



Glens Falls  
**Rotary**



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# Glens Falls Rotary

Celebrating 100 Years  
1922 - 2022



**Editor's Note: This 100 Anniversary Book has been a work in progress over a few years. Below are letters from the three past Presidents. A conclusion by current President, Jim Amell, is at the end of the book.**

## **Forward**

It was an honor to have served as the Rotary Club of Glens Falls President during its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year in 2021-22. "This is what 100 years of service looks like," said Past President Jean Lapper at one of the first meetings of the 100-year Anniversary Committee.

As we pause to recognize the "Service Above Self" from the members today as well as the members who came before us, certainly, there have been changes in the world over the past 100 years. We have witnessed what feels like a decade of change in just the past two years. The COVID-19 pandemic tested both our resolve as individuals and as a Club, with our efforts to help our local community during a time when we were afraid to be with others for fear of spreading an extreme illness. Even in these unprecedented circumstances, the Club adapted and persevered to help others in need. The common theme that prevailed has been people helping other people.

This book serves as a memento of all the great service Glens Falls Rotary has contributed to the local community and beyond. It is an updated history of our Club to celebrate the people, the service, the impact, and the adaptations needed to make an impact on a changing world over the past 100 years.

Many thanks to our 100 Year Anniversary Committee Co-Chairs, Jean Lapper and John Fitzgerald, for leading the charge to celebrate this milestone in club history. Tireless efforts from Jennifer Brink, Dave Bogue, Kim Heunemann, Dr. John Schutze, Gordon Woodworth, and Fred Carvin have resulted in commemorating a century of service. This special occasion is marked by a 100-year Anniversary video, logo, banners, and a storefront display at the Aviation Mall, a Glens Falls Symphony Orchestra Concert, luncheon and evening celebrations, plans for a downtown "Rotary Park," and, finally, this book. Special thanks to Fred Carvin and Gordon Woodworth for their time and talent to chronicle the Rotary Club of Glens Falls history over the past century.

We are excited to see what impact we can impart on the Greater Glens Falls Community over the next 100 years!

Kathy Grasmeder  
Club President 2021-22

Reflecting on the 100 years of service by the Glens Falls Rotary Club, I cannot help but think about my grandfather, a 52-year Rotarian. He was an enthusiastic member of the club in the small town of Gustine, in California's agricultural Central Valley. I recall from vacations with my grandparents that Rotary was a meaningful part of their social life regardless of where we were visiting.

No Rotarian in a Denny's who was wearing a pin was safe from a conversation with my cheerful grandpa! The work of that club reflected the interests and needs of the dairy farms, the family-run fruit and nut orchards, and the many small-town businesses that held their vast rural region together. I can vividly recall the distinct scent of the trees and flowers around what we called "the pond park," to which we would bicycle to visit the ducks on hot summer evenings. As we entered this lovely park, we always passed a sign sporting the distinctive blue and yellow Rotary symbol. Today, it is a great honor to be able to pay forward the many good experiences that Gustine Rotary gave me with the work our Club does today.

One aspect of these 100 years that seems important to acknowledge is that many things change...and many things do not. In a world that ceaselessly evolves, it is reassuring that this Rotary Club will continue to provide ongoing leadership and service to help those in need, connect businesspeople in positive community efforts, and constantly adjust to new challenges. The change to include women in 1987, the many workplace and cultural changes over the 20th century, and evolving rules about club attendance make Glens Falls Rotary meetings look a bit different than they would have in the first year of 1922. But the commitment by Rotarians to maintain high ethical standards in what we think, say, and do, and the ongoing practice of improving how we help lift up our community, these remain a source of stability and solidness for our region that every healthy community needs.

As I think about the people in the Glens Falls Rotary Club, I am full of pride and happy anticipation at the great work, wonderful friendships, and community-building that will be done over the next century of service. Like others, I deeply value the friendly atmosphere of the Club, the shared sense of goodwill and concern towards all our fellow human beings, the kindness that members show each other during times of personal challenge, and the "can-do" attitude in tackling problems. I am humbled to be a part of this great tradition and look forward to seeing what we can do next.

May the next 100 years of service by the people of the Glens Falls Rotary Club be greatly inspiring to the Rotarians celebrating our 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2122.

Yours in Rotary Service,  
Jennifer Brink  
Club President 2022-23

The Glens Falls Rotary is thrilled to announce the launch of its updated book with 100 years of knowledge and information. Our organization, known for its exemplary service to people within our community and the world, added another feather to its cap by effectively encapsulating its humanitarian efforts in this book.

"No person was ever honored for what they received. Honor is given by what they gave." This quote plays a critical role in defining the essence of this book and serves as a guiding principle for the Glens Falls Rotary. Summarized for your reading is not only a narrative of our Rotary's remarkable journey but also a testament to the spirit of giving, compassion, and the power of collective effort.

The book addresses our community and the actions we as a club took to make an impact for our local area and our world. It serves as a reminder about the importance of putting time, effort, and generosity into making a well-rounded, supported planet. This endeavor to compile significant milestones, stories, and impactful change-makers into a book originates from our ultimate commitment to generate awareness, inspire action, and spark change. We believe this book is a stepping stone towards a more empathetic society where no one is left behind or denied an opportunity.

Known for our commitment to enabling a better life for all people, the Glens Falls Rotary remains at the forefront of this ideology. Our club members are dedicated people who share a passion for both community service and friendship. Becoming a Glens Falls Rotarian connects you with a diverse group of professionals who share the drive to give back.

When I joined Rotary in March of 2014, I could never have imagined the friendships I would make, the people in our community I would meet and respect, and how important the vision of Rotary truly is: *"We strive to be a diverse group sharing fellowship in active service to our world, community and ourselves with integrity through projects that improve the human condition."*

Rotary International's focus remains on 7 ideals that we as a club follow:

- Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution
- Disease Prevention and Treatment
- Water and Sanitation
- Maternal and Child Health
- Basic Education and Literacy
- Economic and Community Development
- Environment

In conclusion, the Glens Falls Rotary with its unwavering commitment towards creating an inclusive environment for all, has updated this book for your enjoyment and knowledge. The book is just the starting point; we promise to continue our journey with the same dedication and fervor, serving humanity, and transforming lives with every step we take.

Kim Heunemann  
Past President 2023-2024

## Introduction

### 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Rotary Club of Glens Falls, NY

The Rotary Club of Glens Falls, Inc., more commonly known as Glens Falls Rotary (the Club) has been a presence in the region since its chartering on May 1, 1922, when 26 local businessmen began meeting at the Glens Falls Insurance Company building that once stood next to the Civil War monument downtown at Bay/South and Glen Streets.

When builder Frank (Hank) Llewellyn convinced community leaders C.V. Peters, insurance executive Frank Smalley, Imperial Wallpaper President George Tait, and others to join him in creating a new civic organization, World War I had recently ended, New York's first radio station, WGY, had begun broadcasting three months earlier, and the Great Depression was yet to appear on the horizon.

For the first four years, the Club's meetings bounced around from the former YMCA building, currently the location of "Spot Coffee," the cafeterias of both the insurance company and Finch Pruyn, the old Rockwell Hotel, and the Church of the Messiah Parish House on Glen Street.

In 1926, the Club decided to hold their lunch gatherings at a new place on Maple Street called the Queensbury Hotel, which was founded by a joint venture of a management company and the purchase of shares by local investors. These original owners included several charter members of the new Rotary Club. While the Club has, at times, met in different places over the years, 100 years later, the Club still meets at the Queensbury Hotel.

Begun as a men-only club, Rotary remained exclusive to male business and professional leaders for 65 years. This policy was forced to change in 1987 when the US Supreme Court ruled women could not be excluded from Rotary International based on gender.

While this significant change was met with some resistance by local clubs around the country, including in Glens Falls, this decision has proved to be extremely beneficial to Rotary, both worldwide and within our Club. Women Rotarians have brought new perspective to the ideals of service, and their dedication, energy, and drive to make a difference has been a valuable addition to our Club and to our community.

From the first woman Club president, Donna Farrar (1995-96), to the current Past President, Kathy Grasmeder (2021-22) and current President, Jennifer Brink (2022-2023), there has been a steady stream of talented women who lead with vision and who, along with the male Club members and officers, will take our Club forward into the future.

Most people who know Rotary know about our dedication to community service. Others may only know us by our work with international student exchange programs, or from the enjoyment of

fried bread dough at the Lower Adirondack Regional Arts Council (LARAC) or Adirondack Balloon Festivals, or possibly the Warm the Children program for children in need of winter clothes (in partnership with *The Post Star* and JC Penney), or perhaps, finally, through familiarity with the college scholarship program. But the Club's work, rooted in the Rotary motto "Service Above Self," goes much deeper.

Our annual Fishing Derby in Glens Falls has touched the lives of thousands of kids, giving many of them their first brush with the thrill of catching an elusive trout. The Glens Falls Club has provided clean water to entire villages overseas, raising sanitation and health standards. Our work with The Gift of Life saves the lives of children by giving them critically-needed heart operations. The Club has joined millions of other Rotarians and clubs in the global goal to eliminate polio by immunizing over two billion children globally.

