

# Off The RACC



## Winter! A fresh start, a new beginning filled with promise and opportunity.



What's your fresh start? Losing weight? Learning something new? Getting in shape? What will you do to expand your horizons, decrease your waistline, live a little more thoughtfully? We are looking ahead to a great year, filled with many fun, active and engaging possibilities just for you.

### Learn and Challenge Yourself

At the request of one of our community members, we're offering a series on different religions. First up will be Understanding Islam: the 2nd largest religion in the World. These free, informative seminars will be led by Scott Minehart, GLHS AP History & Comparative Religions teacher. Come learn and ask questions! The first night will focus on the history and end with a question and answer period. The second night will be led by two Muslim Americans, male and female, ready to answer your questions. We will be serving a middle-eastern buffet style meal, so please RSVP to reserve your spot. Pg. 4 for more info.

### Time to Shape Up

Our enthusiastic exercise guru and well-loved children's librarian, Mary Jasiak will be leading Fit Club, a low impact workout to favorite videos on Thursday nights. Note how we've conveniently

timed this right after the brand-new Weight Watcher's class! We offer 8 classes of yoga, two tai chi sessions, Swingin with Susan, Ping Pong and are looking to add a small weight lifting class as well. No excuses, come work out!

### Get Technical

Is your teenager helping you with your smartphone, tablet, apps, computer? This is exactly why we're offering two sessions of smartphone/tablet/device one-on-one tutoring with assistance from the students of Gateway Academy. We'll also be holding another Stay Safe Online seminar, complete with a free lunch. We recognize technology can be overwhelming and sometimes you just need someone under 18 to show you a few times before you master it! More info on pg. 5

### World Class Speakers

Last year, right here at the Community Center we heard from Larry Bell, Pres. of Bell's Brewery; John Dunn, Pres. of WMU; learned about Duncan Aviation; heard about Zimbabwe; learned about the Anti-Ballistic Missile defense system at Fort Custer; even mined global business info from the CEO of the Kellogg Company. These speakers were among the many brought here weekly by the Gull Lake Area Rotary Club. Want to be informed about the world? Don't miss this year's roster! Everyone is welcome and you don't have to be a Rotary member. Thursdays at 7:30 a.m. Pg. 6 for more info.

We are looking forward to a great year and hope you'll take advantage of all we have to offer. Here's to a fresh start!

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Richland Area Community Center  
9400 East CD Ave.  
Richland, MI 49083

## 2015 YEAR IN REVIEW

What a fantastic year! Thanks to the generous support of our donors, sponsors and volunteers, we enjoyed 19,000 visitors, held more than 1,100 programs/events, and hosted over 50 different organizations' meetings/events. We continued to build our arts and culture, lifelong learning and healthy living programs.

Best of all, we continued to build community—one person at a time. We could not have done it without you. Thank you!

