



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD

Rock Island Rotary

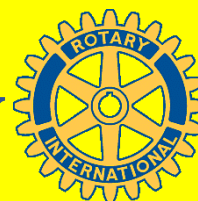
Rock Island, Illinois

WEEKLY REVIEW

November 28, 2023

Volume XXXI, Issue 22

Meeting Tuesdays at Noon – Quad City Botanical Center



Dr Sharon Varallo Augustana's Prison Education Program

Sharon M. Varallo is Professor of Communication and executive director of the Augustana Prison Education Program (APEP), which launched in fall semester 2021. In that role, Dr. Varallo coordinates the grant-funded B.A. degree program to Augustana students incarcerated in the East Moline Correctional Center. APEP was implemented with generous startup monies from the Austin E. Knowlton Foundation. Her academic interests include the study of higher ed in prison, intercultural competence, cultural approaches to time, family communication, and social action research methods. During her career, she has published work on the scholarship of teaching and learning and on interpersonal and family communication topics. Dr. Varallo received her B.A. from William and Mary, her M.A. from North Carolina, and her Ph.D., from Ohio State University. She stressed that APEP is Augustana College within the East Moline Correctional Facility. It is a separate, fully accredited education location. Students take the same rigorous courses taught by the same instructors as are offered on the main Augustana College Campus. She said there is no softening up of expectations or subject matter. Inmates must have either a high school diploma or a GED to apply for admission into the program. Dr. Varallo said that every matrix used to measure the in-prison program is positive. It gives students hope and a sense of purpose, and studies show that the prison environment is improved, security personnel are safer, and inmates are less combative. Positive change is the proven result according to Varallo. She also stated that for every \$1 spent on prison education, \$4 to \$5 is saved. The program began in 2021 during covid. At that time only 10 students were admitted into the program and met in groups of 5 to ensure social distancing could be practiced. A teaching staff of 3 volunteer instructors did the teaching. Each faculty members went through a stringent background check and received special training for working in a prison setting. The program grew in popularity both with the students and the Augustana faculty and for 2022-23 24 more students were accepted and the faculty grew to 18. Now in 2023-24 the total enrollment is up to 60 and some of the original students will be receiving their 4-year college degrees this spring. Augustana's program was the first of its kind offering a fully accredited college degree from a prestigious, Lutheran based, private college. The program continues to grow and hopes to add a new computer lab next semester. Up to now inmate students do all their work with pen and paper. Two of the original students in the program have been released and have continued their education in regular classes on the Augustana main campus. Looking forward, Dr. Varallo hopes and urges local businesses and industries to consider APEP students for internships and as promising employees. She said the APEP students don't take anything for granted and are highly motivated to prove their worth and to make something out of their new life. She said they may become an employer's most loyal employees. We thank Dr. Varallo for a very informative program that helped all of us gain insight and learn some important facts.

Nov - Jan Calendar

- 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
- Jan 8 - State of the City – Mayor Mike Thoms Monday meeting With Kiwanis
- Jan 16 - TBA
- Jan 23 - TBA
- Jan 30 - TBA

*Service Above
Self*



facebook
Webpage

- Facebook.com/RockIslandRotary
- www.rirotary.com

*One Profits
Most Who
Serves Best*

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** – Today Rock Island Rotary was pleased to welcome two guests who visited our Club. Jacob William a resident of Reynolds, Illinois and a local representative of New York Life Insurance was a guest of John Olinger. Dan Vandeheede, a Jr. Rotarian from Alleman High School was a guest of our club. Dan plays football and basketball for the Pioneers and was recently in their fall play. Rock Island Rotary is always delighted to have guests join us and hope you will visit again and if the opportunity arises we would love you to consider becoming a future member of Rock Island Rotary, “The Number One Club.
- ★ **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.
- ★ **ROTARY REINDEER RAMBLE 5K** – Sign up to Run or Walk in Rotary's Annual 5K REINDEER RAMBLE on Sunday, December 3rd. All who sign up will enjoy comradery, post race refreshments, a Reindeer Ramble Shirt, and a chance at numerous awards given in multiple age and gender categories. See page 4 for details and registration or register by emailing Race Chair, Holly Sparkman at hksparkman@gmail.com. Day of the Race registration and Packet Pick up on Dec. 3 is 7:45 to 8:45 a.m. at the Holiday Inn, Rock Island, 226 17th Street, Rock Island, IL 61201 and post-race awards and refreshments is at Holiday Inn as well. Many runners choose to dress in their finest holiday garb. In the past we've had running Santas, Reindeer, Elves, and even some infant strollers and pets who have run/walked the 3-mile course. If you don't wish to run or walk, come to help or to just watch the fun! Thanks to Ramble chair, Holly Sparkman, and her committee for planning a super event!
- ★ **CIRCA 21 TICKETS WILL BE HANDED OUT** – At next week's Rotary meeting. If you will not be present, your tickets will be held at the “Will Call” desk at Circa the night of the show. Please remember our Salon Party begins at 5:30 and we will move into the theater a few minutes prior to 6pm. We have tried to accommodate your seating requests as much as possible. There will be 76 in our group, 64 from our club, 7 from the Illinois Quad Cities club, 4 from Moline Rotary, and 1 from Davenport Rotary.
- ★ **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. Photos are welcome!

