



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

ROCK ISLAND ROTARY'S INTERNATIONAL WATER PROJECT



Dr. Bud Phillis displays a Vestergaard LifeStraw Community Water Filter like the 288 our project has provided to rural village schools in Kenya. The project founded by Rock Island Rotary in 2017 has been joined by Rotary Clubs in multiple Rotary Districts in Illinois and Iowa and has raised funds and is currently providing access to safe, clean drinking water for the first time to more than 20,000 children in rural, isolated villages in Kenya. The project began with the first purchase of 35 filters and has steadily

grown as word of the project spread throughout Illinois and Iowa. Rock Island Rotarians Dr. Bud Phillis and Bob Swanson have been the primary spokesmen for the project traveling to Rotary Clubs demonstrating the filter and telling the project story to any who would listen. The reception has been amazing, but also was as would be expected from Rotarians. "Some Clubs passed the hat on the spot and raised money for one or two filters. Others had individuals step up, write checks, and bought multiple filters", Swanson said. Each filter holds 13 gallons (50 liters) at once, is ultra-durable for harsh conditions and has a Lifetime of 26,000 gallons, enough for 100 people for 3-5 years. After that, the primary filter in the unit is replaced for another 3-5 years of use. The \$350 cost of each filter includes delivery, setup, sanitation training in Kenya, and the replacement filters when needed. The delivery and service of the filters is done by representatives of Replenish, a Christian not-for profit organization based in Arlington, Texas. Replenish works with authorities in Kenya to obtain information on areas that have no access to clean water. "We receive followup letters and photos identifying where our filters have been placed," Swanson said. "Several of our members have taken safari vacations to African and requested side trips when in Kenya to schools who had received our filters. Once the schools learned their visitors were from the Rotary Club that provided their water filters, our people were treated like royalty!. The children sang and danced to entertain our members and then did cheers in English praising Rotary." Each filter has a label with the Rotary Emblem and identifies the filter as being provided by Rotary Clubs from Western Illinois and Eastern Iowa. Dr. Phillis demonstrated how the filter works pouring a quantity of muddy water and urine into the filter. After about 15 minutes of filtering absolutely pure, safe water was dispensed for members to sample. Many stepped up for a small cup of safe, clean, filtered water. The LifeStraw Community filter can purify between 70,000 -100,000 liters of water, enough to serve community settings for several years. It removes a minimum of 99.99% of protozoan parasites, 99.999% of viruses, 99.9999% of bacteria, and reduces turbidity (muddiness) by filtering particulate matter larger than 0.02 microns. The unit has a filtration rate of 12 liters per hour. The filter is Chemical-free, requires no fuel, no electricity, and no batteries. It also meets the standard for the "highly protective" category of household water treatment options by the World Health Organization and complies with US EPA guidelines for microbiological water purifiers. Showing great importance of such a project, Swanson *See Continued – WATER – Page 3*

Dec - Jan Calendar

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 - Tsooane 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 Oliger, 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. Prospective members Peter Galbrath and Nancy Stockwell were guests of the Club. Joy Bush from Gilda's Club was a guest of Frank Lambert and our club. Last but definitely not least were Brady and Nora Shattuck guests of Molly Shattuck and Tom Hammar. We are always very pleased to welcome guests to "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 our members have joyous holidays with family and friends and a most Happy New Year in 2024!
- ★ **LINK TO VIEW VIDEO OF ROCK ISLAND ROTARIANS IN KENYA** – See for yourself the schools in rural Kenya where our Water Project Filters are making a huge difference! See the reception our members received from the students and staff at the schools. The schools are growing as parents are bringing their children from miles around because they have heard of the wondrous filters protecting their children from disease. Control/Click to view video: <https://youtu.be/05ByqtETbAg>
- ★ **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. Ask your financial advisor or tax preparation specialist.
- ★ **THANK YOU "ANGELS"** - Rock Island Rotarians are the real "ANGELS" and we thank every member who answered the call and provided gifts for the 45 Earl Hanson children at risk of having a less than Merry Christmas. Several of our members took multiple names and your generosity is particularly appreciated. Presents will be delivered immediately after our meeting and will be distributed to the students.
- ★ **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

