



Rotary  
Little Rock



### Rotary Club 99: Tuesday, February 6, 2024

#### All Things Oscar: Predictions, Thoughts, Snubs

Join us on Tuesday, Feb. 6, as we celebrate the FUN that is the 2024 Oscars! Club 99â€™s **Chris Mangum** will host a Q&A with two professional film critics who happen to hail from Arkansas: **Michael Cook** and **Keith Garlington**. Weâ€™ll get a front row seat into all of the hits, misses, glory and snubs that make up the Academy Awards each year.





**Moderator Chris Mangum** is co-founder and CEO of [Servato](#), a technology company managing backup power for some of the country's largest broadband service providers. Chris and Servato recently relocated to Little Rock from New Orleans, along with his wife, three kids, mother-in-law and dog. Chris grew up in McGehee, Ark., where he graduated from McGehee High School, and his parents now live in Monticello, where he often spends weekends with his kids and their grandparents. Chris left Arkansas after high school to earn a BA in Psychology from Rhodes College, did a brief stint in the Army as an intelligence officer, and earned a law degree and MBA from Emory University. He worked in innovation and strategy roles for large telecom companies such as BellSouth and CenturyLink (where as chief strategy officer he grew the company's market cap ten-fold in just five years to \$26 billion). Chris launched Servato in 2015. He also co-founded and led a venture capital firm called Venture X Group, with offices in Atlanta and Palo Alto, Calif. At VXG, he helped launch more than 100 companies in about 10 years.

**Michael Cook** has been a film critic for the past 13 years and a film buff his entire life. He shares his reviews every Friday morning on KLRT-TV's Good Day Arkansas and also appears on KARK-TV's Arkansas Style. Michael is a "rotometer-approved" critic on Rotten Tomatoes and is Arkansas's only member of the Critics Choice Association. He is also the owner of Cook Consulting, a public relations and political consulting firm in Little Rock.

**Keith Garlington** is an Arkansas-based film critic who has been formally reviewing movies for nearly 15 years. He is the founder, film critic and features writer for Keith & the Movies and also a contributing film critic for the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. Keith is a member of the Southeastern Film Critics Association and the Online Film Critics Society. He has covered a range of film festivals, including the Sundance Film Festival, Little Rock's Filmland, the Hot Springs Documentary Film Festival (where he has served as a jury member), and the upcoming El Dorado Film Festival. Keith resides in Fordyce with his wife of 28 years, Jacki, and their two children, Brady and Julie.

### Zoom Login for February 6, 2024

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86516932837?pwd=Qmk5NXJleFgrajBUM3puTDVaUmFhQT09>

Meeting ID: 865 1693 2837

Passcode: 929334

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One tap mobile

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+13017158592,,86516932837#,,,929334# US (Washington DC)

### This Week at Club 99

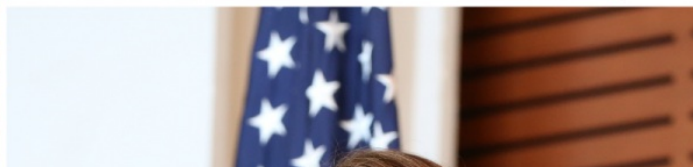
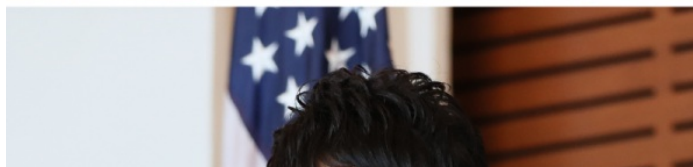
#### Fifty for the Future - Celebrating 40 Years

This week, Club 99ers were treated to an update on the many initiatives of Fifty for the Future. As the nonprofit group celebrates 60 years, current and past presidents of the organization spoke on the group's most significant contributions to the economic growth of Pulaski County.

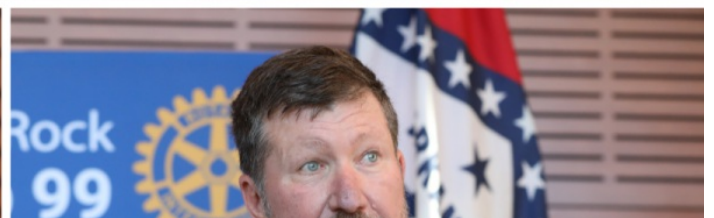
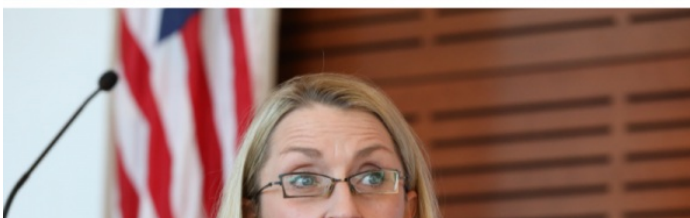
Club 99 Past President and current Fifty for the Future President **Sharon Tallach Vogelpohl** moderated a discussion with recent Fifty for the Future past presidents **Lisa Ferrell** (a Club 99 member), **William Clark** and **John Riggs**. The four "Fifty" members detailed several important programs they are investing resources in, including the 30 Crossing deck park, The Academies of Central Arkansas and early childhood education.