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?

NOVEMBER ROCK ISLAND ROTARY MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Carlos Jimenez	November 4
Howard Beck	November 16

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS FOR 2024-25 SLATED

The Nominating Committee chaired by Gary Rowe presented its slate of candidates for officer and director positions for the coming Rotary year at today's meeting. There were no additional nominations from the floor. The election of officers and directors will take place at next Tuesday's meeting. We thank those who have agreed to serve. The Board meets the third Monday of each month and sets the budget, policies, and activities of our Club. We also thank those officers and directors who have completed their terms, provided hours of service to our Club, and will be leaving office at the end of June 2024. Your time and dedication to Rotary is greatly appreciated!

Here are those slated by our Nominating Committee to lead our Club for 2024-25. When elected they will take office at the first meeting in July 2024.



Sue Rector
President



John Oliger
1st Vice President



Amber Wood,
2nd Vice President



Anne McGlynn
Secretary



Molly Shattuck
Treasurer



Tracy Pugh
Sergeant at Arms



Cindi Gramenz
Past President



Kenda Burrows
Director (2 years)



Carrie Crossen
Director (2 years)



Jim Moran
Director (2 years)



Rick Emery
Director (2 years)



Ruth Lee
Director (1 year)



Tyla Sherwin-Cole
Director (1 year)



Amber Brummitt
Director (1 year)



Danielle Scott
Director (1 year)

WE NEED WINE AND OLD ROTARY MAGAZINES!

Prior to his death, for many years long time member Lo Milani donated a bottle of wine each week for our Foundation Raffle. After his death other members wishing to keep the Lo's tradition alive began donating wine, and as you know each week a bottle of wine continues to be one of our raffle prizes. Unfortunately, our wine supply is at the bottom of the barrel! If you can donate a bottle or two (or more) it would be greatly appreciated and will allow us to keep wine in our weekly raffle. Please let Bob Swanson know if you can and will bring wine we can store a small supply in our supply cabinet.

Secondly, we like to include a past issue of the Rotarian Magazines in the packets we give to the speakers at our meetings. If you have past issues, please black out your name and address and bring them to Sue Rector at any Rotary meeting. You might just help recruit a new member!





FOUNDATION RAFFLE

Today's Foundation Raffle offered a 50/50 Cash prize, a Rotary Cookbook, and a bottle of fine wine. President Cindi had the pleasure of drawing the tickets. Our first lucky winner was one of our newest members, Pam Jones, who selected the wine. The second winner was Mark Mayeski who took the cash and donated it back to the Club Foundation. Proving how lucky she really is, Pam Jones also had the third ticket drawn and added the Rotary Cookbook to her wine and went home with her hands full! Thank you to everyone who purchased raffle tickets. Proceeds go to the RI Foundation.



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION MINUTE

Welcome to Week Three of The Rotary Foundation Month

This past week Americans all over the globe took a break from their daily routine, to enjoy precious moments with friends and families. In the same vein, it's appropriate for The Foundation Minute to recount why The Rotary Foundation, in its mission to advance world understanding, goodwill and peace, has reasons to be thankful in 2023, for not only providing peace, but also:

- FIGHTING disease
- Providing Clean WATER, SANITATION, and HYGIENE
- SAVING Mothers and Children
- Supporting EDUCATION
- GROWING Local Economies
- ENDING Polio FOREVER
- PROTECTING the Environment.

These goals have been achieved, and are still being accomplished, through various Rotary districts and clubs. Indeed, we have every reason to be thankful for doing things that are honest, fair, build goodwill, and are beneficial to all.

So, we hope you and all Rotarians and friends of The Rotary Foundation world-wide had a Happy Thanksgiving!

