



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD

March 12, 2024
Volume XXXI, Issue 35

WEEKLY REVIEW

Rotary



Rotary Club of Rock Island

Rock Island, Illinois

Meeting Tuesdays at Noon – Quad City Botanical Center

TAMARA FELDEN

“Planting Books: Seeds 4 a Better Future”



Tamara Felden, formerly the owner of the The Artsy Bookworm bookstore, planted a seed last year when she launched “Planting Books – Seeds 4 a Better Future”, a new nonprofit organization. Her goal was to provide 2nd-grade students at the Rock Island Academy a high-quality books to call their own. Children fell far behind in reading skills during the pandemic and Felden is a firm believer in getting at root causes of problems. She thought, “What can someone with relatively modest means do to give children long-term advantages?” Felden credits her own early childhood reading opportunities with the path that led to a PhD and a career working and teaching in various positions at prestigious colleges and Universities. Now retired she wanted to do something that would have a long term and positive impact on our community. Consulting with Thomas Ryan, principal at the Rock Island Academy, one of the District schools with a majority of students from low income households and broad racial diversity, and teachers Deborah Noble, Becky Lapp, and library paraprofessional Melissa Knoeferl, Felden learned that many children do not have good reading material at home. Changing that could make an important difference in a child’s reading ability. Dr. Felden stated that countless studies tell how important strong reading skills are for the intellectual and social development of a child. This is particularly important in the aftermath of the pandemic. The organization gives high-quality children’s books to encourage students to read at home in their unscheduled time. The next step was to settle on a population of students and select high-quality reading materials, she said. They agreed that 2nd grade would be the group to aim for, because at that age children no longer depend on an adult to read with them. “We didn’t want to inadvertently create an additional burden for parents who often already have so much on their plate,” Felden said. They learned that every 2nd grade student in the school could be given three top quality age appropriate books for thirty to thirty-five dollars. A board of directors was established and a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization was formed. Donations were gathered adequate to fund the first purchase of books in 2023. It was decided that every child and each of the second grade teachers would receive the same three books. Providing the same set of three books to every child encourages discussion among students and allows teachers to draw on the material in class. They also wanted books with positive messages and beautiful illustrations that would entice and assist those struggling with reading skills. They also looked for books with messages that were similar to life experiences the children could relate with. Dr. Felden explained that she named the organization “Planting Books - Seeds 4 a Better Future” because of her love of reading and gardening and the similarity between gardening and literacy. She, said, “They both start small as seedlings needing care and nurture. But they both grow into wonderful, huge, and lasting treasures.” The books were presented at the beginning of the current school year at a gathering of all the 2nd grade students in the Rock Island Academy’s cafeteria. Feldon said the kids were excited and loved having books of their own to take home and a letter was sent to the parents explaining their child had received the books as a gift from Planting Books: Seeds 4 a Better Future. The organization is now fundraising to finance the book purchase for next school year. There are 96 in the incoming 2024-25 second grade class plus four teachers. So the minimum needed is \$3,400. Dr. Feldon invited us to take a look at their webpage, www.planting-books.org for more information and ways to support the effort. We applaud the work Dr. Felden is doing and thank her for a very informative presentation.

Mar - Apr Calendar

- Mar 19 - Dr. Heidi Lung, Dir. of Museum Studies WIU Quad Cities
- Mar 26 - Jerry Lyphout – Pres. Modern-Woodmen
- Apr 2 - TBA
- April 9 - TBA
- Apr 16 - Bert Blood Scholarship presentation
- Apr 23 - Rotary Awards Luncheon
- Apr 30 - RIHS INNcubator Program Students

*Service Above
Self*

Webpage
 **facebook**

CHECK US OUT!

www.rirotary.com

<https://www.facebook.com/RockIslandRotary/>

*One Profits
Most Who
Serve 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** – Rock Island Rotary was pleased to welcome three guests today. Leah Hodge, spouse of Dave Hodge and their two daughters, Kmwee Paw & Shwe De Paw were guests of Dave. Dr. Lanty McGuire, Interim Superintendent of the Rock Island-Milan School District was also present representing our schools. Rock Island Rotary loves to welcome guest and visiting Rotarians to our meetings. We are convinced that those that attend a “Number 1 Club” meeting will want to return!

★ IMPORTANT ROTARY EVENTS COMING UP!

