

# **THE JAFFREY-RINDGE ROTARY CLUB**

## **Our History**

### **A Decade of Service and Beyond**



**Service Above Self**

**“Whatever Rotary may mean to us, to the world  
it will be known by the results it achieves”**

**Paul Harris, Founder of Rotary**

# ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Rotary International is a service organization whose purpose is to bring together business and professional leaders in order to provide humanitarian services, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

Our organization started with the vision of one man, Paul P. Harris. The Chicago attorney formed one of the world's first service organizations, the Rotary Club of Chicago, on February 23, 1905 as a place where professionals with diverse backgrounds could exchange ideas and form meaningful, lifelong friendships. Rotary's name came from the group's early practice of rotating meetings among the offices of each member.

Today there are 34,282 clubs and over 1.2 million members worldwide. What binds Rotarians together is the idea of service and is best expressed in the Rotarian motto of "Service above Self".

Rotarians channel our commitment to service at home and abroad through five Avenues of Service, which are the foundation of club activity.

**CLUB SERVICE** focuses on making clubs strong. A thriving club is anchored by strong relationships and an active membership development plan.

**VOCATIONAL SERVICE** calls on every Rotarian to work with integrity and contribute their expertise to the problems and needs of society.

**COMMUNITY SERVICE** encourages every Rotarian to find ways to improve the quality of life for people in their communities and to serve the public interest.

**INTERNATIONAL SERVICE** exemplifies our global reach in promoting peace and understanding. We support this service avenue by sponsoring or volunteering on international projects, seeking partners abroad, and more.

**YOUTH SERVICE** recognizes the importance of empowering youth and young professionals through leadership development programs such as Rotaract, Interact, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, and Rotary Youth Exchange.

# **The Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club**

## **Our Early History**

The organizing force behind the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club was a handful of Jaffrey and Rindge residents who were members of the Peterborough and Monadnock Rotary Clubs. Discussions around the possibility of forming a Jaffrey-Rindge club began in 2001. The motivation was to bring the benefits of Rotary service to Jaffrey and Rindge.

Bill Anders, Allan Van Hoogen and David Tower were members of the Monadnock Rotary Club. Bill Gilson and Jeb Brummer were members of the Peterborough Club. Members of this small group first met at Dunkin Donuts in Jaffrey in early autumn of 2002 to discuss the possibility of forming a Jaffrey-Rindge club.

Discussions continued through the fall and in November an organizational meeting was held at the Monadnock Inn. Peter Powers, District Governor and retired Chevron executive, attended. This meeting produced a decision to proceed with efforts to create a "provisional" Rotary Club serving Jaffrey and Rindge.

Key to this effort was the initial meeting where it would be determined if there was sufficient interest in the community to proceed with an application for a Rotary charter. The date selected was December 18, 2002.

A great deal of hard work went into the organization of the meeting. First, who would be invited? David Tower still has a list of potential members. Next to each name there is a telephone number and a note indicating level of interest.

A second decision was when and where would this meeting be held? Here several precedents were set that continue to this day. It was decided to meet over breakfast on a Thursday. The location was Franklin Pierce University.

Jed Brummer and David Tower met with Dr. George Hagerty, President of Franklin Pierce University, to request that the university host the first meeting. Dr. Hagerty replied in the affirmative, and started the long process of co-operation between the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club and Franklin Pierce University.

The December 18, 2002 meeting turned out to be a pivotal moment in the history of the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club. It was at this meeting that a vote was taken to form a provisional club and go through the steps to apply for a charter as a Rotary club.

Over forty potential members showed up for that first 7:30 a.m. breakfast meeting. Rotary District Governor Peter Powers, who supported the formation of the new club, was at this inaugural meeting.

Charles Bass, a United States Congressman and long time Rotarian, delivered the keynote address. Bass praised the behind-the-scenes work that Rotary Clubs do for communities and the world at large as members put "Service above self". "We do it quietly, but we're effective," he said.



**Congressman Bass**

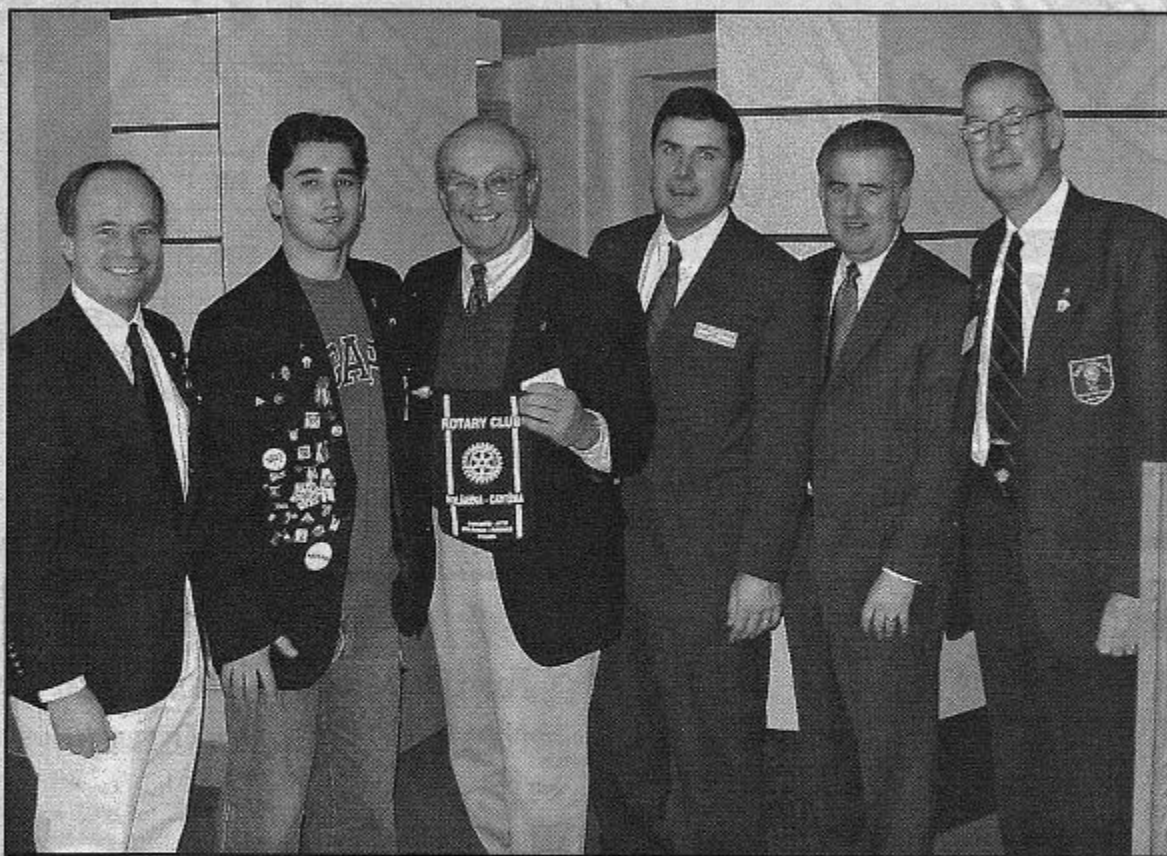


PHOTO BY JED BRUMMER

David Tower holds the Brazilian Rotary flag presented to the new Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club. Pedro Detaula, second from left, presented the flag, a tradition among visiting Rotarians. Other dignitaries at the club's inaugural meeting yesterday included Congressman Charlie Bass, left, and to Tower's right, State Senator Andy Peterson, Franklin Pierce College President George Hagerty and Rotary District Governor Peter Powers of Hopkinton.

## A new chapter for Rotary

Picture from the Monadnock Ledger, article appears on the next page

Bass also praised the people who would become charter members of the new club. "Membership is good for you and for the people whose lives you make better," he said.

State Senator Andy Peterson, a member of the Peterborough Rotary Club, attended the meeting to lend his support to the new club. "I think it's about 10 years overdue," he said.

"Rotary becomes a quiet giant in the community," Peterson said. He spoke about how Rotary clubs address community

issues through programs like Operation Santa and initiatives like scholarships. "Membership is an opportunity to do something people can look back on with satisfaction," he said.

George Hagerty also spoke in support of forming a Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club. He said the College would be supportive of the effort because fostering Rotary "is part of Franklin Pierce College being part of the community."

# New chapter for Rotary

## Jaffrey-Rindge club forms

By ERIC POOR

Monadnock Ledger Staff

RINDGE — Congressman Charles Bass, a long time Rotarian, delivered the keynote address to a new Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club yesterday morning.

Bass praised the behind-the-scenes work the Rotary Clubs do for communities and the world at large as members put "service above self."

"We do it quietly, but we're effective," he said.

Bass also praised the people who are becoming charter members of the new club.

"Membership is good for you and for the people whose lives you make better," he said.

State Senator Andy Peterson, a member of the Peterborough Rotary Club, also attended the meeting at the Emily Flint Campus Center at Franklin Pierce College to lend his support to the new club.

"I think it's about 10 years overdue," he said.

Peterson spoke about how the clubs address community issues through programs like Operation Santa and initiatives like scholarships. Membership is an opportunity to do something people can look back on with satisfaction, he said.

"Rotary becomes a quiet giant in the community," Peterson said.

David Tower, a Rindge resident with a law firm in Jaffrey, is the organizing force behind the formation of the new club. He credited

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**"Rotary becomes a quiet giant in the community."**

**Andy Peterson,  
state senator**

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Peterson with getting him involved in the Peterborough Rotary 10 years ago. Peterson said it was Charlie Bass who brought him into the club in 1983.

Rotary District Governor Peter Powers of Hopkinton, who is supporting the formation of the new club, was also at the inaugural meeting of what is the first new club in the district since 1996. The club is a "provisional" Rotary Club that will likely become a chartered club by this spring.

"It's off and running," Powers said.

The Rotary International rules require at least 20 members for the formation of a new club. The Jaffrey-Rindge club has 30 members, said Tower.

Tower said Franklin Pierce College "couldn't have been more accommodating" in providing the new club a place to hold its meetings. The college will be the regular meeting place for the club, he said.

College President George Hagerty said the school believes fostering the organization is part of the college being a part of the community.

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► **ROTARY**.....(from page 11)

Tower accepted several gifts to the new club. John Kaufhold presented a \$1,000 donation from the Peterborough Rotary. Swift Corwin presented a \$1,000 donation from the Monadnock Rotary.

Kaufhold introduced foreign exchange student Pedro Detaula of Rolandia, Parana, Brazil. Detaula upheld the tradition of visiting Rotarians by presenting the new club with a small flag from his Rotary Club in Brazil.

