



BETH ARMSTRONG

AUTHOR | VOICES FROM THE APE HOUSE

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www.uarotary.org

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For make up locations, check the club web site or call the make-up hotline at (614) 470-1002.



Michele Hoyle introduced **Beth Armstrong**. Beth has a recently published book, *Voices From The Ape House*, which is, “a book about a Clintonville kid that found her way working with animals, became head keeper and the leadership opportunities that came with it.”

Armstrong mentioned that Rotary is a big deal when it comes to zoos around the country. They have similar goals with local activity and global impact. Local clubs have been great partners for many zoos internationally.

Her book was published in March after a three-year process. She explained that data and science are important, but it is the stories that move people. Gorillas have personalities, facial expressions, are humorous, and have tremendous parenting skills. They demonstrate love and commitment for their family members.

“Bongo and Me” describes one of her early relationships with a Columbus Zoo gorilla. “I am regretful because everything we did was wrong,” as she explained how gorillas were at one time brutally captured in the wild. He was extremely tense when she first met him. Crowds amplified the anxiety for a 450 lbs. exhibit, but over time he let her into her world.

Beth described how male gorillas are typically gentle. Females are in charge, especially around babies. Zoos were not creating good habitats. This changed in 1986 when parents were joined. She continued to tell the story of Fossey, who lost his

mother at 14 months. He was then raised by his father, Bongo. She described how the father gorilla would tickle the young gorilla in an intense, yet playful way.

Armstrong concluded with a short video from National Geographic demonstrating the transformation of “non-social” gorilla. In a new habitat, this female that was considered too old to breed had two babies. Her former keeper came to visit 3.5 years later, and she instinctively recognized his voice and came right to him demonstrating how they form long lasting relationships.



During her presentation, Beth Armstrong showed this short video showing one of the gorilla residents at the Columbus Zoo having an emotional reunion with her former keeper from another zoo as she introduces him to her baby. Keep a box of Kleenex handy if you click to watch this. There were several Rotarians on the Zoom meeting who were wiping eyes after watching this!

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



GREETERS

September 22

Michael Zieg
Beau Taggart

September 29

N/A

October 6

N/A

REGISTRATION DESK

September 22

Andy Livingston
Tom Westfall

September 29

N/A

October 6

N/A

CALENDAR

September 22 - Scioto CC/ZOOM

Mark Wagenbrenner, President
– Wagenbrenner Development
Host: Dave McCurdy

September 29 - ZOOM Meeting

Paul Imhoff, Superintendent of
Upper Arlington City Schools,
*The Upper Arlington Schools
Master Plan and the School Levy*
Host: Debbie Johnson

October 6 - ZOOM Meeting

Ohio House Forum: Allison
Russo & Patrick Manley
Host: Brad Frick

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

SOCIAL EVENTS

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

OUR NEXT MEETING

SEPTEMBER 22ND
SCIOTO CC | ZOOM

Upper Arlington
Rotary
Club



THE MEETING



The September 15, 2020 meeting was a virtual Zoom meeting that was hosted by Upper Arlington Rotary President, **Debbie Johnson**. Attendees were directed to small break out groups for 10-15 minutes of conversation before President Johnson started the meeting. The Prayer and Pledge were led by **John Krauss**.

Guests: **Jim Lynch** of the Tri-Village Rotary club joined the meeting.

Upper Arlington City Council Member **John Kulewicz** was a guest of **Michele Hoyle**. John has been a Columbus Zoo Board Member for 38 Years.



NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:



President Johnson announced the passing of long time UA Rotarian **Dave Cole** and noted that there will be a service at a later date.

Club Directories are completed. Hard copies are available for pickup at our next hybrid meeting on 9/22, or they can be mailed if desired. There is also a .pdf version of the directory available on the club website.

Joe Ayers has graciously offered to head the Miller Park Gazebo Renovation project. He will need around 12 people to assist with this effort. More information will be forthcoming.

Next year's Rotary Board of Directors nominating committee will be led by **Alan Yarletts**.

President Johnson reported that an effort to reallocate Endowed Funds has been approved by the Ohio AG's office. This will allow the money to be transferred and designated for other Rotary Foundation projects.



UA ROTARY RESUMES BED BRIGADE IN-PERSON VOLUNTEERING

Ten Upper Arlington Rotarians volunteered on September 12th for the Bed Brigade. Volunteers made 20 beds that will be distributed to local families in need. This is the first group in-person volunteer activity for the club since early March. The work was performed outside rather than in the usual location in the church basement, masks were worn, and social distancing was observed.