



Rotary
Little Rock



Rotary Club 99: Tuesday, April 9, 2024

11:30 a.m. Buffet Opens | 12 p.m. Program Begins
Great Hall, Clinton Center

Midtown Little Rock Economic Development Update

It's no secret that Little Rock's midtown has faced its share of challenges in the last few years. From the tornado that ripped through the area last year to the foreclosure sale of Park Plaza Mall in the heart of the area and an uptick in crime that damaged its reputation. But thanks to city leaders, a new owner for Park Plaza and a lot of effort, the area has made great strides in growth, security and rebirth. **Capi Peck**, city director and owner of Trio's, will moderate a panel of midtowners next week that includes **Howard Levine** of Second Horizon Capital, which purchased Park Plaza one year ago, Vice-Mayor and Ward 3 City Director **Kathy Webb**, and commercial real estate expert **Jessica Flake Dearnley**, CEO of Flake & Company which owns Pavilion in the Park.



Capi Peck grew up in Little Rock attending Forest Park Elementary, Pulaski Heights Junior High and Hall High School. She earned a degree from Louisiana State University. She and her partner, Brent, opened Trio's Restaurant in 1986. In addition to operating a successful award-winning restaurant, she is a community advocate and is involved in many civic organizations. Capi served on the Little Rock Advertising and Promotion Commission, the governing body of the Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau, as a restaurant industry representative for 12 years. She co-chaired the successful Restore Robinson Campaign and served as chair of the A & P Commission during her last year. She is a past president of the Arkansas Restaurant Association and received the Salut Au Restaurateur Award from the Arkansas Hospitality Association in 2012. Capi and Brent were inducted into the Arkansas Food Hall of Fame in 2022. She also served on the Arkansas Public Health Advisory Board for eight years. Capi was first elected to the Little Rock City Board of Directors in 2016 and was re-elected in 2020. She plans to run for a third term this year. She is involved in a number of community and charitable organizations, her favorite being The Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance. In 2023, Capi received the first annual Capi Peck Acting Out Against Hunger Award, presented by The Alliance. She received the prestigious Tikkun Olam award from the Jewish Federation of Arkansas in 2018. Tikkun Olam means repairing of the world. She is a member of Congregation Bâ'Nai Israel and has been awarded two Rotary International Paul Harris Fellows. In July 2023, Capi received the Friend of the Community Award from Arkansas Stonewall Democrats. She was voted Best City Director by the readers of the *Arkansas Times* in 2022 and 2023. In her role as city director, Capi serves as board liaison to the following city boards and commissions: Airport Commission, Sustainability Commission and Parks & Recreation Commission.

Howard Levine co-founded Second Horizon Capital, an impact-focused real estate company, in 2021 to help drive meaningful and sustainable change for communities by transforming challenged commercial real estate assets into vital hubs for economic and cultural activity. Throughout his career in investment management, capital markets, and social impact, Howard has focused on building long-term value for each project and forging close and long-term partnerships with communities and stakeholders. Prior to forming Second Horizon Capital, Howard served as a Managing Director in Bank of America's Global Credit and Special Situations practice, where he specialized in investing in financially challenged businesses and restructuring troubled assets. During his 11-year tenure at Bank of America, Howard focused on investing in commercial real estate across a broad range of asset types, including retail and mixed-use center assets and operators across the United States. Howard's earlier career was as an investment banker providing mergers and acquisitions advisory services at Sagent Advisors (now DC Advisory) and Citigroup Global Markets. A passionate advocate for entrepreneurship, Howard co-founded The Resolution Project, a global social entrepreneurship organization, in 2007. Resolution has helped 600-plus undergraduates start

Entrepreneurship, Rotarians continue to embrace the Rotaract™ project, a global social entrepreneurship organization, in 2021 Rotaract has helped over 100 pre-arranged start-ups, almost 400 socially responsible for-profit and not-for-profit enterprises in more than 80 countries around the world and in more than 20 states across the U.S.