Rotary, established in 1905, is based on friendship and fellowship. It fosters business development and networking, as well as personal and leadership development. The clubs are an open society of men and women who believe in helping others. Rotarians provide community service to both local and international communities. One of the international initiatives of the club is the eradication of polio.

This has resulted in the immunization of more than 1 billion children.

David Tower accepted several gifts on behalf of the provisional club. John Kaufhold presented a \$1,000 donation from the Peterborough Rotary. Swift Corwin presented a \$1,000 donation from the Monadnock Rotary. The provisional club received another \$750 from various clubs within the District.

Emphasizing the international side of Rotary, John Kaufhold introduced foreign exchange student Pedro Detaula of Rolandia, Parana, Brazil. Detaula upheld the tradition of visiting Rotarians by presenting the

Peter also initiated an orientation process to educate members to the Rotary commitment to service at home and abroad through the five Avenues of Service, which are the foundation of club activity. Peter Powers brought with him five Rotarians who each spoke on one of the service areas: Club, Vocational, Community, International, and Youth Service.

The charter application was submitted to Rotary International in Chicago at the end of January 2003. Peter Powers certified to Rotary International that the provisional club had completed its orientation and was now ready to become the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club.

The Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club was chartered on February 24, 2003 with 44 Charter members, and is Club #61345 in Rotary District 7870. It was the first new Rotary Club in the district since 1996.

Charter Night was February 24, 2003 at Hidden Hills in Rindge. Members attended with their spouses. Peter Powers and a number of past District Governors were in attendance. Charlie Bass and Andy Peterson were there, once again, giving their support.

Part of the application process to Rotary International was putting in place a structure for the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club. This included by-laws, officers, committees, and service and financial plans.

The first officers of the Jaffrey Rindge Rotary Club were David Tower, President; Bill Anders, Secretary; Allan Van Hoogen, Sargent



**Pedro Petaula with Dave Tower**

provisional club with a small flag from his Rotary Club in Brazil.

The second meeting of the provisional club took place on Thursday, January 9, 2003. Peter Powers outlined the process for submitting an application for a Rotary charter.



-at Arms; and Ben Wheeler, Treasurer.

A list of the first ten presidents of the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club can be found in the Appendix. Each president faced a different set of challenges, but one issue they all shared was the need to raise sufficient revenues to fund service projects.

Every Rotary Club is faced with this issue, and many have been very creative in finding ways to raise revenue. Various clubs in our region sponsor activities such as a fishing derby, a rib fest, and pancake breakfast. The Keene Rotary Club has a very successful raffle.







Dues and “happy fines” provided some initial revenues. A “New Year’s Eve Gala” at Hidden Hills was an early attempt to establish a predictable source of funding. After two years this was abandoned.

Sadie Jackson’s tenure as Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club president saw two initia-

tives to find a revenue source to fund service projects. One of these efforts was the Baseball Festival, an idea put forth by Rotarian Steve Meyers.

The Baseball Festival was a challenge softball game between Jaffrey and Rindge Rotarians. Originally conceived as an independent event, it was affiliated with Jaffrey’s RiverFest weekend in the second year. Money came from selling sponsorships, the sale of refreshments, and money collected from various amusements.

Prior to the Rotarian softball game there were instructional sessions for young people and fun activities such as a dunk tank. The New Hampshire Fischer Cats provided a booth where aspiring pitchers could clock the speed of their fastball.

Tony Cassady, Jaffrey- Rindge Rotary President in the period 2008-2009, recalls



**Belletetes, one of the sponsors**

an incident during the second year of the Baseball Festival. One of the fund raising events was a dunk tank. There was one little kid with a great arm, and a parent who kept him supplied with money, that dunked every Rotarian sitting in the dunk tank multiple times.

The Baseball Festival was cancelled after three years due to low community involve-



**Jed Brummer in the dunk tank**

ment and limited revenues. For the record, Rindge led the series two games to one.

The solution to a predictable revenue source came in 2005, when the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club sponsored its first Reverse Raffle at the Shattuck Golf Club. The raffle has evolved over time to include both silent and live auctions, and is our club's primary source of revenue to fund community services.

Over 300 tickets are sold at \$60 each. A ticket admits two adults to the prize drawing reception. The Grand Prize is \$2,500; additional prizes include one prize of \$1,000, one prize of \$500, two prizes of \$250 and lots of smaller fun prizes.

Live auction items are donated by local merchants. Held on a Friday night with live music, appetizers and drinks; the event has become one of the major social events of the autumn.

Giving the event a festive atmosphere are the Masters of Ceremonies and auctioneers. Mike Shea and Ben Wheeler performed this function from the inception of the Reverse Raffle until 2013, when Andy Lawn joined Mike in



hosting the evening.

A highlight of the Reverse Raffle is the naming of the Jaffrey-Rindge Paul Harris Award recipient. The award is named for the founder of Rotary, Paul Harris. A donation of \$1,000 is given to the Rotary International Foundation in the name of the recipient to support programs such as Polio Eradication and Clean Water.



In the words of Rotarian Clay Hollister, former President of the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club, the Paul Harris Award is given to those who “help our town and our neighbors. And they do so in a very quiet, deliberate manner. They embody ‘Service Above Self’. We are lucky to have them.”

Community recipients of the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club Paul Harris Award have been John Peard, 2009; Bob VanDyke, 2010; Susan Leach, 2012. Rotarians receiving the award are Bill Anders, 2008, and Tonya Albee, 2011.

Another leadership challenge facing early Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club presidents was the task of communicating with the membership. David Tower and Sadie Jackson recall spending Sunday evenings doing a weekly e-mail to the membership discussing the upcoming meeting and events in the District, and Rotary International.

This tedious process was made easier during Clay Hollister’s presidency. A Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club web site was established utilizing Rotary International’s Club Runner software.

Phil Cournoyer, our technology wizard, installed the web site. Phil followed Clay Hollister as president of the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club in the period 2010-2011.

Another early organization accomplishment was the design of the Club’s banner. Art students from Conant High were challenged to help our club come up with a design for the banner. The banner created by the art students in the fall of 2005 is the same banner our club uses today.

On February 10, 2006, during Mike Shea’s presidency, the Club received notification from the Internal Revenue Service that we had received exemption from federal income tax under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. David Tower played a leadership role in moving this forward.

Death has taken a number of our charter members. David Knight, a Jaffrey dentist and significant contributor to the joint Rotary club

“Healthy Kids Project”, was killed in a tractor accident at age 45.

Among the early members of our club who shared a sense of service, fellowship and humor that helped to lay the foundation for the club are: Gerald W. Parker, retired physician and Brigadier General, who worked with NASA and the Apollo astronauts; Ronald Fournier, minister of Advent Lutheran Church; Al Van Hoogen, retired Marine; and Barry Miller, proprietor of the Prescott Inn.

# Our Decade of Service

## CLUB SERVICE

Club Service focuses on making clubs strong. A thriving club is anchored by strong relationships and an active membership development plan.

Jed Brummer, the second president of the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club summarized the agenda for his tenure in this way, "It is obvious that the major appeal of Rotary is its service orientation. But that is not enough to keep people coming back, they also want education, camaraderie and fun".

Club meetings, with the exception of general assemblies, have a guest speaker who makes a twenty- minute presentation. Over the decade, 2003-2013, the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club has had over 300 speakers.

The range in topics has been great. International service topics have included affordable housing for disaster victims, the eradication of polio, the aids epidemic, and providing clean water in developing countries.

On a local level we learned about efforts



such as Shelter from the Storm, which provides transitional housing and support services for the homeless in our area. Monadnock at Home, an effort to keep seniors in their homes; and Downtown Jaffrey, an effort to preserve a healthy small town commercial center, and efforts to rebuild the Park Theater.

There was the occasional political speaker. This list includes an aspiring presidential candidate, the New Hampshire Attorney General who became a United States Senator, and several candidates to the United States House of Representatives.

Some speakers have shared their life experiences. An emotional and powerful presentation was given by Natalia Orloff-Klauer, a Fitzwilliam resident, who is a holocaust survivor. Mrs. Orloff-Klauer shared her family's experience while prisoners at Dresden.

Dr. Robert Weinberg, an MIT professor of genetics and part-time Rindge resident, spoke in the summer of 2011 on DNA and stretched our thinking on what the future of health care could hold.

Robert Putnam, a professor of public policy at Harvard's Kennedy School, spoke at the August 23, 2012 meeting on the growing disparity in economic opportunity in American society and its impact on the lives of children.

Putnam's talk was of great interest to Jaffrey-Rindge Rotarians, given the efforts around Quest to help disadvantaged youth in our community. He referenced Quest and how community projects like it can provide support to children at risk.

Some speakers were just fun. David Lang spoke on his collection of 15,000 beer cans, and Rob Henning shared his personal collection of baseball memorabilia.

It is the practice of the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club to make a donation to a community group in the name of the weekly speaker. Early on, donations were made to the Jaffrey-

Rindge Ambulance Service. In 2008, the club started making equal donations to the food pantries of Jaffrey and Rindge.

One of the early challenges of the leadership team of the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club was building a sense of fellowship in the new club. Jed Brummer recalls informal luncheons at East Hill Farm and Lilly's.

Clay and Caroline Hollister hosted two social events and gavel night at their home. Andy Lawn held a cookout at his home during Mike Shea's presidency, and Al and Nancy Clapp hosted a pig roast in 2006.

Bruce and June Edwards hosted Gavel Night from 2012-2014. In addition to the transfer of club leadership, the evenings had a nice sense of friends coming together to share an evening celebrating a successful year.

Jamie Birge, President of Franklin Pierce University and active member of the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club, and his wife Lisa hosted an informal lawn party at their Rindge home in August of 2013.

These efforts to instill a sense of camaraderie in the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club have resulted in a unique club culture. Known in the district for its warmth and humor, it has been said that the Jaffrey-Rindge Club "marches to its own beat".

In the words of Sadie Jackson, "I have never been to a meeting where I have not had at least one good laugh. Happy fines (moderated by Bill Driscoll, Owen Houghton, and Joe Manning) leaves me with a feeling of great joy".

This sense of fun, according to Jed Brummer, has been a part of the fabric of our club from its inception. There were always jokes and the atmosphere informal and fun. Early in the club's history, Jed recalls a weight loss contest where for six weeks there was a public "weigh-in".

Jed Brummer's formula of service, camaraderie and fun has proven effective. Throughout our club's first decade, membership has

not fallen below forty members.

Maintaining a vibrant membership is always a challenge to a service organization, especially those located in small communities. Tony Cassady, President of the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary 2008-2009, made growing club membership one of his main objectives.

