



# *THE GONG*

## *Endicott Rotary Newsletter – JANUARY 2026*

### *A message from Dottie Kuehl, President*



**Just exhale. Let us say a fond goodbye to 2025 and welcome many new possibilities in 2026. May the accomplishments we achieved in 2025 whether personally, professionally, or yes all that we did in Rotary inspire us to continue our passion in our community and across new horizons.**

**Our first meeting of the new year will be a noon meeting on January 8th. We will hold our monthly evening meeting on January 15<sup>th</sup>. This change is due to our need to cover a BU basketball game on the evening of January 8th. Our first Board meeting in the new year will be held on January 14th.**

**What a busy but most fulfilling month we had in December. Our time and donations encompassed the distribution of more shirts to worthy organizations (Wagon Train Warriors, Showers of Hope and YMCA), the compilation and distribution of our Holiday Food Baskets, continued coverage at BU basketball games, fun and fellowship in the Endicott Holiday Parade and at our annual Holiday Party. Thank you to all who supported all these events.**

**This month's Rotary theme is Vocational Service Month. It involves using our professional and personal skills and expertise to serve the community, promote ethical practices, and inspire others. We are fortunate to have in our Club many members who share their knowledge and resources in our community. Do not be afraid to share your skills.**

**Many of you may remember Mary Jane Allen who played the keyboard at our weekly meetings for the patriotic song and other special events. Mary Jane sent our Club a generous donation recently which we submitted to the Foundation. We are most grateful for Mary Jane's generosity**

and look forward to having her join us at one of our upcoming meetings. Another example of what Rotary membership has meant in the lives of past members.

I wish you all good health, much hope, happiness, and peace in the year ahead. I look forward to the wonderful memories that await us in our Club and in our lives.

Yours in Rotary Service,

Dottie

P.S. Be sure to see all the photos included in this month's GONG including the sweet Thank You cards from the AGM 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students who received our dictionaries.



## ***ROTARY OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS- July '25 to June '26***

***President – Dottie Kuehl***

***Past President – Rick Materese***

***Incoming President – Lynn Orlando***

***Jim Leonard***

***Jim Testa***

***Mike Sopchak***

***Nancy Kiley***

***Secretary – Darlene Leonard***

***Treasurer – Kim Potter***

***Ass't Treasurer – Sharon Reid***

***Dave Clementi***

***Barbara Fiala***

***Lynn Orlando***

***Stephan Wasylko***

### ***Duty Roster for January 2026***

***Programs: GayCanough***

***Greeter: Sue Pratt***

***Sergeant at Arms: Lynn Orlando***

### ***Duty Roster for February 2026***

***Programs: Jim Leonard***

***Greeter: Tom Johnson***

***Sergeant at Arms: Gay Canough***

# JANUARY SPEAKERS

- 1/8 - RYLA students from U-E (or President Gay Canough with Foundation updates.**
- 1/15 - Theresa Krause – Food Bank of the Southern Tier (evening meeting)**
- 1/22 - Susan Wheeler – The Star Group**
- 1/29 - Joseph Foti - EPAC**



Endicott Rotary  
Foundation



*Endicott Rotary Foundation Board: Gay Canough,*

*Foundation President Tom Johnson, Foundation Treasurer, Mike Sopchak, Foundation Board Member, Rick Materese, Foundation Board Member, Carl Speicher, Foundation Board Member, Betty Casey, Foundation Board Member*

## *Jan 2026 – A Message from Gay Canough, President*

We are halfway through the Rotary year. The Foundation has given out \$25,219.66 of our planned \$28,586.99. It's been a great year so far. We have been able to give funds to many local groups as well as one international grant to the Haiti Eye Clinic. The Holiday baskets project was a huge success again this year, with large donations from Lupos, Wegmans, Catholic Charities and the Endicott Rotary Foundation.

Here is a list of all the grants awarded from July 1 to Dec 31 2025. This is a good list to draw from for upcoming programs.

