

### Rotary Motto

*Service Above  
Self*

### 4-Way Test

*Of the things  
we think, say  
or do:*

*Is it the truth?*

*Is it fair to all  
concerned?*

*Will it build  
goodwill and  
better  
friendship?*

*Will it be  
beneficial to all  
concerned?*

### Avenues of Service

*Club Service*

*Vocational  
Service*

*Community  
Service*

*International  
Service*

*Youth Service*

# ROTARY NOTES

A publication of the Rotary Club of Warren

December 6, 2023

## ASSIGNMENTS

### GREETERS

December, 2023 - Denise May  
January, 2024 - Patti Augustine

### REGISTRATION

December, 2023 - Barry Dunaway & Ray Sinchak  
January, 2024 - Barry Dunaway & Ray Sinchak

### INVOCATION

December, 2023 - Ted Stazak  
January, 2024 - Denise May

### FELLOWSHIP (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed.) & MAGAZINE REPORT (2<sup>nd</sup> Wed.)

December, 2023 - Lauren Kramer  
January, 2024 - Ray Sinchak (Fellowship)  
January, 2024 - Joni Gawne (Magazine Report)

### CAREER AWARENESS (4<sup>th</sup> Wed. of the Month)

December, 2023 - Richard Fallon  
January, 2024 - Alicia Adams - Angelo

## SPEAKERS

12/13/23 - Cheryl Knowlton, South Africa Lydia's Mission  
12/20/23 - Santa Claus & Christmas Gift Exchange  
12/27/23 - No Meeting  
12/31/23 - Opening Night

### Areas of Focus

*Peace & Conflict  
Prevention/  
Resolution*

*Disease  
Prevention &  
Treatment*

*Water &  
Sanitation*

*Maternal & Child  
Health*

*Basic Education &  
Literacy*

*Economic &  
Community  
Development*

*The Environment*

### Club Officers

*President  
Ken LaPolla*

*President Elect  
Cindy Matheson*

*Vice-President  
Tony Iannucci*

*Secretary  
Judy Masaki*

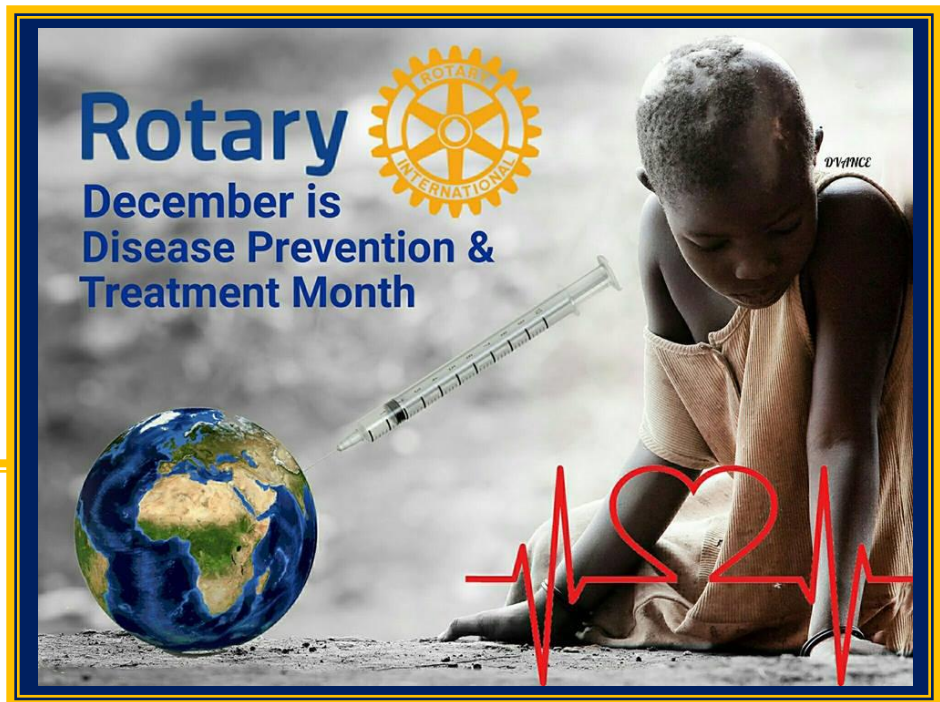
*Treasurer  
Cheryl Oblinger*

*Assistant  
Treasurer  
Mike Bolas*

*Past President  
Ted Stazak*

### Board Members

*Bill Beinecke  
Lauren Kramer  
Marilyn Pape  
John Perdue  
Lorilyn Shandor  
Julia Wetstein*



Good healthcare is everyone's right. Yet, did you know that 400 million people in the world cannot afford or don't have access to basic healthcare!?