Tony's goal was to reach a membership of 50 by Gavel Night 2009. The club didn't quite hit 50, but the momentum from that year's efforts helped the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary reach a membership of 50 the next year during Clay Hollister's presidency.

In 2013 club membership was a healthy 51 members. Among these are a number of charter members: Owen Houghton, Jed Brummer, Mike Shea, Tammy Griffin, Jim O'Neill, Ben Wheeler, David Tower, Bruce Edwards, Bill Gilson, Clay Hollister, Sadie Jackson, Gail Terriault, Al Clapp, and Steve Meyers.

The Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club has attracted some of the most dynamic women in our community. Sadie Jackson, an executive at Monadnock Community Hospital, and Kelly Bergeron, independent businesswoman, served as club presidents.

Susan Emerson is a Representative to the New Hampshire General Assembly and family advocate. Tonya Albee is the broker/owner of a local real estate firm and was instrumental in restoring the Cathedral of the Pines after the ice storm of 2008, the Jaffrey Town Beach restoration, and remains the moving force behind Quest.

Kathy Batchelder is a Selectman in the Town of Jaffrey and former executive director of Team Jaffrey. Tammy Griffin, Branch Manager of the TD Bank of Jaffrey, and Gail Terriault, a long-time community real estate agent are active in numerous community activities.

## **VOCATIONAL SERVICE**

Vocational Service calls on every Rotarian to work with integrity and contribute their expertise to the problems and needs of society.



The Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club quickly became an important source of social capital in the community. Club members are a group of accomplished professionals who are networked and can be mobilized to focus on community needs and issues. Members provide their time and energy, the most valuable resources in any community.

Club members are found on virtually every community board. This includes organizations such as Monadnock At Home, Shelter from the Storm, Team Jaffrey, the Jaffrey Civic Center, the Monadnock Community Hospital, and the Jaffrey-Rindge Ambulance Service, RiverMead, and Cathedral of the Pines.

The ability of the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club to serve the community in times of need is illustrated by the support given the Cathedral of the Pines after the powerful ice storm of December 2007.

The Cathedral of the Pines, founded in 1945 by Sibyl and Douglas Sloane III; is a memorial to the men and women, including their son Sandy, who sacrificed their lives in World War II. Situated on a hilltop in Rindge with a panoramic view of Mt. Monadnock, the Cathedral of the Pines was devastated by the ice storm.

Members of the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club, serving on the Cathedral board, played a leadership role in efforts to restore the Cathedral of the Pines, enabling it to open on schedule on May 1, 2008.

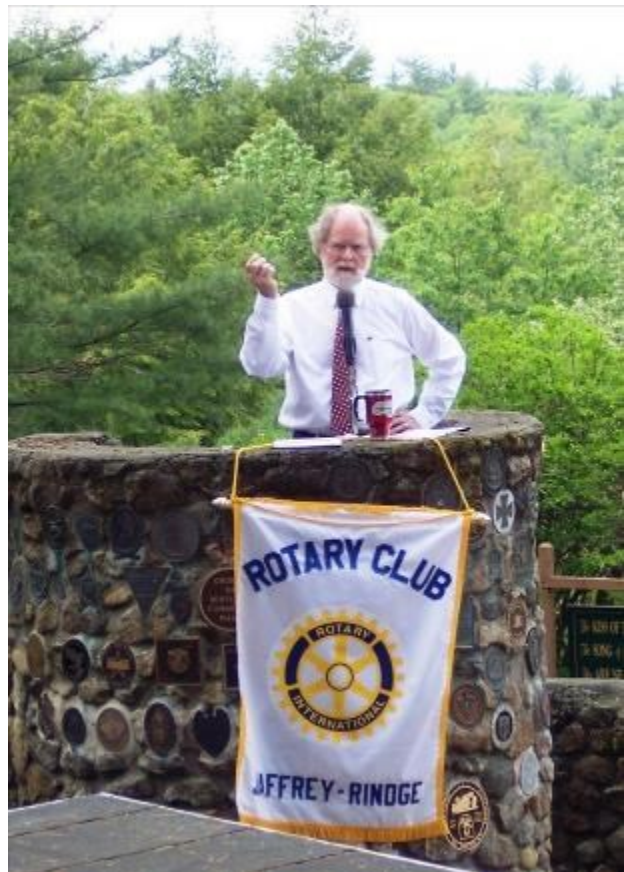
Cathedral of the Pines board members included Rotarians Tonya Albee, Jed Brummer, Allen Clapp, and Donald Upton. Allen Clapp, a retired businessman and World War II veteran, served as voluntary executive director prior to the restoration.

The membership of the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club showed up on a Saturday morning in late April of 2008 to clean the grounds, paint buildings and put up new signs designed by Rotarian Tonya Albee.

Rotarian Jed Brummer served as Chairman of the Cathedral of the Pines during its restoration. Three Rotarians, Judy Tomlinson, Tim

McMahon and Don Upton, the current chairman, have served as Chair of the Cathedral Board since the restoration.

The Cathedral of the Pines is just one example of how individuals come together under the network and organization of the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club to serve the community.



**Rotary at the Cathedral of the Pines**

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Community service encourages Rotarians to find ways to improve the quality of life for people in their communities and to serve the public interest.

From January 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013, the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club gave \$16,200 to support community service projects. Twenty-eight organizations received donations and grants ranging in size from \$150-\$2,500.

Groups receiving funds are diverse and reflect a wide spectrum of need in the community. The list includes food pantries in Jaffrey and Rindge, the Jaffrey-Rindge Ambulance Service, hurricane relief for Vermont Rotary District 7490, the New Hampshire Association for the Blind, the Rindge Veterans Association, Shelter from the Storm, the Jaffrey Civic Center, and the Rindge Chamber of Commerce.

The Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club, over the past decade, has been very supportive of services directed at community youth. This includes an annual \$2,500 a year scholarship presented to a graduating Conant High School senior.

Service projects directed to young people in the period January 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013 include Project Shakespeare at Conant High School, Destination Imagination, Conant Science Robotics, the start-up of the Conant Interact Club, Santa's House and Operation Santa, Rindge Boy Scouts, St. Patrick's School, and Victory High School.

Supporting community service is not limited to financial donations. One of our oldest community service projects is the Roadside Clean-up, a part of New Hampshire's "Adopt-A-Highway" program. Twice a year, in the fall and spring, Rotary volunteers under Andy Lawn's leadership gather early on a Saturday morning to pick up trash along Route 202.



**Scholarship being awarded to Haley Goodwin, not only a good student but an Interact member and future Quest Volunteer**



**Rotarian Joe Manning at Operation Santa**

Throughout the year the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club responds to requests for manpower to support community projects. This includes RiverFest, the Scarecrow Festival, serving as "Cup Cake Cops" at the Jaffrey Civic Center's Cup Cake Festival, and parking cars at Jaffrey Center during the summer auction.

Youth service projects have been a focus of the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club since its inception in 2003. Monadnock Healthy Teeth, various activities focused on youth recreation, and Quest provide an historical perspective on this commitment.

### **Monadnock Healthy Teeth**

One of the first high impact service programs of the newly formed Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club was a collective effort with the Monadnock Community Hospital and the Peterborough and Monadnock Rotary Clubs.

David Knight, a Jaffrey dentist and charter



### **Rotarians at Cup Cake Festival**

member of the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club, organized support in 2003 for a school based dental health program, Monadnock Healthy Teeth.

The goal of Monadnock Healthy Teeth was to provide access to dental care and instruction on dental hygiene for children in grades K-3. Each of the three Rotary clubs provided \$5,000 toward the purchase of a van that allowed a dental hygienist to visit fourteen towns in the Monadnock region.

In May of 2009 the program expanded to include childhood nutrition and obesity. The name was changed from Monadnock Healthy Teeth to Monadnock Healthy Teeth to Toes.

Today Monadnock Healthy Teeth to Toes is still using the van provided by the three Rotary clubs in 2003. On an annual basis approximately 2,000 children, spanning grades K-3 in fourteen Monadnock area schools, are taught by a Monadnock Community Hospital registered dental hygienist and registered dietitian.

In 2013 the Monadnock Community Hospital reported that tooth decay among the K-3 population had been reduced by over 44% since 2003.

### **Youth Recreation Activities**

The Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club has a history of consistently supporting recreational activities for youth in our community. Mike Shea

recalls during his presidency that the club, still in its infancy in 2005, was looking for a Community Service project that would make the Club more visible in the community.



At the time there was an identified need in the community for another baseball field, but efforts lacked a driving force to make it happen. Several meetings in the summer and fall with Walt Pryor, the Jaffrey Recreation Director, made it obvious there was a true need. Funding a new baseball field, however, would be a challenge.

The Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club made the decision to step forward and become the primary conduit for raising funds. The Club approached local businesses as well as individuals for financial support, and on Jaffrey Town Meeting day, March 16, 2006, the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club presented a check to the town earmarked for a baseball field in the amount of \$16,000.

In addition to financial support, Rotarian and Town Selectman Clay Hollister worked with the Town of Jaffrey to procure the land on Union Street. Mike Shea, as Club president, successfully applied for a District Simplified Grant for \$1,000 for a scoreboard.

Other youth recreation projects include repaving the tennis courts at the Rindge Recreation Center and support for the renovation of the Jaffrey Town Beach on Lake Contoocook.

People in small communities take pride in the accomplishments of their athletic teams. Rotarians are no exception. When the Conant



High School men's basketball team won the state championship, the club bought team members jackets to commemorate the event. And when the Conant High School women's basketball team won the state championship, the Club purchased commemorative jackets.

The Conant men's baseball team won the state championship in the spring of 2013. In lieu of jackets, the baseball state champs requested that the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club make a contribution of \$1,000 to the New Hampshire Special Olympics.

Special Olympic teams from the Jaffrey-Rindge School District include athletes now in their 40's who have continued to participate as adults as well as their younger Conant counterparts.



## Check to Conant's State Championship Men's Basketball Team

### Quest

Quest (Quality Unlimited Educational Summer Training) may turn out to be one of the defining events in the history of the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club. Many of the Club's earlier service projects, i.e. roadside clean up, scholar of the month, and scholarship programs, were borrowed from other clubs. Quest is an event unique to our club and surpasses in scope and scale anything previously attempted.

Quest had its origins in early spring 2011. A group of Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club members under the leadership of Tonya Albee created a task force to identify community service projects that would fulfill the Rotary motto of



## Jackets for Conant's State Championship Basketball Team

"Service Above Self".

