



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD

December 12, 2023
Volume XXXI, Issue 24

WEEKLY REVIEW

Rotary



Rotary Club of Rock Island

Rock Island, Illinois

Meeting Tuesdays at Noon – Quad City Botanical Center

Your Mother (and Lots of Other People) Were Wrong!



Kevin Koski served as our president for 2000-01. He is a Paul Harris Fellow and has bestowed his family members with that honor. Kevin has chaired our annual Birdies for Charity Fundraiser since the project began. He has previously presented programs previously regarding the Iron Brigade of the Civil War; the great Indian leader Tecumseh; and brought his sister in to do a program on the History of the Bathroom! He has taught us all about St. Urho's Day and more about Finland than we ever cared to know. Obviously fun loving, Kevin also is a dedicated Rotarian having served in addition to Chairing the Birdies project as a member of numerous club committees including Community Grants and Trivia Night to name a couple. He also has spent many hours ringing the Salvation Army Bells for Rotary. Prior to retiring Kevin had a long and distinguished career as an Engineer and at the time of his retirement Kevin was President of Missman Stanley and Associates. He was selected Rock Island Citizen of the Year in 2005 and was also named Professional Citizen of the Year in recognition of his work with numerous community organizations including the Jaycees, the Arts Council, the Education Foundation, and the Rock Island Library Board. For fun Kevin has built incredibly intricate dioramas of historical events including the Battle of Rorke's Drift (1879), one of the first significant battles of the Anglo-Zulu War in Southern Africa. Today Rock Island Rotary had the pleasure of hearing Kevin's newest presentation blending his interest in history with his love of humor. He started by debunking some common terms such as "Barbarian" used to describe a person from an alien land, culture, or group believed to be inferior, uncivilized, or violent. In reality the word comes from early Greek and simply means unable to speak Greek. Blue Tooth, which is a common technology term referring to a system that unites various devices was named when three industry leaders, Intel, Ericsson, and Nokia, met to plan the standardization of this short-range radio technology to support connectivity and collaboration between different products and industries. Jim Kardach from Intel suggested "Bluetooth" as a temporary code name. Kardach later explained "King Harald Bluetooth was famous for uniting Scandinavia just as we intended to unite the PC and cellular industries with a short-range wireless link.". Rather than a modern techno term, the "Blue Tooth" name dates back more than a millennia to King Harald "Bluetooth" Gormsson who was well known for two things: Uniting Denmark and Norway in 958 and His dead tooth, which was a dark blue/grey color, and earned him the nickname Bluetooth. Another example is calling Chicago "The Windy City" when in fact Kevin told us there at 78 cities in the United states with higher average wind velocities than Chicago. The title according to Kevin more likely came as a reference to Chicago's reputation for politicians and braggards. Kevin then turned to some common "Mom said" items. "Don't read in dim light it will hurt your eyes!" – NOT TRUE. "Don't go out without your jacket, you'll catch cold!" Maybe pneumonia or frostbite, but a cold? – NOT TRUE. "Wear your cap, 90% of body heat is lost through your head!" --- NOT TRUE. This was based on a DOD study with subjects dressed in fully insulated clothing with the exception of their heads. They lost 90% of their body heat through their head, because it was the only body part exposed to the cold. "Don't get dehydrated – Be sure to Drink!", originated

Continued – KEVIN – Page 3

Dec - Jan Calendar

- Dec 12 - Kevin Koski -
- Dec 19 - Rock Island Rotary's Kenya Water Project
- Dec 26 - NO MEETING
- Jan 2 - NO MEETING
- Jan 8 - TBA
- Jan 16 - TBA
- Jan 23 - TBA
- Jan 30 - TBA
- Feb 6 - Doug Tschopp, Genesis Guild
- Feb 13 - Heather Hartley – Deere's Construction & Forestry Division
- Feb 20 - Tšooane Molapo, native of Lesotho - "The Kingdom in the Sky"
- Feb 27 - Shelley Cooper – Musical Theater

*Service Above
Self*



**WEBPAGE
facebook**

CHECK US OUT!