Over the decades, the Glens Falls Club has welcomed Bob Hope to open the then-named Glens Falls Civic Center, sponsored air shows to benefit Glens Falls Hospital, held "Water Walks" to raise funds for clean water initiatives, organized the annual Rotary 5K Corporate Challenge Race, conducted live antique auctions and karaoke nights, beautified City Park, built the Hudson River gazebo, and helped clean up the Feeder Canal, to mention but a few.

We have supported the World Awareness Children's Museum, Crandall Library, the Glens Falls Symphony Orchestra, the Homeless Youth Coalition, the Boy and Girl Scouts, area Little League teams, and many other organizations and projects, all designed to make our community and world a better place to live.

The Club may look different 100 years after it was founded in 1922, but the Glens Falls Rotary Club is committed to continuing to make a difference in the Glens Falls-Queensbury region for many years to come.

Gordon Woodworth  
September 2022

Long-term Glens Falls Rotary Club member

**Voices of our Club Members:** *"At the meeting of the club assembly with the district governor, he (Frank Smalley) was asked to mention some of the weaknesses of our organization. He answered, "We have the reputation of being too smug or self-satisfied, that we didn't show proper Rotary spirit in attendance at Rotary Conferences and area joint meetings." "You are a good club, and you know it." To which Frank Smalley reported, "It's better to be a good club and know it than to be a rotten one and not know it." Weekly Letter, July 31, 1945.*

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## The Beginning

By the beginning of the 20th century, Glens Falls was a living example of the United States (US) at the time. Experiencing a mixture of Gilded Age elegance and disruptive social change, Glens Falls was being confronted by an explosion of new technology and innovative ideas. Airplanes, cars, typewriters, and other industrially produced tools produced social change, while the campaign for women's suffrage, labor disputes, and a widening wealth gap contributed to social and cultural upheaval. Around the world, the horrors of colonialism and the greed of imperialism had forced political action by the oppressed, and wars were fought with increasingly deadly weapons. Battleships ruled the waves and submarines were just being perfected.

All these elements intersected as the tensions exploded with the assassination in Sarajevo of the Archduke Ferdinand and his wife, Sophie, in June of 1914. What became the globe-crushing World War I raged on for four years, leaving much of the old world destroyed. While kings and tsars faced the wrath of the people, a good part of the world was left a wasteland. In Russia, a new political system threatened to destabilize delicate relationships with their neighbors. Politicians gathered to forge a lasting peace, not yet understanding that revenge should not be part of the equation.

In Glens Falls, along with most of America, people desperately wanted to return to normal. Having been spared the mass destruction of the vast bombing and shelling campaigns that Europeans had endured, the US suffered less than 1% of the total casualties (117,000) of the 15 to 20 million dead from all nations.

As Calvin Coolidge said, "The business of America is business." Within this environment, the businessmen and civic leaders of Glens Falls rallied themselves into position to create what they believed were the stabilizing forces of prosperity, high employment, and social calm. Sadly, it was not only the World War that stole millions of soldiers' lives and wounded souls and bodies, but also the worldwide flu pandemic. By the 1920's, the then-named Spanish Flu had carried off another 50 million people worldwide.

This global pandemic was an indiscriminate killer with no political agenda. It followed no rules and cared not who its victims were. The best defense against this menace was to wear face masks, avoid crowds, and stay quarantined. Schools shut down and theaters closed. Funerals were postponed and weddings delayed. Normal life and activities were altered since there was no known cure or vaccine to help fight the affliction.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *“At a meeting of the Board of Health, steps were taken which resulted in the legalizing of the order, making it compulsory, soda fountains and ice cream parlors were added to the list of businesses required to close. The Crandall Free Library had already closed, and churches and organizations have cancelled public events for the week. The Board of Health banned public funerals, until further notice, as the Spanish flu epidemic continues to wreak havoc for a second week.*

*Reports from various physicians yesterday indicate there is yet no evidence of abatement in the influenza epidemic throughout the city. New cases of the disease, and the grip and bronchial colds, were received in numbers Saturday and yesterday, and the task of treating these cases is taxing the powers of the city physicians to the utmost. The Red Cross made and distributed gauze masks for those caring for sick family members and for employees of factories. McMillen-Leavens Co. reported 25 percent of its employees out sick on October 10. International Paper Co. in South Glens Falls reported 86 employees absent on October 5 and 139 employees absent on October 9.” The Post Star, October 11, 1918.*

This was a glimpse of the Glens Falls community at the beginning of the 1920's. The wealthy lived in grand homes surrounded by the latest advancements of the day. The poor either lived in company-provided housing at the edges of the growing towns or in subsistence hovels in the surrounding countryside. The merchant class was struggling to introduce a middle-class standard of life.

### **A Club in Glens Falls**

Rotary first took root in the New York Capital District area when Burton Pfeiffer, vice president of the then newly-formed International Association of Rotary Clubs, traveled from Buffalo to Albany in 1913. As a member of the extension committee appointed by Paul Harris, Pfeiffer met with local businessmen from that community. He had successfully established the Toronto chapter in December 1912. Roughly four months later, after describing the principles of Rotary to seven enthusiastic recruits, he welcomed the Albany Club as the 68th chapter in April 1913.

Less than a year later, Burton was again successful in chartering the 122nd club of Rotary in the City of Troy. Representatives from Albany and Troy began the long process of creating other clubs in the area. Schenectady joined the organization in 1918, Amsterdam in 1919. A survey was conducted in 1919 to see if Glens Falls might be ready for Rotary; they found several men interested but, unfortunately, their attempts to organize a club fell short.

In August 1921, District Governor J. Lyle Kenmouth appointed special representative Dwight Marvin, editor of the “Troy Record” and president of the Troy Club, to try once again to determine if a club could be established in Glens Falls.

Conducting a survey among the businessmen in town showed promise, but Dwight's efforts in finding the right men proved slow until March 1922, when Frank A. Llewellyn, a former Rotarian from Quincy, Illinois, agreed to help and act as the local recruiter. He conferred several times with Marvin

and started enlisting some of the more prominent business and community leaders in town. His greatest success was suggesting the idea of a Rotary Club to Charles V. Peters and Frank Smalley, who were instrumental in carrying through with the project.



**About Frank A. "Hank" Llewellyn, Founder of the Glens Falls Club:**

1920 was the year Frank (Hank) Llewellyn moved from Quincy, Illinois, to Glens Falls and partnered with E. Weller Smith, the son of a local tailor, to form Llewellyn and Smith Construction Company. When Llewellyn moved to Glens Falls, his new town did not have a Rotary Club.

The ideas of fun, fellowship, honest work ethics, and the growing desire for service he had enjoyed in Quincy were missing. In reality, they were not missing, just slowly working their way east along the Mohawk Valley.

The new business manufactured coal silos for Finch Pruyn and built a school in Indian Lake as well as several residences in and about Glens Falls. During the war, Captain Hank Llewellyn, as a pilot with the 99th

Aero Squadron, Air Service American Expeditionary Force, received the Distinguished Service Cross for gallantry on August 17, 1918, near St. Die, France.

Originally born in Minneapolis on January 6, 1891, Hank had joined the Rotary Club of Quincy, Illinois, established 1915, prior to moving to Glens Falls, NY. Quincy was a small mid-western town located slightly more than 300 miles southwest of Chicago, where the first Rotary club had been created by Paul Harris in 1905.

Frank Llewellyn, the man most responsible for launching the Glens Falls Club, moved away from the Glens Falls area within a couple of years. He returned back to "Hometown, USA" in late 1945 with his son, Jack, to visit friends. Jack had recently survived the sinking of his destroyer "The USS M.L. Abele," which was hit by a suicide plane attack. Another son, Frank Llewellyn Jr., had served with the Eighth Air Force in England where he, like his father, received the Distinguished Service Cross for his heroic actions.

After the 1945 visit, Frank Sr. again dropped out of sight. During the Club's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations in 1972, the honored veteran was listed as deceased. However, a letter was received by O.C. Beaman from Hank Llewellyn, then age 92, on January 19, 1983. He was, at that time, the last surviving charter member of the Glens Falls Rotary Club. Frank died in New London, Connecticut, on September 2, 1989, at age 98.

On Thursday, April 13, 1922, a preliminary organizational meeting was conducted in the Director's Room of the Glens Falls Insurance Company located on the corner of Glen and Bay Street.

At that meeting, the group elected Frank M. Smalley of the insurance company to be the Club's first president. The other officers included Frank (Hank) A. Llewellyn, vice president; J. Theodore (Ted)

Beaudet, a public accountant, secretary; and Charles V. Peters, a clothier, in the role of treasurer. Reverend John Lyon Caughey, Minister of the First Presbyterian Church, and Daniel (Dan) H. Cowles of the First National Bank of Glens Falls acted as directors. The final organizational meeting was held on Friday, April 21, 1922, at the Gift and Tea Shop on the third floor of the Glens Falls Insurance Building.

The first regular meeting of the charter members convened on Thursday, April 27, 1922, at the YMCA, located in the Ordwell Building next to the First National (Evergreen) Bank on Glen Street. Noted guest speaker was Dr. Myron Scudder of the State Regents Department in Albany. A former principal of the normal school in New Paltz, he was a highly regarded author who had shared the stage with such luminaries as Mark Twain.

