

UNITE
FOR
GOOD

Rotary

WEEKLY REVIEW

Rotary



November 4, 2025
Volume XXXIII, Issue 19

Rotary Club of Rock Island

Rock Island, Illinois

Meeting Tuesdays at Noon – Quad City Botanical Center



Figge Art Museum

Josh Johnson
Co-Curator

NOV – DEC PROGRAMS

- Nov 11 - Nathan Windt SAU – Opera for Beginners
- Nov 18 - Anika O'Melia – Rock Island Line POD Cast
- Nov 25 - END POLIO NOW!
Sue Rector, Dr. Bud Phillis, Patrick Doherty
- Dec 2 - Rock Island High Chamber Choir
- Dec 9 - TBA
- Dec 16 - TBA

The Figge was formed as the Davenport Municipal Art Gallery in 1925, with the passage of a law allowing the city to accept a gift of 334 artworks from a former mayor, Charles A. Ficke, [yes “Ficke”, the Figges come later!] and open a museum. It was renamed the Davenport Museum of Art in 1987. It continued to be a city-run museum until the opening of its new building in 2005, which was named in honor of a major gift from the Vivian Otto and Elizabeth Kahl Figge Foundation. At that time, the city transferred responsibility for management, care, and exhibition of its collection to the Figge Art Museum, a nonprofit organization. Mr. Ficke’s original collection of European, American, and Spanish Viceregal art has grown through the efforts of generations of philanthropists and civic leaders and now includes the Grant Wood Archive and works by other American Regionalist artists, an extensive collection of Haitian art, and contemporary works. The Figge is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. Johnson received his MFA in Studio Art from American University in Washington, DC, his bachelor’s in Sculpture and Painting from Dominican University in Oak Park, Ill., and has completed additional graduate work in Museum Studies at Western Illinois University. He joined the staff at Figge in 2015 as a Graduate Assistant in the Curatorial Department. Johnson has held the positions of Preparator, Assistant Registrar, Studio School Manager, and Assistant Curator of Contemporary and Interdisciplinary Art during his time at the Figge. In 2024 he was named co-senior curator. In addition to working at the Figge, Johnson has taught art and art history courses at Muscatine and Scott Community Colleges and teaches adjunct classes at St. Ambrose. Curators are responsible for caring for the museum’s collection. They seek to preserve, archive, maintain, study, and display the museum’s collection in an interesting and accurate way. In addition, they add to or change the collection by either buying new pieces or trading artifacts with other museums. Beyond working with the museum’s collection directly, curators support staff in the care of these components and educate the public about different items. Mr. Johnson said the Figge hosts 17 to 23 exhibitions each year. He showed photos of several of his favorite exhibitions including Mia Feuer’s “Totems of the Anthropocene”. The annual Rock Island Art Guild Exhibition features the work of local artists. In 2024 60 local pieces were selected for the exhibit. Another of Mr. Johnson’s favorites is a new exhibit titled “100 Years of Collecting”. Traces the Figge’s 100-year history and the evolution of the collection starting with Mr. Ficke’s original 334 piece collect to today more than 6,500 pieces include one or the nation’s largest and best collections of Haitian Arts, and outstanding Dutch Colonial, Decorative Art, Spanish Colonial, American Landscape, Deco Art, and Ceramic selections. The Figge is truly a local treasure, and we thank Josh Johnson for reminding us of the wonderful cultural resource located just across the river!

*Service Above
Self*

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*One Profits
Most Who
Serves Best*

Rotary

Club of Rock Island



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Jim Nordquist, Director

Program Chair 2025-26

Rebecca Arnold

Presenters

July:	Tom Hammar
August:	Erin Williams
September:	Dave Hodge
October:	Yolanda Pugh & Rebecca Arnold
November:	Rebecca Arnold
December:	Bob Swanson
January:	Gary Rowe
February:	Kai Swanson
March:	Yolanda Pugh & Rebecca Arnold
April:	Angela Campbell
May:	John Wetzel
June:	Tom Hammar

Club Notes & Announcements!