Richard and Jane Adamski

Scott and Mary Aldrich \*

Joanne Anhalt

*In memory of Philip Anhalt*

Anonymous

Anonymous

*In memory of Janet Schuring*

Anonymous

*In honor of Jilisa Williams*

Joanne Arvidson

Ken and Carol Baker

Victoria Boyer

*In memory of Betty Knafel*

James and Mary Bauer

Joan Beebe

Biggby Coffee-Judith Henley

John and Shirley Blakely

Mark Bonsignore

Drew and Monica Bordner

Dick and Debbie Boris

*Boris Realtors*

Thomas and Debra Bradley

*Richland Village Drug*

Stevie and Rob Brinkerhoff

Nancy Brookins

Judi Brown

*In memory of Betty Knafel*

Ronald Carl

Patricia Chipman

Susan and John Chrisman

Wanda Clawson

*In honor of Faye Koestner*

Janet K. Clemons

*In honor of Catherine Tucci*

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Mark and Renae Feldpausch

June Filipowicz

Footworks

~~Patrick and Debra Gallagher

John and Sharon Garside

Marilyn & John Gayda

Dan Gibbs

Peter and Rusty Graham

John and Geneva Goble

Richard and Virginia Gross

Gull Lake Marine

David and Michelle Halley

Bill and Doris Hamill

Pete and Margaret Hamlett

Jason Henderson

Marty Hettinga *In honor of*

*Jack & Camille Lawrence*

B.J. Hooks

Josephine Hopkins

Win and Leslie Howard

James and Mary Jasiak

Julia A. Johnson

Bob and Val Karam

John and Kathleen Keagle

Faye Koestner

Jean Krohn

Jean Kubiak

Charles and Phyllis LaVene

Patricia L. Lawrence

John and Rita Light

George and Mary Lindenberg

Philip and Delores Malpass

Thomas and Pamela Mansager

Constance Marlatt

*In memory of E.T. Coughlin Family and the Paul Marlatt Family*

Joel and Maria Markucki

Ron Martens

*In memory of Lois J. Martens*

William and Joyce Melvin \*

Joyce and William Nooney

Donald and Cynthia Palmer

Don and Ann Parfet

Martha G. Parfet

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*In memory of Margaret Tittle 7/2015 (Mother)*

*In memory of Norma and Don Snyder (Grandparents)*

Catherine Tucci

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John and Cathryn VanderSalm

Vito Valella

*In memory of Geraldine Valella*

Bo and Mel VanPeenan

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*In memory of Nathan W.*

Janice and Carl Waldorf

Beverly and David Warner

Susan and Douglas Worgess

B. Joseph and Mary White

Shirley A. Wiegner

Jilisa and Mark Williams

*In memory of*

*Maurine Williams*

\*denotes matching gift

We make every effort to ensure that all of our generous donors have been listed correctly. Please let us know if we have made an error or omission.



# EXPLORE WITH RACC PACK ADVENTURE TRAVEL!

We have a wonderful variety of exciting trips for you. For more details, go to [richlandareacc.org](http://richlandareacc.org).



## SPRINGTIME IN BRANSON

*May 16-20, \$949 pp, dbl occupancy*

Four fabulous days in Branson jam packed with shows! Enjoy five different shows - Doug Gabriel, The #1 Hits of the 50s and 60s Too!, Presley's Country Jubilee, Shoji Tabuchi, and the Brett Family Singers! The trip includes dinner at the infamous Carmines in St. Louis and Shorty Smalls in Branson, plus four breakfasts and one lunch.

## DAY TRIP TO SEE THE FOUR FRESHMAN IN HOLLAND, MI.

*April 14, 2016 \$80*

Four Freshman show at Commons of Evergreen, tour of Holland by a local professional, lunch at the Beachwood Inn.

## DISNEY'S BEAUTY AND THE BEAST MUSICAL IN CHICAGO

*May 25, 2016, \$138 pp*

See Disney's Beauty and the Beast, the smash Hit Broadway Musical at the Cadillac Palace Theatre in Chicago! We will take an "Evolution of the Skyscraper" walking tour of some of the world's first skyscrapers. Our day will conclude with dinner at Johnel's Restaurant in Hammond, IN.

## CAPE COD & ISLANDS

*June 11-18, \$1,699 pp, dbl occupancy*

Enjoy the best of the Cape & Islands - Hyannis, Sandwich and Plymouth! Sandwich Glass Museum, Cranberry Farm. Take a guided tour of Martha's Vineyard, Chatham to Provincetown, and

Nantucket. Enjoy a watching tour! Visit the Cape Cod National Seashore and more!

## THE BUFFALO ROUND-UP

*September 24-October 3, \$1,799 pp, dbl occupancy*

Enjoy Custer State Park in the beautiful Black Hills of western South Dakota! Visit Mount Rushmore Park, Corn Palace, Journey Museum in Rapid City, SD, and Black Hills Gold Museum and Store. Ride the 1880 train through the Black Hills, visit Spearfish Canyon, Bear Butte State Park, Badlands National Park and finish your trip with a Buffalo Roundup!

## 2015 WHAT A YEAR!





# Enrichment

## UNDERSTANDING ISLAM: A GUIDE TO THE 2ND LARGEST RELIGION IN THE WORLD

Wednesdays, January 27 & February 3, 6-9 pm

**FREE, Must Register at 269.629.9430**

*As part of our mission to encourage lifelong learning, we're offering a series of classes to provide a greater understanding of the various religions practiced throughout the world.*



First up will be **Understanding Islam: The 2nd Largest Religion in the World**. These informative seminars will be led by Scott Minehart, GLHS AP History and Comparative Religion teacher. Come and learn, ask questions and expect an interactive evening! The first night will focus on history and end with a question and answer period. The second night will be led by two Muslim Americans, male and female, ready to answer your questions. We will be serving a middle-eastern buffet style meal, so please RSVP to reserve your spot on either night.