Several and varied areas of need were identified, but when Rotarian and Superintendent of Schools, Jim O'Neill said there were no summer activities planned for the middle school students and that this was a critical need for our community, it resonated clearly with the Rotary task force.

The idea to create a summer camp for



these children was enthusiastically embraced by Rotary members and Quest was born. The idea of a summer camp was further embraced when Rotarian and Franklin Pierce University President, James Birge, offered the University campus as a host site.

So with the unanimous support of Rotary and the leadership of Tonya and her team: James Birge, Jed Brummer, Allen Clapp, Bruce Edwards, Clay Hollister, Jim O'Neill, and David Tower, and with the strong support of Jaffrey-Rindge Middle School administrators and faculty, a program designed to provide both an academic and fun summer camp was designed and came to life.

Quest is divided into two daily segments. The morning features academics- math, English, and technology- taught by Jaffrey-Rindge Middle School teachers. There is no homework and no pressure of performing for grades in the 35- minute classes. Some of it is practical such as how to open and balance a checkbook. The morning is focused on avoiding the "summer slide" where at risk kids fall further behind during the summer.

The afternoon, led by Rotarians, is dedicated to recreational programs. Campers can choose from a variety of activities such as canoeing, kayaking, sailing, art, archery, fly fishing, music, photography, gardening, dance, swimming, jewelry making and community history.

Quest is an "all hands on deck" experience for Rotary. Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club members participate in both morning and afternoon activities. Volunteers from the community join in to assist Rotarians as instructors, coaches and mentors when the skills cannot be found within the club.

Campers are hand picked by teachers and administrators at the Jaffrey-Rindge Middle School. Be it unstable family situations, economic disadvantages or other adverse circumstances, the campers are kids who probably would not be going anywhere in the summer. The selection focus is on students who will most benefit from the Quest experience.

The camp is free to campers and is paid for by the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club, via fundraisers and the support of generous donations from the community. The SAU pays for teachers and the buses. Franklin Pierce University provides the facilities gratis. Volunteers from both Rotary and the community make Quest work.

In June of 2012, at the regional meeting of 61 Rotary clubs in northern New England, Quest was selected as one of the four best community service projects in Rotary District 7870. The New England Board of Higher Education has recognized Franklin Pierce University for its efforts with Quest.





**Rotarian Alan Clapp helping a Quest student with math**

The Peterborough Rotary Club, one of the founding co-sponsors of the new Jaffrey-Rindge Club in 2003, will sponsor a Quest in 2014 for middle school children in the CONVAL school district. Ludlow, Vermont is in year two of Quest.

## INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

The International Service Avenue exemplifies Rotary's global reach in promoting peace and understanding. Local clubs support the International Service Avenue by sponsoring or volunteering on international projects, seeking



**Rotarian Bill Driscoll working with a student on a writing journal**



partners abroad, and more.

The Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club's contribution to the International Service Avenue has been primarily financial. Each Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary member is asked to make a voluntary \$100 a year contribution to the Rotary International Foundation. The Foundation supports international programs such as education, clean water, and the most notable current project, Polio Plus, focused on the eradication of polio.



The Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club has donated approximately \$48,600 to support Rotary International Service projects since it was founded.

In 2008, Rotary International Foundation received a \$100 million challenge grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for the eradication of polio. Rotary committed to raising \$100 million. Bill Gates announced a second challenge grant of \$255 million in January of 2009. Rotary again committed to raising another \$100 million.

The Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club made a contribution of \$5,000 to the Rotary International Foundation in 2009 as part of this matching grant.

Part of each local Rotary club contribution to the Rotary International Foundation goes into a fund that is shared by Rotary clubs in their district to support international projects. In 2013, the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club was the seventh most generous club in our district. Clubs within the district can make application for grant money to support a project.

The Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club has never taken on its own international project, but has offered support to other clubs in the district who have taken on projects. Through cooperation with other Rotary clubs, the Jaffrey-Rindge club has supported an educational effort in Guatemala, purchased “shelter boxes” for use after a natural disaster and given \$1,000 through a Rotary club in Puerto Rico to support Haiti after the devastating earthquake of 2010.

During Tony Cassidy’s tenure as President, the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club hosted a Group Study Exchange team from the Philippines. David Tower coordinated the effort, the first time that the Jaffrey-Rindge Club had hosted a Group Study Exchange team. Those involved had an enjoyable and rewarding experience. Unfortunately it was dropped the following year and has not been resumed.

## **YOUTH SERVICE**

The Youth Service Avenue recognizes the importance of empowering youth and young professionals through leadership development programs such as Rotaract, Interact and Rotary Youth Exchange.

### **The Conant High School Interact Club**

The Conant High School Interact Club was formed in the school year 2012-2013. Kelly Bergeron, Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club President, served as the club’s first advisor, and Tom Doane served in that capacity for the ac-

ademic year 2013-2014. David Dustin, a Conant High School social studies teacher, serves as the academic advisor.

The Conant Interact Club got off to a great start, building a membership of 53 students by December of 2013. The Club has quickly made its presence felt in the community.

In May 2013, the Conant Interact Club



hosted a Spring Festival on the Green in Rindge Town Center. Other Conant clubs were invited to participate, and in their initial public activity they raised \$800. A second Spring Festival is slated for May 2014 and will kick-off with a 5-K road race.

The Conant Interact Club made a significant contribution to Quest in the summer of 2013. Some Interact members were there every day, helping out in the morning classes and with afternoon activities.

In the final week of Quest, the Conant Interact Club designed a Quest “Olympics”. This very successful, high-energy event consisted of a tug of war, touch football, track races and kickball.

The Conant Interact Club participated in a number of community projects in 2013. They painted benches at the Cathedral of the Pines, served as tutors in the Jaffrey-Rindge after school program, and at the “Scarecrow Festival” sponsored a “Haunted Hay Ride” to raise money for Team Jaffrey and the Jaffrey Recreation Department.

The club demonstrated an entrepreneurial





### **Start up of Conant High School Interact Club**

spirit when they came up with the concept of “Flocking”. For a fee, club members will plant a flock of plastic flamingos in some unsuspecting person’s yard. A flock of pink flamingos really stand out in a yard with two feet of snow.

#### **The Youth Exchange Program**

The Rotary Youth Exchange Program is for high school students. It has the dual function of allowing American students to experience another national culture and for young people from other cultures to experience the United States.

Mike Shea recalls that the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club’s participation in the Youth Exchange Program got off to an interesting start.

Early in the history of the club, Susan Emerson was the first Youth Exchange Officer. There was a limited understanding of the Youth Exchange Program within the club.

During announcements at one morning meeting, Susan said the District wanted to know if our club would be willing to host an inbound exchange student. Because of the limited understanding of the Youth Exchange Program there was little member interest.

Susan then asked if any club members would be interested in learning more about hosting a student from another country. Tammy Griffin and Mike Shea raised their hands, but nothing came from their interest until a few months later when they both received panic calls from Susan. Susan informed Tammy

and Mike that their student would be arriving soon and that they needed to sign some forms that afternoon.

Both Tammy and Mike were quite surprised and had not even broached the subject with their respective families. A week later they were picking up Mihai Ionita from Romania at Logan Airport. Mihai split time with both the Griffin and Shea families, and it turned out to be a richly rewarding experience that both families still reflect upon fondly.

Today the Youth Exchange Program under John McCarthy's leadership is one of the most valued Jaffrey-Rindge activities of the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club. John explains the value of the Youth Exchange Program in this way: "Jaffrey and Rindge are small insular communities. The Rotary Exchange Program gives a student the opportunity to experience the larger world and to interact with people from other cultures."

But the benefits of Youth Exchange do not end there, John explains: "with in-bound students from other countries, our Conant students have the opportunity to interact with someone from another culture and see the world through their eyes."

The Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club has had one outbound student from Conant, Derek Turgeon, who spent an academic year in Japan. Derek is the grandson of Rotarian Ed Callahan. The Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club has also sponsored outbound students from Keene and Peterborough.

Conant High School has had the benefit of hosting six inbound students: Mihai Ionita (2005-2006) from Slatina, Romania; Tabata Campos Araya (2006-2007) from Nicoya, Costa Rica; Jose Andres Llor (2008-2009) from Guayaquil, Ecuador; Isadora Castro (2010-2011) from Gerais, Brazil; Kate Paristova (2011-2012) from Birsik, Siberia, Russia; and Hank Lai Cheng-Han (2013-2014) from Taiwan.

John McCarthy explains that over the course of a year it is possible to observe these young people growing and maturing as they

live in another culture and develop new perspectives and friendships. He refers to Isadora Castro from Brazil who experienced her first snow while riding on a yellow school bus. "I felt like I was in a movie", she told John.

## **Club Presidents during the first 10 years**



**David Tower  
2002-2003**



**Jed Brummer  
2003-2004**



**Bill Gilson  
2004-2005**



**Mike Shea  
2005-2006**



**Kathy Batchelder  
2006-2007**



**Sadie Jackson  
2007-2008**



**Tony Cassady  
2008-2009**



**Phil Cournoyer  
2009-2010**



**Clay Hollister  
2010-2011**



**Kelly Bergeron  
2011-2012**



**Jim O'Neill  
2012-2013**



## Members joining in the first decade

### **Charter Members:**

Bill Anders  
Kathy Batchelder  
Jed Brummer  
Ed Callahan  
Bill Driscoll  
Bruce Edwards  
Bill Gilson  
Tammy Griffin  
Sadie Halliday  
Clay Hollister  
Owen Houghton  
Keith Luscombe  
Steve Myers  
Jim O'Neill  
Mike Shea  
Gail Therriault  
Dave Tower  
Mike Sielicki  
Don Upton  
Ben Wheeler

### **2005**

Tony Cassidy  
Allen Clapp

### **2006**

Joe Manning

### **2007**

Tonya Albee  
Phil Cournoyer  
Hal Danser  
Kevin Hampsey  
Lind Harris  
Charlie Palmer  
Bill Schofield  
Jim Shuel

### **2008**

Shelia Burnham  
Bill McKenzie  
Barbara Pelkey  
Gene Speeney

### **2009**

Kelly Bergeron  
Don Butler  
Thom Davis  
Tim McMahon  
Jim Noel  
Bill Raymond  
David Sullivan

### **2010**

Preston Clark  
Stephen Cooke  
Tom Doane  
Catherine Forbes  
Michael George  
John McCarthy  
Zak Normandir  
Alan Soney  
Frank Sterling

### **2011**

Andy Lawn

### **2012**

Jim Banghart  
Shelia Bergeron  
Charlene Christian  
Bill Janoch  
Sam LaFortune  
Norm Richardson  
Peter Russell

### **2013**

Tom Bennett  
Rachel O'Leary  
Randy Morse

## Our First Decade

Members of the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club can look back on the first decade of their club with pride. Accomplishments include a stable membership, a fund raising event that has become a fun social event, and community service programs that improve the quality of life in Jaffrey and Rindge. Quest has become a signature program, acknowledged for its value to our middle school children and serving as a model for programs in other communities.