- ★ **WELCOME GUESTS** – Today we had four guests join us for lunch. Noa Smith our International Youth Exchange daughter joined us along with fellow Alleman students, Claire Menocnko and Julian Hoffman who are Jr. Rotarians this month. Dick Fislar a great friend of the club was our guest today. Booke Spaulding was a guest of Kathy Lelonek. We hope you enjoyed our meeting and will join us again in the future!
- ★ **SECOND ANNUAL ROTARY COOKIE EXCHANGE** – Last year was the first and it was fun and tasty! The date will be **December 16th**. Bring your favorite holiday cookies for everyone to try. Grab a plate and make your way through the long table, lined with colorful and delicious snacks, and sample the favorites of others! Whether you bake them or buy them we want to know (and taste) your personal favorite!
- ★ **A LAUGH FROM BUD** – “I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.”
- ★ **WE NEED GREETERS FOR OUR UPCOMING MEETINGS. Why haven't you signed up!!!** Greeting is a simple and rewarding opportunity. It is a fantastic way to serve our club and make members and guests feel welcome when they attend. It is a perfect way to get to know fellow members and make new friends. We encourage new members to volunteer to greet as soon as you can. That way we can get to know you!
- ★ **CALENDAR ITEMS:** Make sure these items are on your calendar!
 - Thursday, **November 13th** – Stringing lights for Winter Nights Winter Lights at Botanical Center from 5:30 to 7:30. Cocoa, hot cider, cookies afterwards!
 - Saturday, **November 15th** – Festival of Trees Set Up. Meet Sue Rector and Monta Ponsetto at the River Center in Davenport.
 - Friday, **November 21st**, 9-10am – Public Image Committee ZOOM Meeting. Use this link to join: <https://tinyurl.com/PublicImageMeeting>
 - Tuesday, **November 25th** Membership Growth Committee will meet briefly immediately after our Club Meeting. Look for Chair Sue Rector.
 - Saturday, **December 6th** - **Save the Date** – Rotary Holiday Party at Circa21. The show is the ever popular “White Christmas”. We will have a private Salon Party prior to the show.
- ★ **HAVE ITEMS FOR OUR NEWSLETTER?** – Send to, bobdebswanson@att.net. Our newsletter goes out via email every Tuesday afternoon.

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?

NOVEMBER ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS

Linda Barnes	November	3
Shaniece Payne	November	7
Kate Mapes	November	25

FOUNDATION MINUTE

The Rotary Club of Pagosa Springs has just received grants from The Rotary Foundation totaling \$160,000 to support science education at the high school level in Niger and Togo. The long-term goal of these projects is to prepare students for careers that require a solid foundation in science. These projects will improve the critical-thinking skills of all students and contribute to national wealth by increasing the scientific skills of the workforce. Niger and Togo are among the poorest countries in Africa. Nearly 50 percent of the population in Niger lives on about \$2 a day. The northern area of Togo, where this project will take place, has a similar poverty rate. Economic development in these countries requires a workforce trained in medicine, engineering, agriculture, and other science-based disciplines. Although biology, chemistry and physics are currently taught in the high schools, they focus on theory. Laboratory experiments as we know them are not available. Without lab experiments, students do not connect the theory with the application of science. Although these countries have a rigorous science curriculum, they have no lab manuals. They have no equipment or materials to perform experiments. The science teachers understand theory, but they have no experience with the application of science. These grants will provide lab manuals, supplies and teacher training in 15 schools in Niger and 23 schools in Togo. Approximately 140 science teachers will be trained to perform the experiments.

DISTRICT 6420 FOUNDATION DINNER

Registration Closes Sunday!

The 2025-2026 Rotary District Foundation Dinner with featured speaker Greg E. Podd, Trustee of The Rotary Foundation from Phoenix, Arizona will be held on November 19, 2025. Mr. Podd previously served as Rotary International's Vice President during the 2015-2016 Rotary year and as a Rotary International Director during



2014-2016. We are excited by this opportunity to hear a Rotary Foundation Trustee speak about our Rotary Foundation - they do not come to our District all that often. Spouses, partners, and friends you want to share Rotary with are invited to join you. During the dinner a number of Foundation-related awards will be announced and presented. Our Club has traditionally received some of the awards and we're hoping to "repeat"!

The event will be held at the McCormick Event Center at 205 East Third Street, Rock Falls, IL 61071. A cash bar will open at 5:30pm and the dinner will commence at 6:00pm. Cost is \$50 per person and must be paid via credit card in advance. **Registration closes on November 9th.** If you go, you won't be alone - several members of our Club will be there.

