



EMELIA SHEELEY

RIVERVIEW INTERNATIONAL CENTER

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Our speaker today was **Emelia Sheeley**, Executive Director of the Riverview International Center (RIC). The Center is based in a two room apartment on Riverview Drive and provides an array of services to immigrants in the area. The immediate Riverview community has a large number of immigrants – many of whom are from North Africa.

RIC was founded in 2015 to help members of this community.

Most of the organization's clients come to the United States under the Diversity Visa Lottery Program. They apply through the U.S. State Department, are vetted for security and placed in a lottery pool. Persons selected are granted a permanent resident green card. A very small number of clients are in the U.S. as refugees. Emelia stated that all clients are in the U.S. legally.

Once in the country, immigrants frequently need help with a variety of services and RIC works to provide the help they need. A welcome team usually spends 6 to 12 months with each person or family when possible.

In 2023 RIC served 1,500 people and had 10,000 visits to their office. Immigrants receive job readiness guidance, resume help and medical care advice. In addition, they are exposed to community events around the city. A community festival for the immigrants is also part of RIC's programming.

Children are provided with a summer reading program and homework help. Families are helped with the process of enrolling their children in schools.

We saw a slide presentation highlighting people and programs served by, and presented by, Riverview International Center.

The future of RIC will bring sudden changes since the apartment complex where the organization and many of its clients reside was recently sold and will be redeveloped. They have a 30 day window to vacate the premises. While the Riverview International Center will soon be relocating its office to a new location, the immigrant population currently housed in the nearby apartments (88 families) will not be likely to find a similar arrangement in another complex.

Funding for RIC is provided from a variety of sources. Individual donors provide about 40%; grants provide 35% and the balance comes from businesses, churches and other organizations. The organization has 8 paid staff members – two of whom are part time.

CLICK HERE to view this meeting and all previously recorded Rotary meetings

GREETERS

April 30
Eric Stoll
Tom Sugar

May 7
Cheryl Turnbull
Steve Turnbull

May 14
Joe Valentino
Nick Vlasidis

REGISTRATION DESK

April 30
Ted Foster
Brendan King

May 7
Rick Barth
Tom Westfall

May 14
Jim Winfree
Dave Shelby

CALENDAR

April 30 - Scioto CC/Zoom
Jeff Perrin, Kentucky Derby: Jockeys, Horses, and Qualifications
Host: Kip Greenhill

May 7 - Scioto CC/Zoom
Elena Wason, Executive Director of Natun (formerly known as Mayan Families)
Host: Steve Sandbo

May 14 - N/A
No Meeting - UA Rotary Annual Fundraiser

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Submit your volunteer opportunity to herb@herbgillien.com for inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Please submit your social event reminder to herb@herbgillien.com for inclusion in the Rotaryview Newsletter.

OUR NEXT MEETING

APRIL 30TH
Scioto Country Club/Zoom

Upper Arlington
Rotary
Club



THE MEETING



President **Andy Livingston** opened the meeting and asked **Bill Loveland** to offer the invocation and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Brian Hall asked **Phil Glandon** to introduce his guest and prospective member, **Dr. Chris Copeland**.

Andy reported on his recent attendance at the District Conference. He also reminded us that the \$365 annual contribution only amounts to one dollar per day. Taking the dollar-a-day contribution rate to its most accurate end, **Jack** and **Sandra Cotter** recently made their annual contributions – in the leap year amount of \$366.



Andy also encouraged members to consider reading to students at West Broad Elementary School. He asked **Mike Zieg** to comment on his positive experience at the school.

John Krauss reminded us of the May 14 Fundraiser at the Amelita Mirolo Barn. New this year – a wine lottery. Members interested in contributing to the cause should bring a bottle (or two) to the meeting in the next two weeks. We have a number of excellent live auction items and silent auction items are still encouraged.

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:



Jeanine Hummer distributed Fundraiser raffle forms – and provided detailed instructions about how to order your tickets. She also reminded the prospective winner of the raffle, whoever that might turn out to be, that all the money comes to Rotary to support our programs.

Mike Kull is looking for two or three Rotarians to help at the registration table for Families Flourish (formerly Move to Prosper) at 2:30 PM on April 30 at the Huntington Center. Let Mike know if you can help.



Sandra Cotter announced a May 7 Rotary Roundtable. We'll hear from Natalia Lebedin. She is the Studio Leader of the Ukrainian Culture Association of Ohio. Their mission is to celebrate and raise awareness of Ukrainian culture as well as to fund raise to provide humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

Debbie Johnson distributed sign-up sheets for the UA Library's Small Business Fair on Saturday, May 4. They're hoping to have several established business people (such as Rotarians) join the participants at the Library from 10:15 to 11:00 AM for some networking.



Peggy Concilla promoted the upcoming Habitat for Humanity playhouse build on May 23. Information/sign-up sheets were on the table.

Barri Jones noted that the next Senior Clean-up day is May 18. A three hour commitment is involved. She suggested that it would be good to see some new volunteers take advantage of the service opportunity.

A May 2 Pickle and Chill event is planned. Forms were on the tables.

SORTING OUT WHERE TO CONTRIBUTE

Where do your contributions go? There are three main organizations where we as Upper Arlington Rotarians direct our Rotary giving. Sometimes it can be confusing, so here is something to hopefully help keep things straight.

ORGANIZATION	DONATION DESIGNATIONS	ADDRESS	MEMBER CONTACT	EMAIL
Upper Arlington Rotary Club	Club dues	P.O. Box 12013 Columbus, OH 43212	Peggy Concilla	concillapl@gmail.com
Upper Arlington Rotary Foundation	Annual \$365 and some other club funding requests	1704 Sundridge Dr. Columbus, OH 43221	Andy Livingston	andy.w.livingston@gmail.com
Rotary International Foundation	\$125 Club, Paul Harris and Polio Plus	244 Daniel Burnham Sq. Columbus, OH 43215	Debbie Johnson	debbiejohnson33@gmail.com