Like other service clubs, the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club has challenges. These challenges include attracting both younger members and more women, broadening our revenue sources beyond the Reverse Raffle, and less reliance on a few individuals who have given so generously of their time and energy.

Members enjoy the informality of our club, but point to the need for more structure going forward. They suggest that the club take a more strategic approach to budgeting and charitable giving.

Finally, there is Quest. Many members identify Quest as the greatest accomplishment of the first decade. Because it is such a major undertaking in terms of club energy and finances, there is a desire to develop a strategic plan that will ensure its sustainability.

Our club has evolved over the past decade, and we expect this evolution to continue. With each challenge, club members have responded with energy and enthusiasm, and leaders have emerged from within the membership to guide change.

It is this momentum that moved the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club forward in its first decade. We are optimistic about the future of our club, and expect a new generation of Rotarians to emerge that will power the next decade of service.

## Club's Theme Song

Written by Bill Raymond  
First performed by Bill and Owen Houghton  
But not until 2016



Almost heaven, It's New Hampshire  
Mount Monadnock, Contookook River  
Life is old here, older than the trees  
Younger than the mountains  
Growing like the breeze

Country Roads, take us home  
To the place we belong  
Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary  
Mount Monadnock. Take us home, country roads

All our memories, gather round us  
Quest, Shattuck, songs of Rotary  
Our good harmony fills the cafeteria  
Misty taste of moonshine, tear drops in our eyes

Country roads, take us home  
To the place we belong  
Good friends and service  
Even Bios—take us home! Country Roads

Shelia's voice she calls us in the morning  
And something reminds us of our good friends  
Driving down the road we get a funny feeling  
Maybe we are coming home  
What a day, what a day...

Country roads, take us back  
To the place we belong  
Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary  
With all its good times  
Feels like home—Take me home, Country road

# **JAFFREY RINDGE ROTARY POEM**

Written by Bruce R Edwards

**J**ust cast your eyes in this region we live  
**A**cept that God kept or brought us here  
**F**ocus that to serve is why we stay  
**F**orever a unit, when needed we commandeer  
**R**otary compels the 4 Way Test and we serve  
**E**very effort a meaning, those in need will be heard  
**Y**es it's dedication that's what we're about

**R**ight to make the hard choice only chance we can shout!  
**I**ndividually we contribute but collectively we excel  
**N**othing is above what we choose to conquer  
**D**efeat is never mentioned our union preserves  
**G**o forth with our goals, everyone is needed  
**E**nergy abounds any task is exceeded

**R**ight is a term everyone has a definition for  
**O**ur is a collective sense that right can be more  
**T**o that end Rotary serves all facets for the common good  
**A**lways serving the world wide need most desperate  
**R**ealizing every one individual, committed, is the only mode  
**Y**es we are Rotarians, dedicated, believable and united to serve.

## 2013-2014

### Bruce Edwards President

To provide the ongoing history so beautifully reconstructed and authored by Jim Noel let me document my attempts and successes for the 11<sup>th</sup> year (2013-2014).

The scoreboard we donated to the American Legion Bambino Field never had the correct symbol for Rotary displayed. With help from Tom Doane and Ross Gauthier we got the correct signage permanently mounted, a photo op for the paper and proper community recognition.

We needed to upgrade our logo for our website and under the orchestration and design of Jim Banghart we got it done.

Another area that needed updating was the By-laws, so I initiated the Past President's committee to begin a review which they did. The year is short therefore that project got extended into next year

One major goal for me was to get our history documented. We are a relatively new club but the first 10 years needs to be written down. Jim Noel, our historian "extraordinaire" stepped up and took on the project. His diligent efforts and cooperation of our first 10 Presidents plus others got our history in order and we now have a hard copy for the ages. His results form the front section of this document. My sincere thanks to Jim for the great work, he did.

QUEST is our signature program, developed by us and unique to our club. The concept borne out of a task force charged with designing a club project has been inspirational for all involved. The partnership between our Rotary, the Middle School and Franklin

Pierce University in providing a camp experience for under privileged students has been truly rewarding for all involved.

We received recognition from the NE Board of Higher Education for the col-



**President Edwards**



**Donated Scoreboard**

laboration of Franklin Pierce University and the QUEST program. We were instrumental in helping Peterborough start their QUEST program. Tonya Albee, Jim O'Neill and Jaimie Birge did several presentations to



**2013 Quest**



clubs in NH, Vt. and Maine. Ludlow Vt. also adopted our program.

I have a goal to see a longer strategic plan for QUEST developed. We made several attempts but it is a longer range project.

Our membership had a successful year as we ended with 46 members. New members included Jeff Clark-Kevan (10/24/13), Bob Schaumann (9/12/13), Donna Senechal (12/12/13), and Matt Bergeron (6/5/14). Rachel O'Leary joined (3/28/13) but had to leave (4/17/14) and Frank Sterling resigned (1/1/14) therefore a net gain of four Rotarians to our

membership.

Our signature fundraiser the Reverse Raffle was another smashing success and almost raised as much money as the year before but not quite! The event is always run by the President Elect. The highlight of the evening is the awarding of an "honorary" Paul Harris Fellowship Award to a citizen who contributes to the community above and beyond. This year's recipient was Jack Belletete.

A fellowship event held at the Civic Center was certainly a hit. The idea by Bill Raymond developed into a truly fun event, with unexpected talent. The name Bill was certainly the stars of the show. Bill Raymond and Bill Janoch stole the show. Who knew Bob Dylan had a duplicate in Bill Janoch!!

Special thanks to Gail Therriault and her charitable giving committee who distribute the funds we raise where most needed, this year about \$15,000.

The education committee headed by Ben Wheeler made another great selection. Maria Maki received the Conant High Senior Award





**Gail Therriault, chair of the Charitable Giving Committee for a num-**



**Ben Wheeler, chair of the Scholarship Committee for a number of years.**



**John McCarthy, Student exchange officer for a number of years**

of \$2,500.

I am very grateful to John McCarthy and the way he has spearheaded the Student Exchange Program, one of the signature programs of Rotary International.

My last project is a permanent location for our historical "stuff" at FPU. It is a work in progress which I will stay with to it's completion, whenever that is. Stay tuned.

I have been privileged to host our gavel night at our lake home for several year's and it's been special. This year the weather didn't cooperate and Woodbound Inn bailed us out. We put together a great night on very short notice. The highlight for me was to present a special President's Award to Al



**Paul Harris Citizen of the Year recipients John Peard (2nd from left, and Jack Belletete, 3rd from left with then club President, Bruce Edwards and Past President Dave Tower**

Clapp for his Service beyond Self in the volunteer work he does with middle school kids in math and all he does for QUEST. He is a true Rotarian in every sense.

I enjoyed my year. I think it was successful, there are a lot of moving parts. My President Elect was hand-picked and the Bob Newhart show now becomes the Jimmy Fallon show. He will do a terrific job for us.



**Al Clapp, Received Presidents Award**

***Bruce R. Edwards***

## 2014-2015

### Andy Lawn President

July 1'2014 to June 30'2015 certainly proved to be an interesting year for the Jafrey-Rindge Rotary Club. There were a "few bumps in the road" but by year end the Club was the strongest it had been in its short existence.



**District Governor Berryman Visit**

July is an extremely busy month for our Club. The signature project "Quest" takes place and we had over 80 local children attend this summer session. It was all hands on deck for the membership to provide the campers with the high level enriching experience that the Quest Program promised to offer. Tonya Albee, Tom Bennett and Peter Russell were instrumental in leading the Quest Team through



**President Lawn**

another successful season. The Club also supported the Civic Centers Cupcake Festival event in July with more than half the membership present to guide things along smoothly.

Rotary Business was high on my priority list for this year. #1 was getting the Board of Directors and the Membership to approve the revisions to the Clubs "By-Laws". The major stumbling block regarded Membership responsibilities and attendance. This was no easy task but after 3 months of negotiations



**2014 Quest**

the revisions were amended and approved.

The Student Exchange program brought student Emelyne DeVanne to Jaffrey from her homeland in France. Emelyne was hosted by the Alan Soney Family and served as a fantastic representative of her country. This is truly one of Rotary's finest cultural programs and I would like to Thank John McCarthy for his work on this.

The Club's main fundraising event "The Reverse Raffle" was a huge success. Clay Hollister made the presentation in awarding the "Honorary" Paul Harris Fellowship Award to the community's outstanding citizen David Kemp. Tom Doane and Randy Morse teamed-up to gather door prizes, auction items and drive ticket sales. The net result was just under \$17,000 in funds that would be used to support the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary's commitment to the community. There was an opportunity offered by Atlas Fireworks to install signage for one of their events in Swanzeey. We took advantage of this event and raised an additional \$1,000. It is at this event where we award the Paul Harris Citizen of the year award every year and for this year it went to David Kemp.



**Mike Shea and Ben Wheeler teamed up for the live auction portion of the Reverse Raffle as they did for a number of years**

Many organizations benefited from our fundraising efforts. We were able to make donations of \$1,000 or more to the "Quest Program, Franklin Pierce University Athletic Complex Repairs, InterAct Program's trip to Nicaragua and

The "Make A Wish Foundation" in honor of the Conant Girls Varsity Basketball State Championship! We also made almost 2 dozen donations of less than \$1,000.

Thank You Gail Therriault for leading the Charitable Giving Committee.

The Rotary Scholarship Committee had requested that we award 2 Conant Senior High School Scholarships. The Club agreed to this and scholarships were awarded to Drew Horne and Shelby Barden with each receiving \$2,500 toward higher education. My hats off to Ben Wheeler for leading this Committee.

Don Upton lead the Fellowship Committee. He arranged for the Club to attend "A closer walk with Patsy Cline" at the Peterborough Players. This Rotary event was well attended as the Peterborough Players is a favorite venue to many. Don also arranged a trip to the "Big E" in Springfield, MA. Many thanks to Don for a job well done.

Rotary International Projects had been supported in the past by funds raised through the Paul Harris Rotary Foundation campaign. The Board of Directors and the membership decided to offer the members an option of donating funds to Local Projects and/or International Projects. It is safe to say the majority of Members wanted to keep the money spent locally as committee members did not initially pass a request to support the "Pure Water" project we had previously committed to. I addressed the Board of Directors and the Committee Members in explaining that as Rotarians we have an International commitment. The membership voted unanimously to give \$1,000 to the "Pure Water" project.

