

WEEKLY REVIEW





CREATE HOPE in the WORLD

December 5, 2023

Volume XXXI, Issue 23

Rotary Club of Rock Island

Rock Island, Illinois Meeting Tuesdays at Noon – Quad City Botanical Center

Rock Island High CHAMBER CHOIR

Today Rock Island Rotary had the pleasure of welcoming the Chamber Singers from Rock Island High School for their annual Rock Island Rotary Holiday Concert. Under the direction of Mr. Scott Voigt, with the assistance of Mrs. Cheryl Bolt the Chamber Choir or Chamber Singers as they are often called, are a select group of 16-24 Rock Island High School musicians. The Choir and many of its individual members have won multiple awards and honors including numerous All State Musician awards, this year they have 8 All Staters! The chorus is in high demand as a performing group throughout the Quad Cities area, especially during the holiday season, normally having 20-30 performances a year. They perform a wide variety of choral literature, including madrigals, chamber music, vocal jazz, spirituals, contemporary, and various genres of popular music.

Dec - Jan Calendar

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 <u>- TBA</u>

They compete each spring as a madrigal group, chamber ensemble, jazz choir, and mixed choir. During the holiday season, they may be seen performing on Paula Sands Live on KWQC-TV6 and we are very happy to say, at the first Rock Island Rotary Club meeting each December. We are extremely proud to be an annual entry on their busy performance calendar. Today's performance began with "It's Chrismas Time" an upbeat modern tune complete with the choir's percussionist and electric piano. That got the "full house" Rotary crowd in the mood as the Choir then presented "Christmas is Coming", a traditional nursery rhyme and Christmas song frequently sung as a round. It is an old English rhyme with the lyrics saying, "Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat. Please [do] put a penny in the old man's hat/ If you haven't got a penny, a ha'penny will do. If you haven't got a ha'penny, God bless you!" The lyrics date from 1885 without an author. John Denver and the Muppets recorded it for a 1979 Christmas album. Next the choir preformed "Carol of the Bells", a popular Christmas carol, with music from Mykola Leontovych's Ukrainian song "Shchedryk", and lyrics by Peter Wilhousky. Leontovych wrote "Shchedryk" in 1914, and in 1936 Wilhousky wrote English lyrics for it, creating "Carol of the Bells". It makes us consider what type of Christmas the people and particularly the children in Ukraine will have this year. Continuing their world tour of carols, the singers presented "Christ is Born" a popular French Christmas composition. The choir presented a wonderful version in English and then showed their language skills with "Oh Tannenbaum" a German Christmas song based on a traditional German folk song which was unrelated to Christmas, it became associated with the traditional Christmas tree. The popular song written in 1824 by the Leipzig organist, teacher, and composer Ernst Anschütz. is known in English as "O Christmas Tree". The choir performed it entirely in German. They then presented a less known song titled "My Dancing Day". Originally titled, "Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing-day" it is an English carol usually attributed as "traditional". Its first written appearance was in 1833, however, it is believed to date from a much earlier date in the 16th century. The verses of the hymn progress through the story of Jesus told from his own perspective in his own voice. An innovative feature of the telling is that Jesus' life is repeatedly characterized as a dance. This device was later used in the modern hymn "Lord of the Dance". It was the first time many Rotarians had heard this incredible piece. The Chamber singers continued their performance with a Spanish entry in the Holiday music collection titled Ya Viene La Vieja", a popular Castilian song about an old lady who comes to give the Christmas aguinaldo. An aguinaldo is an annual Christmas bonus that businesses in Mexico and other Latin American nations are required to



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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

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

Club Notes & Announcements!