Club 99ers were encouraged to learn more about how they can become involved in both [The Academies of Central Arkansas](#) and early childhood education via [Excel by Eight](#).

If you missed it, check out the full meeting [here](#).













## Meet Our New Members

Club 99 welcomed two new members this week: **Lauren Atkins** with Haybar Real Estate, sponsored by **Amy Meins**, and **Jean Block** with Little Rock Wastewater Reclamation Authority, sponsored by **Sonya Murphy** and **Natalie Ghidotti**. Welcome to the fun, Lauren and Jean!



## Members Caught Having Fun This Week









## The 5th Test: Is It Fun?

### President Ghidotti's Power of Fun Tip of the Week

Today's tip was inspired by today's member video, which I know you will enjoy! This member talks about the little moments that actually make up her fun moments, and I think that's really important for all of us to remember as we learn about The Power of Fun. The Power of Fun doesn't mean you have to bungee jump or play the guitar in a band – though I highly recommend bungee jumping for a True Fun moment!

The Power of Fun *can* be bigger things that are planned out and thought through, but *mostly* it's about the little moments in our life that we make room for – what Catherine Price calls “delights.” It's all about creating a Fun Mindset and being open to fun whenever and wherever.

It's about being open to being playful – even in little ways – that can affect your moment-to-moment experience and improve your mood. And figuring out ways to add even teensy bits of playfulness, connection and flow to your everyday activities can even make some of those objectively non-fun activities more tolerable. I'm picturing “A Spoonful of Sugar” with Mary Poppins – in every job that must be done, there is an element of fun. You find the fun and SNAP the job's a game.

Not that scooping cat litter or scrubbing a toilet is going to be real fun, but you get the point. The more you can cultivate a Fun Mindset in your everyday life, the lighter your everyday life will feel. And if anyone can find a fun way to make cleaning a toilet fun, let me know!

Catherine Price has a whole section in the book about Seeking Delight, which we'll delve into more on another day, but I want to call out a book she references, “The Book of Delights” by poet Ross Gay. Ross took a full year and wrote an essay each day about an everyday delight – pecans, strong espressos, people who call him “sweetie,” a friend's unabashed use of air quotes and more ordinary wonders.

The point? To remind us of the small joys and FUN that we often overlook because we're all too busy. A reminder that the small delights in our everyday can create those powerful True Fun moments. Ross's book is going to be the next book I check out at CALS unless one of you beats me to the punch!

It's all a reminder that our lives are what we pay attention to. If we train ourselves to notice the small delights of the everyday – the everyday beauty and kindness and amusing absurdities, the things that make us laugh or that we feel grateful for – we will feel more positive. If we pay more attention to sources of playfulness, connection and flow, we'll have more fun.

## Who's Having Fun This Week



Club 99er and Membership Engagement Chair **Mandy Richardson** shares all about the everyday fun moments she is building with her kids and family, including her love of Little Rock's newest gym sensation, Jolly Bodies! Watch Mandy'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 Felzer (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

### New Member Orientation

Thank you, **Susan Altrui** and the team at the Little Rock Zoo for hosting a fun new member orientation luncheon. The group learned more about Club 99 and enjoyed a visit from Miss Betty White, one of the Zoo's favorite penguins!



### Vision Boards with Women of Rotary

The **Women of Rotary** affinity group had a blast developing vision boards for 2024 under the direction of **Tina Gilbert** with Next Level Training Solutions Group in Springdale. Thank you, Affinity Group Chair **Juli Brandenberger**, for organizing and Club 99ers **Erin Hohnbaum** and **Natalie Ghidotti** for hosting the group at The Nest!







## Service Project Opportunity

### Twelve Volunteers Needed for Habitat for Humanity Finish Out

Join us Saturday, March 2 as we help complete a **Habitat for Humanity** home! 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 [here](#).

## Club 99 Book Club Affinity Group

**FEBRUARY** (hosted by Kristina Bolhouse)

Thursday, Feb. 22  
5-7 p.m.



8 - 1 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**  
6 All things Oscar: Predictions, Thoughts, Snubs  
13 Arkansas' Lithium Rush  
20 Downtown Little Rock's Strategic Plan with Sasaki

2023-2024 Club Leadership



2023-2024 Leadership Team

Board of Directors



**Natalie Ghidotti**  
*President*  
natalie@ghidotti.com



**Mitch Bettis**  
*President-Elect Nominee*  
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**Molly McNulty**  
*Secretary*  
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**Drew Harper**  
*Treasurer-Elect*  
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**Suzanne Peyton**  
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**Lena Hayes**  
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**Nate Coulter**  
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**Kevin Newton**  
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**Jessie Wilson**  
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**Jason Chacko**  
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**Viji Kuruvilla**  
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**Sue Owens**  
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**Tanya James**  
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**T. Martin Davis**  
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**Greg McCarroll**  
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