## How to Use Your Smart Phone/Tablet Workshop

Fridays, January 22 & February 19

9:00 – 11:00 am

**FREE, Must register at 269.629.9430**

Do you wish you knew how to use your cell phone or tablet? Would you like to know more about the power and functionality of your smart device?



Sign up for this workshop, and we will pair you with a Gateway student who will personalize instruction to your particular needs and device!

This workshop is a fantastic collaboration among the RACC, Gateway Academy and GLCS to

meet the needs of our community members. Both Apple and Android platforms will be supported.

## Lunch & Learn: Stay Safe Online! Protect Yourself from Cyber Crime!

Thursday, February 11, 11:30 am

**FREE, Must Register at 269.629.9430**

Wondering how to protect yourself when you're online using your computer, cellphone, or tablet?

Learn how to safeguard your personal information and your electronics in an understandable, non-tech-heavy and entertaining class suitable for all ages and levels of computer knowledge.

This class is taught by Andrew Alspach, President and Founder of InfoSafe. Lunch included, thanks to The Laurels of Galesburg.



## SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Monday, January 25

9:00 am – 10:30 am

**FREE, Please register at below-listed link.**

We shed blood, sweat, and tears over our fundraising events. We wonder what we are really accomplishing. Your fundraising event can be so much more than a grueling way to raise a few dollars. In this workshop, we'll look at time-saving, cost-effective ways to get the most out your fundraising events—more good will and more dollars raised. To register, go to [kpl.gov/ONEplace/calendar](http://kpl.gov/ONEplace/calendar).

## SMART MARKETING FOR YOUR NONPROFIT

Monday, April 18

9:00 am – 10:30 am

**FREE, Please register at below-listed link.**

We need to get the word out about our organization, but what's the right way to do that? What social media is best? How do I keep it all organized? This workshop helps you identify your marketing priorities, sort through media options, and build buy-in while allowing flexibility to respond to a dynamic environment. In this session you will build a big picture timeline to ensure consistency and relevance, develop an editorial calendar to facilitate clarity and efficiency, and identify key messages to be reinforced in every communication. To register, go to [kpl.gov/ONEplace/calendar](http://kpl.gov/ONEplace/calendar).

*These are the third and fourth classes in our series of information/workshops from ONEPlace@kpl.*

# Art

## SOFT PASTEL CLASS W/CAROL YAGER

February 21, 1-4 pm, \$35

You won't believe what you can create within the span of this class! Learn how easily and quickly you can create a beautiful sunset landscape using chalk pastels. You'll learn the tips and techniques necessary to create something beautiful in pastel. This class will cover some of the basics needed to create a pastel picture.

*Please bring GOOD quality pastels, such as Rembrandt or Sennelier. An assortment of at least twenty four is recommended. Paper and picture will be provided.*



## OIL PASTEL CLASS W/CAROL YAGER

March 6, 1-4 pm, \$35

Discover how to make a beautiful painting using the bold hues of oil pastels! You'll learn two different approaches to create two different pictures using oil pastels.

*Please bring good quality pastels, such as Rembrandt (minimum of 24 assortment recommended), as well as a (F) fine Faber-Castell PITT artist pen. Paper and picture will be provided.*

## SCARF FELTING CLASS

Instructor: World Renown, Dawn Edwards

Wed. February 20, 9:30 am—4:30 pm, \$135



Learn the basics of felting, or expand your knowledge, as we create beautiful felt scarves with world renown Dawn Edwards!

In this workshop, we will create a lightweight, airy, thin, yet strong, lattice or free-form felt scarf using fine, soft Merino wool.

This is a fun class...perfect for both beginners and more experienced feltmakers. If time allows, we will make a flower pin to adorn your scarf.

Please bring along a couple of old towels and a plastic bowl to hold water. All other materials will be provided.



