



Rotary
Little Rock



Rotary Club 99: Tuesday, February 13, 2024
11:30 a.m. Buffet Opens | 12:00 noon Program Begins
Great Hall, Clinton Center

Arkansas' Lithium Rush

Just two days ahead of the Arkansas Lithium Innovation Summit, Rotary Club 99 members will have an opportunity to hear about the significant role lithium is playing in south Arkansas's economic development with a special "Lithium Rush" panel presentation on Tuesday, Feb. 13. Journalist **Roby Brock** will moderate a Q&A with Magnolia's Director of Economic Development, **Ellie Baker**, and **Robert Mintak**, CEO of Standard Lithium, one of the sponsors of the summit.



Roby Brock is the CEO of Talk Business & Politics, a 25-year-old multi-media news organization reporting on business and politics in Arkansas. Under Roby's direction, content is driven through many channels such as the Talk Business & Politics TV show. He is also the host of Capitol View, a Sunday morning political show on KARK Channel 4 in Little Rock and KNWA in northwest Arkansas. Capitol View also airs in the El Dorado/Monroe, La., Texarkana/Shreveport, La., and Harrison/Mountain Home/Springfield, Mo., markets. Roby also moderates radio programs on NPR affiliates statewide and a daily digital newscast at TalkBusiness.net. In partnership with Hendrix College, Talk Business & Politics conducts statewide polling on political and business issues throughout the year. TB&P also reports through a subscription magazine, daily e-newsletters and web reports featuring state business profiles, industry developments and current political discussions. In September 2016, northeast Arkansas Talk Business & Politics, a free monthly newsprint product, was launched.

As the CEO of Standard Lithium, **Robert Mintak**, leads a dynamic team focused on the advanced development of U.S. critical mineral projects in Arkansas and Texas. Leveraging Direct Lithium Extraction technologies, the collective effort ensures projects are adaptable and scalable. Robert fosters a collaborative environment, bridging the gap between his team and local stakeholders, promoting shared success and risk management. His strategy and team-centered approach are pivotal in establishing Standard Lithium as a leading player in the development of a strong U.S. lithium supply chain, reinforcing the company's significant role in driving the sustainable future of U.S. lithium production.

Ellie Baker serves as the Director of Economic Development for Magnolia. As a Columbia County native, Ellie has a profound understanding of the health and welfare of Magnolia's economic climate. She is a 2002 alum of Southern Arkansas University and obtained her Professional Community & Economic Developer certification in 2019. She is a former director of the Magnolia-Columbia County Chamber of Commerce and the Magnolia Blossom Festival. In addition to her duties as economic developer, Baker has led numerous community development and quality-of-life enhancement projects for the city. Her current and previous roles have allowed her opportunities to capitalize on the qualities that are natural and unique to Magnolia. In 2023, Ellie was recognized as the Arkansas Economic Developer of the Year. She is also a recipient of the South Arkansas Women's Network Career Achievement Award, a Paul Harris Fellow and graduate of the Community Development Institute, Jeff Farris Leadership program, and Leadership Magnolia.

Zoom Login for February 13, 2024

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84181001226?pwd=NklnU1JEQ2lsMG53OGhoQnB1NWZz09>

Meeting ID: 841 8100 1226
Passcode: 083582

One tap mobile
+13017158592,,84181001226#,,,,*083582# US (Washington DC)
+13052241968,,84181001226#,,,,*083582# US

This Week at Club 99

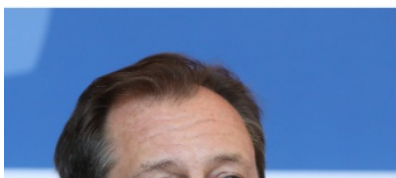
All things Oscar: Predictions, Thoughts, Snubs

It was a fun week at Club 99 as film critics **Michael Cook** and **Keith Garlington** talked all about the movies, what it's like to be a daily film critic and their picks for the big award season, starting with The Academy Awards on March 10. Club 99er **Chris Mangum** moderated a great discussion between our two speakers, and even showed an Academy Awards hype video that rekindled all of our love for the movies!

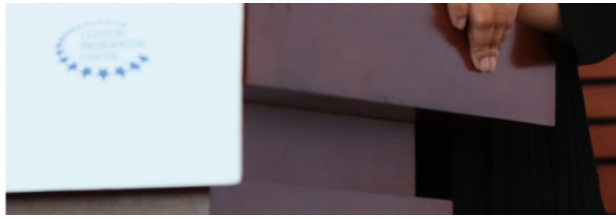
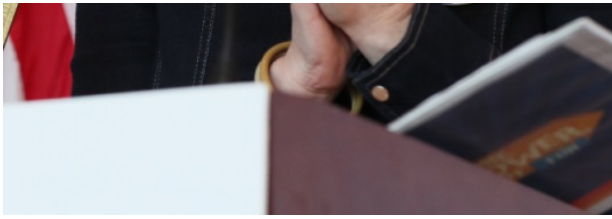
Members also voted on their Oscar picks. Stay tuned ... the winner will be announced at the March 12 meeting and will be treated to dinner at Trio's and two movie tickets!

And we were treated with a very special guest - **Arlo Washington**, the star of "The Barber of Little Rock," which has been nominated for best documentary short in the upcoming Academy Awards. The documentary follows Washington, who created the first Black-owned financial institution in Arkansas, the [People Trust Loan Fund](#). The film's cinematographer is Russellville native **Andy Sarjahani**.