To register go to control/click on this link:

<https://www.crsadmin.com/eventportal/Registrations/PublicFill/EventPublicFill.aspx?evtid=c127ee07-4925-49c8-b0d4-df4effb2ee85>

TIME FOR ONE OF OUR MOST FUN SERVICE PROJECTS

The Botanical Center's Winter Nights Winter Lights display has become one of the favorite Quad City Holiday traditions. The annual display features over 225,000 glowing lights displaying the largest light display yet for 2025! To hang and place all those lights takes lots of work by many volunteers. Rock Island Rotary has participated many times and again will be stringing lights on Thursday evening from 5:30 to 7:30 on November 13th. Dress appropriately for working outdoors. Family members are welcome to assist so bring your spouse, parents, grandparents, and children old enough to help. You do not have to climb or lift anything heavy (unless you want to) or have any special talent. Botanical Center staff will be on the job to provide the lights and point out exactly where they need to be placed. Best of all, we'll cap off the evening with hot chocolate, hot apple cider, and cookies for all who help! Sign up next Tuesday!

COMMITTEE LOOKING FOR MEMBERS²! No Volunteers so far!!

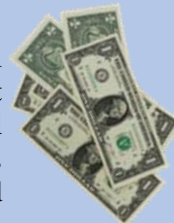
The **Membership Retention Committee** needs members! The purpose is to ensure we maintain contact with our members and stay abreast of their needs. Committee members will periodically check with Club members who have been unable to attend meetings regularly. We want to understand their individual situations and make sure they are okay and aware of opportunities to participate in Club activities outside the normal workday that might fit into their schedules. We also want to confirm they are receiving newsletters and other club communications. The goal is to keep members informed and involved in Rotary. All Club members can volunteer to join the committee and help. Work will primarily be done via telephone at your own pace from home, using attendance information provided by our Club Secretary. Please contact Bob Swanson at an upcoming Rotary meeting or at bobdebswanson@att.net to join.



ROTARY FOUNDATION RAFFLE



Today's raffle features a beautiful Angela Campbell fabric bowl complete with 3-dimensional fall leaves and squirrel, a 50/50 Cash drawing, and a bottle of fine Merlot wine. The first ticket drawn belonged to Frank Lambert and he took the money. The second winning ticket pulled was held by Mark Mayeski who took the Angela Campbell bowl. The final winning ticket was held by Alleman student who passed the ticket back to Bill Stengel who had purchased it, and he took home the Merlot. Thanks to everyone who played!



FINES & HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

Julie Gelaude was heartily welcomed and began things offering her own happy dollar for Minnesota's Vikings beating the Detroit Lions for the first time in the last six tries. Gary Rowe had a dollar fine for being quoted on KWQC-TV news regarding the Rock Island-Milan School Board. John Wetzel had five dollars, for failing to have his name badge, for missing the final minutes of the Bears game in which they went ahead, fell behind, and came back to win it in the final seconds, and celebrating his grandson Nicholas for a 32 ACT score and for submitting applications to several of the nation's leading Universities. Nice job Nick! Bud Phillis had a happy dollar for participating in the Rock Island High School Career Day last week. He said it was a "hoot!". Katie Resig had happy dollars for two upcoming events. The Project Now 2025 Community Resource Outreach on November 6th from 5:30 to 7:30pm. Resource materials will be available in the Project Now lobby. Also, the "Scouting for Food" drive is back with Boys and Girls Scouts collecting food for the needy. Jane Courtright and Jim Moran both paid fines for not having their name badges. Sue Rector had a very happy dollar for 3 beautiful Augustana Fabric rugs made for her by Angela Campbell. Geno DelPreore announced to upcoming dates for Literacy project book and stuffed toys giveaway where help is needed. November 12th 9am at Hillcrest Elementary in East Moline and November 24th at 3:30pm at the Rock Island Center for Math & Science. Please come help if you can! Thank you to everyone who shared your dollars and news!

HAVE YOU
SIGNED UP?

WHY

NOT?

Rotary  Club of
Rock Island presents...

ROTARY REINDEER RAMBLE 5K RUN/WALK

1:00 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7
Schwiebert Park, Rock Island
Entry \$30; Shirt guaranteed if registered by 11/21/25

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES!

Enjoy the 2nd Ave. Holiday Market, featuring a
reindeer exhibit, train rides, live music and more!



ROCK ISLAND COAT DRIVE EXPANDED AND UNDERWAY!

Project Chairman Steve Morenz announced today that our Coat drive has expanded in multiple way. First this year in addition to coats we are also asking for caps, gloves, scarfs, hoodies, and any other items considered “winter gear”. Second, we have added Earl Hanson Elementary school, who is seeking cold weather gear for their students, with an special emphasis on the older 5th and 6th grade students.

Today was the first drop off of items and we had a bank up day with lots of coats received from several members and one special guest (see Fislar story).

