



CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD  
CLUB PRESIDENT  
RANDY NEFF



# THE GREEN LIGHT

THE ROTARY CLUB OF PEORIA - Club 3238  
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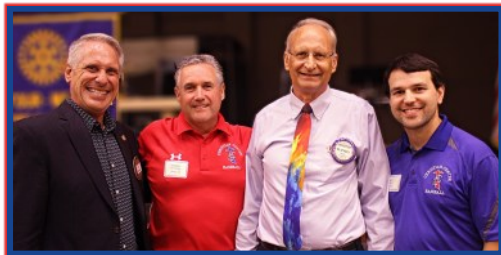
CHARTERED 1913  
CLUB NO. 76

**Weekly Meeting at First United Methodist Church**  
**Friday, September 29, 2023 at 12:00 PM**  
**Speaker: Shelley Epstein**  
**Topic: Are Newspapers Dying?**

Can't make it to the In-Person Meeting? [CLICK HERE TO JOIN VIA ZOOM](#)  
Meeting ID: 897 6608 1791 Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799

Two of the executives of Peoria's Christian Center spoke to Peoria Rotarians about how their take on youth sports differs from that of many others.

Chad Bailey and Joseph Monahan of the Christian Center told Rotarians that all their sports programs start at age five and go up to age 18.



Pictured Left to Right: Bill Winkler, Chad Bailey, Randy Neff & Joseph Monahan

These are programs which teach sportsmanship and a love of the game, rather than having a sole goal of winning. In that way, the Christian Center's programs are unique. If kids just want to play and have fun, there are few other outlets available at the High School level.



The Christian Center -using a variety of venues - has some 21-hundred kids involved in non-denominational leagues in bowling, soccer, baseball, and softball throughout the year.

Bailey and Monahan say they currently have a record number of about 570 kids playing soccer at Bethany Baptist Church this year.



The Christian Center program's alumni list includes two former world champions in their respective sports: Ben Zobrist of the Chicago Cubs and Shaun Livingston of the Golden State Warriors. Both players returned to Central Illinois to raise money for the Christian Center.



Bailey and Monahan say the emphasis is on sportsmanship. "We believe that sports are a tool that teach life and faith lessons. We believe that sports are a microcosm of life if you really think about it. We try to be process driven and not results driven."

## 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?

Rotary



Rotary  
Club of Peoria



CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD

## ROTARY ACTION PLAN - VISION

**"Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves"**

Rotary Club of Peoria 2023-2024



## Hult Center - Lobster Boil - Event

Rotary Club of Peoria VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY Hult Center for healthy living WTVP PBS



LOBSTER BOIL - Butter 'em up on the Riverfront  
OCTOBER 7, 2023 | 5:30 PM - 9 PM | WTVP Studio - Peoria

Proceeds from this year's Lobster Boil will benefit WTVP PBS children's programming and the Hult Center for Healthy Living.

The Hult Center is looking for volunteers to help with this year's Lobster Boil. Further details about the volunteer positions will be available ASAP. If you would like to volunteer, please use the link provided in the Green Light to sign-up. A sign-up sheet will be available at weekly meetings or email [infodowntown@peoriarotary.org](mailto:infodowntown@peoriarotary.org) to be added to list.

## Midwest Food Bank



Midwest Food Bank is looking for volunteers to help label and/or package bulk food items so they can be readied for distribution to our food pantries.

Date: Thursday November 2nd, 2023  
Time: 1:00pm - 3:00pm

If you would like to volunteer, please [click here to sign-up](#).

A sign-up sheet will be available at weekly meetings or email [infodowntown@peoriarotary.org](mailto:infodowntown@peoriarotary.org) to be added to list.

## Goodwill Stand Down For Homeless Veterans

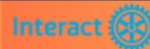
Rotary Club of Peoria VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY Goodwill Stand Down for Homeless Veterans

The Rotary Club of Peoria has been involved with the Goodwill Stand Down for Homeless Veterans for 15 years!! This year's annual event will be held at Goodwill Commons - 2319 E. War Memorial Dr on Saturday, October 14th. Volunteers are needed to help between 9AM - 1PM.

If you would like to volunteer, a sign-up sheet will be available at the weekly meetings. You can also email the office [infodowntown@peoriarotary.org](mailto:infodowntown@peoriarotary.org) to be added to list. Please be sure to include your up-to-date phone & email. Goodwill will contact you about timeslots.