On the following Monday, May 1, Dwight Marvin presented the charter, number 1180, to an enthusiastic bunch of new Rotarians in Glens Falls. This was the culmination of over a year's work and efforts to organize and expand Rotary to the North Country.

According to Dwight Marvin, "This is a short story of a long hard fight, but I feel sure it has been handled properly and that a Rotary Club in Glens Falls will be a great benefit not only to Glens Falls but to Rotary."

*Voices of our Club Members: "It is amazing how the little pebble I threw has expanded to so many. If I had not done it, someone else would have, and while I did instigate the idea of the club, most of the work was done by other and more prominent businessmen of Glens Falls." Frank Llewellyn, January 19, 1983.*

## The Early Glens Falls Club

Many of the original members of the Club were colleagues and friends. They mingled together at places like the Glens Falls Country Club, the newly formed Chamber of Commerce, the YMCA, Glens Falls Hospital, and a host of other socially prominent and business-oriented organizations.

**Henry Foster Atherton**, was born in Pennsylvania, August 1882. Earlier in his career, he was the general manager of the Lackawanna Railroad, later the owner/vice-president of the Empire Auto Company in Glens Falls.

**Dr. Davis Baker**, surgeon at Glens Falls Hospital, was also on the board of directors of the Musicians' Protection Union Local 129. He was a "strong booster" of the Glens Falls Boy Scout Band and competed in the Champion Cup golf tournament at Glens Falls Country Club in 1922.

**George F. Bayle**, long-time resident of Glens Falls, was the owner and general manager of the Boston Store. In 1905, he became president of the Glens Falls Cement Company. He was also a member of the Chamber of Commerce and served on the 1908 charter committee for the City of Glens Falls.

**J. Theo Beaudet**, Rotary Club secretary in 1922, was a First National Bank bookkeeper who had been City Chamberlain in 1916. A CPA, he later opened a bookkeeping consulting and accounting firm.

**Russell Mack Little Carson**, worked with his father at Carson Insurance Agency. He was Captain of the Glens Falls National Guard Company K and an Adirondack author. He became president of the Carson-Duffy Insurance Agency, the Jointa Lime Company, and the Adirondack Mountain Club.

**The Reverend John Lyon Caughey**, Rotary Club director in 1922, was Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. He also led the Glens Falls Home for Aged Women fundraising campaign and was commencement speaker for the Glens Falls Hospital Training School for Nurses in 1922.

**Fred Chapman**, treasurer at Finch, Pruyn & Company, was also on the board of the Glens Falls YMCA, and competed in the Champion Cup golf tournament at Glens Falls Country Club in 1922.

**Alfred Clark**, along with his brother Robert moved to the Glens Falls area in 1920. At the suggestion of Elmer West, they built a state-of-the art, three-story manufacturing plant on the corner of Hudson Avenue and Elm Street. For nearly 50 years, Clark Brothers made silk gloves and cloth. Today, the old factory has been transformed into the Mill Apartments.

**Daniel Cowles**, Rotary Club director in 1922, was vice president of the First National Bank of Glens Falls. He was also a Glens Falls Chamber of Commerce Board member and financial contributor to the Warren County Health Camp in 1922.

**Harry DuFlon**, district manager for Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, was also on the Glens Falls Chamber of Commerce Board and contributed financially to establishing the Warren County Children's Health Camp in 1922. In 1927, he became a senior executive with Met Life.

**Dr. Edsall Elliott**, attending pediatrician and obstetrician at the Glens Falls Hospital from 1914 to 1930, served as a member of the Glens Falls Recreational Commission and the Warren County Medical Society. He was the Glens Falls School System Medical Director for 40 years, a life member of the NYS PTA, and an original committee member of the Eastern States Basketball tournament.

**Charles Furness**, was the new owner/president and publisher of the *Glens Falls Times* newspaper in 1922. Prior to moving to Glens Falls, Charles was the president and business manager for the *Gloversville Daily Leader* for many years.

**Walter Leavens**, senior partner and Secretary at the McMullen-Leavens Company shirt manufacturer, was believed to have been the first Glens Falls Rotarian to pass away as an active member. He died in October 1922.

**Frank Llewellyn**, Rotary Club vice president in 1922, was president of the Llewellyn & Smith Construction Company. He won the Glens Falls Country Club championship golf tournament in 1922.

**Charles V. Peters**, Rotary Club treasurer in 1922, was partner at C.V. Peters, a downtown clothing retailer. He was also member of Glens Falls Chamber of Commerce Board and a Boy Scout commissioner in 1922.

**George S. Raley**, Warren County Surrogate Court Judge, was the first president of the Glens Falls Country Club and a Town of Queensbury supervisor. He was also founder of the Glens Falls Buddy Club. When he died in August 1930, 10 of his dozen pallbearers were either Club charter members or early Rotarians.

**Dr. Edwin Reese**, Optometrist at the Glens Falls Optical Company, was a president of the Glens Falls Automobile Club with other Rotary members including Harry DuFlon, Elmer West, Art Irving, and C.V. Furness.

**J. Leroy Reilly**, owner and manager of Burrough's Business Machines, had moved away from Glens Falls by 1926, first to Belleview, NJ, and then White Plains, NY.

**J. Thatcher Sears**, headmaster at the Glens Falls Academy, was the chairman of Rotary Club Education Committee in 1922 and spoke at the June 8th meeting about the purpose of a Rotary Club. He was the Glens Falls Rotary Club president in 1925 and also head librarian at Crandall Public Library. He became a Rotary district governor in 1927.

**Frank Smalley**, Rotary Club president in 1922, 1923, and 1924, was a Glens Falls Insurance Company executive who later became company president. He also served in 1922 on the Glens Falls Hospital Board and as solicitation director of Warren County Christmas Seals campaign.

**Powell J. (PJ) Smith**, executive of the Hall Ice Cream Company, spoke at the December 3, 1922, Rotary Club meeting about the manufacture of ice cream. He was also vice president of the Glens Falls YMCA and a member of both the Glens Falls Hospital Board and the Glens Falls School Board in 1922.

**George Tait**, president of Imperial Wallpaper and Color Works. Born in 1861 in Ontario, Canada, he was brought to Glens Falls by George Finch as manager of Imperial Wallpaper in 1903. During his career he served on the boards of several banks, insurance companies, and other industrial and commercial ventures. He died December 5, 1940.

**Elmer West**, vice president of Adirondack Power and Light Corporation, was also president of the Glens Falls Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Warren County Tuberculosis Committee, a leader in the Good Roads Movement, and a delegate to the state Democratic Convention in 1922. He died in 1927, leaving the Glens Falls Rotary 20 acres of land.

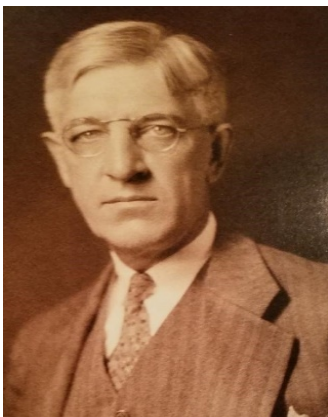
**Fred Wiley**, owner and manager of Wiley's Department Store, was a dealer in dry goods. As a Mason, Fred served on the La Fete De Mode committee in 1924. He also was a member of the Chamber of Commerce, dying November 1948.

**John W. Wiley**, president of Wiley/Patterson retail shoe store, was also a member of the Chamber of Commerce and Team Captain for the 1927 YMCA fundraising campaign.

**Martin L.C. Wilmarth**, co-owner of the Wilmarth & Sons Furniture Store established by his grandfather and father in Glens Falls in 1865, was an early member of the Glens Falls Country Club. He was also Treasurer of the Green Island Development Company investment group that developed the third version of The Sagamore Hotel at Bolton Landing.



*Andy Holding*



*Martin L.C. Wilmarth*

**Current Member’s Grandfather an Early Glens Falls  
Rotary Club Charter Member**

During a conversation with current Club member Andrew Holding, it was discovered that his mother, Katherine, was the daughter of Martin L.C. Wilmarth, which makes charter member Wilmarth Andrew’s grandfather. Holding is believed to be the only current Club Rotarian who can trace his lineage back to a founding member of the Glens Falls Club 100 years ago.

Rotarian Holding said Wilmarth and Sons was one of the oldest continually operated family-owned businesses in Glens Falls. This “pioneer merchant of the city” could trace their beginnings back to 1841, when Leander Wilmarth started a chair factory on Warren Street. Since then, his family was instrumental in watching the community of Glens Falls grow and their store prosper until it was sold in the late 1960’s. They were the first store to have a motorized delivery truck.

Wilmarth’s family helped start the Rotary Club, and he was an early member of the Glens Falls Country Club, providing furniture to the new club house on Round Pond. They were also among the founding members of the Lake George (Yacht) Club. Wilmarth worked with Donald Ross in developing two world-class golf courses at the Sagamore and Glens Falls Country Club and served on the Skidmore College Board of Trustees. As volunteers for fire departments and village boards of trustees, the family filled dozens of vital positions designed to enhance the community.

It didn’t take long before other community business leaders rushed to join the new “booster club.” Men such as Roger J. Braydon, Arthur P. Irving, Romney Patterson, Frederick B. Richards, Charles Looker, and William B. Curtis soon were adding their influence towards Rotary’s mission. Within a relatively short span of time, active membership rose to over 100 members.