WATER Continued from page 1

showed data stating that almost two billion people have no access to safe drinking water, including fully one-half of Kenya.. An estimated 88 percent of childhood illnesses are related to contaminated water and poor sanitation. 443 million school days are lost each year due to water-related diseases. Patients suffering from waterborne diseases occupy 50% of all hospital beds in the developing world. 361,000 children, under the age of 5, die each year from diarrhea. At least 3,000 and possibly as many as 5,000 children die each day from diseases caused by unsafe water. These illnesses are preventable and treatable and the primary reason that in 2015 Rock Island Rotarian Sam Wray began pushing our Club to get directly involved and do something to reduce the tragic deaths of so many children. Sam and wife Hilde had taken a safari vacation and were both incredibly touched by the children, the poverty, and the preventable disease that was so prevalent. Sam recruited Bob and Dr. Bud to help find a way for Rock Island Rotary to make a difference. After researching the possibility of drilling wells, working through Rotary International programs, or striking out on our own, Sam urged us to take the third option. Consultations with other Rotary Clubs, particularly the Fort Lauderdale Florida Rotary, lead us to conclude that wells are often abandoned when fuel and money to purchase fuel for pumps runs out and when pumps and well equipment need repair and there is no expertise to fix it and no money to buy parts or hire repairmen. Rotary International projects require using products and equipment made in the country where the project is based. This is a very worthwhile and understandable goal in Rotary's effort to help build the economies of developing nations, however our research indicated that the best and most effect water filter systems were not made in Africa. They do make water filters, but they don't match up to filters such as the Vestergaard LifeStraw, designed in Switzerland and the United States and manufactured in South Korea. Forbes Magazine lauded the LifeStraw Filter as, "One of the 10 Things That Will Change the Way We Live". The first water filter for our project was purchased by the Jordan Catholic Elementary EarlyAct Club which our club established and sponsors. The children conducted a coin drive and with our Club's help, raised enough money to order a filter. Shortly thereafter Sam & Hilde Wray donated \$10,000 to get the project going. From there others joined in and to increase the project's impact, was given the name "The Western Illinois – Eastern Iowa Rotary Water Project". Bud and Bob "hit the road" passing the word and telling the story, and we now have Rotary, Rotaract, Interact, and EarlyAct Clubs, as well as scores of individuals who have purchased or donated toward the purchase of filters. As of now in addition to Rock Island, Rotary Clubs from Dixon, East Moline-Silvis, Erie, Galesburg, Galva, Geneseo, Milan, Moline, Morrison, Putnam County, and Tipton, Iowa have purchased one or more filters. Putnam County, Riverdale, and Rock Island High School Interact Clubs, and Putnam County Jr. High Interact club have all purchased filters. Twenty-seven individual Rotarians have purchased a total of 216 filters and more than 100 Rotarians have made contributions toward the purchase of a filter. Our water project is an ongoing process and with 2 billion people in our world without safe, sanitary drinking water, there is no projected end to our effort. We do intend to keep going wherever people will listen. We will urge more partners to join the project. Our Club continues to donate toward the purchase of a filter in the name of each guest speaker that presents a program for our club. And we will be forever thankful to the hundreds of Rotarians who individually or through their Clubs have joined us.



Filters are warehoused in Kenya, delivered to remote villages by truck, cycle, or on foot, Replenish workers teach sanitation, filter use, and the dangers of unfiltered water.

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 Foundation Raffle featured a 50/50 Cash drawing, a fabric bowl made by Angela Campbell, and a bottle of fine wine. The first lucky ticket drawn was held by Tammy Weikert who took the bowl. Next up was a ticket held by Gary Rowe and he claimed the wine. Our third and final winner was Frank Lambert who took the cash. Thanks to everyone who purchased tickets!



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION MINUTE

The 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) began last week and will end on Tuesday, December 12 at Expo City, Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. At this year's annual climate conference, 70,000 delegates from 197 countries negotiate global goals for tackling climate change, present their countries' plans for contributing to those goals and report on their progress. Rotary International has long worked to protect the environment by collaborating with communities to implement clean water and sanitation, alleviate poverty, and promote sustainable energy technologies; so it's no surprise that Rotary is participating for the third time in the 28-year history of the COP. In a report by Etelka Lehoczky, Rotary experts are hosting more than two dozen sessions at the 28th United Nations climate conference, addressing how a changing climate intersects with health, poverty, and other factors. Recognizing the central role of young people in shaping a sustainable future, Rotary is sponsoring 22 youth volunteers to attend COP28. This amplifies young voices in the climate discussion and offers the volunteers learning opportunities and international experience. From supporting vulnerable populations to forging partnerships across the public and private sectors, Rotary members are motivating progress and inspiring action on the environment. Members in the United Arab Emirates are planting 50,000 mangrove trees in partnership with the government. The restoration of mangrove forests, which help protect coastlines and marine life, is a Rotary priority.

The Rotary Foundation has committed more than US\$23.7 million toward environmental projects led by Rotary members around the world.

TRF's Chair of Trustees, Rotarian Barry Rassin is among notables from RI at the COP 28 conference.

