



AROUND THE CENTER

CICBVI NEWS April, 2022

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THERE'S A SPRING IN OUR STEP!

Spring is a time for new beginnings and regrowth and that fits perfectly with recent CICBVI activities and looking ahead to our future. This time of year we renew our Board memberships and it is with great excitement that we have added two new members.

First, we welcome Bernice Gordon-Young. Bernice is a licensed clinical professional counselor at OSF. A long-time Peoria resident, she is also the founder and President of It Takes A Village (ITAV), a non-profit organization supporting students, caregivers, the homeless, the elderly and the mobility impaired populations by providing incentive-based resources at no cost in local "village" stores.

Next, we also welcome Kirk Johnson, who is very well known as a long-time supporter of the CICBVI. Kirk is married to Ruth and they have three grown children and three grandchildren. His entire business career has been with Uftring Auto Group where he is currently Corporate Secretary/Treasurer and CFO. He formed the "Uftring Ambassador Initiative" to give back to our communities and to those in need by Uftring employees volunteering their time and talents, which is how he first learned about the CICBVI.

We are very honored to have both these individuals join our Board and are looking forward to our work together.

HAVE A HOWLING GOOD TIME!

Mark your calendars and plan to attend our Spring Fund Raiser being held on April 21, 2022. Invitations are sent so RSVP right away – seating for this event is limited! What makes this event so special? Obviously, reason number one is that it supports the services of the CICBVI. But reason number two is that we not only will have a good meal, there will be entertainment provided by “Howlin’ on the Water” dueling pianos. This is an energy-filled, fun program with music for every taste. In fact, you are challenged to find a tune the pianists don’t know! The event is taking place in the Maxam building downtown Peoria with doors opening at 5:45 PM. The buffet meal will start at 6:30 PM with the show starting at 7:30 PM. Again, seating is limited, so please RSVP as soon as possible by either returning your RSVP card or visiting our web site.

CICBVI IN THE ST. PATRICK’S DAY PARADE

Our bus was decorated in green garland and shamrocks and our presence in the St. Patrick’s Day parade was a huge success. Patrons waved to the crowd and the crowd cheered back, we were greeted by on-air personality CJ from WSWT Radio and we were warmly received at the judge’s stand review. We already know we want to go bigger and better next year and hope you will plan to join us.

COMING IN JUNE: We’re getting rhythm! Be sure to check next month’s newsletter to learn more about a special musical event involving drums, tamborines and more!

DID YOU KNOW . . . the CICBVI and McDonald’s restaurants are the same age? Both began in 1955.

CANE & ABLE FITNESS

We are pleased to have Evan Schwerbrock (a CICBVI patron) visit us April 6th to present a basic fitness class specifically designed for individuals with vision impairment and limited mobility. (You don't even have to get out of your chair!) The focus is on promoting healthy circulation, heart rate and strengthening and best of all the ideas he will present are easily done at home. Evan brings a unique perspective since he is also visually impaired. The event starts at 10:30 AM and will be followed by lunch. Call the center to get your reservation in as soon as possible!

MAGNIFICENT MAGNIFIERS

We are once again hosting Sean Johnson from the Rockford Sight & Hearing Center. This visit, on April 13th, 10:30 AM, will be all about magnifiers – big ones, little ones, low tech and high tech, all kinds of magnifiers to meet the needs of those with low vision. Participants can expect to learn about devices that are handheld or free standing, wearable, portable and video capable. They will also have the opportunity to try out the different types of devices to determine how they can best access printed materials. For those of you who may not benefit from a magnifier, you are still invited to come visit and enjoy lunch. And, stay tuned – the next presentation will focus on non-visual methods for accessing print material. Please call the center to reserve your spot and arrange transportation if needed.

DINNER WITH BLOND NUTRITION

Call in your reservations for April 27th – 5:30 PM when Rachael Shangraw will be our guest and bring her expertise in how to follow basic nutrition guidelines and prepare a simple, healthy meal or snack. We will even prepare a snack on site for participants to take home!