**Voices of our Club Members:** A Post Star editorial published on May 10, 1922, stated, “The Rotary Club demands fair dealings, honest methods and high standards in business. No obligation, actual or implied, to influence business exists in Rotary. Election to membership therein is an expression of confidence of the club in the member elected and of its good will toward him. As his business is an expression of himself, he is expected to actively represent it, and herein lies a wonderful opportunity for spreading broadcast the inspiration necessary to accomplishing of big things...Rotary is the expression of man’s belief - and the ideals he hopes to achieve.”



The Rockwell Hotel circa 1920

During the first four years of the Club’s existence, the weekly meetings rotated among a number of different locations, including the Glens Falls Insurance Company Gift and Tea Shop, the old YMCA, the Finch Pruyn Company cafeteria, the Rockwell Hotel, the Church of the Messiah Parish House, and elsewhere.

Finally, in 1926 a more convenient place was found to conduct the lunch meetings when the Queensbury Hotel opened.



The Queensbury Hotel

This joint venture of private local investors and the American Hotel management lasted for several years before different exchanges of ownership took over the running of the Queensbury Hotel.

For the next 46 years, almost every Thursday found Club members congregating in the ballroom enjoying the meal and listening to speakers. The Hotel was also the site of a number of district conferences and played host to several anniversary celebrations, including the Rotary International’s 50th birthday in 1955, and the 1972 Golden Jubilee of the Glens Falls Club.

However, shortly after the Golden Jubilee, the Club was asked to change its meeting date to Mondays in order to accommodate the hotel’s desire to attract more business. After a brief trial period to see how the Monday date might affect the members, it was decided to leave the hotel and return to the Thursday schedule at another site.

The meetings were moved, first to the Red Fez, which became the Peking Restaurant, and then the Cattlemen Restaurant located in the Sheraton Hotel (then known as the Ramada) in Queensbury.

Eventually they returned to the Peking Restaurant, which then became the Jade Palace and now is known as the Chinatown Restaurant.

Starting in 1989, Thursday lunch was served at the new Hiland Restaurant at the Hiland Golf Club. By 2001, after a change in food quality and an increase in cost, the Club moved back to its original home at the Queensbury Hotel. Faced with an increase for the cost of lunch from \$13 to \$15, in 2014, the Club voted unanimously to seek other accommodations. According to then Club President Jim Goodspeed, “A lot of us like the atmosphere at the Queensbury Hotel, and the wait staff has been great, and we will miss them certainly.”

Queensbury Hotel General Manager Blair Lohmeyer was quoted, “We are sad the Rotary is gone. I understand they got a better deal elsewhere, and they were looking to get the best deal.” When asked about the move, Lohmeyer added, “We’re not kicking them out. We’re just trying to break even.” The manager said the hotel has been operating at a loss of \$63 each Thursday on the Rotary lunch. “That’s \$3,200 a year.” He continued, “This is because our expenses keep going up. We can’t continue to lose money. The hotel is never looking to make money off service clubs, but we just don’t want to supplement them.” *The Chronicle, February 2, 2001.*

This action put the Club back on the road, going to a number of different locations to hold the weekly meetings. This included facilities such as Sweet Basil’s, The Glens Falls Country Club, The Ramada, The Great Escape Lodge, Doc’s, and others.

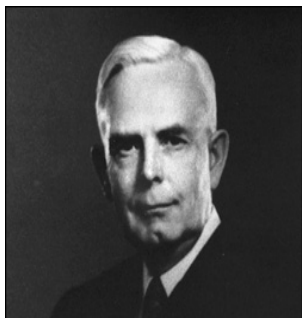
After being nomadic until early 2011, the group ended back at the Queensbury Hotel. The Club, with rare exception, stayed at the Queensbury until the COVID-19 pandemic hit. During the lockdowns, and even after, when many people were still reluctant to socialize indoors, the Club balanced live, in-person meetings with virtual electronic meetings via Zoom. This format kept members engaged but was far from preferred. As of early 2023, the Club returned to in-person lunch meetings on the first and third weeks of each month, with one monthly morning breakfast social gathering and periodic evening gatherings to keep members engaged and accommodate members’ diverse work schedules.

### **Ballston Spa—Glens Falls Twin**

On the same day as the Glens Falls Rotarians received their charter, another member of the Troy Club, Jack Knickerbocker, was presenting charter number 1190 to members of the newly formed Rotary Club of Ballston Spa. Sharing the same anniversary date of May 1, 1922, the two clubs were the first of several twinned clubs that were formed in the Capital area.

Just as the Troy Club was instrumental in the formation of the Glens Falls and Ballston Spa Clubs, Glens Falls Rotarians helped in the development of several other Rotary groups in the area.

Starting in 1924, with assistance from the Troy Club, Glens Falls sponsored the formation of the Granville Rotary. On February 23, 1925, Tom Remsen, J. Thacher Sears, and Russell Carson helped give birth to a neighboring club in Hudson Falls. Under the direction of Glens Falls Club President Earl Stickney, 18 new recruits started the Whitehall Club. Fort Ann owes its existence to the tireless efforts of J. Thacher Sears who guided them to their charter in 1946.



*Judge Dan Imrie*

Two years later in 1948, collaborating with members from Hudson Falls and Fort Ann, the Rotary Club of South Glens Falls became the first chartered group to have multiple sponsors. Glens Falls Club President Bill Brown, assisted by Walt Casanova of Hudson Falls, welcomed Lake George to the association in November 1948. At the traditional charter night dinner, held in January 1949, more than 80 Rotarians from the Glens Falls Club gathered at the Sky Harbor restaurant to listen to their fellow Rotarian, past Club President and New York State Supreme Court Justice, Dan Imrie deliver the main address.

By March 1949, work done by Glens Falls Rotarians Gary Germann and Art Irving resulted in the delivery of a charter to North Creek. Chestertown chartered in 1949, Corinth in 1957, and Salem in 1967; all received assistance or guidance from the Glens Falls Club during their formative years.

Because of the dedication and persistence of Glens Falls Rotarian Stan Burdick, the Rotary Club of Northern Lake George received its charter in 1996 after being sponsored by both the Lake George and Glens Falls Clubs.

Acting as District Governor, Fred Carvin provided the means to charter the Twin Bridges Club along with Anne Cargile from the Shenendehowa Club and Chuck Chera, Twin Bridges' first president.

In spite of its long history of creating clubs in other communities, several district governors have repeatedly suggested the Glens Falls Club be divided by calling for the establishment of a separate club in Queensbury. The overwhelming opinion of the membership has always been the Town of Queensbury and the City of Glens Falls are essentially one social, economic, and cultural area with the Rotary Club of Glens Falls servicing both equally and unilaterally.

***Voices of our Club Members:*** *"District Governor Ted O'Hara raised the question of permitting the Fort Ann club to solicit members from the Queensbury area for a breakfast club called Queens-Anne Club. Objection was raised to the use to the use of the name "Queens" and any name implying it was a Queensbury or Glens Falls Club affiliated with the Fort Ann Club." Minutes Board of Directors meeting, January 4, 1994.*

For a short period of time in 2000, Glens Falls Rotarians were offered make-up opportunities at a breakfast gathering at Carl R's restaurant just off exit 18 of the Northway. The idea, as suggested by President Bob Walter, was to hold a simple meeting with no speakers. Attendance to these early meetings would be considered a legitimate substitute for a missed regular lunch get together. The idea

was to get the membership attendance figures higher by catering to those who might have difficulty making the traditional Thursday assembly.

Initially the turnout was adequate, but over time, interest began to wane. The experiment was suspended in 2001. A few years later, in 2010, a second attempt was made with a morning gathering first at Carl R's and then later at the Ramada Inn until it closed.

More recently, Rotarians have been meeting at Spot Coffee in downtown Glens Falls for breakfast, which provides an alternative method for Club members to get together.



Spot Breakfast meeting July 18, 2017

In recent years, the long-standing attendance requirement has been relaxed to meet the needs of the members.

Currently, the Club is exploring numerous ways to meet the needs of its members, responding to the ever-changing changing social and work culture trends.

## The Rotary Ideals

**Voices of our Club Members:** *The greatest factor in the success of our club is to be found in the character of the men [and women] who have led us. Few clubs could find in their membership men [and women] more consistently exemplary of Rotary ideals, more conscientiously devoted to Rotary service or more gifted with the genius of leadership." William B. Curtis, Weekly Letter, July 5, 1928.*

Bill Curtis, long-time secretary for the Club, perhaps nailed the one reason the Glens Falls Club has lasted for over a century. The Club has been blessed with an endless list of leaders who understood the Rotary ideals of service, fellowship, tolerance, and good will. At the top of this list is Frank Smalley.

Frank M. Smalley, president of the Glens Falls Insurance Company, served three terms as leader of the Club from 1922 to 1925. To date, he is the only club president to serve multiple terms. Born and raised on the Syracuse University campus, his father was a famous professor and dean who coined the term "sorority" in 1882, creating a description of female fraternities.



*Frank Smalley*

As an undergraduate, Frank played the university chimes and managed the football team. He had a near brush with the law in the town of Canandaigua; Frank was accused of stealing some skunk skins but was released owing to a defect in the warrant. Later, as a graduate student, he received a law degree from Syracuse Law School in 1900.