- ★ WELCOME GUESTS We welcomed many guests today including visiting Rotarians Duncan Cameron from Naples, FL and Monica Kruse From Bettendorf. Forrest Meyer was a guest of Ruth Lee. Nancy Stockwell, a prospective member was a guest of our club. Jesse Codling also a prospective member was a guest of Kenda Burrows. Ken Brill, Associate Dean and Director of Student Life at Augustana was a guest of Tia Steele. We had four Jr. Rotarians, Daniel VanDeHeede and Kate Mehochko from Alleman and Jacob Perez and Lyric Rice from Rocky. Finally, we had two Augie Rotaract members, Jared Slusher and Brock Clark as guest of our 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.
- ★ CIRCA 21 TICKETS WERE HANDED OUT At today's Rotary meeting. If you were not be present, your tickets will be held at the "Will Call" desk at Circa21 the night of the show. Please remember our Salon Party begins at 5:00 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 77 in our group, 64 from our club, 7 from the Illinois Quad Cites club, 4 from Moline Rotary, and 2 from Davenport Rotary.
- ★ THANK YOU To all members who helped ring the bells this past Saturday at the Rock Island HyVee. The Salvation Army and those they serve greatly appreciate our help each year. Thanks to Mark Mayeski for chairing the project. Thanks also to member who came out early Sunday morning to help with the Reindeer Ramble. We had many more participants than in the past few years and everyone had a great time. No injuries, lotsof prizes, and plenty of hot chocolate, coffee, juice and pie after the race. Thanks to Holly Spark for doing a great job of chairing the project and being our race director. Thanks also to Molly Shattock for pulling off a very short notice Birthday Books at Early Hanson last Thursday. We appreciate those that came to help her. Watch for the December Birthday Books Date. Because of school vacations it will be earlier than normal.
- ★ 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 under standing, 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

CHOIR - CONTINUED

pay to their employees. Then, stepping in a different direction, choir director Scott Voigt invited our club to participate in a bit of a sing-along contest. The choir will be performing next Monday for the Kiwanis Club and he thought it would be fun to see which Club has the better singers. We joined with the choir in singing "Oh Come All Ye Faithful" and "Joy to the World". Choir members were stationed all around the room and "reported" what they heard to Mr. Voigt. When we finished he spoke with his "talent scouts" and announced that he thought Kiwanis would have a very difficult time surpassing the bar we established! Turning the program back to the talented singers, they performed two numbers they recently recorded for the Paula Sands "Choirs of Christmas" program to be aired on KWQC-TV the week prior to Christmas. The first Titled, "What are the Signs" written by Bates G. Burt. Born in 1878, Burt began composing annual Christmas carols and sent them as Christmas greeting cards to his parishioners in Marquette, and later Pontiac, Michigan. He also would invite friends to his home each year to gather and sing his new carol. "What are the Signs" was recorded by Singers Unlimited and released in 1972. The second song recorded for the Choirs of Christmas was "Lo How a Rose Ere Blooming". Featuring a soprano and tenor duet, and a beautiful saxophone solo flowing throughout the composition. A Christmas carol and Marian hymn of German origin originally titled "Es ist ein Ros entsprungen" is most commonly translated into English as "Lo, how a rose e'er blooming", but has also been recorded under the names "A Spotless Rose" and "Behold a Rose of Judah". It was performed and recorded by the Morman Tabernacle Choir at Temple Square in 2016. The choir did an incredibly beautiful job on this piece and the soloists and saxophone musician were outstanding. Next on the program was another traditional holiday tune, "Silver Bells" The first recorded version was sung by Bing Crosby and Carol Richards on September 8, 1950. Since then, it has been recorded and included on Christmas albums by virtually every recording artist from Bob Hope to Dean Martin and Andy Williams to Kate Smith. None could do it any better than the Chamber singers who followed that up with a rockin' version of "Frosty the Snowman". They added a bit of dance, and their drummer provided a strong rhythm beat and Rotarians answered with rousing applause. They next turned to a "twist" to a tradition carol performing "Oh Come All You Unfaithful". Written by Bob Kauflin and Lisa Clow who said in 2019 she was struggling with deep depression and great bitterness. She was asked to sing with her church choir for Christmas but said she refused feeling embarrassed and unworthy. She attended the service and when they sang "Oh Come All Ye Faithful" she said the words clobbered her like a "giant wave of guilt". She wrote "Oh Come All You Unfaithful" to celebrate and remind all that Christmas and faith is for everyone and the "unfaithful" are as welcome as any others. The words invite and encourage by reminding that Christmas signifies the birth of total forgiveness and joy. The choir concluded their performance with "Go Where I Send Thee", a traditional African American spiritual song. It has been adapted and recorded by scores of artists including The Weavers, Johnny Cash, Kenny Rogers, and Woody Guthrie. The song has twelve verses each adding an additional religious figure starting with 1 for the baby Jesus and ending with 12 for the Apostles. As always, the Chamber Singers were incredible and made us all proud to be a Rock Island organization. The students are a credit to our community and to Rock Island High School.