- **ROCK & ROLL BINGO** – Rock Island Rotary Rock & Roll Bingo is coming up on **March 22nd**. You can email Kathy at 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!**
- **DISTRICT CONFERENCE** – Our Rotary District Conference will be held in Moline at the Stoney Creek Hotel on **April 26th & 27th**. 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 near to Johnny's Steak House.
- **ROTARY WINE & DINE RAFFLE** – Tickets are now available for our 2024 Wine & Dine Raffle with winners to be drawn, **May 28th**. Tickets are just \$5 or five for \$20. There will be five winners, each receiving a \$200 gift certificate for food and beverage a one of five selected Rock Island and Milan establishments. See Ruth Lee to purchase tickets OR If you will help promote and/or sell tickets to your friends and colleagues, Ruth will provide returnable tickets on consignment to you and small posters for display..

★ **LAST CALL - 1ST VP SUE RECTOR** – Is putting together raffle baskets for Rock & Roll Bingo and would greatly appreciate any items you might donate. Donations can be a complete basket (Sue will provide the physical basket if you need one) or items that can be combined with others to make a basket. Bring your items to Rotary or email t srector3614@gmail.com to arrange for pick up.

★ **HAVE ITEMS FOR NEWSLETTER?** – Send to, bobdebswanson@att.net. Our newsletter goes via email every Tuesday afternoon. Items received by 11am Tuesday can be included that day. committee chairmen send advance notice of your committee meetings so we can get the word to your members.

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?

MARCH ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS

Lonnie Behnke	13 th	Jerry Jones	22 nd
Kathy Trone	15 th	Mike Lootens	28 th
Gary Rowe	17 th	Avalon Thomas-Roebal	29 th
Danielle Scott	18 th	Bill Stengel	31 st
Clarence Darrow	22 nd		

2024 ROCK ISLAND ROTARY AWARDS LUNCHEON

Our Club Meeting on Tuesday, April 23rd has been selected for our annual Awards Luncheon. For members there is no cost and nothing different than attending any other Tuesday Rotary meeting. However, for a half dozen students representing Alleman, Rock Island High School, and Augustana College; Fellow Club Members who will receive our highest honors; and two special local citizens who will be honored for Community Service and Professional Excellence, it will be very special.

BUT THE DAY'S SUCCESS DEPENDS ON YOU!

The final two pages of our newsletter today and for the next several weeks will be our Awards Nomination Form. We need your suggestions for people to consider for our Club's A.T. Pears Award and Luckenbill-Wray Awards. We also need your suggestions of people to consider for Outstanding Community Service and Professional Excellence Awards. The more we have to consider the better our selections can be! We will invite and urge local media to be present at the luncheon and will also invite our community award winners to join our entourage in the Rock Island Labor Day Parade. The nomination form is self explanatory and easy to fill out, but the more detail you can provide the better for our selection committee. **So far the Response has been slow** - so please take a few minutes and submit your nominations to Sarah Gorham (email sgorham@sbrlawfirm.law) and plan to attend the Luncheon.

WELCOME OUR NEWEST MEMBER



Today, past president Angela Campbell had the pleasure of inducting Kari Campbell as our most recent new member. Kari is a dedicated member of the Quad City Botanical Center staff and serves as their Office Manager and is an Associate Corporate Rotary member for the Center. Kari is noted for her highly organizational skills and positive attitude and works to assist Botanical Center member and donors. Kari has been a hands-on participant in events at the Center since 2002. She noted that having seen Rotary here every Tuesday for years, she feels she knows many of us and now is very pleased to be a Rotary member. When not at the Center, she can be found spending time with her grandchildren, baking, or shopping. Please look for Kari at future meetings, introduce yourself, and say "Hello and Welcome!"

IT'S PURELY SOCIAL!

Sign Up At the Sergeants Table Or Email Ruth Lee at rotarianruth@gmail.com

Rotarian after work fun & food!
Friday, April 5th 4:30 – 7:00 Drop-in
Bring your spouse, prospective member,
Colleague or Friend! It's all Dutch Treat!

ROTARY FOUNDATION MINUTE

The Rotary Club of East Nassau (The Bahamas) jubilantly crossed the finish line at its Million Dollar Dinner on Saturday night, achieving an ambitious goal of raising \$1 million to help fund Rotary Foundation projects that improve the lives of countless individuals. The Million Dollar Meal concept was started in 1959 by a club in Stoughton District (Wisconsin). It is now an established part of Rotary International fundraising for The Rotary Foundation. Speaking at an interview with The Nassau Guardian, president of Rotary Club of East Nassau, Christian Knowles describes the feat as "surreal...to do something that no other club has done before is so empowering and inspiring and at the same time, I know it's gratifying because I know that those other clubs are going to do the same thing and I want them to do the same thing and I can't wait for them to do it." The fundraiser was attended by donors who made pledges of \$10,000 or more to The Rotary Foundation and by Rotarians, among them Barry Rassin, past Rotary International president, and chairman of The Rotary Foundation Board of Trustees.

