

Rotary



WEEKLY REVIEW

UNITE FOR GOOD

Rotary Club of Rock Island

Rock Island, Illinois

Meeting Tuesdays at Noon – Quad City Botanical Center

April 7, 2026

Volume XXXIII, Issue 40

CHILDREN'S
AUTHOR
DANIELLE
SCOTT



APR - MAY PROGRAMS

- Apr 14 - Bert Blood Scholarships
- Apr 21 - Jim Shearouse – National Library Week
- Apr 28 - Rotary Awards Banquet
- May 5 - RIHS Entrepreneur Incubator Program
- May 12 - Fislar Scholarship & Club Foundation Grants Presentation
- May 19 - Houlton Scholarship & Jordan Earlyact Club
- May 26 - TBA

Danielle Scott became a Rock Island Rotarian in 2023 and became a published author of her first children's book in 2025. Danielle says she loves coffee almost as much as she loves stories! Inspired by her own furry friends, she writes adventures filled with courage and humor. Her first book, **Max the Great**, is big fun for little readers! Danielle and husband Shane live in Rapids City with children Olivia, David, and the real-life Max the Great! Pegasus Publishers say Danielle "... [is]an emerging author with a passion for storytelling and a deep love for animals. Drawing inspiration from her own experiences as a devoted pet owner, Danielle's writing captures the unique bond between humans and their furry companions. Her debut children's book, Max the Great, introduces young readers to the adventures of a courageous and loyal dog named Max, offering valuable life lessons about love, protection, and friendship. With a talent for creating heartwarming and relatable tales, Danielle is committed to crafting stories that resonate with readers of all ages. Always eager to hear from our fellow members, today Rotarians got to hear how and why Danielle, a Marketing Specialist for Vistex and Black Bear Marketing, entered the world of children's literature. She is not exactly a novice writer, having a University of Iowa degree in journalism and having previously published poems, But Max the Great was her first effort at authoring a book. She sought a publisher who would accept manuscripts directly from authors rather than requiring representation by an agent. She sent her draft of "Max" to four such publishers and three rather quickly offered to publish it. She selected Pagasis Publishers based in the United Kingdom based on their reputation and publishing success. She noted that once they agree to accept an author's work they handled all details, including giving Danielle several samples from graphic artist illustrators and allowed her to select which she wanted. She said there was no cost to her for getting the book published, but marketing is primarily the author's responsibility. They do place the finished product on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, to libraries in the author's home area, and at leading book stores. The author also can purchase copies at a reduced rate and personally sell them at book signing events. Danielle explained that the inspiration for her book was their Chihuahua mix, "Max" who she described as very small, very loud, and incredibly stubborn. She said he is probably the world's smallest "guard dog". He barks and runs at everything. She also said he is a stalker and is underfoot all the time. He chases cars, given the opportunity, peers through the yard fence and barks at everything he sees. She described his bark as shrill as a fire siren. When indoors he has a favorite perch where he looks out the window and barks at buses, people, deer, and anything else that catches his eye. She said one day after watching him charge at something and bark like crazy, she began wondering "What is he thinking". That gave her the idea that Max thinks of himself as the King and is constantly stalking, watching, and barking in keeping an eye on his domain. That blossomed into "Max, the Great. She didn't want to tip off the heart of the book, but hinted that the author would be guessing what monster Max is facing in defense of his realm. The book and Max sound like great fun and a super read for early readers. Want more, buy the book! Her second book, "Max Gets a Brother" is in the works! Thanks Danielle for sharing! Remember us when you are rich and famous!

Service Above
Self

Webpage www.rirotary.com FOLLOW US!

facebook <https://www.facebook.com/RockIslandRotary/>
Follow R. I. High Interact at https://linktr.ee/rocky_rotaryclub

One Profits
Most Who
Serves Best

Rotary



Club of Rock Island

P.O. Box 4514
Rock Island, IL 61204
www.rirotary.com

Officers

John Olinger, President
Amber Wood, 1st Vice Pres.
Julie Gelaude, 2nd Vice Pres.
Holly Sparkman, Secretary
Molly Shattuck, Treasurer
Sue Rector, Past President
Frank Lambert, Sgt at Arms
Bob Swanson, Sgt. at Arms

