



## Rotary Club 99: Tuesday, September 17, 2024

11:30 AM Buffet Opens | 12:00 PM Meeting Begins  
Great Hall, Clinton Center

### Little Rotary Fight Litter Campaign: Produced by Capi Peck

As with all urban areas, Little Rock experiences litter, trash and graffiti problems that impact how residents and visitors experience our city. This neglect has become an aesthetic, environmental, social and economic issue. Join Club 99er **Capi Peck**, Executive Chef and owner of Trio's restaurant and long-time member of the Little Rock Board of Directors, as she discusses the Little Rock Fight Litter Campaign with **Rex Nelson**, Senior Editor and columnist at the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. Club 99er **Michael Bynum**, **Suzanne Hirrel** retired from the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, and **Lennie Massanelli** City of Little Rock Sustainability Officer.



**Michael Bynum** is a Little Rock attorney, community advocate, and proud member of Club 99. He advocates for Little Rock issues including infrastructure, city beautification, public safety, and childcare access.

Michael has served in numerous roles for public sector agencies, including attorney, advisor, director of operations, and budget analyst. He has also worked in the information technology sector for a Fortune 500 company and served on numerous advisory and nonprofit boards.

Michael has served the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center as a member of its Trailblazers Awards selection committee and as finance chair for the MTCC advisory board that led the initiative to renovate its world-class exhibits. He has served as chairman of the board for the Gertrude Remmel Butler United Methodist Child Development Center, treasurer for the Arkansas Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program Foundation, and a guest writer for the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette.

Michael earned his law degree from the UALR William H. Bowen School of Law, his Master of Public Administration from the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville, and a bachelor's degree in public administration from the University of Central Arkansas, where he completed internships with U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln and Representative Vic Snyder.

Michael lives in Little Rock with his wife Elizabeth and sons James and Samuel.

**Suzanne Hirrel** retired from the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service after a 30+ year career. She served as a County Agriculture 4-H Agent and an Environmental Specialist.

She is a founding member of Keep Little Rock Beautiful, an affiliate of Keep Arkansas Beautiful and Keep America Beautiful. Suzanne serves as the Litter Prevention Co-Chair. KLRB sponsors many community litter and trash clean-ups, working with neighborhood groups, volunteers and sponsors to protect our environment and improve the quality of life for everyone in Little Rock.

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Her hobbies include hiking, canoeing, gardening, volunteering and picking up litter.

**Lennie Massanelli** began her work with the City of Little Rock in October 2019, but has championed sustainability efforts in central Arkansas for over 30 years. With a Bachelor of Arts degree in science museum education from Baylor University, Lennie spent over 15 years designing programs and teaching a variety of environmental topics to students and adults in a museum setting. In her city government role as Sustainability Officer, she continues to provide education and outreach, but also affects policy and provides leadership to address energy use, resource conservation, waste management and other operations that directly impact Little Rock's environmental footprint. One of Lennie's favorite aspects of her work in the Sustainability Office is forming collaborative partnerships with organizations and businesses for greater environmental awareness and more equitable and inclusive communities.

**Rex Nelson** is one of the most high-profile writers and speakers in the state. As senior editor of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, he writes three columns a week and essays for the cover of the newspaper's Sunday Perspective section. He's the author of three books -- the first full-length biography of Hillary Rodham Clinton, a biography of Arkansas educator Ben Elrod and a collection of his essays on Arkansas. He's also the author of a popular blog known as Rex Nelson's Southern Fried, hosts the Southern Fried podcast and makes regular television and radio appearances. Nelson served for almost a decade as the policy and communications director for Gov. Mike Huckabee and then served for four years in the administration of President George W. Bush as one of the president's two appointees to the Delta Regional Authority. He has been inducted into the Arkansas Sportscasters and Sportswriters Hall of Fame. In 2016, Gov. Asa Hutchinson and the Arkansas Rural Development Commission named Nelson as its Rural Advocate of the Year for the state of Arkansas.

**Capi Peck** is a Little Rock native with hospitality roots. She and her partner, Brent, opened the popular Trio's Restaurant in 1986. She is a long-time community advocate and is involved in many civic and charitable organizations. She is most passionate about her work with the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance and has been a volunteer there for 18 years.

Capi was elected to the Little Board of Directors as the Ward 4 representative in 2016 and is currently serving her second term. She will serve a third term as she recently drew no opposition. She is the city board liaison to LR Parks & Recreation, Little Rock Sustainability Commission and the LR Airport Commission. She is a proud member of Rotary 99 and has received the Paul Harris recognition twice for her work and advocacy in the community. In December 2018, Capi was the Grand Honoree recipient of the Tikkun Olam award presented by the Jewish Federation of Arkansas. Tikkun Olam is Hebrew for repair the world.

Capi served on Little Rock's Advertising and Promotion Commission for 12 years and co-chaired the Restore Robinson campaign. She is past president of the Arkansas Restaurant Association. She was appointed by Governor Mike Beebe to serve on the Public Health Advisory Board for 8 years.

In 2022, Capi and her partner, Brent were inducted into the Arkansas Food Hall of Fame as Proprietors of the Year.