Kathy Webb currently serves as Vice-Mayor of Little Rock. She was elected to the Little Rock City Board of Directors in 2014 and was re-elected in 2018 and 2022, representing Ward 3 in Midtown. Kathy recently retired as the Chief Executive Officer of the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, the statewide umbrella organization for Feeding America food banks, food pantries and agencies, and hunger activists, the lead partner for the AR No Kid Hungry Campaign, and the education and advocacy clearinghouse on hunger issues in Arkansas. Previously, she represented District 37 in the Arkansas House of Representatives, comprised of much of Midtown Little Rock. She served as co-chair of the Joint Budget Committee, the first woman in Arkansas history to hold that position. Kathy is also the first openly LGBTQ person to run for and be elected to political office in Arkansas. In 2007, she received the Rising Champion Award from Arkansas Kids Count Coalition, followed by the Champion Award in 2009, 2010 Elected Public Official of the Year from the Arkansas Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers, Imagine Justice Award from the Black Methodists for Social Renewal and the Steel-Millar Award from Hendrix College for Religion and Social Awareness. In 2011, Kathy received the First Branch Award from the Arkansas Judicial Council, the Humanitarian of the Year Award from JCA (formerly NCCJ), and the Mental Health Council of Arkansas Legislator of the Year. She became CEO of the Alliance in 2012. Long active in the fight against hunger, Kathy founded the AR Legislative Hunger Caucus in 2007, organized the first Serving Up Solutions in 2008, and served on the Alliance Board prior to being selected as CEO. In 2013, she received the National Advocate of the Year Leadership Award from Share Our Strength. The competitive award was given to Kathy based on her tireless efforts on Share Our Strength's behalf, in the fight to end childhood hunger. She also received the Brownie Ledbetter Civic Engagement Award from the Women's Foundation of Arkansas in 2013. As part of her work as a City Director, she serves as the liaison to the Little Rock Zoo, the Commission on Children, Youth, and Families, and the Age-Friendly Commission. She currently chairs the Mayor's Food Desert Task Force and has served on the state level under former Gov. Asa Hutchinson on the Commission on Women and the Food Desert Working Group.

Jessica Flake Dearnley is CEO of Flake & Company commercial real estate as well as a Chartered Financial Analyst, Certified Public Accountant, and Certified Commercial Investment Member. She holds broker licenses in Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri and Texas. With more than 20 years in commercial real estate, Jessica has experience in both landlord and tenant representation in office, medical and retail properties. As a former credit analyst and lifelong real estate investor, she focuses on maximizing cash flow from properties and is considerate of asset and property management fees. Jessica has worked with several special servicers for securitized debt, such as LNR Partners, LLC; C-III Capital Partners; and CW Capital. She has completed three master's degrees to supplement the knowledge base that she uses in her work. She holds an MBA from University of Miami, a Masters in Accountancy from University of Arkansas, and a Masters in Finance from Johns Hopkins University. Her undergraduate degree(s) are in Cognitive Psychology and Creative Writing with a French minor from Carnegie Mellon University. Jessica began her career in New York City, then moved to Chicago and later Miami. She began her career in media, but later entered private wealth management at Bessemer Trust. She returned to Arkansas in 2003, when she and her husband started their family, having two daughters, Celeste and Allison, and son Colin.

Zoom Login for April 9, 2024

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85436205185?pwd=bnFiMjVqN0Q2VmJtjOWVYbVBqQUNXZz09>

Meeting ID: 854 3620 5185
Passcode: 458999

One tap mobile
+13052241968,,85436205185#,,,*,458999# US
+13092053325,,85436205185#,,,*,458999# US

This Week at Club 99

Sunken Treasure: Titanic Artifact Expert Andrew Aldridge

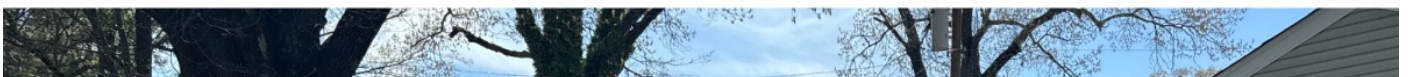
What a treat we had this week with Titanic artifact expert **Andrew Aldridge** and Club 99er **Billy Roehrenbeck** speaking on all things Titanic collecting! Fans of history, disaster movies and collecting in general were entertained with the fascinating stories of Titanic artifacts that have been collected by enthusiasts around the world. Billy even brought several pieces from his collection, including the keys that unlocked the real Titanic gate that was featured in a pivotal moment in the movie, Titanic, with Leonardo DaCaprio and Kate Winslet. Andrew also shared an amazing story of his most valuable artifact that he sold to a collector - the violin that was played by Titanic band leader Wallace Henry Hartley when the ship went down. Watch the full meeting [here](#).