<https://www.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** – We welcomed several guests today including visiting Rotarians Duncan Cameron from Naples, FL and Mark Zimmerman From Davenport. Brook Hendrickx was a guest of Hannah Carr and also on behalf of the Every Child organization. We are always very pleased to welcome guests and hope that you will again visit us – Rock Island Rotary, “The Number One Club”.
- ★ **REMINDER FOR YOUR CALENDAR** – In observance of the holidays, Rock Island Rotary will not meet on December 26th or January 2nd. We will resume our Tuesday Meetings on January 9th. We hope all of our members have joyous holidays with family and friends and a most Happy New Year in 2024!
- ★ **NEED TO TAKE A REQUIRED MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION?** – Anyone aged 72 (73 if you reach age 72 after Dec. 31, 2022) generally must start taking withdrawals from your traditional IRA, SEP IRA, SIMPLE IRA, and retirement plan accounts. The withdrawal is required by law. But did you know when you take the funds you must pay income tax on them. However, if you instruct your plan director to send all or a portion of your distribution directly to a charity of your choice, you do not have to pay tax on what is directed to charity. You save money! Assume you want to donate \$500 to Rotary. You can have your distribution paid to you, pay tax on it (say 25%) and then write a check to Rotary. Cost including tax paid = \$625. OR you can direct that \$500 of your distribution be sent directly to Rotary. No Tax, total cost \$500. You save \$125! Ask your financial advisor or tax preparation specialist.
- ★ **URGENT HELP NEEDED** - We received the names and information on 45 children for our Angel Tree. There kids were identified by their teachers as in families without resources for Christmas gifts. **WE STILL HAVE 5 OR 6 CHILDREN THAT NO ROTARIAN HAS TAKEN!** If you can help please email or call Molly Shattuck at mshattuck@centennialtax.com or 309-781-9446 to get a name, gender, grade in school, size information if known, and a brief “wish list” from the child. We don’t want any child to be left out! Presents are due back no later than **next week’s meeting**, which is also the last day of school prior to the Christmas break. If you can’t shop, donate and Molly will shop for you!
- ★ **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?

DECEMBER ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS

Kathy Lelonek	December 9
Amber Wood	December 11
Mark Mayeski	December 15
David Parker	December 18
John Phillips	December 26
Jeff Whitaker	December 29