After practicing the legal profession in Indianapolis, Frank moved to Glens Falls in 1906 to join the Glens Falls Insurance Company, where he stayed until his retirement in 1943. Not content to be involved just with Rotary, Frank was a director of the Glens Falls Foundation, along with being a director on the hospital board.

Reflecting his interest in providing better opportunities for the community's youth, he served as trustee for the Crandall Trust and a director of the YMCA. After retiring from the insurance company, he became the executive secretary of the Chamber of Commerce.

Frank Smalley's passion and the Glens Falls Rotary Club were virtually synonymous. Dwight Marvin commented in 1957, "No one did more than Frank to establish the character of the Glens Falls Club. His presence and interest always made it possible to induce other community leaders to join Rotary."

But he did not act alone. After Frank's last term as president, the Club elected J. Thatcher Sears. It is said these two men, "laid the foundation of the Club and to them goes the credit for whatever success this Club enjoys." Thatcher, after being hired as a professional teacher in 1917, rose to become headmaster of the Glens Falls Academy on Chester Street until it closed in 1937.



*J. Thatcher Sears*

He then joined Crandall Library and became its head librarian, a position he held for over 20 years. With a strong background in social science, he was frequently called upon to discuss current affairs or historical subjects for various study groups. Other service associations in town would utilize his expertise by inviting him to be a guest speaker.

His interests in theater production and dramatics led to his taking a prominent role in directing plays for the Glens Falls Outing Club and the Glens Falls Operetta Club. These talents were used by the Rotary Club in the late 20's when he guided the drama committee in its efforts to stage plays as a fundraising idea.

Frank Smalley and Thatcher Sears head a long line of Club presidents who would follow, all of whom have contributed to the rich history of the Club.

## Women in Rotary

When Rotary was founded in 1905, there was no question about whether women would be allowed entry: the quick answer was “No.” When the Glens Falls Club was established in 1922, women had only gained the privilege of voting two years earlier. So again, women in Rotary were not a real issue. But as the song says, “the times, they are a changin’.”

**Voices of our Club Members:** *“I strongly believe any ‘social organization’ has a right to select its own members and exclude those it does not want. But a professed ‘Service’ organization such as Rotary, violates the highest standards of American principles and ideals when it ordains that women-only because they are women-cannot be members of an organization ostensible devoted to community service.” Letter of resignation dated August 17, 1980, from Russell I. Mason.*

This letter of resignation put the question of women in Rotary squarely before the Club. In response to this correspondence, President Steve Borgos wrote on October 13, 1980, “As you may know, there are many members of Rotary in the United States who support a membership program for women. Our own Club has several members who feel strongly in favor of open membership. Rotary International has been an all-male organization since the beginning, and almost yearly voting at the international level has continued to mandate that the status quo be maintained.”



Following a November 4, 1980, discussion by the board of directors on whether women should be allowed to join, the board decided to bring the issue before the general membership. Originally, the board wanted a debate program between Rotarian’s Fred Bascom and Russell Tharp to be scheduled during a regular luncheon meeting. Because of his outspoken nature and strong opinions, Bascom, a noted local orator and speechmaker, would argue the “no” position. A much younger and newer Rotarian, Russ Tharp, would promote the inclusion of women.

This debate never materialized due to concerns over the 86-year-old Bascom’s health. Unfortunately, he was not able to participate and died on April 1, 1981, ending a long and successful career as a Rotarian and community leader.

*Fred Bascom*

The issue, however, did make it before the general membership on January 15, 1981. According to *The Fallout*, “Today, we have a thought-providing presentation by one of our own, Russ Tharp, Esq. He will discuss women in Rotary by posing two questions to the membership. 1.) Should the rules and by-laws of Rotary International be amended to permit an individual club to admit women if it chooses to do so? 2.) Would the Glens Falls Rotary Club be interested in having women as members?”

The next week, *The Fallout* summarized the program as follows: “Russ Tharp’s presentation outlining factors to take in account concerning inviting women into Rotary was logical, thought provoking, and most interesting. Apparently, his analysis of the question found a receptive audience. Below are the results of the written ballot.

Question: Should individual clubs be permitted to decide whether or not women should be members of their club? Answer-60 yes (76%), 14 no.

Question: Should women be considered for membership in the Glens Falls Club? Answer-23 yes, 51 no (68.1%)”

It seemed the Club was in favor of letting individual clubs determine whether they wanted women members or not. Conversely, the majority also felt women should not be asked to join the Glens Falls Club.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *“Regarding vote for ‘Women in Rotary’ Russ has deposited the balance and tally sheets in a sealed envelope and buried it in a secret location on the grounds of McGinley, Morris, Eisenstaedt and Tharp. Possibly this will serve as the Rotary Club’s “time capsule” for anyone who might dig up this envelope in future generations.” The Glens Falls Fallout, January 22, 1981.*

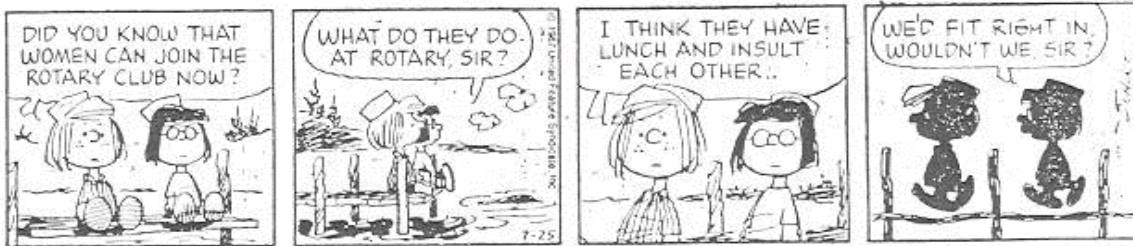
Eight months later, on September 24, 1981, the topic was again addressed in *The Fallout*. It stated, “Controversial, maybe, no matter how we feel about women in Rotary, there can be very little doubt in any of our minds about the importance of our ladies to Rotary. Our wives, daughters, and other female relatives are vital cogs to our Rotary machine. Without them, many of our projects would fail.”

This sudden interest in the status of women in Rotary may have been the results of a legal case started in 1978, when the admission of three females to the Rotary Club of Duarte, California, ended with that club’s charter being revoked by Rotary International. The Duarte Club challenged Rotary International’s action in court, and Judge Max Deutz determined in 1983 that it was okay for Rotary clubs to keep women out because Rotary was not a “business establishment under the provisions of the Unruh Act.”

He commented, “In this case we have a group of people who already have their own diverse callings or occupations and who have associated themselves in a service organization which is not itself a calling, occupation, or trade engaged in for livelihood or gain.”

In essence, because Rotary was not a business but rather a free association of individuals, they had a right to exclude women. The Duarte Club appealed this opinion to the California Appeals Court, where they did win a reversal. It was then Rotary International’s turn to appeal to the US Supreme Court. Rotary argued their right to free association as a private service club needed protection.

On May 4, 1987, the US Supreme Court handed down its decision supporting the California Appeals Court. The 7-0 opinion said that because of Rotary's large "inclusive" membership and its encouragement of non-member business associates to attend meetings, Rotary Clubs did not have, "the kind of intimate or private relation that warrants constitutional protection."



*Peanuts by Charles Schulz, July 25, 1987*

Rotary Clubs could not exclude women from membership solely on the basis of gender. Associate Justice Lewis F. Powell said, "While Rotary Clubs perform commendable service activities that are protected by the First Amendment, there is no evidence that these activities would be harmed by admitting women." He concluded, "Indeed, by opening membership to leading business and professional women in the community, Rotary Clubs are likely to obtain a more representative cross section of community leaders with a broadened capacity for service."

Eleanor Smeal, head of the National Organization for Women, proclaimed the ruling as, "the death knell for male-only clubs that are part of the business establishment." She continued, "The handwriting is on the wall. These clubs are going to have to admit women."

In a press release from Rotary International, "Rotary did not expect the Supreme Court to hand down this decision." Or as Rotary International's attorney William P. Sutter stated, "This is a big step toward the elimination of the right of free association for clubs." He noted, "The court seemed to decide we were a club, but we just were not clubby enough."

As now mandated by California law, at its June 1987 meeting the Rotary International Board of Directors declared they would not withdraw the charter of any club in the US that accepted women as members. In a letter dated June 11, 1987, to all US club presidents, M.A.T. Caparas, president of Rotary International, said "Rotary exists under law, and Rotarians are law-abiding citizens of their respective countries," adding "there will be some of your members who will be reluctant to accept women as Rotarians, others will be delighted." He concluded, "Now that the debate on the issue of women in Rotary has become futile, Rotarians will have more time to devote to the real purpose of Rotary: To serve."

**Voices of our Club Members:** *"I'm sure female membership will come, in view of this ruling. We've never felt we were barring women. We've never had a woman approach us." Club President Fritz Shenk, The Post Star interview, May 5, 1987.*

On October 22, 1987, *The Fallout* published the names of the first two female professional applicants to the club: Kathleen Martinez, vice-president and administrator at First National Bank, sponsored by Fritz Shenk, and Donna Farrar, a CPA with Edwards, Williams, McManus, Ricciardelli & Coffey, sponsored by Ted Zoli.