CLUB WELCOMES NEW MEMBER



President Cindi Gramenz had the pleasure of inducting a new member into Rock Island Rotary. Pat Doherty, retired Risk Manager for the City of Rock Island is our newest Rotarian! In 2010 Pat was named City Employee - Citizen of the Year. Pat was sponsored by long-time friend Anne McGlynn. Jim Moran will serve as Pat's Rotary Mentor. We are pleased to have him join us in Rock Island Rotary and look forward to working together to make Rock Island and the world a better place to live. Please say hello and welcome Pat when you see him!

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, a bottle of exquisite wine, and a beautiful Christmas fabric bowl made by Angela Campbell. The first lucky ticket drawn was held by Vice President John Oliger who took the bowl. Our second winner was a ticket purchased jointly by two of our choral performers, Ny King and Qua Feigley. They took the cash and were smiling all the way back to school! The final winner was held by Duncan Cameron our Visiting Rotarian from Naples, Florida. He was very pleased to take wine home for dinner. Thanks to all who purchased tickets!



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION MINUTE

Rotary's theme for the month of December is "Disease Prevention and Treatment", which is one of Rotary's Six Areas of Focus. Around the world Rotary clubs are preventing disease by:

- Improving the capacity of local health care professionals;
- Promoting disease prevention and treatment programs that limit the spread of communicable diseases and reduce the incidences of and complications from noncommunicable diseases;
- Strengthening health care systems;
- Providing clinical treatment and rehabilitation of physical disabilities
- Supporting graduate studies for career-minded professionals related to disease prevention and treatment.

Rotary accomplishes its objectives by focusing on community-driven, measurable, and sustainable projects throughout the world. Preventing Disease is a world-wide imperative, as germs and microbes know no international boundaries. Of critical importance is getting every child and at-risk adult vaccinated against preventable diseases – whatever is needed in the communities in which they live.

Our focus on disease prevention is especially important this year, as we work together to vaccinate EVERYONE – against Polio, and against anything that threatens the health of the residents in our communities.

Your support of the Rotary Foundation and Polio Plus <u>will</u> make it possible for Rotarians in the not-so-distant future to say, we faced the horror of Polio, made a commitment to battle to eliminate Polio from the face of our earth; and, we WON. Polio is gone! Rotarians worldwide will revel in that news.

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS FOR 2024-25 ELECTED!

The Nominating Committee chaired by Gary Rowe presented its slate of candidates for officer and director positions for the coming Rotary year at last weeks meeting. The election was held today. There were no additional nominations from the floor. A motion was made that nominations be closed and that a unanimous ballot be cast for the slated nominees. The motion was seconded and by voice vote the motion passed. The elected officers and directors will take their respective offices at our first meeting in July 2024. We thank those who will be completing their terms June 30th including President Cindi Gramenz, Sergeant at Arms Bob Swanson, past president Frank Lambert, and directors Rebecca Arnold, David Hodge, Mariah Johnson, and John Phillips. We also thank those officers and directors who have agreed to serve as our incoming officers for the 2024-25 Rotary Year. Your time and dedication to Rotary is greatly appreciated!



