



CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD

# WEEKLY REVIEW

# Rotary



Rotary Club of Rock Island

Rock Island, Illinois

Meeting Tuesdays at Noon – Quad City Botanical Center

February 20, 2024  
Volume XXXI, Issue 32

## The Kingdom in the Sky TŠOOANE MOLAPO

### Native of Lesotho, Africa



Lesotho, formally the Kingdom of Lesotho, is a landlocked country in Southern Africa. As an enclave of South Africa, with which it shares a 1,106 km border, it is the only sovereign enclave in the world outside of the Italian Peninsula. It is situated in the Maloti Mountains and contains the highest peak in Southern Africa. Lesotho is considered a lower middle income country with significant socioeconomic challenges. Almost half of its population is below the poverty line, and the country's HIV/AIDS prevalence rate is the second-highest in the world. However, it also targets a high rate of universal primary education and has one of the highest rates of literacy in Africa (81.02% as of 2021). Lesotho is a member of the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Commonwealth of Nations, the African Union, and the Southern African Development Community. According to 2023 V-Dem Democracy indices Lesotho is ranked 64th electoral democracy worldwide and 7th electoral democracy in Africa. It was first ruled by King Moshoeshoe I. Continuous encroachments by Dutch settlers caused the King to enter into an agreement with the British Empire to become a protectorate in 1868 and, in 1884, a crown colony. England provided protection for Lesotho but never attempted to colonize the tiny country which is about half the size of Maryland and entirely surrounded and landlocked by South Africa. In 1966 Lesotho achieved independence and was subsequently ruled by the Basotho National Party (BNP) for two decades. Constitutional government was restored in 1993 after seven years of military rule. King Moshoeshoe II was exiled in 1990 but returned in 1992 and was reinstated in 1995. One year later, Moshoeshoe II died and his son Letsie III took the throne, which he still holds. Lesotho is a democratic state much like the United Kingdom, they have a traditional king and an elected Prime Minister. Tšooane Molapo was born and raised in Lesotho and resided there until age 26 and then came to the United States to further his education and seek more opportunities. He taught at several colleges and universities prior to coming to Augustana and also briefly worked for the State of Illinois. He got a good laugh when he said he left government employment because he was "too efficient". He recalled receiving a project from his boss and completing it in 2 days. He turned in the results to his boss and was told the project was to take an entire month. He said, "No way was I going to do that"! His topic today was to tell us about his homeland, which only one or two in our audience had ever heard of. Lesotho is 8,968 miles away from his current job as Director of Institutional Research at Augustana College. Mr. Molapo's specializations are Academic Affairs and Institutional Research. He earned his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) from North Dakota University and joined the Augustana staff in 2019 and was appointed Director of Institutional Research in 2022. He stated that Lesotho's population were originally hunters living in the mountains. He noted that the lowest point in Lesotho is the highest point in all the rest of the African continent. The inhabitants are primarily Botswana.

*Continues – "LESOTHO" page 3*

### Feb – Mar Calendar

- Feb 27 - Shelley Cooper – Musical Theater
- Mar 5 - Tom Heinhold – Army Corps of Engineers
- Mar 12 - Tamara Felden, Pres. Planting Books: Seeds 4 a Better Future
- Mar 19 - Dr. Heidi Lung, Dir. of Museum Studies WIU Quad Cities
- Mar 26 - Jerry Lyphout – Pres. Modern-Woodmen
- Apr 2 - TBA
- Apr 16 - Bert Blood Scholarship presentation
- Apr 23 - Rotary Awards Luncheon

*Service Above  
Self*

Webpage  
 facebook

CHECK US OUT!  
[www.rirotary.com](http://www.rirotary.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/RockIslandRoary/>