Disease results in physical and emotional pain and poverty for millions of people globally, and that is why treating and preventing disease is so important to Rotary. Rotarians spearhead health projects around the world, such as: setting up clinics, blood donation centers and training facilities in underserved communities; designing and building infrastructure where healthcare professionals can work together; providing health education; making sure people have access to routine hearing, vision and dental care; providing clean water in impoverished areas; and combating diseases like malaria, HIV, and polio.

These efforts have reduced HIV infections in children by 95%, ended polio in 122 countries, and created a system for tackling a myriad of other diseases.

During this month, think about how you can promote improved health at home and abroad, and support the vital programs that contribute to healthy communities. Set an example for others to follow.

**Rotary Club  
Foundation  
Board**

*President  
Ted Stazak*

*Vice-President  
Tony Iannucci*

*Secretary  
Judy Masaki*

*Treasurer  
Cheryl Oblinger*

*Andy Bednar  
Ken LaPolla  
Denise May  
Kim Straniak*

**Contact us at:**

*Rotary Club of  
Warren  
P.O. Box 68  
Warren, OH  
44482*

**Our Website:**

*[Warrenrotary.org](http://Warrenrotary.org)*

**If you have any  
suggestions  
about our  
newsletter, or if  
you would like  
to become a  
sponsor, please**

**contact:**

*Judy Masaki*



For Fellowship this week, Lauren Kramer shared how the tradition of the Elf on the Shelf became so popular. The Elf on the Shelf is a scout elf that is sent to your home by the Jolly Old Elf himself, Santa. The elf's job is to see all the good and naughty things children do and report back to Santa at the North Pole each night. When the elf flies back to your house, he or she may do some silly things. Some

elves may just fly to a different spot each night, while some may do more elaborate things such as making snow angels in flour or wrapping toilet paper around the Christmas Tree!

When the elf first arrives, it is accompanied by a book which explains to the children the story and rules of the Elf on the Shelf. The biggest rule is to not touch the elf or it loses its magical powers.

So how did this tradition become such a big deal? The authors of the book, *The Elf on the Shelf: A Christmas Tradition*, are a set of twins - Chanda Bell and Christa Pitts. They wrote about the tradition their mother, Carol Aebersold, shared with them. Their elf was named Fisbee. The same elf was around when Carol was a child, but it was more of an ornament. The tradition morphed over time, and when Carol became a mother, she told her kids that the elf would magically fly around at night and mustn't be touched or it would lose its magic. This was likely done to protect the ornament, because Chanda and Christa were pretty rambunctious children.

The idea of a magical elf that flies to the North Pole at night and reappears in a surprise location was "super fun and whimsical" to the twins and their brother, Brandon, Pitts recalled. "It had all of us racing out of bed in the morning to find our elf!"

It wasn't until 2004 that Bell had the idea to immortalize the tradition in a bigger way. At that time, she was a new mom who'd left her job as a reading and language arts teacher to care for her son. She'd started working part-time for her father, Bob, who owned a small engineering and fabrication firm. "We were broke as church mice, so my

# W A R R E N R O T A R Y

dad offered me a part-time job working two days a week where I could take my son and make \$180 every two weeks. And I just thought I was rich by making that kind of money," said Bell. Because the office was about an hour and a half away from where she lived, Bell and her son would usually spend one night a week at her parents' house. Meanwhile, her mother was going through a rough time, facing some minor health struggles, empty nest syndrome and issues with their family business.

"It was during that time at home that I looked up and saw our elf that we grew up with sitting on a shelf," said Bell. "I was like, 'Mom, why don't we write a story about the elf on the shelf?' I can tell you honestly, at that time, there was no - and I do mean zero - intention of starting a business or really doing much of anything other than a fun project for Mom and I to work on together." Once they'd completed the story, Bell and Aebersold wanted to publish it. Although they found an interested literary agent, they received nothing but rejections from publishers, so they decided to self-publish *The Elf on the Shelf: A Christmas Tradition*.

In 2005, Bell and Aebersold invited Pitts on board, and she left her job at QVC and sold her house in Pennsylvania to move in with her parents in Georgia. Bell took out a line of credit, Pitts put forth money from the sale of her house, and Aebersold cleaned out her retirement account to start their own publishing house, Creatively Classic Activities and Books. They published 5,000 copies of their book, illustrated by local watercolor artist, Coe Steinwart. "We ended up taking some huge risks financially and for our families, but we all just really believed that this was a tradition worth sharing," said Bell.