Welcome Home, Ms. Mae!

Thanks to all our members and especially **Don Cole**, aka Club 99 Grillmaster, who participated in the recent dedication of Ms Mae Bally's home built by **Habitat for Humanity** volunteers. About 15 Club 99ers spent a recent Saturday morning painting and landscaping the outside of the home to get it ready for Ms Mae's move-in day. We were thrilled to get to celebrate with other Habitat volunteers, Ms Mae's friends and family and the Habitat staff, including Club 99er and Executive Director **Kelly Fleming**.





Welcome New Members

Club 99 welcomed **Tanner Mezel**, sponsored by Matt McClendon, as our newest member. Welcome to the fun, Tanner!





Members Caught Having Fun This Week





The 5th Test: Is It Fun?

President Ghidotti's™ Power of Fun Tip

As we've been learning from our study of The Power of Fun together, fun can come in all shapes and sizes for all of us. What we think is fun and what creates those real moments of joy for each of us is different.

With this week's program and a really fun member video, I spent some time thinking about the art of collecting ... collecting is a huge pastime for many and there are thousands upon thousands of things people collect. In Club 99 alone, we have a ton of collections – guitars, campaign pins, cigars, concert ticket stubs, ice cube molds, bank trucker hats,

holiday ties, board games, magazines and more!

Iâ€™ve been a collector of some pretty random things in my life â€“ rocks when I was young (like those boxes of glassy ones you buy at a roadside souvenir shop), beads (in college, I went through a phase where I collected beads that I was going to make into jewelry - donâ€™t ask!), snack trays from the '50s that I used for the many wedding and baby showers I hosted during my 20s and 30s, and even beanie babies (but not your average beanie babies.) I collected the Disney ones that you had to go hunt for in random Disney stores and at the parks. And in recent years, with my daughter, we have collected Disney pins that we traded with other collectors and cast members when we go to the parks.

For me the fun part of collecting things was the thrill of the hunt and creating my own mini-adventure â€“ oftentimes with friends or siblings who were on the same hunt â€“ to see what we could find. Collecting things can definitely create a TRUE FUN moment. Itâ€™s about Connection â€“ whether youâ€™re trading cards at an event or standing in line for the release of the latest beanie baby or stumbling upon a beautiful snack tray find at a flea market! Itâ€™s about Playfulness because many of us collect things that brought us joy as a child and always put a smile on our face. And itâ€™s about Flow â€“ when youâ€™re on the hunt for the latest item, you are definitely in flow.

This week's program was about a collection I am sure has brought the collectors many moments of Connection, Playfulness and Flow. And I know that is the case for Club 99er Jessie Wilson, who we featured in our member video this week!

So if youâ€™re still trying to figure out your Fun Audit and what might be fun for you, maybe collecting Titanic memorabilia like Billy Roehrenbeck or ice cube molds like Amy Meins or holiday ties like Steve Clift or Barbies like Jessie Wilson can be something to explore!

Who's Having Fun?

Take a look at Club 99er **Jessie Wilson** and her awesome collection of Barbies from childhood into adulthood. Watch Jessie Wilson's fun video [here](#)!

Special Events and Meetings

UPCOMING SOCIALS

Burgers with a Side of Pickle(ball)

Friday, April 19, 2024

5-8 p.m.

Location: Newpickleball courts at the Little Rock Athletic Club

Chair: Laza Razafimanjato

Calling ALL Club 99ers ... you are NOT going to want to miss this fun! Whether you are an elite pickleball player (we're looking at you, Past President Kenny Gibbs) or don't even know what a pickleball looks like, this event is for you! We'll have friendly competitions, beginner lessons and a cheering squad on the sidelines, so whether you play or not, join us for Burgers with a Side of Pickle(ball) and some yummy adult beverages!