KEVIN Continued from page 1

from an advertising campaign by a bottled water company. In reality, one can “Hydrate” by drinking, but drinking when already hydrated is of little value. Another frequently heard phrase is “One should Walk 10,000 steps a day for good health!” was also the product of an advertising campaign by a pedometer manufacturer. The Japanese company name written in Japanese resembled the written 10000. They adopted the number without health research to determine if that number or any other number of steps was best for health. Kevin then turned his attention to the frequent references to how “things were better” at some past point in history. He picked several times in history and illustrated that things weren’t so good as we might remember noting the “Manure Crisis” of 1884 when residents of New York feared that the continued piling up of manure would reach the third story of buildings That led to the creation of “Stoops” still seen on many tenements in New York to raise entrances above the “manure level”. Want to live in that era? He then referenced the late 50’s and 60’s with the assassination of Martin Luther King, President John Kennedy, and Senator Bobby Kennedy added to 50 Americans killed each day in Vietnam, rioting and burning in our cities with nearly 20,000 arrested. Want to go back to those times? He pointed out the 1860s with slavery and the Civil War with more Americans killed than in any other war. The 1929 stock market crash and the Great Depression leading to the largest financial crisis of the 20th century. He noted that in 1939 England came into World War II after losing an entire generation of young men 25 years earlier in World War I. Kevin noted that the recent trend has been to try to erase or forget history and pointed out that perhaps the greatest example of pure evil is the concentration camps of Nazi Germany during World War II. He stressed that those concentration camps where millions were exterminated still remain in Germany and that German school children are taken to those camps to learn about what happened as a way to ensure it will never happen again. He also said that Demographic Impact predictions are not necessarily very accurate. He quoted one such impact statement based on a study showing that Italians were practicing restraint and families were averaging having just 1 child. The study concluded that by 2050 Italians would have no brothers, sisters, cousins, aunts, or uncles. He then noted that demographics of Italian families have changed, and that outcome is very unlikely to occur. He also explained that somethings considered “natural phenomena” in reality occurred because of human activity. “The Dustbowl” the name given to the drought-stricken southern plains region of the United States, which suffered severe dust storms in the 1930s is an example. There was no such problem until the worldwide demand for food increased. Rising wheat prices in the 1910s and 1920s and increased demand for wheat from Europe during World War I encouraged farmers to plow up millions of acres of native grassland to plant wheat, corn, and other row crops. Crops began to fail with the onset of drought in 1931, exposing the bare, over-plowed farmland. Without deep-rooted prairie grasses to hold the soil in place, it began to blow away. Eroding soil led to massive dust storms and economic devastation—especially in the Southern Plains where Kevin said as much as 70 of the topsoil was blown away. Subsequent stricter land management and replanting trees and grasses have largely eliminated the Dust Bowl issues. Kevin further debunked the frequent quotations that guns save 1.5 million lives each year. That quotation was based on a faulty study conclusion. A survey of gun owners asked if they had every used their gun, whether fired or not, to protect life or property or the life or property of others. Nineteen responded that they had. The percentage of 19 to the entire study group was computed and applied to the total population of the United States and that yielded the 1.5 million figure. Kevin stated there is no evidence that in the 19 instances any lives were in jeopardy or saved. Concluding that 1.5 million lives were saved is therefore baseless. Turning back to history Kevin stated there is no evidence that Vikings ever wore horns on their helmets. Debunking the common depiction (aka Minnesota Vikings football) of a Viking with fierce horns on their helmet. He said that Paul Revere didn’t complete his ride to save the American Revolution. He was in fact captured and arrested by the British. During the portion of the ride he did complete, he did not yell “The British are Coming”. At the time colonists considered themselves “British”. He likely yelled “The Regulars are Coming” a reference to the “Regular” British troops. Kevin mentioned that Revere was later charged by the Revolutionary Troops with disobedience and cowardice, a charge that was subsequently dropped. A few quick other debunks – The Spanish Flu started in Kansas and was inadvertently carried to Spain. During World War I when the epidemic spread waring countries kept information about their health secret. Spain was neutral and openly published information about their illness and the epidemic and earned the title “Spanish Flu”. Similarly, the Irish Potato Famine, according to Kevin’s research, started in Mexico,, spread to the United States and was the blight was inadvertently exported to Europe and Ireland. Virtually all potato producing nations were affected. A blow to Texans was Kevin’s revelation that there is no evidence that Davy Crockett was the last man valiantly fighting at the Alamo. In fact, some accounts indicate he and a handful of others were captured and summarily executed by Santa Anna. No one knows for sure when or how any of the Alamo martyrs died. Kevin then stated the idea that the United states was founded as a Christian Nation is also a fallacy. Many of the founders were Deists, they believed in God, but thought once the earth and man were created, God left us to our own development. Some believed in Christ and other prominent founders did not. However, they all agreed that a reason for coming here was to escape religious persecution and all strongly supported separation of church from state and wanted to ensure that no particular religion would be imposed on the nation. Lastly and as a final shot of Kevin’s wit he declared that the Greatest Movie of all time – is “Animal House”. Apparently there is no debunking of that!

We thank Kevin for his research and blend of historical fact and humor. We also note that he completed his presentation with several minutes left for questions! Not bad for condensing a 1 hour and 40-minute presentation into 25 minutes!

CALL FOR WINE & 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 raffle featured a 50/50 Cash drawing and a bottle of exquisite Sauvignon Blanc wine. The first ticket drawn was held by "Lucky Mark" Mayeski who too the money and donated it back to the Rotary Foundation. The second ticket drawn was also held by Mark (hence the nickname!) He valiantly said, "draw again" and the Wine then to another one of our frequently lucky members, Frank Lambert. We hope you both enjoy your prizes! Thanks to all who purchased tickets!