FINE\$ & HAPPY/SAD DOLLAR\$

Although VP John announced last week there would be no more fines until after Christmas, he named three early leavers, so Kathy Ruggeberg, Holly Sparkman, and Ruth Lee felt shamed in to making a "donation" to the fine box. John then offered praise to the Augustana College students who assisted the City in the assessment of aging lead pipes in the city's water system that was reported in recent news articles. Kai Swanson added some explanation of the work students and staff including Rotarian Andrea Talentino, College President, did in knocking on doors and gathering information. All work done by Augustana was voluntary as service to the city. John put in a happy dollar as did Kai. Kathy Ruggeberg had a happy dollar honoring Rock Island Students who participate in the Marshall Learning Center "Youth Build" program that was reported in today's newspapers. Superintendent Alan Beucher added happy dollars and reported the Rocky boys and girls basketball teams both were undefeated champions in their respective Thanksgiving Holiday Tournaments. Each squad won four straight games. He also reported that the Drama Department received a great honor when their fall play, "Pure as the Driven Snow" was selected by a panel of drama instructors to perform at the Illinois High School Theatre Festival. They will present the play twice to a combined crowd of over 4,000! Gary Rowe and Ruth Lee had happy/sad dollars for the Bears win and the Vikings poor performance in last night's Monday Night Football. John Olinger added a happy dollar for the Iowa Hawkeyes winning their division of the Big 10 conference and advancing to the football championship game this coming Saturday. John Phillips had a happy dollar noting that two of our members, Kai Swanson and Tyla Sherwin-Cole were honored by the Quad City Business Journal for their dedicated work to benefit the Quad Cities. Sue Rector put in \$10 happy dollars for the CASI "Hat Bash" being over. Sue did a ton of work and the project raised \$150,000. She added \$5 happy dollars for a visit scheduled for this afternoon with former Augie president Steve Bahls and wife Jane. She put in one more dollar after learning that our Festival of Trees entry sold! Lastly, Tom Hammar had a happy dollar for being contacted by our most recent (pre-covid) exchange student Emil Rosen from Finland. He is doing well and sends his greetings to all!



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!**



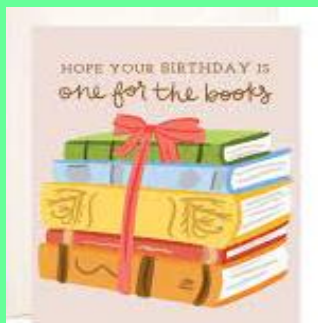
< Register

www.GetMeRegistered.com/RotaryReindeerRamble

Dick Fislar Sends His Thanks

Dick wanted us to know that memorial donations in honor of Mary are nearing \$2,000. He is greatly appreciative of the outpouring of support and sympathy that has been received. Dick is working to establish a permanently endowed Rotary Scholarship in Mary's name. A 27-year member of our Club, Mary served our President in 2004-2005 and chaired our Membership Committee for many years and established one of the first new member mentoring programs in our District. Since then, the District has urged all Rotary Clubs to establish mentoring programs. At the time we lost Mary she was serving on and lending her experience and expertise to the District Membership Committee. As the co-chair of the Reindeer Ramble 5K race for many years, Mary will be honored with a brief memorial this Sunday when we have the 2023 running of the Rotary Reindeer Ramble. Those interested in being present are welcome to gather at the Rock Island Holiday Inn at 8:30am.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY BOOKS IS THIS THURSDAY!



Chair Molly Shattuck needs help this Thursday at Earl Hanson Elementary School. All students with November birthdays will be gathering in the school library at 2:30pm to select a free book from Rotary, have a cookie or two, and join in a rousing chorus of "Happy Birthday". We need Rotarians to help the children select their books and to write a brief "Happy Birthday" message from Rotary inside the cover. Please arrive at 2:15, check in with the school secretary and come up the stairs to the first door on the left which is an entrance to the Library. Molly, the books, and the cookies will be there. All that is missing is YOU!. Please help if you can. You'll be done by 3pm.

ONE OF OUR FAVORITE PARTNERS NEEDS HELP!

Below is a flier for a Heart of Hope Holiday Project

If you would like o help, they would appreciate it!



CHRISTMAS COAT & TOY GIVEAWAY

Coats, Jackets, Gloves, Mittens, Socks,
and Hats are needed!

We also accept in-season clothing items!

December 16th,
11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Or while supplies last!

Please bring donations to
Heart of Hope by
Thursday, December 14th.

We're collecting **new** and **like-new** toys for distribution to families in our community.

Bring your **new** or **gently used** donations of all sizes, men, women, and children, to Heart of Hope!
1740 9th Avenue Rock Island, IL 61201

QUESTIONS? CALL AT
(309) 428-4752