*One Profits  
Most Who  
Serves Best*

# Rotary

Club of Rock Island



P.O. Box 4514  
Rock Island, IL 61204  
[www.rirotary.com](http://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-Treasurer  
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** – Rock Island Rotary was pleased to welcome two guests to today's meeting. They were both Jr. Rotarians from Alleman High School. Maeve O'Keeffe and Ryan Schmitt are both Juniors at Alleman and in addition to being outstanding students, both are actively involved in numerous school clubs and organizations. They will be joining us for the next several weeks. Please say hello and join them for lunch! Rock Island Rotary loves to welcome guest and visiting Rotarians to our meetings!
- ★ **ROTARY READERS** – United Way is making a push for more volunteers for Read United. **Rotarians can volunteer for Read United at Earl Hanson using this link: [Spring Forward Read United webpage](#) PLEASE HELP - VOLUNTEER TODAY!**
- ★ **FOOD DRIVE COLLECTION FOR SAL COMMUNITY SERVICES** – Continues through February. Members are asked to bring your donations. There is particular need for Flour (white is fine). Sugar, any kind of Rice, and Vegetable oil. Donations will be weighed prior to delivery to SAL and included in our 5lb per member goal for the current District project. If you can't shop, make cash donations to project chair Danielle Scott.
- ★ **SAVE THE DATE** – Our Rotary District Conference will be held in Moline at the Stoney Creek Hotel on April 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>. There will be great speakers, interesting discussions, club displays, entertainment, and District awards presented. Talk to any of our members that attended previous Conferences and they will tell you it is an experience well worth your time. If you've not been to the Stoney Creek Hotel, it is just east of the Vibrant Arena and not far from Johnny's Steak House.
- ★ **KATHY TRONE & THE ROCK & ROLL BINGO COMMITTEE** – are now accepting signups for Rotary Rock & Roll Bingo coming up on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. You can email Kathy at [kathy@wesselspc.com](mailto:kathy@wesselspc.com). You don't need a team and you don't need a table. Like any "BINGO" each person plays independently. Don't miss this fun evening that has become one of our most popular **fundraisers!** We are also putting together raffle baskets and would greatly appreciate any items you might donate. Donations can be a complete basket (Sue Rector will provide the physical basket) or items that can be combined with others to make a basket. Bring your items to Rotary or email t [srector3614@gmail.com](mailto:srector3614@gmail.com) for pick up.
- ★ **HAVE ITEMS FOR OUR NEWSLETTER?** – Send to Bob Swanson, [bobdebswanson@att.net](mailto:bobdebswanson@att.net). Our newsletter goes out via email every Tuesday afternoon. Items received by noon Tuesday can be included that day.

## 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?

## FEBRUARY ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS

Ardo Holmgrain	February 4
Sue Rector	February 8
Tyla Sherwin-Cole	February 13
Tom Hammar	February 27

## LESOTHO – from page 1

There has been very little internal conflict in the country because almost all citizens are members of the same tribe and share a common culture. The primary and official language is English, with a few other native African languages also spoken. Molapo stated that Lesotho's economy is dependent entirely on South Africa. Since they are surrounded by South Africa who can and has closed the borders to get what they want, Lesotho complies or suffers. Their flag, like ours has three main colors, White which represents peace, Blue which represents rain, and Green which represents prosperity. A black



mokorotlo (a Basotho hat) is centred on the white band. Dr. Molapo said that virtually all native Lesothos wear the hat along with a blanket wrapped around their shoulders year round, even though Lesotho has four weather seasons just like the United States. He brought and wore his mokorotlo and blanket for our presentation. He stated that the country is 95% Christian with the Catholic Church being dominant with about 50% of the population. The main export of Lesotho is water. Being a mountainous country Lesotho has some of the cleanest natural water



resources in Africa. They sell water primarily to South Africa. Other industries are textile, construction and agriculture. Farming is the dominant industry producing food for local and export use. As previously mentioned, Lesotho was hit particularly hard by HIV. For a time 53 was the average life expectancy in Lesotho. With the introduction of effective medications and knowledge of the source and means of spreading the disease, that had largely been brought under control. Unemployment is a significant issue for Lesotho with approximately 40% unemployed. Molapo said people primarily work for the government, farm, or work in South Africa. He said China has "invaded" most of Africa and many of the factories are now under Chinese ownership.

When asked if there is a tourism industry in Lesotho, he said not significantly, because they do not have the wildlife tourists to Africa want to see. When asked what a tourist should see if visiting Lesotho, he said the scenery. He would take them to the mountains, the waterfalls, and hiking. It sounds as if one would truly see "The Kingdom in the Sky".



## ONE OF OUR NEWER MEMBERS HAS A NEW ADDITION!



Congratulations to Rotarian Jen Osing and husband Tanner on the very recent birth of their son, Theo Robert Osing. Jen joined us last year and will be on maternity leave for a while and said we might not see her at Rotary meetings.