IMPORTANT DATES

- April 1st April Fool's Day
- April 5th Happy Birthday to Grace Barke
- April 6th Easy Fitness with Cane & Able AND lunch – 10:30 AM
call the Center to reserve your place and make
transportation arrangements
- April 10th Happy Birthday to Lance Barke
- April 10th Palm Sunday
- April 12th CICBVI Board Meeting at the Center – 5:30 PM
- April 13th Magnificent Magnifiers event with Rockford Sight &
Hearing – 10:30 AM, followed by lunch. Call the center
for reservations and transportation arrangements
- April 13th Midwest Food Bank pick-up
- April 14th Reservation deadline for “Howlin’ on the Water”
fundraising event
- April 14 – 16 Food basket deliveries
- April 17th Easter
- April 18th Happy Birthday Wanda Wiley
- April 20th Happy Birthday Brandy Foiles
- April 21st “Howlin’ on the Water” fundraiser dinner event
- April 23rd Happy Birthday Cameron Durr
- April 27th BlondNutrition dinner event at the center – call the center
for reservations and transportation arrangements
- April 27th Happy Birthday Dustin Cather
- April 30th Work Day at the Center in conjunction with the Dream
Center “Serve the City” program

If you visit our Facebook page you can find pictures of the ongoing work to replace the roof at the Center. No more leaks!!

HI! IT'S PAULA B

I am typing this right after Kurt Norris and I were interviewed on WMBD and WYZZ television stations about the CICBVI, our services and our upcoming fundraiser. It was an interesting experience and it was very nice to have a new venue in which to be cheerleaders about the Center and our activities. When you are enthusiastic about something it is easy to do and I bet many of you readers are enthusiastic about the Center, as well. Knowing that, I'd like to ask you to also become cheerleaders and share what you know about the Center. I've learned that networking and basically just "spreading the word" is the best way to get information about our Center out to the people who need it the most. Talking about our activities, our community presence or our services will help us continue to grow and be able to provide services to people who may not yet know about us. It can also inspire others to support our work. Growth is one of our top goals for 2022 – and we are on our way, but we can do more. Will you help us get the word out? And I hope to see a whole lot of you at our Dueling Pianos event April 21st – reserve your spot now so you don't miss out – it is going to be a "howling" good time! - Paula B

DID YOU KNOWthe week after Easter is National Talking Book Week and the CICBVI has a small library of books on CD's that you may borrow any time. Just give us a call and they can be picked up or mailed to you.

Special thoughts and best wishes for a speedy recovery go out to Mark Bean as he undergoes surgery this week.

BOOKS, BOOKS AND MORE BOOKS

Our very own Deanna Bruce – who is a published author of children’s books – provides us with book reviews from time to time. Here is her latest:

“Knot Ready for Murder” by Mary Marks is about Martha, a quilter, who is planning her wedding and suddenly learns her fiancé married a pregnant teen 30 years previously to save her from scandal but the wedding was never annulled. Now it appears his wife has been kidnapped and of all things it is up to Martha to find her. This was a good mystery and Deanna rates it five out of five stars.

We also have a variety of books on CD’s that can be borrowed – mysteries, westerns, romances, and history to name a few. Authors include Tom Clancy, Dan Brown, Stephen King, Harper Lee, Catherine Coulter and more. We also have three huge boxes of music on CD’s that are available for your enjoyment.

AMAZING WEATHER FACTS

. . . The sunniest place on earth is Yuma, AZ, which receives over 4000 hours of sun a year. The least sunny place is the South Pole where the sun only shines 182 days a year.

. . . Rain contains Vitamin B-12

. . . There are around 2000 thunderstorms happening on earth every minute

. . . Wind makes no noise unless it blows against something

. . . The United States gets over 1200 tornadoes every year. Remember – in the event of a tornado warning, take shelter in your basement or in an inside room (without windows).



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**Free Matter for the Blind &
Visually Impaired**

Quote for the Month

“Spring is nature’s way of saying ‘Let’s party!’”

-Robin Williams