For the next couple of years, the women sold their Elf on the Shelf kits at local trade shows and markets. They also sold their product online and appeared at bookstores to share the story. Finally, 2007 marked a turning point. In November, actress Jennifer Garner was photographed carrying an Elf on the Shelf box in New York. The following month, the *Today Show* ran a segment on the Elf on the Shelf. From there, they were flooded with calls and orders, and more bookstores and toy stores started selling their product.

Today, 12 years after its official launch, the Elf on the Shelf is a global phenomenon. More than 11 million elves have been adopted in the United States and beyond - from Mexico to the U.K. to Zimbabwe.

Lauren knows that not everyone is a fan of the Elf on the Shelf. However, her children really enjoy their elves, Jingle and Bell, and anything that helps get them out of bed in the morning is good with her!



PROGRAM:

THE WARREN G. HARDING  
MADRIGAL SINGERS

The Warren G. Harding Madrigal Singers rang in the holidays with their first concert of the season at the Rotary Club of Warren's December 6<sup>th</sup> meeting! Under the musical direction of Keith Rising, the diverse group of juniors and seniors delighted us with both traditional and pop Christmas carols, as well as a little bit of dancing. Our club looks forward to their festive performance every year.

The Madrigal Singers are a select group of students chosen through solo auditions at the beginning of the school year. They are required to attend practices and keep their grades up in order to participate. They perform at annual school concerts, as well as for civic organizations and community events, such as Warren's Hometown Holiday Celebration on Courthouse Square this weekend.



# WARREN ROTARY

## GRANT PRESENTATION

The Rotary Club of Warren was pleased to present a \$1,000 grant to the Warren Civic Chorus in support of their 2023 performance of Handel's *Messiah*. While the Warren Civic Chorus is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization, there are still costs associated with putting on this traditional Advent season performance. The chorus heavily relies on contributions from corporations, community organizations and individuals to assist in covering those expenses. The chorus has presented the *Messiah* for 60 years.

Members of the Warren Civic Chorus range from 14 to 90 years old and hail from all over northeast Ohio. Several of our Warren Rotarians lend their voices to their performances.

While the Warren Civic Chorus' concerts are free of charge, they do ask for a free-will offering. This year, \$2,300 was collected and donated to Second Harvest Food Bank.

Pictured below are: Mike Bollas, Chairman of the Warren Rotary's Charitable Projects Committee; Jeff Ward, President of the Warren Civic Chorus; Anne Varley, Secretary of the chorus; and Julia Wetstein, one of the Rotary Club of Warren's Past-Presidents and member of the Warren Civic Chorus.



# W A R R E N R O T A R Y



**MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT:** Invite a friend or colleague to Rotary! Any current member who brings a new member into the club will receive a Rotary license plate frame for their car!

**WE HAVE A NEW FACEBOOK PAGE!!** Be sure to share and "like" us at: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100090246039722&mibextid=LQQJ4d>

If you can't make it to our meetings at Trumbull Country Club in person, join us via Facebook Live!

**OPENING NIGHT** is slated for Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>! This year is exceptionally exciting as Warren celebrates its 225<sup>th</sup> birthday!! The birthday bash will begin with a Dancing Light Show on Courthouse Square at 6 p.m., and entertainment will follow at 6:15 p.m. in various venues around Downtown Warren. Wristbands are required to enter all of the venues and can be purchased online from now through December 28<sup>th</sup> by visiting: [www.warrenrotary.org/tickets](http://www.warrenrotary.org/tickets). Everyone who purchases a wristband in advance will be mailed a coupon that will need to be turned in at the Log Cabin directly across from the Courthouse Square Fountain in exchange for a wristband. Wristbands WILL NOT be mailed in advance. Coupons will be mailed out until December 21<sup>st</sup>. After that, simply go to the Log Cabin the night of the event and give a volunteer your name and you will be given the proper number of tickets as indicated on our master list of guests. After December 28<sup>th</sup>, when online sales shut down, wristbands will need to be purchased the night of the event at the Log Cabin. Adult wristbands for those 10 years of age and older are \$10. Children, ages 3 through 9 years of age, will pay \$5 per wristband. Children under three are free. Any Warren Rotarians who sell tickets should keep a list of who bought tickets from them and give it to a committee member.

**OPENING NIGHT SPONSORSHIPS:** Those wishing to sponsor this year's event can visit: [www.warrenrotary.org/sponsor](http://www.warrenrotary.org/sponsor). Select the sponsor level that is right for you. The deadline for sponsorships is December 10, 2023.