Hey Jen, we like babies ... bring Theo and come whenever you can!

Members feel free to enlarge this photo. He is a very handsome little guy!

## WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBER

Today we had the pleasure of inducing a new member into our Club. Rev. Peter Galbraith became our 103rd club member. Hopefully with two more to induct next week we will hit 105! Peter is pastor of Grace Church PC (USA) formerly Good Shepherd Presbyterian in Rock Island. Peter was born and raised for the first nine years of life in Peoria. He lived in a number of places in his growing up years, including Texas, South Carolina, and Ohio. Peter served as a summer church camp counselor, then as a Young Adult Volunteer through the PC(USA) Mission. Agency, working at a local YMCA in Guildford, England. Prior to his ordination, 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 M.Div from Fuller Theological Seminary. In his free time, Peter enjoys tennis and pickle ball, a good film and television, (slowly) learning guitar, quality time with his daughter, Lily Anne and staying connected with family and friends near and far. Ernie Beane sponsored Peter's membership. Please say hello and welcome Peter when you see him.



# ROTARY FOUNDATION MINUTE

Let us briefly reflect on the concept of Vocational Service as defined in The Object of Rotary, which 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 Rotary Foundation has continued to fulfill these objectives with the ultimate aim of making the world a better place for all concerned.

Your support is essential if we are to continue the Foundation’s work.



## THANK YOU ROTARIANS!

Rotary Blood Drive Chairman John Phillips reported we had a total of 16 blood donations last Tuesday. We had 18 slots and filled all but two! John and our club thank those that participated. Lives will be saved because you cared!



## NEW MEMBER APPLICANT

The Botanical Center has submitted Kari Campbell to fill a vacant associate membership for the Center. Kari is the Botanical Center’s Office Manager. Kari uses her highly refined organizational skills and positive attitude to assist with member and donor relationships. Kari has been a hands-on participant in events at the Center since starting here in 2002. When not at the Center, she can be found spending time with her grandchildren, baking, or shopping. Please direct comments to [cgramenz15@gmail.com](mailto:cgramenz15@gmail.com). Kari and husband Alan reside in Rock Island

## FOUNDATION RAFFLE



Today our Foundation Raffle offered a 50/50 Cash Drawing and a bottle of fine wine. Anne McGlynn handled the tickets and Tammy Weikert delivered the prizes. Tammy didn’t have far to go as she was holding the first lucky ticket drawn and took the wine. The next winning ticket was held by Ruth Lee who took the cash and donated it back to our Club to be used toward the purchase of a water filter as part of our International Water Project providing clean water to rural schools in Kenya. A sincere “Thank You” to all who purchased raffle tickets.



## FINES & HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

Today VP, John Oliger was greeted with a warm and caring chorus of "BOOs". Undaunted John started with a "BOO" joke (you had to be there!) and levied a fine on himself for it. He then handed a \$1 fine to Justin Peterson for needing to leave our meeting early today. He then levied a \$1 fine on everyone connected with Augustana College for recent newspaper publicity regarding their new film studio in Sorenson Hall. The studio is a state of the art, well equipped facility and will allow students to gain hands-on camera experience from the start in this film production program designed to incubate unique opportunities for students to create motion pictures. Students can major or minor in film in the new combined Department of Theatre and Film at Augustana. John then asked for Happy/Sad dollars. Kimberly Calhoun offered a combination happy/sad dollar. Happy for her daughter obtaining a position at the Peoria Animal Hospital and sad that it will cause her to move to Peoria. John Wetzel offered 5 Happy dollars for Augustana naming Jordan Delp as their new head men's basketball coach, for his twin grandchildren. His grandson for perfect "A" grades through Jr. High and so far in high school & granddaughter for successfully recovering from heart surgery a year ago and getting a role in the upcoming high school spring play. Kai Swanson had a Happy dollar for the Augustana men's and women's' basketball teams both making their respective CCIW Post-Season Playoff Tournaments. Gary Rowe, perhaps with a guilty conscience, offered a \$1 fine for his cell phone ringing during last week's program. Thanks to everyone who contributed!