Our event chair, Laza Razafimanjato has put together a fun evening, see the schedule below. This is going to be a not-to-be-missed Fabulous Friday Night with fellow Rotarians! Family and guests welcome!!!
[registration link]

5 - 5:15 p.m.: Welcome and Info for the evening
5:15 - 5:30 p.m.: Burgers and Beverages Available
5:30 - 6 p.m.: Exhibit Match
6 - 8 p.m.: Open Play
On teaching court(s),
6 - 6:30 p.m.: Pickleball Lesson (for novice players only)
6:30 - 8 p.m.: Open Play

Family Hike and Cookout

June 8, 2024

More details to come, but mark your calendar now!

AFFINITY GROUP GATHERINGS

BOOK CLUB

APRIL

Friday, April 19

Noon - 1 p.m. Lunch Provided

Location: The Witherington Residence, 1122 Hilltop Road, Alexander
â€œThe Loudest Duckâ€ by Laura Liswood, Senior Advisor, Goldman Sach
Host: Maha Witherington

MAY

Monday, May 6, 2024

3 p.m.

Location: Arkansas Business Publishing, 114 Scott St., Little Rock, AR 72201
â€œLincoln on Leadership: Executive Strategies for Tough Timesâ€ by Donald Phillips
Host: Mitch Bettis

WOMEN OF ROTARY

APRIL

Friday, April 26

Location: Zoom

Host: Kathleen Lawson

MAY

Friday, May 31

Location: Zoom

Host: Lena Hayes

JUNE

Friday, June 28

Location: Zoom

SERVICE

â€œ

APRIL

Drug Take Back

Saturday, April 27

9 a.m. - noon

Park Plaza Mall Parking Lot

Chair: Courtney Little

MAY

Gibbs Magnet International Fest

Friday, May 3

5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Gibbs Magnet School

Service Chair: Dan Parker

International Fest is a vibrant celebration of cultures from around the world, featuring various activities, games, and entertainment. To ensure the event runs smoothly and is enjoyable for all attendees, Gibbs Magnet is seeking volunteers to help with manning games and monitoring inflatables during the specified time frame.

Volunteers from the Rotary Club have always played a crucial role in the success of community events. Your involvement will not only contribute to the smooth operation of the International Fest but also showcase Club 99's commitment to community service.

Volunteers can register at the following link: <https://bit.ly/GibbsVolunteers>

Upcoming Programs

April 2024

9 Midtown Little Rock Economic Development Update

16 Club 99 Business and Professional Leader of the Year and College Scholarship Presentations

23 Kicking It with the Little Rock Rangers

30 Arkansas LEARNS Act with Secretary of Education Jacob Oliva and Panelists

2023-2024 Club Leadership

**Rotary**
Club of Little Rock

2023-2024 Leadership Team

Board of Directors

 Natalie Ghidotti <i>President</i> natalieghidotti.com	 Jason Chacko <i>President-Elect</i> jason.chacko@morganstanley.com
 Mitch Bettis <i>President-Elect Nominee</i> mbettis@abpg.org	 Denver Peacock <i>Past President</i> denver@peacockgrp.com
 Molly McNulty <i>Secretary</i> molly.mculty@arcourts.gov	 Don Cole <i>Treasurer</i> dcole@methodistfamily.org
 Drew Harper <i>Treasurer-Elect</i> drew.harper@ozk.com	 Wendy Wood <i>Sergeant-at-Arms</i> paul.wendy.wood@gmail.com
 Suzanne Peyton <i>Foundation Chairman</i> speyton@clintonairport.com	 Viji Kuruvilla <i>Club Director</i> vijik@lexicon-inc.com
 Lena Hayes <i>Club Director</i> lena.hayes@baptist-health.org	 Sue Owens <i>Club Director</i> owenselbo@gmail.com
 Nate Coulter <i>Club Director</i> coulter.nate@gmail.com	 Tanya James <i>Club Director</i> tjames@arvest.com
 Kevin Newton <i>Club Director</i> kevinnewton@cbmconstruction.net	 T. Martin Davis <i>Club Director</i> tmartind@swbell.net
 Jessie Wilson <i>Club Director</i> jessie.wilson@dalecarnegie.com	 Greg McCarroll <i>Club Director</i> gmccarroll@my100bank.com



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