**HOSTING DUTIES ON OPENING NIGHT:** Warren Rotarians are needed to carry out hosting duties for Opening Night at a variety of venues. They

# WARREN ROTARY

will be responsible for welcoming guests, checking wristbands, and selling wristbands to those who don't already have one. You can request the venue that you'd like to volunteer at, on a first come, first served basis by contacting Julia Wetstein. Everyone will still be able to see the light show at 6:00 p.m. on Courthouse Square. The venues and activities at each are as follows:

**SCOPE** - Kids Karaoke with Barbie and a Super Hero, as well as kids creating Happy Birthday cards for Warren; donations of crayons and stickers are needed for this venue.

**THE KINSMAN HOUSE** - The Senior Talent Showcase, which we saw a portion of at a recent club meeting

**THE UPTON HOUSE** - The Warren Philharmonic String Quartet (This venue has already been spoken for)

**TRUMBULL COUNTY COURTHOUSE** - Tours and an appearance by President William McKinley re-encasing the dedication of the Courthouse

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** - The youth singing group, "Chosen Vessel", will perform gospel music.

**DARLENE LOUNGE** - The magic and comedy of Eric Thompson

**LOG CABIN** - Ticket and Raffle Sales

\*\*\* Assignments will be made to the first Rotarian who requests a venue/performance.

**THE 2024 RYLA CONFERENCE** will be held February 9<sup>th</sup> through February 11<sup>th</sup> at the Waypoint Marriott at Westford Place in Canfield, Ohio.

**THE 2024 ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION** will be held 5/25/24 through 5/29/24 in Singapore, "the Garden City". You can attend inspiring breakout sessions, exchange ideas about service projects, and make meaningful connections with global individuals. Discounted rates (\$500 for those 31 years of age and over; \$175 for 30 and under) expire on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Register today @ [convention.rotary.org](https://convention.rotary.org)

**THE TRUMBULL COUNTY DOG POUND NEEDS YOUR HELP!!** Donations of towels, blankets, sheets, pet food or any other supplies for dogs can be brought to Warren Rotary meetings and given to Robin Martorana.

**A NEW ROTARY CLUB OF WARREN BANNER IS ON THE WAY!!** Our current banner has been well-loved and well-worn. Plans are being made to donate it to the Trumbull County Historical Society, where there is a Warren Rotary display.

**THE ROTARY CLUB OF WARREN BOARD OF DIRECTORS** will hold their next meeting on Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, at CharBenay's Wine on the River. Fellowship will begin at 5:30 p.m., with the business meeting to follow at 6:00 p.m. Our hostess for the evening will be Julia Wetstein.



# WARREN ROTARY

**MANY THANKS TO LAMAR** for donating four billboards for Opening Night! The will run from now through December 31<sup>st</sup>.



**THE DICTIONARIES ARE HERE!!** Join Chris Shape at Berk Enterprises this coming Wednesday to assist with labeling. Contact Chris for details.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** The 2024 Slice of the Valley Pizza Challenge will be held on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Stay tuned for more details.

**SCOPE'S "SENIORS GOT TALENT" SHOWCASE** will be held on January 6, 2024 from 2 to 6 p.m. at the Robins Theatre. Reserved seats are \$22 and \$15 plus fees.

**THE WARREN ROTARY SERVICE PROJECT AT ST. VINCENT DE PAUL** was an enjoyable experience for those who participated. 480 meals were served over four hours.

**A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS** will be held at Christ Episcopal Church (2627 Atlantic St., NE, Warren, OH) on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. This is a treasured Christmas tradition where you can hear the Parish Choir, Handbell Choir, Chamber Orchestra and soloists perform. The event is free and open to the public.

**JOIN THE ROTARY CLUB OF WARREN ON DECEMBER 20<sup>th</sup>** for our weekly club meeting at Trumbull Country Club and holiday gift exchange (plus a visit from Santa!!). Those who wish to participate in the gift exchange are asked to bring a wrapped gift. It doesn't have to be expensive - it's all about the fun!!