## Illini Bluffs Interact Club Supply Drive

# SUPPLY DRIVE



THE ILLINI BLUFFS HIGH SCHOOL INTERACT CLUB IS COLLECTING SUPPLIES FOR THE PEORIA RONALD McDONALD HOUSE 9/18 THROUGH 10/13. PLEASE DONATE TRAVEL-SIZE TOILETRIES, CLEANING SUPPLIES, AND PAPER GOODS IN ONE OF OUR BLUE DONATION BOXES. SCAN THE QR CODE TO SEE OUR AMAZON WISHLIST!



## 2023 District 6460 Conference / Rotary Foundation Dinner



## Wildlife Prairie Park Cougar Platform Build

Rotary Club of Peoria VOLUNTEER PROJECT COUGAR PLATFORM BUILD Wildlife Prairie Park

Several volunteers are needed to help with prep work and building a multi-level platform for the cougars at Wildlife Prairie Park.

Date: Wed, October 18th | Prep Work at C.T. Gabbert Const. | Time: TBD

Date: Sat, October 21st | Build Platform at Wildlife Prairie Park 3826 N Taylor Rd, Hanna City, IL 61536 | Time: TBD

If you would like to volunteer, please use the links provided in the Green Light to sign-up. Sign-up sheets will be available at weekly meetings or email [infodowntown@peoriarotary.org](mailto:infodowntown@peoriarotary.org) to be added to list.

## Holiday Social

### Rotary Club Holiday Social

Date: Thursday, December 7th, 2023  
Location: Tin Lizard Bar & Grill - East Peoria  
Time: 6:00pm - 8:00pm | \*PLEASE JOIN US\*  
Cost: Members Free | Guests: \$15.00

If you plan to attend, please RSVP by clicking here or emailing ([infodowntown@peoriarotary.org](mailto:infodowntown@peoriarotary.org)) We will also have a Sign-up sheet available at weekly meetings

All RSVP's must be received by noon, Friday, December 1st, 2023

Rotary SERVICE Above Self

## Upcoming Meetings

SEPTEMBER 29th - Meeting at First United Methodist Church  
Speaker: **Shelley Epstein**  
Topic: **Are Newspapers Dying?**  
Greeter: **Debbie Sippel**  
Inspiration/Reflection: **Edie Barnard**  
Attendance Prize: **Edie Barnard**  
Meeting Tech: **Austin Locke**

OCTOBER 6th - Meeting at First United Methodist Church  
Speaker: **Brad Chandler**  
Topic: **How NIL and the Transfer Portal are changing the college game**  
Greeters: **John Kelly & Pam Cain**  
Inspiration/Reflection: **Susie Stockman**  
Attendance Prize: **Jana' Stevens**  
Meeting Tech: **Maggie Freidag**

OCTOBER 13th - Meeting at First United Methodist Church  
Speaker: **John Wieland**  
Topic: **Uncommon Threads**  
Greeters: **Pam Cain & Katherine Coyle**  
Inspiration/Reflection: **John Kelly**  
Attendance Prize: **Pam Cain**  
Meeting Tech: **Brad Stegall**

## Every Rotarian Every Year

### EVERY ROTARIAN, EVERY YEAR

Did you know that donors who gave \$25-\$50 contributed more than \$5.1 million to the Foundation in 2020-21? When every Rotarian gives every year, it makes life-changing, sustainable projects possible.

Also in 2020-21:

- \$139 million was given to the Annual Fund.
- 34% of Rotarians donated to the Annual Fund.
- 82% of Rotary clubs supported the Annual Fund.
- 2,066 global grants were awarded.



## Foundation Minute



### FOUNDATION MINUTE - ROTARY PEACE FELLOWS



Each year, Rotary awards up to 130 fully funded fellowships for dedicated leaders from around the world to study at one of our peace centers. Through academic training, practice, and global networking opportunities, the Rotary Peace Centers program develops the capacity of peace and development professionals or practitioners to become experienced and effective catalysts for peace. The fellowships cover tuition and fees, room and board, round-trip transportation, and all internship and field-study expenses.

Since the program began in 2002, the Rotary Peace Centers have trained more than 1,600 fellows who now work in more than 115 countries. Many serve as leaders in governments, Nongovernment Organizations (NGOs), the military, education, law enforcement, and international organizations like the United Nations and the World Bank. The Rotary Peace Fellowship is designed for leaders with work experience in peace and development. Our fellows are committed to community and international service and the pursuit of peace. Each year, The Rotary Foundation awards up to 50 fellowships for master's degrees and 80 for certificate studies at premier universities.