Past Rotary International President Jennifer Jones who was the keynote speaker, recently traveled to Abaco and Grand Bahama to see firsthand the difference Rotary made on the ground in the days, weeks and months after the ferocious Hurricane Dorian uprooted the lives of tens of thousands of people. Speaking with The Nassau Guardian, Jennifer said, "What has been really wonderful is to be able to see some of the work that's been done hands on by the clubs, and in particular East Nassau, and then to culminate it tonight with this huge \$1 million fundraising dinner and to cross the finish line in real time while we were here was nothing short of remarkable, and what this means is that it allows us as an organization to do so much good for people in the community here and in other communities around the world."

Rotary does amazing things worldwide and your support is key to its continued success!

FOUNDATION RAFFLE



Today our Foundation Raffle offered a 50/50 Cash Drawing, an Angela Campbell fabric bowl, and a bottle of fine wine. Cindi Gramenz handles the drawing with Kmeee Pow pulling the tickets. The first lucky number called, was held by VP John Olinger who took the St. Patrick's colored bowl. Ruth Lee had the wnd winner and took the cash, donating it to our Water Filter Project. Ruth also had the 3rd winner and was rewarded for her generosity with a bottle of superb white wine. Thanks to everyone who played! .



FINES & HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

March 12th must be a mixed-up day! First, 2nd V.P. John Olinger attempted to start a chorus of "Boos" when 1st V.P. Sue Rector was introduced. Then to adding confusion to outrage – Former President Angela Campbell tried to instigate applause when John, the resident "finer" came to the microphone. Seems like even though it was all in fun, those two should ante up some fines next week! Turning to the work at hand, John levied fines on Jim Moran and Bill Stengel for needing to leave early today. He then fined Visiting Rotarian Duncan Camerian who joined via ZOOM for still being in Florida when its over 60 degrees here. John than advised that he would continue fining Duncan each Tuesday that Duncan remained in the tropical sun when the temperature here exceeds 60! BRUTAL! John then fined anyone connected with Christian Care (catching Bob Swanson and Cindi Gramenz in attendance) for being mentioned in an article titled "Investing in Our Communities Yields Big Dividends" by Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs after visiting the Christian Care Mission in Rock Island and awarding Christian Care a \$20,000 state grant. Kevin Koski paid \$5 to tell us that Finland is the world's leading ship builder, but primarily used his time to rebut Clarence Darrow's contribution last week in which he documents that there is no St. Urho. Kevin read a detailed "newspaper editorial" titled "Yes Clarence, there is a St. Urho". It seemed strangely similar to an editorial titled, "Yes Virginia, there is a Santa Claus" first published in the New York The Sun on September 21, 1897. Kevin concluded saying taking a Finn to lunch on St. Urho's Day, March 16th, is guaranteed a year of good luck. He is patiently awaiting your call! Justin Peterson had two happy dollars, one for the Illini beating the Hawkeyes (for the second time this year) and one for his daughter who won 3 awards at her first dance competition. John Wetzel had a sad dollar for Iowa's loss to Illinois and a happy dollar in anticipation of Iowa beating Illinois in the upcoming Big 10 Men's Basketball Tournament. Hawkeye Jim Nordquist had 22 happy dollars in recognition of #22, Caitlin Clark of the Iowa Women's Basketball team (currently ranked 2nd in the nation). Caitlin now holds the NCAA women's and men's all time scoring records! Sue Rector joined the celebration of Clark with her own 5 happy dollars. Angela Campbell added our final happy dollar celebrating dinner rolls being provided with today's beef, mashed potatoes & gravy, lunch! Thanks to everyone who joined today's fun!

WE CELEBRATE ANOTHER PAUL HARRIS FELLOW!