Directors

Kenda Burrows, Director
Carrie Crossen, Director
Geno DelPreore, Director
Jeff Dismer, Director
Rick Emery, Director
Forrest Meyer, Director
Jim Moran, Director
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 welcomed three guests, all students from Alleman High School. Jr. Rotarians joining us were Emily Polich and Nicole Magee. Our other guest was Noa Smith, our Rotary Youth Exchange daughter. We love meeting and getting to know our local students!
- ★ **MILLION DOLLAR MILESTONE UPDATE!** – With an offer of a two for one match by a generous anonymous donor our Club Foundation received a “shot in the arm” in soliciting pledges in the effort to build the Foundation assets to one million dollars. Going into the past week the fund sat at just a bit over \$950,000. With the donor’s match, every dollar equals three dollars. Every club member is urged to participate at whatever level fits their budget, no donation is too low, and none are too high! Donations to our Club Foundation are not spent, they are invested! The interest earned provides the funds for our Club Foundation grant.
- ★ **SAVE THE DATES!** - **Rotary at the Ball Park** – Friday, June 5th 6:30 Game Time. Tickets will be \$20 each which includes \$10 in Bandit Bucks for concessions! You, your family, friends, and guests are welcome. Baseball & Fireworks! Watch for ticket signup coming in May! **Rotary At The Backwater Gamblers** with a possible potluck picnic, Sunday, August 2nd. Watch for further details.
- ★ **THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE** will meet immediately after our club meeting on April 21st. Committee members plan to stay!
- ★ **SOME SAY KEVIN IS BIRDY!** – But in reality, he is just a dedicated Rotarian and once again is leading our Birdies for Charity campaign. All donations directed to Rock Island Rotary through Birdies will be donated to our Club Foundation and help us reach our Million Milestone Goal. The John Deere Charitable Foundation will match every donation with a 6-8% added bonus.
- ★ **April 28th, 2026** – Mark your calendar. Tuesday, April 28th is our Rotary Awards Luncheon featuring Keynote Speaker, David Heller, president and CEO of Main Street Baseball, LLC, and the award-winning majority owner and Managing Partner of four affiliated minor league baseball teams.
- ★ **A LAUGH FROM BUD** – I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words.
- ★ **HAVE ITEMS FOR OUR NEWSLETTER?** – Our newsletter goes out via email every Tuesday afternoon. Send to, bobdebswanson@att.net.

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?

APRIL ROTARY BIRTHDAYS

Katie Resig	April 6
Frank Perez	April 17
Mark Zimmerman	April 17
Rick Devinney	April 18
Rick Emery	April 26

DRIVERS NEEDED!

We are incredibly pleased to inform the club that Rock Island Rotary is sponsoring FOUR incredible young students for the 2026 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards camp held in Oregon, Illinois, May 8th through 10th. We need to provide transportation to and from the camp. It is a scenic, 90-minute drive up Route 2 along the Rock River to the LOMC - Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center. We will provide pickup and return driving directions. Our Youth Exchange Daughter, Noa Smith is one of the students and she will be joined by three student leaders from Rocky's Interact Club. Driving to the camp will require pick up at Rock Island High School at 2:30pm on Friday, May 8th, and delivery to the camp between 4 and 4:30pm on May 8th. Pickup will require meeting the students at the Camp on Sunday, May 10th at 12 noon and bringing them back to Rock Island High School where they will be picked up by parents. One driver can make both trips if desired or one can do delivery and another pickup. It is a wonderful way to serve and at the same time meet and get to know four future community leaders. If you can help, please notify Bob Swanson or Jeff Dismer as soon as possible!

FOUNDATION MINUTE

The report this week is from Etelka Lehoczy on the activities of Rotarians in improving sanitation in schools located in underdeveloped parts of the world. According to Lehoczy's report, members of the Rotaract club visited schools which faced water shortages and relied on contaminated water, resulting in high levels of diarrhea, dysentery, and other illnesses. There were no modern toilets, and girls didn't have private spaces for menstrual hygiene. The lack of water affected every aspect of the students' lives.

The wide-ranging impact of water access is highlighted on the United Nations' World Water Day, observed on 22 March. "Water bankruptcy is becoming a driver of fragility, displacement, and conflict," Tshilidzi Marwala, undersecretary-general of the UN, said in January. "Managing [water] fairly — ensuring that vulnerable communities are protected and that unavoidable losses are shared equitably — is now central to maintaining peace, stability, and social cohesion," Marwala said. More than 2 billion people around the globe lack clean, safe drinking water. Helping people gain access to clean water and sanitation is a top priority for Rotary, which includes the issue among its seven main causes. With a US\$57,000 Global Grant from The Rotary Foundation, members of the Rotaract clubs of Kumasi and Obuasi in Ghana brought clean water and sanitation facilities to eight schools in the Ashanti region. Their project installed around 80 microflush toilets and 10 urinals, constructed changing rooms for girls, and drilled borehole wells at two schools. Ghanaian Rotary and Rotaract clubs and Rotaract clubs in Turkey and the U.S. supported the initiative. It benefited more than 6,000 people. Other recent Rotary projects in Mexico, Kenya, and the Dominican Republic highlight the far-reaching impact of water accessibility.