Club recognition worth noting would include the "GEM Award" [Going the Extra Mile] for support of the Jaffrey-Rindge Students.





**Don Upton, chaired the Fellowship Committee for a number of years.**

Franklin Pierce University President Jamie Birge had been a strong supporter of our Rotary Club. The Club decided to thank Dr. Birge by presenting him the Paul Harris Award with Sapphire Pin.

It was unfortunate for our Club that Dr.



**Dr. Birge**

gram.

The winter of 2015 was one of the snowiest we had had in the Monadnock Region in decades! Many weekly meetings were canceled and cabin fever had surely set in. This became evident as spring approached. The Club outwardly appeared vibrant but there was concern regarding our Membership policies and the process followed in choosing Directors & Officers of our Club. Ultimately this led to a meeting of the "Past Presidents Committee". Tough decisions were made

District 7870 recognized the Club when the New England Rotary Survey rated the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary as #1! The State of New Hampshire thanked the Club for their community service project of maintaining the "Gateway" to the Monadnock Region in our roadside clean-up efforts.

Birge moved on and could not remain a member of our Club. He was a great ambassador for the University and was instrumental in supporting the Quest Pro-

gram. which lead to resignations and some realignment within the Club. The Membership was culled and a few members that were delinquent in paying dues and had poor attendance were moved to "Friends of Rotary" status. Then the sun came out. The snow melted and the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club realized that we had increased our Membership from the previous year!

Special Thanks to Membership Committee Chairman, Bob Schumann, we added the following new members: Peter Davis, Bernie Hampsey, Andy Harris, Matt McCarthy, Todd Muilenberg, Jason Nero, and Helene Rogers

Sheila Bergeron bravely accepted the Incoming President's position which was well received by all.

I will always reflect on my year as President of the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary with fond memories. This Club represents some of the finest men and women in the Monadnock Region. It was my honor to host "Gavel Night" at my home on 137 Ingalls Road in Jaffrey. Woodbound Inn [Rudy] provided the finest food and the fellowship was just what one would expect at a Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary event.

Thank You for the opportunity to serve my community through Rotary.

**Andy Lawn**



**Bob Schumann chaired the Membership Committee for a number of years**

## 2015-2016

### Shelia Bergeron President

Shelia took over as President on July 1<sup>st</sup>, graciously filling in for a Vacancy which had just occurred, after missing the normal Rotary Presidential Training Program. It was a great year for the club.

For membership we added 6 new Rotarians: Kathleene Card, Harold Davis, Travis Kumph, Nat Peirce, Rudy Rosalez, and Brad White.



**President Bergeron**



### 2015 Quest

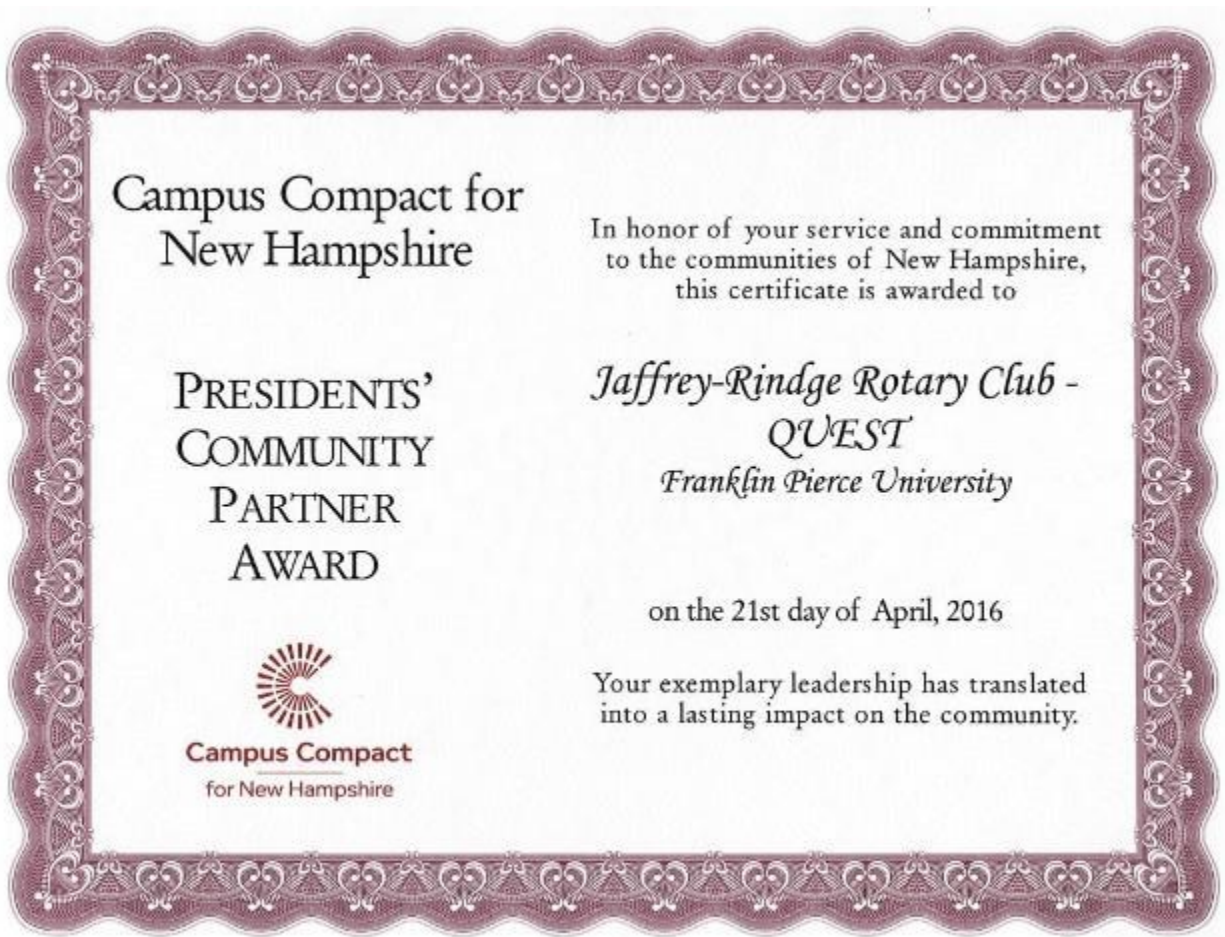
Quest had another successful year, as evidenced by the award from the Campus Compact pictured on the next page. Quest continue to improve every year. Other service projects included: the road side cleanup on Route 202, sponsoring a community supper on Feb 18th (a first time project), putting up the no-parking signs for the Fireworks Festival (held at the State Fair Grounds this year), parking cars at the Church Fair in Jaffrey Center, and supporting Team Jaffrey's Scarecrows on the Common. We also sponsored a community

program on Combatting Terrorism, with a talk give by Lt. Terry Choate of the Jaffrey Police Department, held at the firehouse.

Our major Fundraiser was again the Reverse Raffle, which this year earned \$17,000.

Our club continued to be active in the Rotary Youth Exchange Program, this year hosting in-bound student, Franka Clauss from Germany, and sponsoring outbound student Anya Shemet in Croatia.





We were honored during the year to receive this award for our Quest Program



Marc Tieger received the club's Community Service Award for the year, at the Reverse Raffle, pictured above with our Rotary Foundation Chair, Clay Hollister



Youth Exchange Chair, John McCarthy with inbound student Franka Clauss and returning outbound student Anya Shemet.





The club continued to be a good contributor to the Rotary Foundation, here Brad White getting his Paul Harris Award, for members who reach \$1000.

We had some memorable speakers including: the new JR Superintendent of Schools, Rubin Duncan, and the new President of Antioch College, Stephen Jones. But the most prestigious was having a speaker from the Forbes Magazine's list of the 50 Greatest Leaders in the World, Courtney Banghart.

Charitable Giving remained a big part of the club's focus, this year's total was just under \$15,000, not counting Quest.



Courtney Banghart, one of the top 50 Leaders in the World, spoke to the club at a Rotary Fellowship Meeting at the Cathedral of the Pines



District Governor, Sandy McGonagle, visited the club on August 27th and again on June 2nd.

der \$15,000, not counting Quest.

We also continued the Student of the Month program, recognizing a student from the Jaffrey-Rindge School District, nominated by their teachers, for their good performance in school.

Fellowship continued under the leadership of Chair Don Upton. Events for the year included a day at the Big E, a night at the Peterborough Players, and a night at the Cathedral of the pines.

## *Sheila Bergeron*



Gavel Night was held on June 30th, at the home of Peter Russell, marking the end of a great year for our club

# 2016-2017

## Jim Banghart President

up front



### Camp helps narrow opportunity gap in New Hampshire

On most July weekdays, the campus of Franklin Pierce University in Rindge, N.H., is buzzing with activity – but don't expect to see freshmen rushing to Psych 101.

Instead, middle school students from the Jaffrey-Rindge School District are writing blues songs, meeting police dogs, or learning the ropes as they scale campus trees. They're also taking academic classes, helping ensure that they'll keep up with their peers when school starts in fall.

The Rotary Club of Jaffrey-Rindge launched this summer day camp, called Quest, in 2010. The club has partnered

with the local school district and university to provide academics in the morning and fun activities in the afternoon, mentoring students in sixth grade and older who might otherwise not have the opportunity to participate in an organized summer activity.

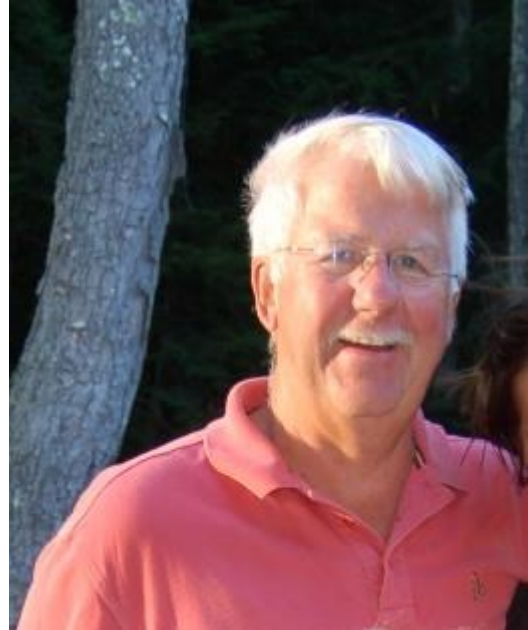
The camp launched out of a club discussion on creating an impactful service project, says Tereya Albee, the club's Quest chairperson. Jim O'Neill, an original member of the steering committee who was superintendent of schools at the time, told the club that there were no summer enrichment programs for middle school students.

