



# AROUND THE CENTER

## CICBVI NEWS May, 2022

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Paula Balistreri, Editor

### CICBVI Had a Howlin' Good Time!

On April 21<sup>st</sup>, the CICBVI held a fund raiser by hosting a dinner and program provided by the Howlin' on the Water dueling pianos at the Broadway Lounge. We were a little smaller due to limited venue capacity, but in terms of success, it was as great as ever! Everybody who attended had nothing but compliments and we were able to raise a nice amount to support our work.

We wouldn't have been as successful without our sponsors. These businesses and individuals went over and above in their gifts:

- GOLD SPONSOR:** Uftring Auto Mall
- SILVER SPONSOR:** Illinois Eye Center
- BRONZE SPONSORS:** CEFCU  
Steve & Molly Knecht  
Kirk & Ruth Johnson
- COPPER SPONSORS:** Kurt & Lynette Norris  
Darlene Violet  
Terry Knollenberg  
Matthew & Linda Smutz  
Burklund Distributors, Inc.

One of the highlights was that we announced the winner of our Volunteer of the Year award: Jamie Lang. Jamie was completely surprised but we can all agree this was a well-deserved recognition for all the help Jamie provides. We also had prizes and raffles. The

winner of the CICBVI logo wear door prize was Karen Leitner. The 50/50 winner was Lance Barke, the gift card bundle was won by Gyla Grigsby and the carpet shampooer and gift card was won by Nick Yates, Jr.

Next up: our annual golf outing, to be held at Arrowhead Golf Club this year, is scheduled for September 19<sup>th</sup> and our White Cane Recognition Day is October 15<sup>th</sup>, tentatively scheduled to be held at the Peoria Riverfront Museum. Save the dates!!!

## NOW WHAT?

So, we now have one successful fund raiser under our belt for 2022-what's next? First of all, we never stop fund raising – because without financial and/or in-kind support, we couldn't do what we do. How can you help? (And, by the way, no amount is too small.) Ideas:

++Volunteer your time – as a guide (we provide training), as a “cleaner-upper,” on a committee, as a service delivery person, as a tech trainer, as an activity leader – we appreciate all levels of help and talent.

++Provide supplies: we can always use Braille paper, copy paper, cleaning supplies, Bingo prizes, gift cards, office supplies, music or books on CD's, just give us a call!

++Sign up your Kroger card to benefit the CICBVI – it is free to you, doesn't cause you to lose any fuel points and the CICBVI gets a cash donation. Visit the Kroger web site to get this done.

++Purchase CICBVI logo wear – the store will be open May 20<sup>th</sup> and will include a whole line for summer. Check out (after May 20<sup>th</sup>) <https://cicbvi-21.itemorder.com> for all items to be delivered directly to your door. All proceeds benefit the CICBVI

++Purchase Terrilynn nuts and candies – [www.cicbvi.terri Lynn.com](http://www.cicbvi.terri Lynn.com)

++Cash or check directly to CICBVI or check with your work to see if they have a matching gift program!

## MAY ACTIVITIES

Note: Free transportation is provided to all events as long as you call in to reserve your spot.

CANE & ABLE FITNESS and NUTRITION – The second classes for these two programs are scheduled for May:

May 18<sup>th</sup> is the second fitness program, led by patron Evan Schwerbrock. He will show you some easy, do-at-home, sit-in-your-chair, exercises to help you stay fit. This is followed by a lunch, so be sure to call in your reservations.

May 25<sup>th</sup> is the second “make your own healthy food” nutrition program led by Rachael Shangraw. This is a dinner so be sure to call in your reservations.

## WHEELS O’ TIME MUSEUM

May 19<sup>th</sup> is a field trip to the Wheels o’ Time museum. They have hands on activities and exhibits for you to visit and will be providing experts to talk about their displays. They even have a circus parade!!! This field trip includes a stop at The Spotted Cow ice cream and sandwich shop. We are to be at the museum at 3:00 PM so be sure to call in your reservations. There is no charge for the museum but ice cream or other food is on your own at the Spotted Cow.

## PRINT TO AUDIO

May 24<sup>th</sup> – NOTE: This is a Tuesday! Presented by the Rockford Sight & Hearing Center, you will get hands on experience and learn about devices that can turn any printed material into an audio version. Our last event featuring magnifiers had a huge turn out so be sure to save your spot. This event starts at 10:30 AM and is followed by a lunch.

## SAVE THE DATES!

**NATIONAL EYE WEAR DAY:** June 6<sup>th</sup> is National Eye Wear Day. As you know, the Lions Clubs are major supporters of services for the blind. One of their ongoing service projects is to collect used eyewear (not sunglasses) and pass them on to others who need and can use them. Locally, Lions Club members have helped with CICBVI with facility improvements, donations and more and that is very appreciated. In return, we are planning an Eye Wear Collection Day on June 6<sup>th</sup>. The plan is to be in a public place on that day (location to be determined) and collect eye wear which we will then give to the Lions Club. We need volunteers to man our table – if we get enough, volunteers will each be asked to do short shifts. We also will be accepting eye wear prior to that date if you can't make it. Please search your house, ask your family and friends and start collecting now so we can get a big batch to give to our Lions partners.