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)

Club Supports Steam on Wheels



Community Grants Committee Chairman, Frank Lambert presented a Rotary donation of \$1,170 to Samuel McCullum, Exec. Director of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math and Art). They are combined to form a unique experience that enriches children and helps them learn concepts in a joyful environment! STEAM on Wheels is a volunteer-based non-profit organizations serving children in all areas of the Quad Cities. Steam on Wheels takes the program to the kids at local schools and provides learning opportunities that may not be available in a traditional classroom. They do this by exposing students to educational science experiments, hands-on projects, and interactions with volunteers in the STEAM field.

CLUB COMPLETES MULTIPLE SERVICE & FUNDRAISER PROJECTS WITH TWO MORE IN THE WORKS!

Rock Island Rotarians have been busy in November and December and will continue "full speed ahead" in January. On November 10th we held our annual **Trivia Night** chaired by Kathy Trone, which raised approximately \$5,000 not counting \$11,000 in sponsorships that were sold. Then in the middle of November attention turned to our 2nd annual support of Quad City Arts with our Festival of Trees entry. This year the tree theme was "Shining a Light on Hunger", keeping with our District's 2023-24 Service Theme. Chair Sue Rector and a talented group of Rotary volunteers designed the tree, solicited help from the Rocky Interact Club and Earl Hanson students in making ornaments that honored every food pantry and meal site in our area. The tree turned out beautifully and was "purchased" by an attendee at the Festival. On November 30th our attention turned to Earl Hanson Elementary School where chair Molly Shattuck headed up our monthly "Birthday Books" celebration with all the K-6th graders celebrating November birthdays. On December 2nd Rotarians under the leadership of chair Mark Mayeski staffed the Salvation Army Kettle and Bell Ringing from 8am to 4pm at the Rock Island HyVee. It was a bit damp with sporadic light rain, but not wintery cold or snow. Rotary is always happy to help with this project and in 1 hour shifts the task is not difficult. Thanks, in particular to Bud Phillis who covered two back-to-back shifts and thanks also to Mark for organizing and scheduling the volunteers. We quickly then turned our focus to our annual **Rotary Reindeer Ramble 5K** with Holly Sparkman chairing the project. Race participation was at least double what it has been the last few years and on December 3rd a group of Rotary Volunteers joined Holly and her committee to help with packet distribution, race day registration, race shirt handout, and post race presentation of awards along with coffee, hot chocolate, juice, water, and a variety of pies and pastry treats! The day was overcast but the early morning rain/snow had subsided by the 9am race time. Temperatures were in the high 30's so it was described as a "Beautiful day for running!". Thanks to all the Rotarians who helped with the projects named above. If you read through all this and realized that you weren't a participant in any of the FIVE opportunities in the past month, don't dismay, your chance is coming. We are not a "sit on the sidelines" organization. We joined to serve, to network, and to meet and make lasting friendships. That doesn't happen if you don't get involved. Don't wait to be asked, when you hear of a project that interest you, step up, show up, and volunteer! Wine & Dine and Rock & Roll Bongo are coming up! Below and the following two page are photos from the Festival of Trees, Bell Ringing, and the Rotary Ramble!



Tree Theme is Explained

Sue & John Add Final Touches

Rotary Logo Displayed Proudly

Crew Finishes the Project!



Monta is a "Two-Fisted" Ringer

Angela Campbell & Family "Ringers" Marcy Bell & Jim Nordquist Grandson Helps Tom Hammar



Molly Shattuck & Son Ring Bells Kathy Ruggeberg & Bud Phillis Ring Away & Snap a Selfie



Rotarian Reindeer Ramble Helpers



Dick Fislar and Kevin Koski hold up a quilt made of Reindeer Ramble Race Logos from more than 30 years of races for which Dick served as Reindeer Ramble Race Director. Above right, Dick and current Race Director, Holly Sparkman celebrate Dick's award won in today's race.