"And that's when they make the decision to drop out of school, even though it occurs years later," Albee recalls. "That was an alarming bit of information for us." And kids who don't stay engaged in summer activities and lack adult support often slide back academically – sometimes an entire grade, she says.

"I don't know that we have to go very far in our imaginations to know what happens to disenfranchised children later on," Albee says. "We want to be sort of a replacement tool for the people that no longer go to church, that no longer have social infrastructures to help them."

So the camp aims to provide both academics and fun. Teachers from the school district conduct classes in the morning. Rotarians and other volunteer mentors lead afternoon activities in their areas of expertise. Virtually every club member donates some time to the camp each summer, Albee says. Allen Clapp, a 91-year-old World War II veteran, hasn't missed a day. His wife, Nancy, has taught "party planning," a popular etiquette course. Camp volunteers are about 80 percent Rotarians and 20 percent from the greater community.

The monthlong program costs about \$500 per child.



President Banghart



District Gov, Dennis McMahon

**In August, a two page article on Quest, pictured above, appeared in the main publication for Rotary International with a circulation of nearly 1 Million.**

I am glad to report that our club had an excellent year, perhaps our best ever. During the year our club:

- Made local charitable donations of \$13,322
- Started our first International program with a trip to Nicaragua
- Provided nearly 1500 of service to Quest (not counting the administration time)
- Provided 291 hours to 4 other service projects

We initiated 6 new members:

- Misty Start
- Russ Robertson
- Stephanie Niemela
- Nicole Newell
- Jon Frederick
- Diane Fukuda





### **Rotary Youth Exchange Program**

**Left, John McCarthy, the club's Youth Exchange Officer introduces our outbound Rotary Foreign Exchange Students for the year. From left to right; Nadia Bhatti, Lexi Smith and Shannon Bennett. Nadia is going to Indonesia; Lexi to Croatia and Shannon to Brazil. Right is Sophia Talavera from Bolivia, our inbound exchange student for the year**



### **International Service Project**

**In cooperation with FNEI, representatives shown above, we had our first international humanitarian trip, building a house in Nicaragua. While there we met the local Rotary Club and donated money to support a project to improve the kitchen facilities at a local jail.**





### Weekly Speakers

We had some excellent speakers for our weekly meetings, Shown above is Steve Gehlbach speaking on Polio, a topic of interest to all Rotarians.

### Local Service Projects

Service projects for the year included:

- Putting out over 1500 No Parking signs for the Fireworks Festival
- Roadside cleanup on Route 202
- Running the Hay Pit at the Scarecrows on the Common event
- Serving as Cupcake Cops at the annual Cupcakes Festival

### Fellowship Events

- A day at the Big-E
- A night at the Peterborough Players
- A tour of the Microcatheter facility
- A tour of Millepore
- An exclusive comedy night at the River Theater
- Gavel Night

### 2016 Service Award Winner

Lorna Letourneau received this years award at the annual Raffle Party, attended by her whole family.



**Bill Raymond Receives the Saphire Paul Harris Award at our July 14th meeting**



During the year we lost one of our members, Matt Bergeron to an unexpected passing. In his memory, Elyse Rogers made this 1000 origami Crane display, a project inspired by a survivor of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Shown above is her mother Helene Rogers showing this to our club.

***Jim Banghart***

## 2017-2019

### Bob Schaumann President



A visit by our District Governor continued each year, John Springer for the 2017-18 year and Venu Rao, pictured above, for the 2018-19 Rotary year. The Governor met with the Board of Directors of the club the night before attending the regular meeting.



**President Schaumann**



We try and keep a close association with the Conant Interact Club who we sponsor. Pictured above is the 2017-18 officers who attended one of our meetings and spoke of their efforts.



**Juan Lorca, our Rotary Exchange Student** for 2017-2018, returns to his native country of Chile told the club about his home country before returning home.





**Initiation of the 2017-18 Interact Club** took place at the Shattuck on October 24th. 22 new members were inducted. A similar meeting was held the following year.



Bruce Edwards hands out copies of the Club's History, in 2017



**David Tower recognized at the club's 2017 Citizen of The Year.** His list of accomplishments are absolutely amazing.





Our club, following the 2017 trip to Nicaragua, has developed a program to help the schools in the town of Chacraseca, Nicaragua. Our club pledged \$10,000 for this project. Travis Kumph, has been presenting this project to area Rotary Clubs to drum up support. Meanwhile, John McCarthy updated the Club during the Club Assembly on funds raised to date that - as of your reading this - should translate to nearly \$50,000 via a Rotary International approval of our matching grant request.



Ben Wheeler, who chairs the Scholarship Committee, recognizes Ellie Graf, recipient of our 2018 \$2,500 annual Scholarship. She will matriculate at a university in Virginia.. Mariah Chamberlain was awarded the 2018 scholarship.



Franklin Pierce University President Kim Mooney and New Hampshire Governor Sununu spent some time at Camp BEST after attending our regular morning meeting. Campers had a lot of questions and suggestions for the Governor.



Four Conant Interactors participated in our clubs first **4-Way Test Speaking Contest**. Each of whom gave great presentations as they competed for the opportunity to go to the District semi-finals in Henniker this coming Sunday. Their presentation topic was the Rotary "Four-Way Test" and its applicability in today's world. Maria Anton, was the local winner, She came in second in the district competition. Maria, believe it or not, is only a freshmen, as were two of her classmates, Ayden Faircloth and Jennah Haney. Bailey Brewer, a junior, was the only upperclassman.



Al and Nancy Clapp were recognized with the Paul Harris Service Award at the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club's Annual Raffle Party, which was hosted at the Shattuck in Jaffrey on Friday, November 2nd. The long-time Jaffrey couple was recognized for their decades of service in several communities, and especially to the towns of Jaffrey and Rindge





The club generally receives many requests for financial support. In 2018 the club went out looking for projects that we could help. We found the “Got Lunch” program launched in collaboration with the school district and the Rindge Congregational Church and the After School Program at Monadnock Christian Ministries in Jaffrey. Shown above is Rev Jalocki from the church explaining the program to the club and the ribbon cutting at the playground we funded at the Ministries. Each project was around \$10,000.



In 2019 the club established a “Blue Ribbon Committee of 12 members to see if we could change any of our practices to make the club more meaningful and enjoyable for the members. There were many meetings discussing various aspects of the club. Pictured left, Ben Wheeler, committee chair explains the recommendations for the club..

John Frederick attended a district function at the Little Red School House in Wallingford, Vermont and took this picture, The schoolhouse was built by the grandfather of Paul Harris, the founder of Rotary and being in his home town, meant a lot to Paul. He dedicated the building in 1933. Brick donations are encouraged from all







The changes started in the winter with training sessions by Nat Peirce, pictured right and by "Hutch" and Dan Bemis, pictured left. The sessions were intended to help volunteers and mentors deal with situations to make their experience and that of the campers more enjoyable



In recognition of his having served two one-year terms as Club president (a "first" insofar as our Club), Bob Schaumann (L) received a handsome plaque with gavel from incoming President Jon Frederick.



### **New Members who joined during this two year period**

- Dan Anair
- Roy Baldwin
- Rashed Watson
- Russ Gaskamp

Jim Banghart, Club President, 2016-2017, was recognized as a Paul Harris in 2018. Current President Bob was recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow during the 2019 Gavel Night festivities. Making the presentation is J-R Rotary Foundation Chairperson, Clay Hollister.

# 2019-2020

## Jon Frederick - President

With funds raised largely at our November Raffle Party, we were able to give back over \$12,000 to charities in the area, including extra support for the food kitchens during the pandemic. Work continued throughout the year to establish a grant of more than \$50,000 to support the schools in Nicaragua. We also offer a scholarship to a graduating senior from Conant High School, this year awarded to Jillian Patria. Rob Stevenson was recognized as our club's Citizen of the Year for this year at our Raffle Party.

Service projects for the year included, beside Camp Best:

- Putting out the no-parking signs for the last Fireworks festival.
- Roadside cleanup in the fall and spring.
- Our first annual dinner for first responders.
- We continued to recognize students of the month from the local schools and also Interactors of the month.

During the year we added three new members to the club;

- Alan Butunek
- Greg Walsh
- David Trieb



**Pictured above is the 1st of what is expected to be the club's annual first responders dinner held at the Jaffrey VFW.**



## Major Changes for Camp BEST were initiated in 2019



The most noticeable change was to replace the former English and Math academic sessions with morning sessions where the campers created their own cartoon books illustrating a story of their choosing. Shown above is Ma-



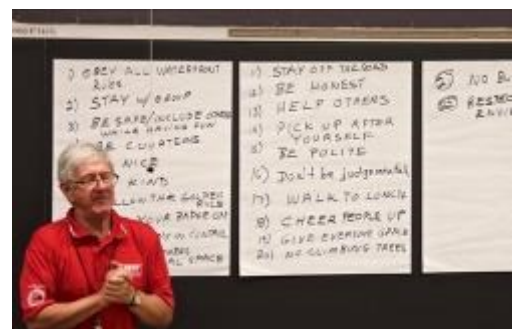
rek Bennett who led those sessions. Shown below are helpers from the Jaffrey Town Library who suggested this program after seeing it



Another change was to have a full morning at the Cathedral of the Pines focused on citizenship and veterans. Campers had the opportunity to hear



from veterans. Andy Card, George Bush's chief of staff who alerted the president of the Sept 11th attack, talked about this. He is shown on the right leading the Pledge of Allegiance..



Two other changes were to have a number of "Therapy Dogs" at camp each day (pictured left) and full time coverage by Alan Butanek, a retired Psychologist (pictured center) to help to deal with difficult situations. Another change was to have the campers develop their own code of conduct of what should be expected at camp. Nat Peirce is shown to the right leading this effort.