ROCK ISLAND ROTARY SUPPORTS GILDA'S CLUB



Club Community Grants Chairman, Frank Lambert, presents our check in the amount of \$2,080 to Joy Bush, Executive of Gilda's Club.. Ms. Bush said that Gilda's Club is now in its 25th year of serving the Quad Cities and surrounding area. Gilda's Club Quad Cities offers a variety of programs and resources to help people impacted by cancer, including professionally led support groups, healthy lifestyle activities, educational lectures, social events, and resources at NO COST to the participant. Our program is designed to address the physical, emotional, and psychological challenges of cancer. Gilda's Club is a welcoming and supportive environment where people impacted by cancer can gather, connect, and learn from each other. Our funds will be directed to programs aimed at children impacted by cancer, including a creative arts program and a publication entitled "Frankly Speaking About Cancer" that provides great help in knowing how to talk with children about cancer and its impact on their family. We applaud the great work done by Gilda's Club and are happy to assist! .

FINES – HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

The only fine today was levied on Marcy Bell who “confessed/” that she was leaving early today to attend her office Christmas luncheon. We appreciate that she came early to bring her Angel Tree gifts. V.P. Oliger then opened things for happy/sad dollars. The first to speak up was Kimberly Calhoun who had a happy dollar for being chosen to be assistant director of “The Little Mermaids” to be performed by the Countryside Theater in Eldridge, Iowa. Gary Rowe had FIFTY happy dollars for our Club Foundation in recognition of two friends/colleagues. Angela Campbell for all she does and did for our Club serving as president during the covid years when most organizations were losing members Angela held Rock Island Rotary together emerging stronger than ever. And for Alan Beucher, saying he was not the typical “interim” school superintendent. Alan visited every school, became very involved in district activities, and provided great leadership during his 120-day tenure with the Rock Island-Milan Schools. Kathy Ruggeberg added an additional Happy Dollar thanking Mr. Beucher for his work with our schools and for Kathy having an opportunity to work with him. She added \$3 additional happy (and a bit sad) dollars announcing that a Foundation for her parents who both past in the past year has been created that will provide scholarship to students in Rock Island County majoring in journalism, theatre arts, or special education, or attending an accredited trade school. We too celebrate the memory of Jerry and Martha Tayler and invite everyone to control/click this link to an [article](#) with details about the scholarship. Linda Golden had a happy dollar for the doctors and researchers who developed and recently released a new drug for those suffering cystic fibrosis. Linda has a close relative that is seeing great results from the new medication. Alan Beucher had several happy dollars celebrating the Rock Island Boys and Girls Basketball teams. The boys are 8-2 overall and 6-0 at home. The girls are 5-7 overall and play at Dixon High School this Friday. He also bid his farewell attending as Rock Island-Milan Interim School Superintendent but said he hopes to return as a member after completing a term as interim leader of Arrowhead Ranch. Hannah Carr had 37 happy dollars which was a percentage representation of holiday gifts donated for the children served by YouthHope. She said the students are extremely appreciative of the gifts. Thanks to everyone who offered their dollars and information about the many wonderful events and activities happening in our community!

MEET OUR NEWEST MEMBER!

President Cindi Gramenz had the pleasure of inducting Christine Murdock into our club. Christine is a corporate associate member of Quad City Bank & Trust. Her sponsor is Amber Brummit. She joined Quad City Bank & Trust in 2010 with a degree in Business. She serves as Christine’s Executive Administrative Assistant to the Executive Vice President of the Wealth Management Division; she also assists with the Investment Team serving as the liaison with clients and producing reports used in connection with marketing and investment presentations. Christine has over 20 years of customer service experience. She is a volunteer with United Way, Junior Achievement, the Orion Athletic Booster Club, The American Red Cross, and her church. Please be sure to introduce yourself and welcome Christine at an upcoming club meeting!



HANNAH TURNS BLUE!

Not from lack of oxygen or from envy, but from her great participation since joining Rock Island Rotary. New members are given a Red name badge so people can easily identify, greet, and get to know them. New members are also urged to attend a Board of Directors meeting, serve as a greeter at a Club meeting, and to get involved in our committees and programs. Hannah has done all of that and has been a volunteer participant in several of our meetings, offering invocations. For all of that, today she turned in her Red Badge and is now the proud wearer of a Rock Island Rotary Blue Badge! Congratulations Hannah and thank you for joying “The Number 1 Club”!



BLOOD DRIVE

BLOODCENTER.ORG

Rock Island Rotary

Tuesday, February 13

10:30 am - 1:00 pm

QC Botanical Center Olmstead Room

2525 Fourth Ave

To schedule an appointment call John Phillips at (309) 428-5495 or scan the QR code below. or email phillipsjohn99@gmail.com

APPOINTMENTS PREFERRED. WALK-INS WELCOME. Masks are optional.

Bring photo ID. Please eat before donation.



ImpactLife