Bring items you no longer need to any Rotary meeting now through December 16th. Steve and Cindi will sort and equitably distribute items to the appropriate site. A volunteer is needed to take dropped off items to Earl Hanson School.



DICK FISLAR DOUBLES UP ON DONATIONS!

About a week ago we announce that Rock Island Rotary would again collect coats for Heart of Hope Ministries and Christian Care. Subsequently we added collecting children's sizes for Earl Hanson Elementary School. Also, about a week ago we received a wonderful letter from Barbara Lamb of Replenish, Inc., our partner in providing water filters to impoverished children in Kenya. Her letter reported on our most recent shipment of 10 more filters and told of how much they are appreciated and how they are changing lives of the children who now have access to safe, clean water for the first time in their lives. Mary Fislar was a former president of our Club and a long-time chairman of our membership committee. Mary is also credited with creating and developing the mentor concept and system for helping new Rotary members learn about and get involved in their Rotary club. Unfortunately, we lost Mary September 13, 2023. Her husband, Dick Fislar supported Mary's deep commitment to Rotary joined with Mary's sister, Marcy Bell, also a member of our Club in establishing a scholarship in Mary's honor. Dick also asked if he could continue to receive our weekly newsletter so he could stay abreast of Rotary Activities. Having seen our recent newsletters, today he visited us with two huge, heavy boxes containing forty of Mary's cold weather coats and a check for \$350 to purchase another water filter for our Kenya project. Thank you, Dick, for answering both of our calls for support. Mary would be so pleased!



Dick Gives Check to Pres. Olier, Past Pres. Tom Hammer looks on

RESERVE YOUR SEATS!

ROCK ISLAND ROTARY HOLIDAY PARTY 2025



**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 6th**

A Circa '21 family favorite returns in this Irving Berlin classic!

Two World War II vets, Bob Wallace and Phil Davis, have become partners in a song-and-dance act after the war.

Looking for love, they follow a duo of beautiful singing sisters to a gig at a lodge in Vermont, only to discover that the nearly-bankrupt lodge where they were hired to perform is owned by their former commanding general. The classic holiday movie is brought to life onstage, filled with dancing, laughter, and some of the greatest songs ever written. The score features beloved songs "Count Your Blessings Instead of Sheep", "Sisters", "How Deep is the Ocean", and the ageless title tune. This promises to be a merry and bright theatrical experience for all ages.

Tickets include a private pre-show Salon Party
with Complimentary Hors D'oeuvres and Cash Bar (4:45-5:45pm)
Buffet Dinner (5:45-7:00pm)
Bootleggers Warm-up Show (7:15pm)
White Christmas (7:30pm)

GROUP RATE

ONE ADMISSION \$65.90 – STUDENTS 18 AND UNDER \$47.65
TWO ADULT ADMISSIONS \$131.80

*Tax & Tip included (not including deserts & bar)

Circa Subscriber? Pay Just \$3.85 per person for gratuity

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**In Memory Of
Fred
Luckenbill**



Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING
Mark Mayeski – Rock Island



THANK YOU!

Rock Island Rotary



November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
DECEMBER Happenings For your calendar	December 6 Holiday Party at Circa 21 4:45 Salon Party 7:30 Show White Christmas	December 7 Rotary Reindeer Ramble Downtown Rock Island	December Salvation Army Bell Ringing Service Project	December 16 Cookie Exchange Start Planning to bring some of your favorites to share	Nov. and Dec. Action Winter Gear Collection for Heart of Hope, Christian Care & Earl Hanson	1
2	3	4 Election Day Noon Meeting Program: Josh Johnson Figgie Art Museum Festival of Trees mtg after	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Noon Meeting Program: Nathan Windt Saint Ambrose University	12	13 Botanical Center – Winter Lights decorating Service Project 5:30 – 7:30 pm	14	15 Festival of Trees set up at the River Center Service Project 9:00 AM
16	17 Rotary Board Meeting 11:45 am Studio 483 Conference Room	18 Noon Meeting Program: Anika O'Melia Rock Island Lines Member Growth Committee mtg. after	19 District 6420 Foundation Dinner	20 Birthday Books at EH at 2:15 pm	21 Public Image Committee mtg online 9:00 am	22
23/30	24	25 Noon Meeting Program: End Polio Now Sue Rector, Bud Phillis, and Patrick Dorherty	26	27  Happy Thanksgiving	28	29

Programs: Rebecca Arnold **Invocations: Kathy Trone**