**SAVE THE DATE – GET IT ON YOUR CALENDAR!**

**District 6420 DISTRICT CONFERENCE – APRIL 26-27  
STONEY CREEK HOTEL - MOLINE**

## 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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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](mailto:rotarianruth@gmail.com)

## BASKET ITEMS and/or ENTIRE BASKETS NEEDED FOR ROCK & ROLL BINGO!

We hope to start building baskets after our meeting on March 12 so that we can share photos to encourage attendance and bolster raffle participation. Alcohol baskets go well as gift certificates for people to do something together and gift cards of any type are- always a winner! Handmade items like Angela's fabric bowls and Dr. Tadlock's wood bowls are always popular! If you have anything you think would be a good basket item or might add to a bowl, please bring it, or notify Sue Rector and we'll arranged to get it from you!

## HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN?



Next Tuesday, is the final chance to bring food items for SAL Community Services. Their needs include Flour (white is fine). Sugar, any kind of Rice, and Vegetable oil. Our donations will go to help provide culturally appropriate food to immigrant families who are struggling with hunger.

Our efforts are part of this year's our District wide project to end hunger. Every Rotarian in District 6420 is asked to donate 5lbs of food during the Rotary year (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024). We know some of our members have met and exceeded that goal, but most of us have a way to go!

Bring your donation to one of our two remaining meetings in February. A family and children in need will be greatly appreciative. You will also help ensure that our Club meets the District goal of 5lbs donated per member, Thanks for your help!

## SUE LOOKING FOR INPUT - NO REPLIES SO FAR!



Sue Rector will assume the office of Club President July 1<sup>st</sup>, however the funding for our District project for 2025-2026 must be requested this spring. The District will provide \$1,200 for the grant and our Board has agreed to match that amount so we will have \$2,400 available for the project. Today Sue put on every table two pages of information about the grant. Sue wants to involve the entire Club in determining how best to use the grant. Ideas from Club members are requested and will be accepted from now until February 20<sup>th</sup>. Sue will then select three and share those choices with the Club. And will accept feedback until February 29. At our March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting Sue will announce which of the three will be our 2025-26 District Project. We appreciate Sue soliciting ideas from our members!

In making your suggestions keep in mind that projects need to meet one or more of Rotary's seven areas of focus: Promoting Peace; Water/Sanitation/Hygiene; Saving Mothers & Children; Supporting Education; Growing Local Economies; and/or Protecting the Environment. Grants cannot promote a particular political or religious viewpoint, provide continuous funding (one and done); cannot include fundraising or require people to work without pay, and can't purchase land or a building or be for beautification only. If possible we would prefer a hands-on project where our members can participate in the project. Email your ideas to Sue at [srector3614@gmail.com](mailto:srector3614@gmail.com) or jot them down and give them to Sue. **LAST REQUEST**

## MESSAGE FROM DANIELLE SCOTT FOOD COLLECTION CHAIR



**Thank you Rotarians! Thanks to your generosity, we have collected almost 300 pounds of food so far for the district-wide service project!**

**Here's a photo of the total collection with a staff member at Project NOW Head Start. They were so grateful to have received this!**

**Note that we will not be collecting food items in March, but April will be our last month collecting for World Relief.**

**We have two more weeks in February for donations to SAL Community Services.**

**Danielle Scott**



**What:** RI Rotary Rock & Roll Bingo Fundraiser –  
\$20/2 cards OR \$125 for table of 8, 50/50, cash bar, bring your  
own snacks!

**When:** Friday, March 22nd, 2024, at 6pm, doors open at  
5:15pm

**Where:** Holiday Inn, Rock Island

**Why:** This fundraiser supports our commitment to QC  
Youth Programs and Community Projects  
Purchase cards/tables below OR pay at the door!

Single Player-two cards



Table of 8-two cards each



# **2024 Rotary District Conference In Our Own BACKYARD**

**\*\* SAVE THE DATE \*\***

**District 6420 Conference**

**“Rotarians: People of Action”**



**Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center  
Moline, Illinois**

**Friday, April 26th, 4:30pm through  
Saturday, April 27th, 9:00pm**

- \* Informative Speakers**
- \* Literacy Awards**
- \* Silent Auction**
- \* Fellowship**
- \* District & Club Table Displays**

**Reservations Opening Soon on District Website**

**Rotary**  
District 6420