*All classes require pre-payment. Please pay online at [www.richlandareacc.org](http://www.richlandareacc.org); by check; or by phone by calling 629-9430. Class size is limited and they fill quickly, so please register early. We will notify you only if the class is full or has insufficient enrollment. Please use this enrollment form if you're sending a check.*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE/TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:**

**Richland Area Community Center  
9400 E. CD Ave. Richland, MI 49083  
269.629.9430**

**Or pay online at [www.richlandareacc.org](http://www.richlandareacc.org)**

We encourage students to sign up early. Classes may be canceled due to low enrollment.

In the event a class is canceled, full refunds will be issued.



### Book Discussion Group

The Book Discussion Group meets the third Thursday of each month at 9:30 am. Newcomers are welcome and encouraged!

- Isadore's Secret*  
by **Mardi Link**.....1/21
- Missoula: Rape and the Justice System in a College Town*  
by **Jon Krakauer** .....2/18
- Detroit: An American Autopsy*  
by **Charlie LeDuff** .....3/17



### Gull Lake Area Rotary Club

- Jon Scott**, President Gull Lake View Golf Club and Resort "The Stoatin Brae (a Links-style Golf Course)..... 1/21
- Ryan Ogle**, Executive Director 2016 Senior Profession Golf Championship..... 1/28
- Mac Waldorf**, Managing Partner of NoMi Developers "The River's Edge District in Kalamazoo" ..... 2/7
- Lori Tomlinson**, Gull Lake High School Student Service Awards ..... 2/11
- Eileen Wilson-Oyelaran**, President of Kalamazoo College ..... 2/18
- Brian Colopy**, Managing Partner for the Kalamazoo Growlers, a Northwoods League Baseball Team ..... 2/25

The Gull Lake Area Rotary Club meets every Thursday morning at 7:30 am. Guests are welcome.

## WEIGHT WATCHERS IS AT THE RACC!

Are you ready for a healthier life? Weight Watchers can help! Oprah believes in the program so strongly that she bought a 10 percent stake in the company!

Weight Watchers' revamped program, Beyond the Scale, focuses on a healthier and happier lifestyle that includes their proven weight loss plans that have helped millions of people lose weight and lead healthier lives for more than 50 years. The Beyond the Scale program starts with a personal assessment to better understand your lifestyle, challenges, and goals. Weight Watchers' most personalized approach ever fits your life and is backed by real-time support. It focuses on YOU, not just a number on a scale. Join Weight Watchers and get ready to unlock your inner awesome: [weightwatchers.com](http://weightwatchers.com). **Meetings are Thursdays** with a 5:00 pm Weigh-in; 5:30-6:00 pm class. Several pricing options are available. Join us for Fit Club, which meets right after the WW meeting.

## RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

What Acts of Kindness Will You Do?

February 14-20 is National Random Acts of Kindness Week. This is a seven-day celebration of kindness—for one week, everyone is encouraged to focus on the positive! How do you get involved? **Do something kind**, whether it is a kind word or act for an acquaintance or a stranger, a social media post, or even something kind for yourself—it all counts! Post your kind deed to the RACC Facebook page or e-mail it to [info@richlandareacc.org](mailto:info@richlandareacc.org) and put "Kind Act" in the subject line, and your name will be included in a drawing for a Panera Gift Card! We want to celebrate your contributions to this week of kindness, so we may include your information in our e-news or our website, so please indicate in your e-mail message if you do not wish to have your act publicized or wish to remain anonymous. We can't wait to see what you do, and we'll be posting our own kind acts throughout the week, as well! For ideas, go to [www.randomactsofkindness.org](http://www.randomactsofkindness.org).

## LEARN HOW TO USE YOUR SMART PHONE & TABLET

Do you wish you knew how to use your cell phone or tablet? Would you like to know more about the power and functionality of your smart device? You are not alone. This is a common challenge for individuals who did not grow up using technology in their day-to-day lives. Help is here! In the **Learn How to Use Your Smart Phone/Tablet Workshop**, we will pair you with a student from Gateway Academy who will personalize instruction to your particular needs and device! How great is that?