### WHITE CANE MOBILITY TRAINING:

Our next training day is scheduled for June 16<sup>th</sup> here at the CICBVI. The class will start at 1:00 PM and any qualifying person attending will receive a free long white cane, specific to their size. This class is open to any low or no vision person needing help to be independently mobile. The class is taught by an OEM specialist and also qualifies for certification in long white cane use in order to complete the process for a leader dog. Please be sure to call in your reservation – 309-637-3693.

And, of course, save the date for our golf outing – September 19<sup>th</sup> and our White Cane Day recognition event October 15<sup>th</sup>.

## IMPORTANT DATES

- April 13 Happy Belated Birthday to Katrina
- May 1 May Day – dance around a maypole with flowers in your hair!
- May 5 Cinco de Mayo – Ole!
- May 7 Happy Birthday to Brenda Pierce
- May 8 The first eye bank opened in 1944
- May 8 Happy Mother's Day
- May 10 CICBVI Board meeting at the center
- May 11 Midwest Food Bank pick-up
- May 11 Happy Birthday to Angie Porter
- May 12 Happy Birthday to Bob Coney
- May 12–14 Food basket deliveries
- May 13 I Just Called to Say I Love You Day in honor of Stevie Wonder's birthday
- May 18 Cane & Able Fitness program & lunch at the CICBVI
- May 19 Field trip to Wheels O' Time Museum and treats at the Spotted Cow – 3:00 PM you must call in and reserve your spot!
- May 20 Happy Birthday to Cora Quinn
- May 22 Happy Birthday to Betty Clark
- May 23 In 1875, Ben Franklin invented the bifocals
- May 24 Print to Audio program and lunch at the Center – 10:30 AM
- May 25 Dinner with BlondNutrition at the Center

SYMPATHY EXTENDED: The CICBVI has lost a friend and patron as Jimmy Smith passed away this past month. Jimmy will be remembered as a sweet and happy regular to our events at the Center and will be missed. Services are planned for May 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM at the Resurrection Cemetery and Mausoleum on Allen Road in Peoria. If you would like to attend and need transportation, please call the Center.

Check out our web site and our Facebook pages for pictures of our April 30<sup>th</sup> Work Day and more!

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## THE BOOK NOOK

Patron Deanna Bruce loves to read. You may recall that she also loves to write and has successfully written a children's book that is available on Amazon. She has agreed to share book reviews with us from time to time which, if you love to read, you can appreciate how nice it is to get good book referrals. Please note that all the books Deanna reviews here are available as audio books. Enjoy!

“The Best in Snow” by David Rosenfelt

Deanna gives this book a five out of five stars. It is a Christmas mystery and takes place in the town of Paterson, New Jersey where a snow storm has just dumped two feet of snow on the ground. Lawyer Andy Carpenter likes snow even when it makes it difficult to walk his dog, Tara, a golden retriever. On this walk, Tara is playing in the snow and discovers a body – the town's Mayor, Alex Oliva. Not only that, in short order, Andy finds himself representing the prime suspect – a young newspaper reporter who published an expose of Mayor Oliva resulting in him getting fired from the newspaper. The evidence is piling up faster than the snow and there are plenty of twists and turns.

Did you know the center has lots and lots of books on CD's? We have all sorts and they are available to borrow. Just give us a call and we can get you started.

Hi! Its Paula B

With Mother's Day this month, I am grateful that my mom is still here for me to celebrate. She is 96 ½ years old and still lives on her own. She even drives - but a very specific route – the grocery store, the library, her doctor, the pharmacy and the Dairy Queen – all within about a 5 mile radius of her house. Her house is clean, her food unexpired and she is never late paying her bills. From the time I was in high school, she has been known as “The Dragon Lady” thanks to a friend of mine who, for some long-forgotten reason called her that and it stuck so maybe that's the secret to her longevity.

There are other “moms” we can celebrate – who perhaps didn't actually give birth or adopt but for other reasons are very “mom-like” to us. Those are the people who give us guidance when we need it, perhaps a little hug now and then. They may also take us down a peg or two when we need it. Or feed us when we are hungry, or remind us that we are special, unique, capable and loved unconditionally.

So, yes, celebrate the moms - after all, giving birth is NOT easy, nor is raising a little human and moms deserve a special day. And while you're at it, give a little appreciation, a hug or two, maybe even a hand-picked dandelion or a piece of chocolate to those other people in your life who are “like a mom.”

As for the Dragon Lady – thanks, mom! And, yes, I know – I get my ferociousness from you and my bad jokes from dad.

-Peace & love,  
Paula B



## Free Matter for the Blind & Visually Impaired

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May, 2022 Newsletter

### Quote for the Month

- “If you think you are too small to be effective, you have never been in the dark with a mosquito.” – Betty Reese