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION MINUTE

Somewhere in Grahamstown on the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa, a secondary school struggled with sanitation problems. The facilities at the Ntsika Senior Secondary School, with about 760 students ages 12-20, were practically nonfunctional. The school had limited access to water, had only eight toilets, which frequently clogged, and the sewage tank always overflowed and created a kind of swamp outside. "They had an inconsistent water supply. When the water is shut off, the schools have to shut," says Stuart Palmer, a past district governor in Wyoming; "You cannot have school if you don't have water. We were seeing the children shortchanged in their education." Together with the Rotary Club of Grahamstown, fundraisers from Rotary Club of Jackson Hole, WY, applied for a Global Grant of US\$109,000 from TRF and raised US\$48,000 in contributions, including donations from other clubs and a remarkable US\$20,000 from nonmembers. The Grahamstown club got to work, installing water tanks, repairing the gutters and sewage system, and completely remodeling Ntsika's kitchen and toilet facilities. Unfortunately, Ntsika was one of eight schools with the same sanitation issues. Ken Small, a member of the club in Wyoming recalls; "So we said, 'Well, let's do another school.' And to avoid the fatigue factor of having to do seven or eight applications, we said, 'Let's go for broke.' We started a grant for all seven schools."

According to <https://www.rotary.org/en/audacious-request-transforms-south-african-schools>, the result was the largest Rotary Global Grant ever awarded to a club or district in South Africa. Totaling approximately 7.6 million rand (US\$400,000), it pays for extensive renovations. Each school is getting new plumbing, new toilets, new tile and mirrors, and refurbished kitchens. Security gates and bars are being installed to prevent vandalism. To keep the facilities in good repair, staff members and parent volunteers are being trained in maintenance. The project, which began in July of 2023, looks toward a completion date of March 2024.

Kudos to the Rotary Clubs of Grahamstown, South Africa and Jackson Hole, Wyoming, USA for this Disease Prevention project!

ROCK ISLAND ROTARY GRANT TO EVERYCHILD

Community Grants Committee Chairman Frank Lambert presented a \$1,000 grant from our club to Brooke Hendrickx of EveryChild, formerly known as the Child Abuse Council. EveryChild is a bi-state, regional nonprofit agency that provides child abuse prevention, education, and treatment programs for children and families. Zero to five is a critical period for children's development. That's why EveryChild focuses on the earliest years in a child's life to ensure a strong start for a healthy future. They provide access to a wealth of resources, from educational programs and connections in the community to expert staff and people who can simply listen. They strive to give kids safe, healthy childhoods and improve lives in the long term. Our money will buy books for their parenting classes.



ROTARIANS RING IN THE HOLIDAYS AT CIRCA21

Last Saturday Rotarians from Moline, Davenport, Illinois Quad Cities, and our Rock Island Club joined to celebrate the 2023 holidays at Circa21 Dinner Playhouse. The evening started with a private Salon Party with an ample supply of Crab Rangoon, Swedish Meatballs, Selected Cheese & Crackers, and Shrimp with cocktail sauce. President Cindi Gramenz provided a welcome to all, and 1st V.P. Sue Rector put together a beautiful door prize which was won by our very own Sarah Gorham. Moving into the theater we had a selection of four entrees for dinner. Choosing between Ham Steak with Cherries Jubilee, a hand cut ham steak char-broiled and topped with brandied cherries; Chicken Madeira: a boneless chicken breast simmered in a madeira wine demi glace with garlic, bell pepper, and red onion, or Cherry Snapper Béarnaise baked and topped with tasty sauce was not easy! After dinner the "Bootleggers" wait staff sang and danced and acknowledged our Club's attendance. That was followed by the main stage show, A Christmas Story. It was an excellent performance and a truly enjoyable evening.



MORE FROM CIRCA21



Thanks to Cindi Gramenz for sharing her photos from the evening's festivities.