Rotary International Foundation Raffle



Today the raffle featured a 50/50 cash drawing and a bottle of fine Pinot Noir wine. We were happy to welcome Ruth Lee who has been absent with severe back issues for several months and to honor her return invited her to pull our winners today. The first ticket pulled belonged to Alleman Jr. Rotarian Emily Polich, so she received the cash. In a perfectly honest and witnessed drawing Ruth pulled her own ticket and took home the wine! So it was fitting for her very welcome returned to Rock Island Rotary. Thanks to all who purchased tickets!



FINES - HAPPY/SAD DOLLARS

After two weeks of no fines, it was great to have 2nd V.P. Julie Gelaude back in the saddle and we enthusiastically gave her the customary 2nd VP greeting, which she loved! She shook the rust off quickly fined Rebecca Arnold and Andrea Talentino for recently being recognized by the Quad City Business Journal as two of the ten winners of the 3rd Annual Women of Influence Awards, which they Journal describes as an inspiring celebration of leadership, impact, and community. We're proud of both honorees and fellow Rotarians! Mark Mayeski was fined for Edward Jones recently being named as the No. 1 firm in the JD Power 2026 U.S. Investor Satisfaction Study for Advised Investors, ranking first among twenty-three financial services firms. Congratulations, Mark! Julie then put in her own \$5 fine for "miscellaneous infractions". We might want to investigate that further! Jim Moran had a happy dollar for Rotarians who brought pop cans and tabs today to help Jordan Earlyact raise money to donate to The Stead Children's Hospital in Iowa City. WE can bring cans each week through April. Gary Rowe had five happy dollars for his daughter being named Teacher of the Year and his grandson getting a job in the River Bandits ticket office. Luis Moreno had a happy dollar for being named a "Notable Alumni" by Sigma Lambda Beta Fraternity founded at the University of Iowa. Hannah Carr had a happy dollar celebrating Youth Hope purchasing a Davenport location and announced their 90th Anniversary Benefit Gala coming up on April 30th. She invited Rotarians to join her at her table for that event! The funny offer of the day came from Angela Campbell, who gave a sad dollar after we sang "Happy Birthday". It was pretty sad!!

Club Foundation Million Dollar Milestone Campaign PLEDGE TODAY!



Rock Island Rotary Club Foundation

Million Dollar Milestone Campaign

Supporting Rock Island-Based Service Projects
*Together, we are building a stronger Rock Island through local service,
leadership, and lasting impact.*

YES! I/We proudly support the Million Dollar Milestone Campaign.

Name(s): _____

Business (if applicable): _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

My/Our Commitment

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$2,500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |

Payment Method

- Check enclosed (payable to Rock Island Rotary Club Foundation)
- Please invoice me
- Credit Card

Card #: _____

Exp: _____ CVV: _____

Signature: _____



Use this QR code to make a one-time gift by credit card.

One-Time Gift

Two-Year Pledge (Paid Quarterly)
Total Pledge Amount: \$ _____
Quarterly Payment: \$ _____
(8 payments over 2 years)

Donate through **Birdies for Charity** which qualifies for bonus dollars

Other Pledge Arrangement (including using an **IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution, ACH Bank authorized transfer, or transfer of Appreciated Stock**)

Total Commitment: \$ _____

Recognition

- Please recognize this gift as: _____
- I/We prefer to remain anonymous

Thank you. Please return your form to Carrie Crossen or to the Sergeant at Arms or raffle table.

Your gift directly supports Rock Island-based service projects that will improve lives and strengthen our community for generations to come.

OUR ROCK ISLAND ROTARY CLUB SPONSORS!



In Memory Of
Fred
Luckenbill



Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING
Mark Mayeski – Rock Island



THANK YOU!

Rock Island Rotary



April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Save the Date – Rotary at the Ball Park June 5 Save the Date- Backwater Gamblers Aug. 2	Support the RI Rotary Club Foundation Million Dollar Milestone campaign	Save the date for the End Polio Now District Walk on Oct. 24	1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Noon Meeting Danielle Scott Childrens Book Author Awards Committee Mtg after	8	9	10 District 6420 Conference in Rockford	11 District 6420 Conference in Rockford
12	13	14 Noon Meeting Bert Blood Scholarships	15	16	17	18
19	20 Rotary Board Meeting Noon Studio 483 Conference Room	21 Noon Meeting Jim Sheargouse National Library Week Foundation Tuesday Membership Committee Mtg After	22	23 Birthday Books Earl Hanson 2:15 pm	24 Literacy Committee Mtg via Zoom 9 am	25
26	27	28 Noon Meeting Rotary Awards Banquet	29	30	Plan to attend May 5 for the Incubator Program Plan to attend May 12 for the Fislar Sch. and Club Foundation Grants	Plan to attend May 19 for the Houlton Sch. and Jordan EarlyAct Club

Programs: Angela Campbell Invocations: Hannah Carr