Social events for the year, in addition to the newly implemented monthly evening meetings included:

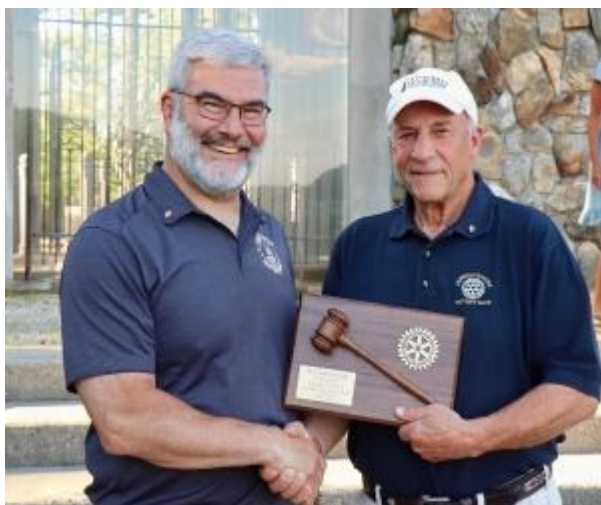
- A tailgate party at an FPU football game.
- A Rotary night at the Peterborough Players.
- A night at Pearly House, the recently completed house for the President of FPU.
- Gavel night.



**President of FPU, Dr. Kim Mooney spoke to the club in November describing activities at the school. We partner with FPU for our winter meetings and for the facilities for Camp Best. She also invited us for a club social at the recently completed President's "Pearly House" Pictured with Jon is this year's District Governor Nancy Russell during her December visit to the club.**



**Picture above left are the two Rotary Exchange Students for this year. On the left is Kayley Bennett, our outbound student who traveled to Italy. Picture right is Sumin Jung our inbound student from South Korea. Both exchanges were cut short because of the virus, but the students safely returned home. Randy Morse also completed an update to the club directory passed out to all members along with a book on the history of the club.**



**Above left is incoming President Jed Brummer handing Jon this plaque to recognize the club's appreciation for his tenure as President. Above right is a vase given to Tonya Albee in appreciation for her leadership in running Camp Quest/Best for the last 10 years. It had been announced that the camp will be discontinued after this year and that this year's camp will be run by Monadnock Christian Ministries because of the virus. Below left, John McCarthy receives a Paul Harris Fellow pin and on the right, Randy Morris receives this clock recognizing his long service to the club in many capacities on his last days before moving to Tennessee.**



There was an unusual ending to the year for our club, as it was for most other clubs and organizations, after the Corona virus pandemic arrived. Meetings after that were held on-line using Zoom starting on March 26<sup>th</sup> and running through the rest of the Rotary year. Gavel night held on June 25<sup>th</sup> was our first get together after that, held with social distancing at the Cathedral of the Pines parking lot.





## 2020-2021

### Jed Brummer - President

Jed Brummer became to be the first Past President to return to serve another term, something more likely to be a need going forward.



The year was characterized by primarily zoom meetings and some in-person meetings in outdoor settings.

New members added during the year were:

- David Jeffries
- Patricia Vargus
- Karyn Andreozzi

Student of the Month recognitions, the Rotary Exchange program, and our annual raffle party were all suspended.



**Wren Wolterbeek poses with her father, Mark. Wren was recognized by the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary Club as "Interactor of the Year." Wren was the class Valedictorian, Conant High School. Class of 2020. She will be starting at Yale next year. The Wolterbeek's live in Rindge.**

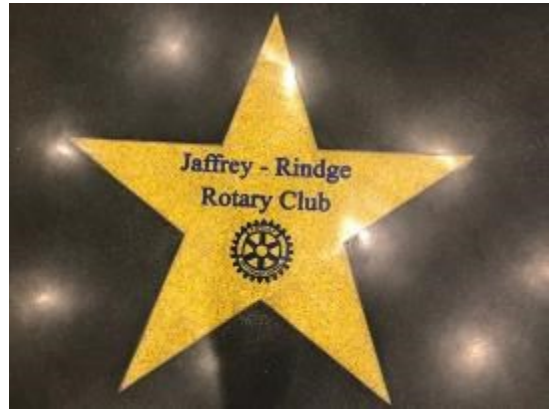




So that he might see his wife, Barbara on a regular basis, Rotarian Peter Davis, at his own expense, was a resident at the Maplewood Nursing Home for three months as a caregiver for Barbara. Because of the pandemic, he would not be allowed to re-enter the building if he chose to leave. The club made the trip to Westmoreland to show support for Peter and Barbara.



Because of the pandemic, the club met at many unusual places during the year, this meeting was at the Contoocook Lake public beach. For this meeting Jaffrey Town Manager and fellow Rotarian Jon Frederick explains the history of the partnership of Jaffrey and the neighboring town of Peterborough relative to future water supplies that will benefit both towns.



**Because of our contributions to Park Theater, we were awarded by an early pre-opening tour. The Star embedded in the floor acknowledges our contributions.**



**Jed was recognized for his term as club President with this gavel plaque given to him by incoming President Ben Wheeler at Gavel night held at the home of Peter and Jinnie Russell on June 24th.**



**Bill Gardner, the longest-serving Secretary of State in New Hampshire was one of our speakers during the year**



# 2021-2022

## Ben Wheeler—President

This Rotary year started under the umbrella of the COVID pandemic and the club featured many remote meeting using Zoom and many changes to venues. The year ended with regular on-site meetings at Franklin Pearce.

Service projects for the year included:

- Roadside cleanups on Route 202 in the fall and spring
- Distribution to needy citizens from the NH Food Bank, with the help of members of the FPU Football team
- Parking cars at the First Church annual summer fair and the Shelter From The Storms Taste of Monadnock fundraiser.
- Handing out American flags for the annual Memorial Day event in Jaffrey.
- A recognition dinner for the FPU football team, thanking them for their help in our service projects



**Shown above left is handing out food to needy citizens with help from the FPU football team. Shown above right is the dinner where we honored the team for that help.**

**Pictured right is our District Governor Bob**

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**Shown above left is one of our Student's of the month, being honored, Dominic Cnoza with his mother Jennifer. Shown above right is Rotarian Sheila Bergeron getting her pinky painted by local Interact Club members at one of our meetings.**

Our annual scholarship winner was Abigale Wheeler, Ben's daughter.

Our meetings included:

- A resumption of the Student of the Month recognition
- Entertaining the Conant High School Interact Club for a "Purple Pinky" fundraiser where for a donation members could get their pinky finger painted purple, like is done in remote villages to confirm who has been vaccinated from Polio, Rotary International's major world project.
- The annual visit from the District Governor, Bob Siemienowicz.

Fundraisers for the year included the November Raffle Party which raised \$4,500 and a first time Golf and Raffle Party in May which netted \$5,000.



**The November Raffle Party is shown above left and the May Golf Raffle Party is shown above right**

Beside the nearly monthly evening social meetings, and the fundraising raffle events, the club had two special social events:: An evening at the home of Rotarian David Jeffries and an FPU tailgate event for an FPU football game, pictured right.



New members initiated this year include:

- Bill Coleman
- Rudra Aryal
- Stephanie Thompson
- Tom Frazier.

Our club supported the Conant High School “Hot Wings” robotics team, shown right giving a presentation at one of our meetings.



The club's \$50,000 International project to upgrade some of the infrastructure at a number of schools in Nicaragua was not supported through grants from Rotary International because of political issues between the governments. Our club and a number of neighboring Rotary Clubs downscaled the project and coordinated the funds with FNEI, launching this program that has been years in the making.



Jaffrey-Rindge Rotarian Rudra Aryal, pictured right at a Rotary District Meeting in Nepal, talked about his recent trip there and brought back many gifts to our club from the Rotary visit. Rudra stated the Club was very welcoming and friendly, and his overall his trip went great.



By far the major international event of this Rotary year was Russia's invasion of Ukraine. A relief effort with matching up to the first \$1M was supported by a club in our district.

Gavel night, held at the home of Peter Russell, was held on June 30th. At the meeting Ben Wheeler gave some closing remarks to his term as President and welcomed in Peter Russell as our President for the 2022-23 Rotary year. Peter then honored Ben with the gavel plaque and an E. for Excellence award. The "E" for Excellence Award is often bestowed on United States Navy ships in recognition for various things done well.





## 2022-2023

### Peter Russell - President

Peter was our first club President that was a “Snowbird” so he was away to Florida for the winter months. He maintained close connection to the club through Zoom board and regular meetings, with many past Presidents filling in as meeting chairs. The system worked very well and the club is thankful to Peter for showing us how it can work.



Service projects for the year included:

- Roadside cleanups on Route 202 in the fall and spring
- Distribution to needy citizens from the NH Food Bank, with the help of members of the FPU Football team
- Parking cars at the First Church annual summer fair and a well attended Amos Fortune meeting
- Some members attended a July trip to Nicaragua where we, with help from a few other local Rotary clubs, made a sizable donation to help with local school infrastructure.
- Some members along with may Conant High School Interactors had a service trip to the Dominican Republic.
- We supported the Jaffrey Scarecrows on the Common event by running the hay handouts and other needed support.
- We had an explorative meeting on what we might take on to help the citizens of Ukraine.
- We supported many of the local charities, one to the local veterans is shows below.



**Pictured above is our District Governor Randal Barclay who attended our August 11th meeting at the Cathedral of the Pines.**



**Shown above is a Rick Lambert receiving a contribution to the Jaffrey War Memorials**



Our meetings included:

- A resumption of the Student of the Month recognition
- A Christmas concert by the Conant Glee Club
- Entertaining the Conant High School Interact Club for a “Purple Pinky” fundraiser where, for a donation, members could get their pinky finger painted purple, like is done in remote villages to confirm who has been vaccinated from Polio. The elimination of polio is Rotary International’s major world project.
- Recognition of the Interactor of the Month.

Social events for the club included:

- A cocktail party with introduction to the Park Theater
- A night at the Peterborough Players
- A tailgate party at an FPU Football game with visit from the coach
- A evening party hosted by Rotarian David Jeffries at his house on the hill
- Gavel night , for the first time at the Jafrey Civic Center.



**Sam Lafortune took over as the clubs Happy Fines Collector during the year**



**One of our Student of the Month presentations to a 5th grader from Rindge Memorial.**



**The social part of our night at the Peterborough Players**



**The Conant High School Glee Club at a December meeting.**



**This picture, although a bit hazy, shows John McCarthy in Nicaragua in July reviewing our school infrastructure project.**



**Picture from our April 6th social hosted by David Jeffries.**



**Gavel night was held on June 29th, welcoming in our first co-presidents, Bill**

New members initiated during the year included:

- Jeff Dickler
- Mark Hower
- Steve Miller
- Richard Pedot
- Michael Perrault,
- Lori Rautiola
- Brandon Smith
- Matt Webber.

It was our largest class since the clubs founding.



**We welcomed the NCAA D2 champion Soccer team from FPU at our December 8th meeting.**

We enter the new Rotary year with a real succession plan as we have the president elect (Rudra) and vice president (Tom Frazier) slots filled for the first time in years.