Proud Dad, Dave Hodge

Today Dave Hodge honored his lovely daughter Kmwee as a Paul Harris Fellow. Dave stated that Kmwee is a truly amazing daughter and will soon be receiving another honor that Dave was not at liberty to disclose; but displayed his obvious father's pride. Dave noted that he was honored with Paul Harris Fellow status by fellow Rotarian John Daly and decided then to work to give that honor to another deserving person. He made a commitment to swim 200 miles during the past year and donated \$3 to the Rotary Foundation for each mile. Once he reached \$600 in personal contributions our Club's policy is to add \$400 to complete the Paul Harris requirement of \$1,000 in donations. Dave then made the decision to honor Kmwee. She provided her own acceptance speech telling how proud she was to receive the honor and what it meant to her. We can see why her dad described her as an amazing, incredible daughter. Her mom and sister were on hand to join in the recognition. Congratulations to Kmwee and the Hodge family!

ROTARY WINE & DINE RAFFLE TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE NOW!

See Ruth Lee or Gary Rowe to purchase tickets and/or to obtain tickets to sell.
You may return unsold tickets. Small window posters are also available for your place of business.



What: Rock Island Rotary Club - Rock n' Roll Bingo Fundraiser \$20/2 cards OR \$125 for table of 8, 50/50 raffle, raffle baskets, cash bar, bring your own snacks!

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

Where: Holiday Inn, downtown Rock Island

Why: This fundraiser supports our Club's commitment to QC Youth Programs and Community Non-Profits and Projects Purchase cards/tables below OR pay at the door! Let us know you're coming by emailing Kathy at kathy@wesselspc.com



Table of 8 – two cards each



Single player – two cards

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



INSTRUCTIONS FOR ROTARY AWARD NOMINATION SUBMISSION

1. All current members may be considered for the Luckenbill-Wray Award

2. The following Club members are previous A.T. Peara Award Recipients and are not eligible for that award.

Tricia Barron 2015	Mark Mayeski 2020	Gary Rowe 2000
Carrie Crossen 2020	Anne McGlynn 2013	Molly Shattuck 2021
Jeff Dismer 2010	Jim Moran 2022	Holly Sparkman 2012
Tom Hammar 2004	Steve Morenz 2018	Bob Swanson 2014
Frank Lambert 2002	John Phillips 2019	Kathy Trone 2023
Ruth Lee 2009	Bud Phillis 1991	John Wetzel 2011

3. Current members who can be considered for the A.T. Peara Award:

Rebecca Arnold	Doug Hultquist	Mark Poulos
Heather Ballou	Randy Hurt	Tracy Pugh
Howard Beck	Carlos Jimenez	Yolanda Grandberry-Pugh
Lonnie Behnke	Mariah Johnson	Sue Rector
Marcy Bell	James Jones	Jeremy Richard
Amber Brummit	Jerry Jones	Jeff Rose
Kenda Burrows	Pam Jones	Kathy Rugeberg
Kimberly Calhoun	Beth Kauzlarich	Danielle Scott
Angela Campbell	Kevin Koski	Tyla Sherwin-Cole
Hannah Carr	Kristia LeShoure	John Slover
Clarence Darrow	Kathy Lelonek	Tia Steele
Amanda De La Cruz	Kate Mapes	Bill Stengel
Rick Devinney	Miranda Marshall	Arron Sutherland
Patrick Doherty	Ann McIntyre	Kai Swanson
Rick Emery	Dan McNeil	Andrea Talentino
Trista Foster	Thais Meredith	Avalon Thomas-Roebal
Peter Galbraith	Christine Murdock	Todd Thompson
Julie Gelaude	Jim Nordquist	Mike Thoms
Linda Golden	Mike Oberhaus	Tammy Weikert
Sarah Gorham	John Olinger	Pete Wessels
Cindi Gramenz	Jen Osing	Eric Westphall
Bill Groh	David Parker	Jeff Whitaker
Jennifer Hirsch	Frank Perez	Ryan Wille
Brett Hitchcock	Bruce Peterson	Erin Williams
Dave Hodge	Justin Peterson	Amber Wood
Lindsey Honert	Monta Ponsetto	

4. **Copy and fill out the nomination form on the previous page. Feel free to nominate more than one person for an award if you feel they are worthy. Also please consider submitting nominees for each of the awards. As Rotarians we seek to honor those who serve and can only do that if all of us participate in providing quality nominees.**

Give your completed nomination forms to Sarah Gorham in person at a meeting, by email at sgorham@sbrlawfirm.law, or mail or drop them off at her office: Stengel, Bailey & Robertson 1617 – 2nd Avenue, Suite 200, Rock Island, IL 61201.