



WEEKLY REVIEW

Rotary



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD

Rotary Club of Rock Island

Rock Island, Illinois

Meeting Tuesdays at Noon – Quad City Botanical Center

January 23, 2024
Volume XXXI, Issue 28

Black Hawk College Dr. Jeremy Thomas, President

Dr. Jeremy Thomas was appointed President of the Black Hawk College in April of 2023 and started on June 12. He previously served as provost at Oklahoma City Community College and has more than 20 years in various leadership positions in higher education. Dr. Thomas has an impressive leadership background in higher education with demonstrated results of growing enrollment, strengthening academic programs, and nurturing strategic partnerships. Dr. Thomas succeeded Tim Wynes, who retired last June. He has previously served at colleges and universities in Oklahoma, Texas, and Louisiana. While at Oklahoma City, Community College, Dr. Thomas transformed all areas of the college and increased student success. As a direct result of his leadership and initiatives, OCCC experienced its first surge in enrollment in more than five years and was one of just two colleges or universities in Oklahoma to see a year-over-year increase in enrollment amid the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020-2021. In his current position as President of Black Hawk College, Dr. Thomas supervises a talented and diverse group of faculty and staff on two campuses and three community outreach centers. Dr. Thomas has been a keynote speaker and presenter at numerous state, national, and international conferences, and has offered testimony before Oklahoma and Texas legislative bodies on a variety of higher education issues. He serves on several boards, committees, and civic organizations. He and his wife, Rachel, have been married for 23 years, and they have two daughters. Dr. Thomas provided slides to augment his comments and stated that he views, "Education as a Pathway to Security". He said that his first six months at Black Hawk have been extremely busy, which he likes. "I sit still very little", he stated. He has been attending meetings, conducting campus tours, meeting with legislators and industry partners and getting acquainted with the campuses and outreach centers. He sees a common purpose between Rotary and Black Hawk, with both committed to serving our community. He said Black Hawk's purpose is to, "Inspire students, develop talent, and strengthen the community." He has initiated a number of focus groups to help plan the future of the college. He sees work force development as a strength of the school noting that 60% of the students that enter a 4-year college/university don't finish. Black Hawk offers preparation for a demanded career, substantial hands-on training, graduation in 2 years or less, without a huge student debt. Plus, students are obtaining excellent starting salaries. He also noted that there are numerous sources of grants and financial aid available. He also noted that students who are educated here usually stay here. Students that leave the area for college most often don't come back. He said Black Hawk provides a talent pool for area employers. Local business leaders serve on Black Hawk Advisory Boards and help keep the curricula relevant to the needs of employers. Local companies help shape the programs offered at Black Hawk. He then singled out the Physical Therapy Assistant, Nursing, Welding, and Highway Construction programs as some of the most successful and highly rated programs in the state. He concluded with photos of the expansion occurring in facilities at the school. Overall, it was a most impressive and informative presentation!



Jan – Feb Calendar

- Jan 30 - Ashleigh Davis, Marketing & PR Mgr and Joseph Goetz, Operations Mgr. Quad City International Airport
- 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*



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

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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 a visiting Rotarian, Zenaida Landeros a member of the East Moline-Silvis Club who accompanied our guest speaker today. Other guests were Forrest Meyer a guest of Ruth Lee, Dick Fislar a guest of the Club, Madison Weiss a guest of Julie Gelaude, and Alleman Jr. Rotarians Joey Magee and Claire Hulke, two very active students in athletic and academic activities. We are always very pleased to welcome guests to “The Number One Club”.
- ★ **NEW DUES BILLING CONFUSES** – Our Club has adopted a new dues billing system that members need to understand. Quarterly an invoice for your dues is emailed to you. If you are a corporate member it is being emailed to whatever address was provided for your organization. With our new computerized billing system, the emails will show the sender as “INTUIT”. That is the name of the firm providing the system. It will also refer to your “dues” as a “pledge”. That is the terminology the system used to identify dues paid to a non-profit organization. The quarterly “pledge” for individual members is \$200. For corporate members the pledge is \$300. When you receive your billing (the most recent went out two weeks ago) please submit payment or if you need to forward the email to another person or officer in your organization, please be sure they receive it and clearly understand that the billing is for your dues. **So, when you see an email from INTUIT and it says it is regarding your “PLEDGE”, don’t delete it or send it to spam.** That is your new dues bill.
- ★ **BIRTHDAY BOOKS THIS THURSDAY!** – Your help is needed at Earl Hanson Elementary this Thursday, January 25th at 2:15pm. Enter the front door, tell the secretary you are there for Rotary Birthday Books and proceed up the stairs to the first door on your left. That is the door into the library. There you will find Molly Shattuck and other fellow Rotarians ready to help children with January birthdays select their gift from Rotary, a new book they can take home and read with their family.
- ★ **THIS FRIDAY, JANUARY 26** – Join fellow club members for an informal after work, end of the week, relaxing beverage, and delicious munchies at the Old Oaks Winery on Route 67 just south of Milan. It’s impromptu, informal, and just for fun, so join in! A \$200 gift card from The Winery is one of the prizes in this year’s Rotary Wine & Dine Raffle. Come check it out!
- ★ **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?