*Fritz Shenk, Donna Farrar, and Kathleen Martinez (Monty Calvert Photo)*

The idea of breaking new feminist ground, according to the two women, wasn't what they were intending when they decided to join the Club. According to Donna Farrar, "It's not a particular quest of mine. I feel (Rotary) is one of the top business/professional organizations in the country. This is a great honor. It's prestigious to be one of its members." Kathleen Martinez added, "I didn't realize at the time that there were no women members." She concluded, "I feel the time has come, it's just part of the changing goals of the organizations around here."

They were welcomed as new Rotarians on November 5, 1987. Soon afterwards, they were followed by Mary-Arthur Beebe, Sheila Magee Nason, and Ruth Mahon Rath in December 1987. In 1995, Donna Farrar became the first woman president of the Club. At the same time, Olive Scott of Cobleskill was one of eight women who were nominated and elected by their districts to be district governors.

After 82 years of exclusion, women in the US could officially join a Rotary club. No longer would they be a silent partner in Rotary's mission. No longer would organizations like Rotary Ann's, Women of Rotary, or Inner Wheel be substitutes for their need to serve. As Olive Scott commented, "I do not want to be remembered for the fact I was a woman governor, but rather I did a good job as governor."

Almost another 20 years would pass before Rotary International finally prohibited the exclusion of women from the rest of the clubs around the world solely based on the fact they were women. While this policy does not have the force of law in some countries, Rotary's official position towards female inclusion has changed dramatically.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *“Yes, that’s what they told me. I was the first Rotarian to come in here pregnant and deliver a child while I was a Rotarian. So, for me it was always important to make family part of Rotary.”*  
*Jean Lapper, interview December 13, 2007.*

In addition to Donna Farrar (1995-96), the Glens Falls Rotary Club has had several women as presidents including Sharron Simmonds (1999-2000), Jean Lapper (2005-06), Susan Balfour (2006-07), Kay Walter (2008-09), Patricia Joyce (2012-13), Barb Sweet (2015-16), Cindy Amell (2018-19), Kathy Grasmeder (2021-22), Jennifer Brink (2022-23), and Kim Heunemann (2023-24).

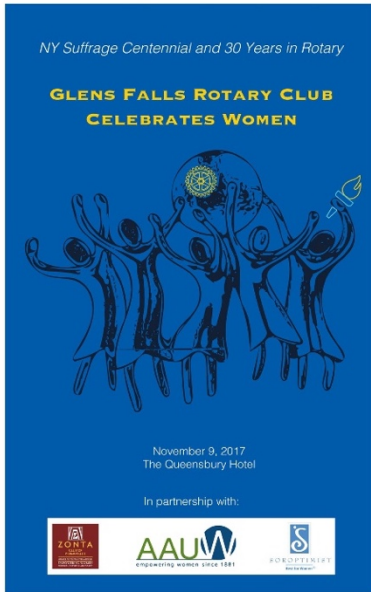
Since 1995, hundreds of women from around the world have served as district governors. Catherine Noyer-Riveau from France served on the Rotary International Board of Directors 2008-10, just as Carolyn Jones from Alaska finished her term (2007-08) as the first woman trustee of The Rotary Foundation. Starting in June 2022, Rotary International, after roughly 117 years of male presidents, welcomed Jennifer E. Jones of the Windsor-Roseland Rotary Club, Ontario, Canada, to lead a worldwide organization into the future.

All these women served in these various positions, not just because they were women, but because they demonstrated the same intense desire and commitment to the ideals of Rotary service that the men shared.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *“We’re always looking for new members, both men and women, who are of the highest quality in the community. And those standards haven’t changed.”* Fritz Shenk, *Chronicle* interview, November 5, 1987.

It was a long road for women to be included in Rotary (82 years). It took the Women’s Suffrage movement, started in New York State in 1848, roughly 72 years to achieve success with the adoption of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the US Constitution in August 1920. Two years earlier, New York State, on November 6, 1917, voted to ratify the proposed amendment for women across the country—a right to vote that could not be denied or abridged based on sex.

A century later, in partnership with the Zonta Club of Glens Falls, the American Association of University Women and the Soroptimist International of the Adirondacks, who owed their founding to a former Irish Rotarian from California named William “Stuart” Morrow\*, held a distinctive observance entitled “Glens Falls Rotary Celebrates Women.” A special multi-organizational dinner was held at the Queensbury Hotel on November 9, 2017, to honor six exceptional women who exemplified the progress women have made in leadership roles. The honorees included Donna Farrar, Joan Grishkot, Karen Guisepppe, Cindy Hess, Kate Hogan, and Bernice Mennis, who joined with the Rotary Club of Glens Falls to celebrate the New York Suffrage Centennial and 30 years of women in Rotary.



Approximately 220 people attended the “more than sold-out crowd” as described by Rotary Club President Harrison Freer.

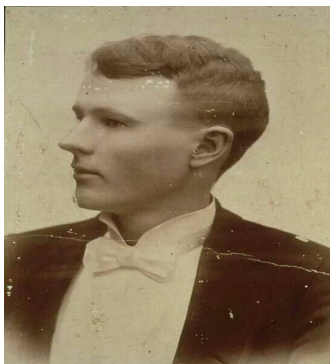
Master of Ceremonies, Dr. Kristine Duffy, president of SUNY Adirondack, concluded the electrifying and hugely enthusiastic gathering with a call to action saying, “Go out and support women who are making a difference as well as the young women who aspire to do so.”

The arguments that women would make detrimental changes to Rotary has been dispelled and deposited in the trash bin of history as having no relevance. Women, in all walks of life have made—and will continue to make—significant contributions for the betterment of all.

*Cover for Event Program*

\* Note: William “Stuart” Morrow was a member of the San Francisco Rotary Club before he returned to his Irish home in 1911. There, he was instrumental in establishing several Rotary Clubs in Dublin, Belfast, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Liverpool, Birmingham, and parts of London, all without the knowledge of Paul Harris or the Association of Rotary Clubs. After many protracted conflicts, he was considered persona non grata in Great Britain, returning to the US in 1916. Morrow worked briefly with Rotary International in Chicago before disappearing from Rotary. The stubborn Irishman, like a ghost from the past, rose again in 1921, when he started Rotary-like clubs in California. These new clubs were called “Soroptimist,” and were comprised of business and professional women dedicated to improving the lives of women and girls in local communities throughout the world.

### **Rotary—Service Above Self**



When Paul Harris started Rotary in 1905, there were only two aims members had to comply with. The first was the promotion of business between its members. Second, the promotion of good fellowship and other desiderata ordinarily incidental to social clubs.

Over the years, the objectives expanded to as many as eight different goals, but was ultimately pared to four in 1951. The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise.

*Paul Harris, 1891 college graduation*

In particular, Rotary encourages and fosters: (1) The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service; (2) High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian of his occupation as an opportunity to serve society; (3) The application of the ideal of service by every Rotarian to his

personal, business, and community life; and (4) The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional men united in the ideal of service.

While these are the official objectives of Rotary, efforts to explain what Rotary is and does remain difficult to describe. The best method of addressing this dilemma was developed in 1928 at the International Convention in Minneapolis, when Rotary was compared to a multi-lane highway. One lane dealt with service to the club, another lane illustrated service to the member's vocation, a third gave direction for community service, and the final avenue depicted the importance of International involvement.

Originally known as the Four Avenues of Rotary Service, they outline four distinct functions as to how each club should operate, and what Rotarians need to concentrate on.

### **The Four Avenues of Service**

**Club Service** are the things a Rotarian does to help their club operate, including attendance at meetings, serving on committees, paying dues, helping the club in its activities, and associating with other clubs where possible.

**Vocational Service** connects the ideals of the organization, i.e., ethics, service, and the drive for leadership excellence, in relationship to their business or professions.

**Community Service** is the demonstration of concerns for others in the community by studying its needs and problems and finding ways to solve them. Community service also includes involvement with young people emphasizing their activities, interests, and education.

**International Service** includes supporting projects addressing global issues such as the elimination of hunger, suffering, and disease, which advance world understanding, goodwill and peace along while allowing us to become acquainted with foreign cultures, customs, and accomplishments.

In 2010, after 80 years, the Council on Legislation added a fifth Avenue of Service: Youth Service. This new area of service was created from a part of Community Service in order to recognize the positive changes implemented by youth and young adults. It is designed to foster leadership development activities, community and international service projects, and exchange programs that enrich and promote world peace and cultural understanding.

**Youth Service** entails involving youth and young adults in all Rotary Club activities, including vocational and community service projects, and providing programs and resources that support youth and young adults, coordinating closely with Interact Clubs and Rotaract Clubs.

Very often the Five Avenues of Service are confused with the Four-Way Test. The Five Avenues of Service are the stated service goals of every Rotary Club, while the Four-Way Test is a simple code of conduct each Rotarian can use to accomplish the goals of Rotary, but which can also be a moral compass in their everyday lives.

### **The Four-Way Test**

The Four-Way Test of the things we say and do: (1) Is it the Truth?; (2) Is it Fair?; (3) Will it build Goodwill and better Friendships?; and (4) Will it be Beneficial to all concerned?