"Students at Gateway Academy regularly participate in community service activities. We are pleased to add RACC to organizations we partner with and look forward to assisting those who need a little guidance with technology," Lynnette Walker, Gateway Academy.

This workshop will be offered on two Fridays, January 22 and February 19, from 9-11 am. Registration is required to attend. To sign up, please call 269.629.9430.

"This workshop is a terrific collaboration among the RACC, Gateway Academy and Gull Lake Community Schools to meet the needs and improve the lives of our community members. We appreciate the students' willingness to share their expertise," Jilisa Williams, Executive Director of the RACC.

## RENT A ROOM AT THE RACC FOR YOUR EVENT!

Are you planning a graduation party, baby shower, or some other gathering? Rent space at the beautiful RACC campus to hold your event! We have accommodated everything from plays to weddings with great success. Our facility has four rooms available to rent at reasonable rates: Kitchen/Sunroom (\$75 first hour, \$25 each additional hour), Community Room (\$85 first hour, \$35 each additional hour), Plant Room (\$40 for the first hour, \$20 each additional hour), Classroom (\$65 first hour, \$25 each additional hour). Guests can enjoy our beautiful outdoor gazebo and walking trails while they are here. Call us at 269.629.9430 to find out more or to book your event!





# RACC Announcements!



live to eat

## NEW! The Kitchen House Cooking Series!

Save The Dates! Monday, April 11, and Monday, May 2, 6-8 pm. Owner Jennifer Dykstra and Chef Brandon Pringle will share tips and techniques on creating rustic locally focused and Italia-inspired cuisine similar to what is served in their exciting new restaurant! Classes will be held at RACC where we will learn to "Live to eat!"

## Fit Club Returns!

Mary Jasiak is returning as Queen of the Fit Club! Join her Thursday nights beginning January 14, 6 pm. Workout to a moderately paced DVD with friends, enjoy lots of laughs and get in shape! Have a favorite workout DVD? Bring it and see how much more fun it is to exercise with friends! Suggested donation of \$2 or more.



## NEW! Weight Watchers at the RACC!

Are you ready for a healthier lifestyle? Weight Watchers can help. Attend a meeting to find out more! 5:00 pm Weigh-in; 5:30-6:00pm class. Several pricing options are available.

## Yoga

Did you know that yoga can improve heart health, asthma symptoms, reduce mental stress and insomnia, and increase your energy level? Join one of our many classes and discover the vast benefits of yoga for yourself! See the back cover for classes and times.

## Alzheimer's Basics:

Memory Loss and Dementia Weds. Feb 24, 2-3 pm. If you or someone you know is affected by Alzheimer's disease or dementia, it is time to learn the facts. This program provides information on detection, cause and risk factors, stages of the disease, treatment, and more. Please RSVP 629-9430.

## Bridge Club Needs Players

Are you looking for something to help keep your mind sharp and chase away the winter blahs? Join Bridge Club! This fun group is looking for additional players and meets on Mondays from 12:30-3:30 pm.

## Laurels Lunch & Learn: How to Stay Safe Online

Wondering how to protect yourself when you're online using your computer, cellphone, or tablet? Learn in an understandable, non-tech-heavy and entertaining class suitable for all ages and levels of computer knowledge. Please RSVP to reserve your spot at 629-9430. Lunch will be provided, only 25 spots available.



## Older Bunch for Lunch 2016 Calendar

Luncheon begins at 12:00 noon. All reservations must be called in to the host by Tuesday. Please be generous with your donations!

