTY 2023



Circa 21 Presents the classic holiday movie is brought to life in this delightful Tony-nominated musical Set in the 1940s in the fictional town of Hohman, Indiana, the musical follows 9-year-old Ralphie and his quest for the Holy Grail of Christmas gifts — an Official Red Ryder carbine-action 200-shot Range Model air rifle. Rebuffed at every turn with a similar echoing response, Ralphie plots numerous schemes to achieve his desperate desire for the coveted BB gun. All the iconic scenes from the movie are here: from the leg lamp to the bunny suit!

**Tickets include a private pre-show Party
with Complimentary Hors D'oeuvres and Cash Bar (5:00-6pm)
Plated Dinner (5:45-7:00pm)
Bootleggers Warm-up Show (7:15pm)
Mainstage Show – *A Christmas Story* (7:30pm)**

GROUP RATE

ONE ADMISSION \$58.90

TWO ADMISSIONS \$117.80

*Tax & Tip included (not including deserts & bar)

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

Reserve Seats at Rotary Starting September 19th, Pay Later

SIGN UP AT SERGEANT'S TABLE!