New Member Applicant



An application for membership has been received from Peter Galbraith sponsored by Earnie Beane. Peter is pastor of Grace Church, PC (USA). The church was formerly known as Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church located at 2324 18th Ave, Rock Island. The name was changed when multiple Presbyterian Churches in the area recently merged, and the Good Shepherd building was selected as the home of the newly formed Grace Church. Prior to his appointment in Rock Island, he was pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Nelsonville, Ohio, where he has served for the past 12 years. Peter taught English as a second language for three years in Vietnam, serving another two years learning the Vietnamese language. He also served as a hospital chaplain at Providence Holy Cross Medical Center in Mission Hills, California. Peter has a B.A. from Miami University of Ohio, and both an M.A. in Cross-Cultural Studies and Master of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary. Peter is active in Tennis, pickleball, golf, playing guitar, and travel. Please direct comments, if any, to Cindi Gramenz at cgramenz15@gmail.com..

KATHY TRONE PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Cindi Gramenz congratulated Kathy Trone and presented her with a 3-Year Perfect Attendance Award at today's meeting. Kathy is the tireless chair of our Trivia Night, Rock & Roll Bingo, and Chairs our District 6420 Human Trafficking Taskforce. Congratulations Kathy!



ROTARY BLOOD DRIVE FEBRUARY 13th



Chairman John Phillips announced that our 2024 Rotary Blood Drive will be at the Botanical Center on Tuesday, February 13th. To be eligible to participate you must not donate blood after December 18th (next Monday).

EARLYACT AT JORDAN GOING STRONG!



Jim Moran, our Club liaison with the Jordan EarlyAct Club, reports that they currently have a large group of over 25 fourth and fifth graders. In November, on "Giving Tuesday", the EarlyAct Club challenged ALL grade levels to "Stuff the Stocking" for less fortunate families from lists of both Sacred Heart and St Pius parish. The lists are from all over the Rock Island area. Over the period of this drive, they were able to raise \$1,100! They even got the parents of the EarlyAct kids involved, in that, on Sunday December 3rd, they all met at Target to shop for the kids, and then group-wrapped the presents. Nice to see this level of involvement! This was their "community" project. They also are planning "worldwide" and "inner school" projects going forward. Jim will have more about those projects in his next report. Congratulations to the EarlyAct Kids! Learning Service Above Self at such an early age says much about the children and their parents. Did you know, the first water filter in what would become our Water Project was purchased by the Jordan EarlyAct Club!

REINDEER RAMBLE SHIRTS & SWEATSHIRTS

Here is an incredible opportunity to support Rock Island Rotary and to get a fantastic bargain at the same time! What would you normally pay for a top-quality sweatshirt? \$25, \$35, or more? How about a long-sleeved tee? \$17, \$20, or more? How much extra would you pay to have a one-of-a-kind, artistic color logo promoting Rotary and our Reindeer Ramble?

Well have we got a deal for you!! We have a limited supply of Reindeer Ramble Sweatshirts from prior years and a limited supply of 2023 Reindeer Ramble Long Sleeved Tee Shirts available to you for just \$10 each! Yep, you read it right, just \$10 for your choice. But the quantity and sizes are limited. **DO NOT DELAY!** Contact Holly Sparkman at hksparkman@gmail.com. Tell her which shirt you prefer and the size you need. To be safe, you might want to give her a 2nd choice in case the size you want is not available in the shirt you select. Here are your choices:



2023 Long Sleeved Tee Front

2023 Long Sleeved Tee Back

2023 Reindeer Ramble Shirts
Small (1 available)
Medium (16 available)
Large (16 available)
X Large (16 available)

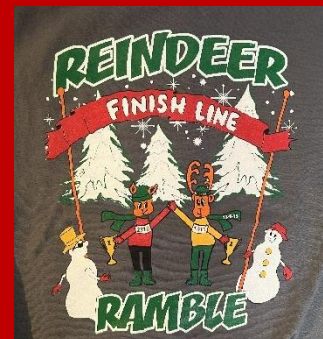
Red Sweatshirt sizes available: Medium and Large
Grey Sweatshirt sizes available: Small and Large
Navy Sweatshirts sizes available: Medium

GREAT FOR GIFTS – GREAT FOR YOU!



Prior Year Red Sweatshirt

Prior Year Navy Sweatshirt



Prior Year Grey Sweatshirt