February 4  
No Luncheon

March 3  
St. Ann Catholic Church

April 7  
New Hope Church

May 5  
St. Timothy's Church

June 2  
Gull Lake Methodist Church

July 1  
No Luncheon

August 4  
First Presbyterian Church

September 1  
Richland Area Community Center

October 6  
Yorkville Church

November 3  
No Luncheon

December 8  
Gull Lake Middle School

December 11  
Gull Lake Middle School

## REGULAR EVENTS CALENDAR

ORGANIZATIONS, GROUPS AND GATHERINGS		
ASYO	BY APPOINTMENT	
COFFEE HOUR	TUES. AND THURS.	9:30-10:30 AM
BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP	3RD THURSDAY	9:30 AM
GULL LAKE AREA ROTARY CLUB	THURSDAY	7:30-8:30 AM
GULL LAKE QUALITY ORGANIZATION	BY. APPT.	7-9 PM
LIONS CLUB	1ST THURSDAY	5:30-7:30 PM
SENIOR DINING COUPONS	TUESDAY	9 AM-5 PM
	WEDNESDAY	9 AM-1 PM
WIN	3RD MONDAY	5:30-8 PM
CARD GROUPS		
BRIDGE	MONDAY	12:30-3:30 PM
EUCHRE	WEDNESDAY	12:30-3:30 PM
HAND & FOOT	WEDNESDAY	1-3:30 PM
DANCE, SPORTS, FITNESS, MUSIC, AND ART		
CRESCENDO "MUSIC TOGETHER"	TUESDAY	5:30 PM
FIT CLUB	THURSDAY	6 PM
FOOT CLINIC	4TH TUESDAY	BY APPT.
	BI-MONTHLY	
SENIOR BALLROOM DANCE	STARTS APRIL 24	2-5 PM
SQUARE DANCE	STARTS MARCH 19	7-10 PM
SWINGIN' WITH SUSAN	TUES. AND THURS.	10:30-11:30 AM
TAI CHI, INTERMEDIATE	WEDNESDAY	4:30-5:30 PM
YOGA WITH SHERRY	MONDAY	10:30-11:30 AM
YOGA, HVINYASA MEGHAN	MONDAY	6 PM
YOGA, GENTLE WITH CATHY	TUES. AND THURS.	10:15-11:15 AM
YOGA, INTERMEDIATE WITH CATHY	TUES. AND THURS.	9-10 AM
YOGA, HVINYASA WITH KATHE	TUESDAY	6 PM
YOGA, CORE BOOST WITH CATHY	FRIDAY	9:15 AM
WEIGHT WATCHERS	THURSDAY	5 PM

## SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR

HOW TO USE YOUR SMARTPHONE / TABLET WORKSHOP FRI, JAN 22, & FEB 19 9:00-11:00 AM, MUST REGISTER
ONEPLACE SEMINAR: SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISING EVENTS MON, JAN 25 9:00-10:30 AM, MUST REGISTER
ISLAM IN AMERICA: A GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING THE 2ND LARGEST RELIGION IN THE WORLD WED, JAN 27 & FEB 3 6:00-9:00 PM, MUST REGISTER
LAURELS LUNCH & LEARN: STAY SAFE ONLINE! PROTECT YOURSELF FROM CYBERCRIME THUR, FEB 11 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM, MUST REGISTER
RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS WEEK FEB 14-20, ALL WEEK
SCARF FELTING CLASS WITH DAWN EDWARDS FEB 20, 9:30 AM – 4:30 PM
SOFT PASTELS CLASS WITH CAROL YAGER FEB 21, 1:00-4:00 PM
OIL PASTELS CLASS WITH CAROL YAGER MAR 6, 1:00-4:00 PM
KITCHEN HOUSE COOKING SERIES APR 11 & MAY 2, 6:00-8:00 PM
ONEPLACE SEMINAR: SMART MARKETING FOR YOUR NONPROFIT MON, APR 18 9:00-10:30 AM, MUST REGISTER

*Off The RACC*

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR  
THE RICHLAND AREA COMMUNITY CENTER

Off The RACC is a quarterly publication of the Richland Area Community Center, a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization located in Richland, Michigan.

Please direct all correspondence to:

Richland Area Community Center  
9400 East CD Ave.  
Richland, MI 49083  
(269) 629-9430

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Executive Director

Richland Area Community Center  
Board of Directors

Drew Bordner, President  
Betty Miller, Secretary  
Jason Henderson, Treasurer

Rob Brinkerhoff Val Karam  
Nancy Land John McCann  
Lori Nay Tomlinson

Richland Area Community Center  
Board Meetings are held on the  
3rd Tues. of every month at 5:30 pm.

Community participation is  
welcomed at RACC board  
meetings. A written request to  
speak is required at least 24  
hours before the board meeting.  
Individuals are allowed 5 minutes  
to make their presentation.



paulgobble.com

random acts  
of Kindness