Candidates for the Peace Fellows Program are often referred by Rotary Clubs whose members are familiar with young adults interested in pursuing Peace studies. Many are Returning Peace Corps Volunteers (RCPV), or others pursuing a career in public service. Are there future Peacemakers among your friends and acquaintances in your community?

## Rotary Club T-Shirts

THE NEW ROTARY CLUB OF PEORIA T-SHIRTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR \$15.00! WE HAVE SEVERAL DIFFERENT SIZES - IF YOU DON'T HAVE A ROTARY T-SHIRT - STOP BY THE CHECK-IN TABLE AND PICK ONE UP.



We welcome you to join us at an upcoming Rotary Club of Peoria meeting to see what it's all about.

To learn more about The Rotary Club of Peoria and becoming a member, click the Rotary Membership Image

If you have any questions email [infodowntown@peoriarotary.org](mailto:infodowntown@peoriarotary.org)



## Every Rotarian Every Year Fundraiser

Between now and the end of the December, we are taking donations for raffle prizes for the EREY Fundraiser.

Prizes should be at least a \$25 value.

Raffle tickets will be \$25/each and will go on sale in December.

You can enter your raffle ticket in the prizes all of January.

Winners announced February 2nd.

If you would like to donate any items for the raffle, please contact:

Emily Jacob-Rudesill

[emilyj@fosterjacob.com](mailto:emilyj@fosterjacob.com)

*There will be a donation sign-up sheet available at the weekly meetings .*

(Previously published in the Sept. 3, 2021 edition of the Green Light)

**So You Thought You Knew George Ghareeb (in 200 words or less)**  
by Edie Barnard

When his studies were continually interrupted by bombing in the 1975 war, George Ghareeb decided it was time to leave his native Lebanon to study overseas. He recalls waiting at the embassy at 4 a.m. to get a visa to study at Bradley University in Peoria, of which he had never heard. Thirty-five years later, Peoria is still home except for a six-year stint that allowed him to see the world from a different perspective. He worked for a top five engineering firm in the world and practiced engineering in many countries including Egypt, Lebanon, Italy, London, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Dubai. He came back to Peoria to manage the I-74 project reconstruction. With a master of science in civil engineering, George serves on the national board for the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois, the Bradley University Civil Engineering diversity board, and the City of Peoria Planning and Zoning Commission.

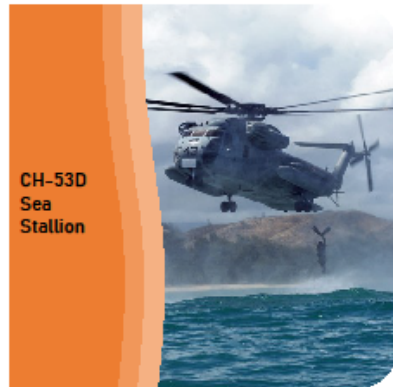


He also belongs to the Gentlemen's Cigar Club of Peoria (see pic). A speaker of English, Arabic and French, he is an adjunct professor at Bradley. He is married to Diana (see pics and ask how they met!), and they have three children: Allen, James, and Christelle (see pic).

He shares a story of traveling to Beirut with his family in 2006:



"Fighting erupted between Lebanon and Israel. We quickly moved north to Byblos. From there I arranged to go to the U.S. embassy to be evacuated. When we were making our way to the Marine chopper, we saw that it was carrying reporters from all over the world, including Anderson Cooper, who interviewed my kids. During a stop in Baltimore, they were again interviewed by WGN, CNN, ABC and NBC. Overall a very interesting and crazy experience flying in an armed Sea Stallion marine helicopter."



CH-53D  
Sea  
Stallion

### Club Officers

President - Randy Neff  
President-Elect - Jana' Stevens  
Secretary - Caitlin Behrends  
Treasurer- Gina Driscoll  
Immediate Past President - Tom McIntyre

### Board Members

Robert Brandfass  
Melissa Entzminger  
Charlie Greer  
Emily Jacob-Rudesill  
Jason Parkinson  
Cedric Volkmer

### Contact Us

Melissa Brewer  
Executive Secretary  
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Rotary Club of Peoria, IL



Rotary



Photo Courtesy of the Journal Star