The final guideline to club governance is described in the of Rotary International Mission Statement: “The mission of Rotary International, a worldwide association of Rotary clubs, is to provide service to others, to promote high ethical standards, and to advance world understanding, goodwill and peace through its fellowship of business, professional and community leaders.”

The Object of Rotary, The Five Avenues of Service, The Four-Way Test, along with the Rotary International Mission statement, are all summed up in the three words known as the official motto of Rotary International: Service Above Self.

### **Club Service**

Over the last 100 years, every activity, project, or undertaking by the Rotary Club of Glens Falls was driven by adherence to the above tenets. These are the parameters every Rotarian tries to live by. The following are examples drawn from the past 100 years that demonstrate some of the more notable as well as some of the forgotten aspects that occurred during our acts of service. The desire to serve has united the Club and given the organization its special identity in everything it does.



Paul Pontiff, president 1982-83, commented, “From 1981 through 1984, I noticed the folks that were president during that period, which would be Steve Borgos from 1980-81; Carter White from 1981-82; myself from 1982-83; and Bob Krug from 1983-84, were committed to a continuum of policies that we were trying to adopt and accomplish. Those included such things as improved programs, increased membership, better community service, and a greater attention to the youth exchange program.”

*Paul Pontiff*

Because Rotary was one of the most prestigious business organizations in town to join, membership was highly prized by many community leaders. The Club grew so rapidly during its first few years of existence, a suggestion was made to cap the number of those who could join. However, not everyone was asked to be a member.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *“Objection having been made to the proposal of C.A.H. by Dr. E.H. Reese, because of the fact that it is generally understood in Glens Falls, that Mr. H. had failed to pay certain gambling debts.” Board of Directors minutes, February 25, 1926. (Note: This proposed new member later did become a Rotarian.)*

Into the late twenties and early thirties, Club numbers remained steady at between 110 to 115 members. The idea of enforcing a cap was dropped during the Great Depression. Unlike other clubs in the district, the Glens Falls roster stayed consistent, showing little impact from the economic downturn. It wasn't until after World War II that the club started growing again, eventually peaking in 1965 at 196 Rotarians.

The Club declined slightly during the seventies and eighties, reaching a low of 119 members in 1985. With increasing emphasis placed on membership recruitment and retention, the Club rebounded over the next 30 years, maintaining a reliable Rotarian count between 140 and 160.

Today, due to the uncertainties of COVID-19 and the interruption of normal recruiting efforts, the Club's current membership has fallen below 100 for the first time since 1926. It is believed that once the pandemic issues are resolved, Glens Falls Rotary will once again be successful in attracting qualified people to fill its ranks.

One of the primary reasons Glens Falls membership remained steady over the years is the result of the late John “Jack” Cushing's endless quest to find new candidates. Having a recruiting goal of 15 to 20 new Rotarians each year, Jack was unafraid to ask community leaders to get involved with service by becoming part of the organization.

According to Jack, his secret to recruiting was, “It's easy to sell when you have a good product. As far as service clubs are concerned, we've got the best in the world. I don't know of any other service organization that comes close to what Rotary does, if Rotary wants to do it and do it well.”



Jack Cushing

When Cushing died at age 86 in March 2010, past Club President Linc Cathers was quoted, “He (Cushing) was kind of a one-person committee. It's going to take six of us to replace Jack. He wanted to do it himself.” Cathers continued saying, “He (Cushing) was probably the best-known member of the club.”

**Voices of our Club Members:** *“I have received a letter from Walter Reichert advising me that the Glens Falls Rotary Club considers me free of communicable diseases and acceptable for membership. This is merely my notice to you and Mr. Reichert that our thoughts along these lines are coterminous. Unless I hear from you to the contrary, I will count on wearing a clean shirt on September 8<sup>th</sup>, and arriving at the appointed place, at the appointed time fortified with \$32.50.” Letter from L.R. Sherman, dated August 24, 1955.*

Unlike some clubs who have difficulty maintaining a nucleus of people loyal to the Rotary ideals, there has always been a core group of long-tenured members dedicated to seeing the Glens Falls Club survive and prosper.

In 1924, Thacher Sears organized the first local Pioneer Club based on a program initiated by the Albany Club. In order to be considered a Pioneer, the member must have 20 years or more of active participation in Rotary. The Club always had a large percentage of members qualify for this recognition, normally honored at the annual District Conferences.

But this does not mean the Club is full of aging “old men and women” who lack for things to do. Appreciating the need to get younger members involved and educated about the Club, early programs known as “fireside chats” allowed groups of Rotarians to get together and discuss current issues at someone’s home. Later, the Club conducted new member orientations that briefly explained what was expected of them.



Susan Balfour

More recently, a mentoring program adopted by Presidents Susan Balfour and John Mucha allows more experienced Rotarians to relate with and guide the beginners in the ways of Rotary. These past and current programs, along with other training and informational opportunities, such as the Rotary Leadership Institute, help keep the general membership educated, active, and vibrant about their Club and organization.



John Mucha

Attendance at weekly meetings used to be one of the few mandatory commitments required by Rotary International. Understanding the complexities of today’s world, this often-argued rule has been adjusted many times by the legislative body of Rotary, known as the Council on Legislation.

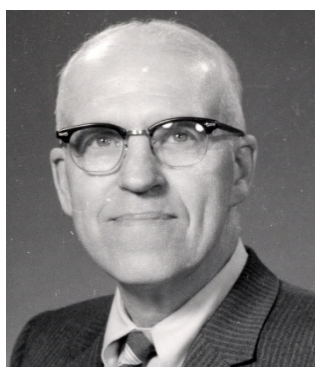
The latest interpretation leaves the final determination about attendance to the discretion of the Club Board of Directors. Generally, if a member is faithful to the tenets of Rotary service and remains in good standing, any actions regarding continuance is left to the Board.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *“Perhaps it is time to call attention to the automatic surrender of membership following four consecutive absences. Rotary membership cannot mean anything to a person who does not attend more than 60% of our meetings. This looks like the proper time to cull out those, who by their indifference, have demonstrated that Rotary membership is being lightly regarded. Frankly the choice is simple as this: ATTEND OR RESIGN.” The Weekly Letter, January 5, 1960.*

Obviously, Rotarians should make every effort to attend meetings of their own club. But situations occur that sometimes make this impossible. In the past, Rotarians were asked to “make-up” at another club. Many Glens Falls Rotarians when traveling, whether locally or internationally, took great efforts to seek out and visit the nearest Rotary meeting.

The tradition is not totally gone, and all are welcome to join with us. But the opportunity to meet and interact with Rotarians from other clubs, which is one of the founding principles of Rotary, is fading fast.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *“Glens Falls Rotary Club, Glens Falls, N.Y. Was about to leave room for Rotary make up when earthquake let go this noon. Our room damaged but Ann and I unhurt. It was more terrifying than the 1940 Railroad wreck I was in. I did make up and expect to make another at Victoria tomorrow.” Western Union message from Russ Carson, April 14, 1949.*



Charles Looker

A man who felt strongly about maintaining 100% perfect attendance was Charles B. Looker. Joining the Club in 1923, he achieved an unblemished record of perfect attendance for over 52 years.

To commemorate this accomplishment, he received special recognition at the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Club in 1967 and a plaque on the Club’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1972. It is unlikely this unusual record will be broken for some time.

Attending meetings is important, but just as important is staying until their conclusion. Those who leave prematurely are tagged as “scooters.” Understandably, situations arise that mandate an early departure. Club courtesies asks scooters to introduce themselves to the speaker and apologize to them for having to depart early before their talk.

Several different attempts were made to curtail scooting. A voluntary fine basket was placed by the door implying a contribution be made to the Club’s general fund. Most of the time the basket was empty. Some presidents tried embarrassing scooters by announcing their exit. Probably the best solution to this problem was maintaining a strict adherence to the one-hour meeting time allocation. Getting the members out on time seems to have cut down the pressing need to scoot.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *“When our Program Chairman got up to introduce the speaker, 32 Rotarians streamed out. It was a massive exodus that was both disgusting and disrespectful of the speaker. To make matters worse, during the presentation 8 additional members evaporated from the scene. If I had been the speaker, I would have joined the hasty departure.” The Fallout, March 15, 1979.*

Another effort to stem the intermittent scooter problem was a proposal to create a new Four-Way Test of Attendance. It went like this: “Is it true you really cannot remain until the meeting adjourns? Is it fair to walk out on the speaker who is giving of their time? Will it build goodwill and better friendships to slight our guest? Will it benefit your fellow Rotarians to see you leave early?”

It will be interesting when the final vestiges of the COVID-19 Pandemic are gone, if this ancient habit of “scooting” becomes a problem again.

### Club Service at Lunch

The format of the luncheons have changed little over the years. Typically, the meeting is called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a prayer and the eating of the meal. In the beginning, food was served by a wait staff, but in the 1990’s the buffet concept allowed easier and quicker access to the food. After lunch, any club business or news is discussed and then the guest speaker is introduced. An attempt was once made to have the speakers give their talks prior to serving lunch, but the idea was not greeted favorably by those who were too hungry to wait. The practice was soon dropped.