**THE ROTARY CLUB OF WARREN WILL NOW BE OFFERING MEMBERSHIP SCHOLARSHIPS!** See an information sheet and application on the next two pages of this newsletter:

## **Rotary Club of Warren**

### **Dues Assistance**

- Dues will be reduced 50%.
- Must complete application for dues assistance and application for membership.
- Eligibility requirements (must have a least one of these):
  - Under 35 years old
  - Works for 501(c)3 nonprofit in Trumbull County with less than \$500,000 operating budget
- Eligible to receive dues assistance for two years
- Must agree to each of the following for each year dues assistance is received:
  - Attend at least two (2) weekly meetings per month
  - Participate in at least two service projects
  - Volunteer for at least one Rotary Club of Warren organized event
  - Participate on at least one committee



### Dues Assistance Application

#### Rotary Club of Warren

P.O. Box 68  
Warren, OH 44483

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Rotary Club of Warren Membership Status: New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility requirements (must have a least one of these):

Please select all that apply to you

☐

Under 30 years old

☐

Works for 501(c)3 nonprofit in Trumbull County with less than \$500,000 operating budget

Reason for Applying:

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By accepting dues assistance through the Rotary Club of Warren, you agree to the guiding principles of Rotary which include The Four-Way Test, Object of Rotary, and the Avenues of Service. Each of these principles express a Rotarian's commitment to service, fellowship, diversity, integrity, and leadership. You also agree to fulfill the expectation of involvement in our Club as outlined below.

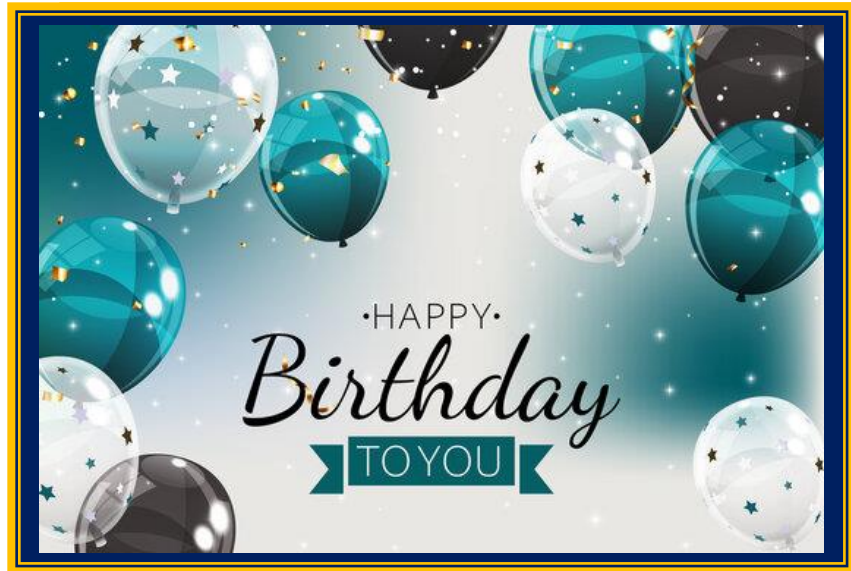
- Attend at least two (2) weekly meetings per month
- Participate in at least two service projects
- Volunteer for at least one Rotary Club of Warren organized event
- Participate on at least one committee

By signing you agree that you have read these expectations and agree to them.

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Please complete & email to Judy Masaki at: [jmasaki1962@gmail.com](mailto:jmasaki1962@gmail.com)

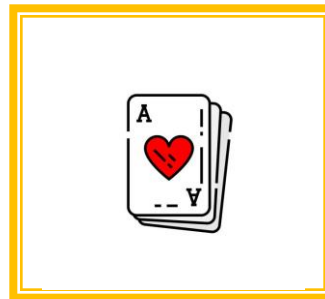
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*Best wishes to the following Warren Rotarians  
who are celebrating December birthdays:*

*Kenneth Bauer   Robin Martorana  
Shawn Littell*

TRIPLE JACKPOT



**This week, the Grand Jackpot totaled \$90.  
Congratulations to Daily Winner Ray Sinchak!!**



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HAPPY

BUCKS

\*\*\* **Julia Wetstein** enjoyed the WGH Madrigal Singers and was happy to see Rob Berk at our meeting.

\*\*\* **Janet Schweitzer** was happy to see an article about Harriet Taylor Upton in the *Tribune*. She stressed the importance of paying for good news.

\*\*\* **Chris Shape** enjoyed the Madrigal Singers. He was glad to see Matt Parkes from Boardman Rotary join us in fellowship this week. Chris also ran into Danny Rowland recently - he said to say "Hi" to everyone. Chris and his son are going to Arizona to celebrate his dad's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. And in January, Chris is moving to Vermillion.

\*\*\* **Ken LaPolla** offered a Happy Buck for the Madrigal Singers. He went to the United Way Dueling Pianos event recently and found out that Christine Cope is a matchmaker!! She set up a couple and the relationship is still going strong. Finally, he appreciates Julia Wetstein's enthusiasm for singing!