Donation for Carousel Exhibit	\$1,000.00
Donation for Gusto Fest (VOE)	\$1,000.00
Donation for STCC Community BBQ	\$500.00
Donation to Mom's House	\$1,000.00
Donation to Vines	\$500.00
Donation to Endicott Fire Dept (children's education)	\$400.00
Donation to Illuminations Lighting (Lights for Ideal LC)	\$715.77
Donation to U-E Italian Student Exchange	\$200.00
Donation to Vestal Robotics (competitions)	\$500.00
Donation to U-E Key Club (community event)	\$200.00
Donation to Global Eye Project (Haiti Clinic)	\$2,000.00
Donation to EPAC (roof repair)	\$500.00
Donation to VJC (Endicott Holiday Parade)	\$1,000.00
Payment to Sodexo (food for district meeting)	\$959.40
Payment to Dictionary Project (ERF & Elks Club project)	\$2,016.00
Donation to Council of Churches)	\$5,000.00
Holiday Baskets Costs	\$7,728.49
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$25,219.66</b>

Our next Foundation meeting is planned for Jan 29, 2026 after the regular Rotary meeting. Please send grant requests by Jan 22, 2026.

*All your hard work volunteering is what feeds the Foundation's ability to give financial support to our community. Thank You!*

--- Gay

Gay Canough, President- Endicott Rotary Foundation,



# JANUARY Birthdays!



**1/9 – Becky Burnett**

**1/16 – Sue Pratt**

**1/12 – BJ Ellis**

**1/19 – Bob Utter**

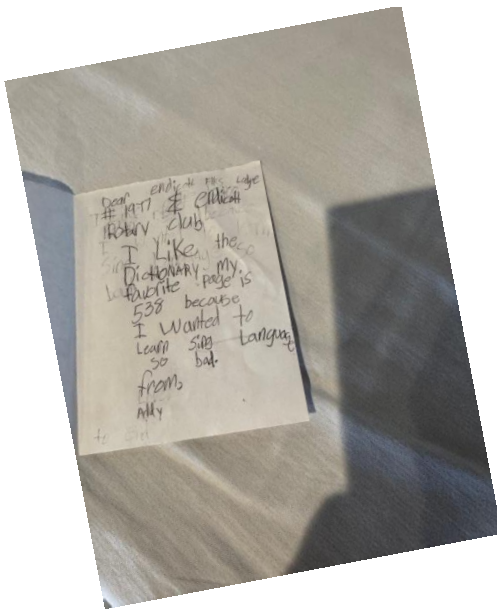
**1/15 – Jess Corbett**

**1/28 – Lynn Orlando**

**1/15 – Dennis Leonard**

# PHOTO GALLERY – *December events*

Some thank you notes from third graders at AGM who received dictionaries as part of our Dictionary Program for U-E elementary students



## ENDICOTT HOLIDAY PARADE PREP



Endicott Holiday Parade Rotary Float preparation -,looks pretty and festive. These Rotary elves do great work!

## MORE HOLIDAY GOOD DEEDS

Holiday Food Box preparation – again, many busy Rotary elves at work. Many hands make light work.



This is what the holiday spirit is all about.



## DECEMBER SPEAKERS



**Shellie Spinelli – Broome County Office For Aging and a “pet” used to give comfort and companionship. These pets look and act so much like live pets.**



**Broome County District Attorney, Paul Battisti**

**And wait! There's more below.**

**WOMEN  
IN BASEBALL!**

**THE PHELPS MANSION**  
191 Court Street Binghamton, New York  
TICKETS \$25 AT [WWW.PHELPSMANSION.ORG](http://WWW.PHELPSMANSION.ORG)  
Silent Auctions and Raffles!!

**JANUARY 10** Doors Open 12:00 PM  
EVENT 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

**GUEST SPEAKER: Rachel Balkovec**  
*First woman to work as a full-time manager of a major league-affiliated team.*

**Presentation by National Baseball Hall of Fame**  
Discussion with Amy Fancher, Binghamton Rumble Ponies Director of Community Relations  
Plus more to be announced!

Portion of proceeds go to The National Baseball Hall of Fame

Made with PosterMyWall.com

From Jeff Smith—Endwell Rotary:

The Binghamton Baseball Booster Club, in conjunction with the Rumble Ponies, The National Baseball Hall of Fame and community sponsors is putting on a program on "Women in Baseball". We believe this program will be inspirational. It will be held at the Phelps Mansion on Saturday January 10. See flyer below to register.

We raise funds throughout the year to send under-served youth to a special tour of the Hall of Fame. The package includes bus transportation.

A member of Rotary is a co-founder of the booster club and remains on the Board. Rotary is a sponsor of this program. Each year we host a special event for Rotary at the stadium.

If you know of a student that would be interested in this program, I am happy to donate tickets.