JANUARY ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS

Jeremy Richard	January	1
Randy Hurt	January	2
Trista Foster	January	12
Jeff Rose	January	21
Miranda Marshall	January	22
Bob Swanson	January	25
Mariah Johnson	January	28
Jim Moran	January	31

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 our Foundation Raffle offered a 50/50 cash drawing and a bottle of hand selected fine wine. Guest Dick Fislar was given the honor of pulling the first ticket. The winner was Ruth Lee who chose the wine as her prize. Ruth then pulled the second winning ticket and lucky Jeff Dismar won the money. He then donated his winnings to the Rotary International Foundation. Thanks to Ruth and Jeff and to all other members who supported the Foundation raffle!



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION MINUTE

The Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair, Barry Rassin reminds Rotarians and friends of TRF to give more in 2024 because the needs are limitless; not only that, since "The Rotary Foundation is an excellent steward, you can be confident that your gift will make a difference, whether it's in polio eradication, literacy initiatives, peace education, or any other area in which we excel...In 2024, resolve to share the Foundation with others. The Foundation is too great to keep to ourselves. Spread the word during your fundraisers and events. Let the public know that The Rotary Foundation plays a significant role in everything we do, including in our many partnerships. Anyone can support the Foundation, even people who are not in Rotary...Whatever you decide to do in 2024, commit to keeping our Foundation in your plans. I can't wait to hear about all the great things we will accomplish this year." (Rotary, January 2024: 56).

Great work by two Rotary districts and TRF funded a much-needed medical facility in Guwahati, a sprawling city in the northeast Indian state of Assam. Assam health minister Keshab Mahanta inaugurated the three –state-of-the-art facilities — a blood bank, an eye hospital and a –physiotherapy unit — at the KGMT Hospital, –Guwahati, in the presence of DG Nilesh Agarwal, PDGs Manas Chaudhuri, Kalpana Khound and Debashish Das.



Pictured above are: DG Nilesh Agarwal (seventh from R) with PDGs Prabhat Kedia, Kalpana Khound, Debashish Das, Manas Chaudhuri and project primary contact Budhin Barthakur after the inauguration of the facilities at the KGMT Hospital, Guwahati.

The facilities were set up by RID 3240 at around ₹2 crore (about \$270, 000 USD) through a Global Grant project with RID 3282, Bangladesh, as partner. During his tenure as governor in 2019–20, PDG Das initiated the project with \$30,000 from a Directed Gift to form a seed fund for the GG project. Hopefully, Rotarians in 2024 will continue to make the world a much better place for everyone.

FINES – HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

Due to the absence of V.P. Olinger and a Crowded Meeting Agenda there were No Fines or Happy Dollars Today. Bring your cash and checkbooks next week!

AN EMOTIONAL TRIBUTE TO MARY FISLAR



Today Dick Fislar and Marcy Bell presented a \$20,000 check to Rock Island Rotary to establish and permanently endow the “Mary L. Fislar Rotary Community Service Scholarship”. We all miss Mary very much, but none more than her loving husband, Dick, and twin sister Marcy. Creating this scholarship ensures that Mary’s memory and commitment to Rotary will live on for generations and as Marcy stated when the check was presented, “[A] criteria that emphasizes youth and community service is exactly what Mary would have wanted”. The photo above was taken from a video made when Mary, Dick and Marcy returned from a trip to Kenya where they along with fellow club member Ruth Lee visited rural schools who had received water filters as part of our Club’s international water project. In the video Mary recalled driving up the long lane to one of the schools and, “[S]eeing our water filtration units sitting on a little wood table, and I got goose bumps and was thrilled thinking here I am in Africa and seeing our Club project right here in front of us and how much we are helping these children to have clean water to drink”. Mary’s dedication and commitment to youth and Rotary was a huge part of her life. It is wonderful to know that now, after her life that commitment will continue in her name and memory. Wanting to ensure that the first scholarship is available this year, Dick announced that he would provide another \$1,000 check to fund a 2024 recipient. In future years it is anticipated the income off the endowment will cover an annual \$1000 award. Thank you Dick and Marcy for your generosity and for ensuring that youth for years to come will learn to know and appreciate Rotarian. Marv Fislar.