## Zoom Login for September 17, 2024

### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83655350328?pwd=uQIFjINqjM8YHyLBAy9U4tlcypLHYD.1>

Meeting ID: 836 5535 0328

Passcode: 402351

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### One tap mobile

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+13052241968,,83655350328#,,,,\*402351# US

## Special Events and Meetings

### Affinity Group: Women of Rotary

Date: Friday, September 27, 2024

Host: Kim Kirkman

Time: 8:15 - 9:00 AM

Location: Zoom

### Club 99 Happy Hour!

Mark Your Calendars - details coming soon

Date: Tuesday, October 1, 2024

Time: 4:30 - 6:30 PM

Location: ASO Stella Boyle Smith Music Center

### Camp Aldersgate Fish Fry - Volunteers Wanted - Tickets Available

Mark your calendars for the Annual Camp Aldersgate Fish Fry

Date: October 13, 2024

Time: 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Location: 2000 Camp Aldersgate Road

Volunteers Wanted

3 hour shifts or all day 10:30 AM - 3:30 PM

Sign up [here](#)

Tickets available [here](#)

## Upcoming Programs

### September 2024

#### 17 Little Rock Fight Litter Campaign

##### Produced by Capi Peck

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#### 24 Six Bridges Book Festival - Author Event

##### In-meeting service project with CALS

##### Produced by Nate Coulter

*Books have an incredible power to unite us, to connect our diverse experiences, and to ignite our imaginations. The Six Bridges Book Festival is more than a gathering of authors and readers; it's a celebration of our shared love for stories and the communities they create.* This quote by **Joyce Elliot**, State Senator and 2024 Six Bridges Book Festival Chairperson, sums up the importance of this annual book festival to the rich experience of living in and visiting Little Rock. Join us as we host **Ayana Gray**, *New York Times* bestselling author, Pulaski Academy grad and Little Rock resident, as this year's Club 99 hosted author. Ayana's books will be available for purchase after the event.

#### October 1 The Venture Center Overview and Updates Panel Discussion

The Venture Center is an entrepreneur support organization (ESO) that helps startups become viable, high-growth businesses. By leveraging the expertise of a world-class team of mentors, intensive programming, and introductions to the investor community, the Venture Center serves as an engine for economic growth in Central Arkansas and beyond. Join us as **Arthur Orduna** (Executive Director) and **Daniel Schutte** (VP, Strategic Partnership Programs) discuss the Venture Center's role in promoting entrepreneurship as an economic development driver through programs such as its upcoming Arkansas Banking Solutions Accelerator. This initiative, in partnership with the Arkansas Bankers Association, is designed to significantly boost financial innovation in the state and position Arkansas as a leader in the global banking industry.

#### October 8 Artificial Intelligence (AI) with Congressman French Hill

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is one of the hottest topics in news and conversation around the country today. **Rep. French Hill** will come to discuss AI and his leadership in Congress on AI as the Chairman of the House Financial Services Subcommittee on Digital Assets and Financial Technology, Co-Chair of the Committee's AI Working Group, and appointment by Speaker Mike Johnson to the AI Task Force in the House of Representatives. The potential impacts of AI on all parts of our society are enormous, but the level of understanding of AI's possibilities is full of naïveté, from business leaders, ordinary Americans, and policymakers. In his talk, Rep. Hill will lay out his guiding principles on AI, what policymakers are doing on AI today, and what he envisions the future of AI might look like.

#### October 15 Winthrop Rockefeller: From New Yorker to Arkansawyer with author John Kirk

Winthrop Rockefeller looms larger than life in the modern history of Arkansas. Join us as **John Kirk**, George W. Donaghey Distinguished Professor of History at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, discusses his award-winning biography *Winthrop Rockefeller: From New Yorker to Arkansawyer, 1912-1956*. Kirk's book has been awarded the 2024 Booker Worthen Literary Prize from the Central Arkansas Library System and the J.G. Ragsdale Award, given annually by the Arkansas Historical Association for the best book on Arkansas history.

#### October 22 Event Pending Final Confirmation

#### October 29 Election 2024: Panel Discussion

##### Produced by Jay Barth

Election Day is just around the corner and this year is shaping up to be one of the more interesting and intense elections in recent memory. From the race for President to a local tax initiative and local leadership roles on the ballot, our Election Panel (**Roby Brock**, **Jay Barth**, **Rex Nelson** and **Robert Coon**) will help us make sense of the choices we face and will make some predictions about possible outcomes on November 5th.

## Club Leaders



[Jason Chacko](#)  
President



[Mtc Bettis](#)  
President-Elect



[Molly McNulty](#)  
President-Nominee



[Natalie Ghidotti](#)  
iPast President



[Drew Harper](#)  
Treasurer



[Greg McCarroll](#)  
Treasurer-Elect



[Amy Meins](#)  
Secretary



[Rachel O'Neal](#)  
Sergeant-at-Arms



[Juli Brandenberger](#)  
Club Director



[Nate Coulter](#)  
Club Director



[Becky Finney](#)  
Club Director



[Lena Hayes](#)  
Club Director



[Tanya James](#)  
Club Director



[Viji Kuruvilla](#)  
Club Director



[John Monroe](#)  
Club Director



[Kevin Newton](#)  
Club Director



[Wendy Wood](#)  
Club Director



[Ross Burnett](#)  
Membership Chair



[Chris Mangum](#)  
Club Programs Chair



[Jamie Higgins](#)  
International Service Chair



[Dan Parker](#)  
Club Service Chair