Many of the competitors come in their best holiday attire! In the center photo Rotarian Marcy Bell and a friend look ready to go. Two or our Rotarian runners, Jim Moran, and Dan McNeil, take a prerace moment with Race Committee member Kathy Lelonek. To the right are more Holiday garbed runners including a reindeer whose nose really is red and really does light up! The Committee says the race will be even bigger next year! This year over 120 registered to run or walk the 5K course along the Mississippi.



Rock Island Rotarian Reindeer Ramble Competitors



Marcy Bell Dan McNeil Dick Fislar Jim Moran



Jim Moran Receives Award

Kim Mayeski & John Phillips Dick & Marcy win Awards

Kathy Lelonek Works
At The Finish Line

It was a chilly morning for the 2023 Rock Island Rotary Reindeer Ramble, but runners and walkers alike seemed to have a great time! There were 123 registered overall and about 90 participated in the actual event. The top runner was Ben Milner with a time of 18:33 and the top female was Reese Kuhlman with a time of 22:00.

President Cindi Gramenz did a nice memorial of Mary Fislar at the start of the race.

The final numbers are not tallied as of yet; hopefully there will be a final accounting by next week after an invoice comes in. The club made about \$200 on the sale of previous Reindeer Ramble sweatshirts that were donated by Dick Fislar. There are race t-shirts available for sale at \$10 each and still some sweatshirts available for \$10 each.

Congratulations are also in order as quite a few Rotarians won age group awards!

<u>5K Run</u> <u>5K Cor</u>

John Phillips - Third Place 65-74 Marcy Bell - First Place 75+

Dick Fislar - Second Place 75+

5K Competitive Walk
Kelly Doty (River Cities Club) Third Place 40-49

Jim Moran First Place 60+

Special thank you to the volunteers who helped that day: Cindi Gramenz, Mark Mayeski, Kevin Koski, Clarence Darrow, Kathy (and BOB) Lelonek, Ruth Lee, Amber Wood, Bob Swanson, and Tammy Weikert the PIE PUSHER!

A great big thank you to the Ramble committee: Kimberly Calhoun, Clarence Darrow, Dan McNeil, Kathy Lelonek, Tammy Weikert and Bob Swanson. The committee will meet after the holidays to review the race and look at a date for 2024.

Rotarian Jim Nordquist Honors Brother Gerry as Paul Harris Fellow



Prof. Gerry Nordquist

Dr. Jim Nordquist

Rotarians know well the impact Paul Harris; founder of Rotary has made on the world. Starting as a very small group of friends, Harris created the first and largest organization of its type and through the concept of Service Above Self has saved millions of lives through funding and providing polio immunization to virtually the entire world's population; provided millions in disaster relief wherever needed; and has promoted peace and understanding through student exchange programs, Ambassadorial Scholarships, and numerous cultural and educational programs bringing people together from all corners of the earth. This helps put a perspective on the Honor one receives when named a Paul Harris Fellow. Today our member, Jim Nordquist honored his brother Gerry Nordquist, now a retired professor from the

University of Iowa now serving as Emeritus Professor of Economics in the University of Iowa, Tippie College of Business. Professor Nordquist earned his PhD in Economics from the University of Iowa, his MA in Economics and his BSC in Commerce and Science, also from Iowa. Gerry was not present today due to health issues that limit his Travel, but Jim said if able, Gerry would be here and would be extremely proud to have his name associated with Paul Harris. Jim thanked long time Club Foundation Chair Bud Phillis and our Club for assistance in making this honor possible. We congratulate Gerry and Jim and look forward to adding his name to our Club's recognition list of Paul Harris Fellows. You have some very proud parents looking down on their sons today!

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



Prior Year Red Sweatshirt



Prior Year Navy Sweatshirt

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 Gray Sweatshirt