Washington asked us to share his [email](#) if anyone wants to reach out to him to learn more about his efforts here in Little Rock and the state. You can watch the 35-minute documentary for free [here](#). The Arkansas Cinema Society is screening the documentary at 4 p.m. Feb. 18 at the Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts. Register [here](#) for the free event. If you missed this week, you can watch our full meeting [here](#).







Welcome New Members

Club 99 welcomed, **Emily Cox**, Interim City Manager for the City of Little Rock, as our newest member. Welcome to the fun, Emily!



Members Caught Having Fun This Week





Club 99 Happy Hour!

We had a super FUN happy hour last week at The Xperience on Main Street. Shout out to all the members who joined us! Look for details on our next adventure from the membership engagement committee coming soon!







The 5th Test: Is It Fun?

President Ghidotti's Power of Fun Tip of the Week: Seeking Delight = Gratitude = Fun

Last week we touched base on Seeking Delight as a powerful tool on your way to finding more joy and fun in our lives. I went ahead and downloaded the Audible version of Ross Gay's "The Book of Delights," and so far, so good!

What Ross found out over his year of noticing daily delights is that the more he focused on noticing delight, the more he found himself surrounded by it. You can look at Ross's study in delights as a form of gratitude journaling. Ross wrote about engaging his delight radar ... he said, "It was more like the development of a delight muscle. Something that implies that the more you study delight, the more delight there is to study. As I continued the project, I felt my life to be more full of delight. Not without sorrow or fear or pain or loss, but more full of delight. I also learned this year that my delight grows - much like love and joy - when I share it."

Again - our lives are what we pay attention to. If we train ourselves to notice delights - things that make us laugh or feel grateful for or are just beautiful or amusing - we will feel more positive. Same goes for fun: if we pay more attention to playfulness, connection, and flow, we'll have more fun. On the other hand, if we spend our time-consuming content that makes us anxious and upset, the more anxious and upset we will be.

This is why practices of gratitude have proven to be so effective in boosting our sense of well-being - they offer a structured way to reframe our reactions. Same goes with naming our daily delights "the better attuned we become to everyday delights and the more we actively seek them out, the more likely it will be for one of these delights to cross the line into True Fun.

Two of our guests from last week, LeAnn and Burke Jolly, owners of Jolly Bodies fitness, which was featured in Mandy Richardson's member video last week, reminded me this week of part of the fun journey. LeAnn posted a story on Instagram about leaning into vulnerability in order to have a more fun existence. And she's right - being vulnerable and being our true selves is an important part of The Power of Fun. We have to step out of our comfort zone and maybe lose some of our control; we have to risk emotional exposure.

And focusing on delight helps us achieve some of that vulnerability because it rekindles our inner playful spirit - the part of you that knew how to have fun when you were a kid. Seeking delight coaxes us a little bit further out of our grown-up shell so that we can have some True Fun no matter our age.

So, think about how you can start Seeking Delight in even the smallest of things this week and see where it takes you.

Who's Having Fun This Week

Lorrie Trogden, president/CEO of the Arkansas Bankers Association tells us all about her fun "posse" of neighbors who love to get together in downtown Little Rock and REALLY love sampling the city's best offerings of Bloody Marys. Please take us along with you, Lorrie, on your next Bloody Mary tour!

Watch Lorrie's fun video [here](#).

Participation Opportunities

Help Sponsor the Police & Fire Awards

Our police and fire departments are so very important to the growth and success of Little Rock. Help us honor these men and women by sponsoring this year's **Police & Fire Awards, set for Tuesday, March 26** at our regular Tuesday meeting. We have several sponsorship levels that provide a variety of benefits to companies and individuals. New this year there will be professionally produced videos highlighting our honorees, plus free tickets for our honorees' family members to be able to attend.

To make this an extra special event that these city servants deserve, we need your help! Please contact Club 99ers **Ed Owens** (edm.owens@gmail.com) or **Becky Finney** (becky@beckyfinney.com), who are chairing this year's event, or Karen Fetzter (kfetzer@littlerockrotary.org) if you'd like to support this annual recognition. A copy of sponsorship levels can be found [here](#).

Special Events and Meetings

Club 99 Service Project

Volunteers Needed for Habitat for Humanity Finish Out

Join us Saturday, March 2, as we help complete a **Habitat for Humanity** home! We are looking for at least 12 volunteers for that morning. This will be inside work with no heavy lifting. We'll be adding wall plates, painting and such. Volunteers must wear closed-toed shoes and bring their own gloves. Family members over 18 are welcome to participate!

Sign up to volunteer

Club 99 Book Club Affinity Group

FEBRUARY (hosted by Kristina Bolhouse)

Thursday, Feb. 22

5-7 p.m.

Location: Bolhouse Residence, 10 Northwest Court, Little Rock

â€œThe 12 Week Yearâ€ by Brian Moran and Michael Lennington

MARCH (hosted by Maha Witherington)

Friday, March 8

Noon - 1 p.m.

Location: The Witherington Residence, 1122 Hilltop Road, Alexandar

â€œThe Loudest Duckâ€ by Laura Liswood, Senior Advisor, Goldman Sach

Upcoming Programs

February 2024

13 Arkansas' Lithium Rush

20 Downtown Little Rock's Strategic Plan with Sasaki

27 Former Professional Golfer Christina Lecuyer on What Golf Taught Her About Entrepreneurship

2023-2024 Club Leadership



Board of Directors



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