WELCOME OUR NEWEST ROCK ISLAND ROTARIAN



After multiple delays due to weather, vacations, and school obligations today President Cindi Gramenz had the pleasure of officially inducting into membership, Lindsey Honert. Lindsey has been attending our meetings and bringing Alleman Students for the past year. With the departure of Bryant Beal, Alleman switched to a corporate membership and designated Lindsey as their “Active” member. We had been holding off the formal induction so their two associate members could be inducted at the same time, but schedule difficulties caused the decision to go ahead with Lindsey’s induction. Please welcome her. We look forward to involving Lindsey in club committees and

CAN YOU SPARE 30 MINUTES?

Molly Needs Help With Birthday Books!



On the last Thursday of every month during the school year, Rock Island Rotary sponsors a birthday celebration for children at Earl Hanson Elementary School. It is at the end of the school day for the kids and every child with a birthday during the month goes to the school library where Rotary has a wide selection of new books, cookies, and smiles waiting. Each child gets to select a book as their present from Rotary. Then cookies are provided and a chorus of "Happy Birthday" is sung. Molly Shattuck has chaired the project for several years and does a wonderful job of coordinating with the school and ensuring the books and treats are ready for the children. We ask for additional volunteers to join Molly as many of the children need help in selecting a book appropriate to their age and interests. Rotarians help with that and add a handwritten "Happy Birthday from Rotary" and an autograph to the inside cover of the book. The whole process takes about 30 minutes. If you can help all you need to do is come to Earl Hanson School at 2:15pm THIS THURSDAY. Enter the front door and tell the secretary you are there for Rotary. She will send you up the stairs to the school Library. Molly will be there waiting and very appreciative of the help!

FELLOW MEMBER YOLANDA ASKS FOR OUR ASSISTANCE

Rotarian Yolanda Grandberry-Pugh is a member of the staff at Rock Island High School and serves as co-sponsor of the African American Heritage Club. This year the Club is celebrating the contributions made by African Americans to the Fine Arts in America. Their Black History Program will take place February 26, 2024, and will feature a timeline of African American music from the spirituals to the music of today. Members of the club are planning a fieldtrip in the spring to Nashville where they will visit several "Historically Black Colleges and Universities" including Fisk University, Tennessee State University, and MeHarry Medical College. They will also visit the National Museum of African American Music.

To raise funds for the trip the students are selling long and short sleeved tee shirts, sweatshirts, and hoodies..

Here is what they look like:

Several styles and prices are available ranging from \$22 to \$35. [Control Click](#) on the link to see the various shirts offered. If you wish to support this fundraiser you can make your purchase online.

Get your T-Shirt Today:

[Order Here Rock Island High School AAHC Black History Month T-Shirts](#)



BLOOD DRIVE

BLOODCENTER.ORG

Rock Island Rotary

Tuesday, February 13

10:30 am - 1:00 pm

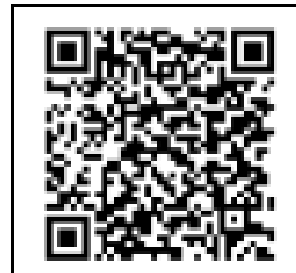
QC Botanical Center Olmstead Room

2525 Fourth Ave

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

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

Bring photo ID. Please eat before donation.



ImpactLife

Mark Your Calendar - **ROTARY WINE & DINE RAFFLE**

Raffle Chair Ruth Lee released preliminary details of our upcoming Wine & Dine Raffle. The raffle drawing will be held at our Club meeting on Tuesday, May 28 (the closest club meeting date to National Wine Day which is May 25). Tentatively plans are for tickets to go on sale around March 1st. The five top prizes will be \$200 gift certificates for one of the following area establishments:



**Circa 21
Huckleberries
Old Oaks Winery
Pagalo's
Rock Island Ale House**



Further details will be coming. If you are interested the Raffle Committee would welcome your help! Please notify Ruth Lee at rotarianruth@gmail.com

Fellow member Hannah Carr wanted to make sure all club members are invited to the upcoming YouthHope Trivia Night! Here are the details:



YouthHope

TRIVIA NIGHT FUNDRAISER

FEBRUARY 3, 2024

**MOLINE YOUTH CENTER
3928 12TH AVENUE, MOLINE, IL**

**DOORS OPEN @ 5PM | TRIVIA @ 6PM
\$13/PERSON OR \$100/TEAM OF 8**

CASH PRIZES, CONCESSIONS, RAFFLE & MORE!

REGISTER TODAY!

309-762-4577

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