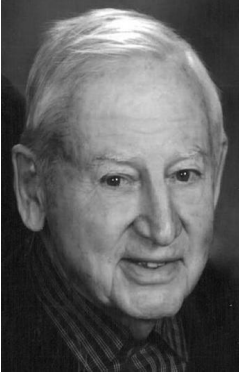
Bob Larson

Bob Larson, president 1964-65, stated, “We could usually anticipate that our meeting would be enlivened by the antics of several members, including Art Irving, Eddy Reese, John Toomey, and a few others who loved to heckle the president by dropping trays or otherwise interrupting—but always in good humor. We had more active meetings and more audience participation than now.”

Another thing that hasn’t changed is the inability to satisfy everyone on the quantity and/or quality of the food being served, leading to constant criticism of the lunches being too expensive, too hot, too cold, too bland, too rich, and so on.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *“The hope (was) expressed that the quality be improved and the quantity reduced. The price accepted with equanimity. Our group suggested that the president appoint a menu committee to confer with the management in connection with this matter.” Report from the Fireside Meeting, May 1957.*

*“Some criticisms of the service we get were expressed. Often there are only two waitresses to serve the meal to 80-90 people. It is difficult to get the restaurant to help set up the necessary things—for example, often no coat hangers on the coat racks, often no audio system set up. Our gavels seem to be lost somewhere in the storage rooms; the badge box is frequently not out.” Board of Directors minutes, May 19, 1976.*



Jack Haanen

Jack Haanen, president 1975-76, remembered, “Service and quality gradually deteriorated. Later in the year, it was necessary for me to enter the kitchen at 12:40 p.m. to find out where the food was. To save time, I assisted the waitresses distributing the food. The next week no food had arrived by 12:40 p.m. and I again inquired what the restaurant’s plans were. About that time the waitress and waiter brought out a large kettle of soup and several trays of plastic wrapped sandwiches which were placed on a bare wooded table in the corner. We lined up and gathered our fare without much grumbling. The soup was thin, like a beef broth; the sandwiches obviously were the type that came from a vending machine. We moved to the Peking Restaurant later that year.”

One other item regarding the meetings that never seems to get resolved is the seating arrangement. A number of attempts have been made to mix-up the members, so they have the opportunity to meet their fellow Rotarians and exchange pleasantries.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *“Your luncheon ticket will bear a number Thursday. Your job will be to find the table bearing the same number. This is an effort to promote fellowship and break the habit of dropping in the same slot, each week. Reap one of the intangibles in Rotary. As (Lowell) Henry suggests, a few need not move out of their own club to meet Rotarians they don’t know well.” The Weekly Letter, December 15, 1959.*

A Club ritual that has been abandoned is singing. Once known as “a singing club,” this aspect was an integral part of the meetings for over 60 years. Any opportunity to sing was immediately taken. Remembering the charter dinner for the Cohoes Club in 1927, Rotarian Henry Rickman commented, “The Glens Falls Rotarians came to Cohoes on a Hudson Valley electric coach with a piano to keep them in tune.”

**Voices of our Club Members:** *“Seriously gentlemen! Better music is one of the things that Fred (Fielding) wants to stress this year, and we must all join with Ed (Reese) to make the song part of our meetings exhilarating, impressive and creditable.” The Weekly Letter, April 5, 1926.*

*“The club neither sings well nor wants to sing. The motion to stop singing was carried.” Board of Directors minutes, February 1981.*

When asked why the Club stopped singing, the excuse given by one of the members was, “Once we lost the piano player, we stopped singing.” The piano player of record was Lowell Henry. However, the real reason may be something simpler.

Officially voted out in 1981, it is doubtful there is much support to bring back this part of the Club’s history. An attempt was made in 2005 to reinstitute music at lunch by several members, including Norman “Doc” Van Diest, which met with little success.



One other lunch tradition that used to exist was the meeting of the “bar club.” No one knows when this ritual began, but legend has it that it was started by a group of lawyers, including Charter member Judge George S. Raley, who met before the meal at the hotel bar for a quick refresher. Or perhaps the name came from the fact that at one time there seemed to be a high number of lawyers in attendance at this informal gathering.

*Judge George S. Raley*

In any event, the numbers of attendees varied over the years but, with rare exception, almost every week a group of Rotarians gathered at the bar before the scheduled meeting to enjoy fellowship with a stimulating drink—or maybe it helped the digestion or made listening to the speakers easier. The “bar club” finally ended when alcohol was not available at the various meeting places, and was finally put to rest when the Queensbury Hotel refused to open the bar to accommodate a few annoyed patrons.

### **Club Service—Who’s the Guest?**

The responsibility for selecting luncheon speakers currently resides with the vice-president/program chair. Originally, the scheduling of speakers were handled by a committee. Now it is part of the ritual known as the moving through the “chairs.”

Being a director of the Club constitutes the first chair. A nominating committee may then recommend the next chair, which is vice-president/program chair. After serving in this position for one year, the individual becomes the president-elect for one year, before assuming the presidency. It is said the most coveted chair is that of immediate past president, the final chair before returning to the general population of the Club.



Bill Fitzgerald, president 1988-89, remembered the final days of his incumbency, “I turned over the gavel to Tim Seeley after voting to increase the clubs’ dues, which he then had to collect. We received notice from Jade Palace that we could no longer meet there, and then lost our major fund-raiser because the balloons we released were determined to pollute the environment. Poor Tim!”

*Bill Fitzgerald*

Just prior to the introduction of the speaker is when the 50-50 drawing is made. The proceeds from the sale of the tickets are split between the winner and the Club’s general fund. The lucky lottery number is usually drawn by the guest speaker. Russ O’Connor, a frequent winner, was often the target of a sustained and loud “groan.”



Donna Farrar

Donna Farrar, president 1995-96, commented, “I do not claim to be a really quick learner, but I still cannot figure out why it took me 14 weeks to remember to announce the 50-50 raffle before turning to the program segment of each of our Thursday luncheons. It was always on the agenda and not in Tom Angelo’s handwriting either.”

The list of guest speakers has included such notables as governors, congressmen, state representatives, entertainment stars, writers, and poets, along with a host of personalities from all walks of life. From John Philip Sousa and Oscar Seagle to Santa Claus and Mother Goose. A rough estimate of the number of people who have made presentations before the club range from 3,500 to 4,000, covering almost every imaginable subject and topic.

Wayne Getman, president 1992-93, wrote, “I remember the program when the presenter/salesman was doing the isometric exercise demonstration. He got very upset when I cut him off at 1:30, just as he was getting into stride for making sales. He actually called the program chairman afterwards and complained that he hadn’t been given enough time to finish the program. He was unimpressed when I told him the program part of a Rotary meeting isn’t intended to be a sales pitch.”

Carter White, president 1981-82, recalled, “One program centered around a large box containing rattle snakes. When the speaker opened the box and removed a snake, the snake started to move towards all of us at the head table. It was one of the quickest evacuations the club has ever seen.”

Many guests were found to be newsworthy, and it was not uncommon to have local newspaper reporters cover the meetings. This press coverage may have been prompted by the editor, major shareholder, and publisher of the “Post-Star,” Arthur Irving, who joined the Club three weeks after it was formed. Art’s desire to be a newspaper man started at a young age. As a child, he hated to go to school. When asked why, he replied, “I’ve got to stay home and get the news.” Today, the guests still get a fair amount of press reportage and an occasional photo-op, but it seems this type of local interest news is slowly being phased out.

**Voices of our Club Members:** “Undoubtedly, no speaker means to offend anyone and when he does, it is due to thoughtlessness. Stories and remarks that are “off color” are not told usually to a group of gentlemen. In any event they should not be permitted before a group, which includes a number of clergymen, to whom I know that such remarks are offensive.” *Weekly Letter, January 22, 1946.*

*Note: In 1995, a comedian trying to be funny during a luncheon program stretched the rules of good propriety and the program chair, Fred Carvin, received a similar reprimand.*

April 14, 2008, the Club was entertained by Doug Arnold, chairman of the Grace Peak committee and director of the Adirondack 46ers, who told members about an effort to change the names of two of the lesser peaks of the Dix Mountain Range. Both peaks were over 4,000 feet in elevation and were considered part of the 46 highest summits in the Adirondacks.

Dix Mountain, named after John Adams Dix, former secretary of state and governor of New York and a Glens Falls native, would have its eastern portion changed from East Dix to Grace Peak (after Grace Hudowalski, 1906-2004) who was born in Ticonderoga. She was the first woman to climb all 46 Adirondack high peaks.

South Dix was proposed to be known as Carson Peak, after Russell M.L. Carson, an avid mountain climber and conservationist. A native of Glens Falls, he was a charter member of the new Rotary Club. Carson acted as secretary of the Club from 1924 to 1926, serving as president from 1936 to 1937. He also was the grandson of Russell Mack Little, who founded the Glens Falls Insurance Company. In addition to running a very successful insurance agency, Russ was president of the Glens Falls Savings and Loan and Joint Lime Company. He served with distinction on the Glens Falls City Board of Education from 1925 until his death in 1961.

In 1922, Russ was described as a man who never wasted time with small matters and always had a smile on his face. Among his many talents was his ability to write. He wrote columns for the Lake Placid News and the Glens Falls *Post Star* called The Footpath. In 1927, he authored a book titled, *Peaks and People of the Adirondacks*.



*Russell M.L. Carson*

As a way to stimulate attendance at Rotary Club meetings and to stress the importance of the mountains to the region, Russ organized a “virtual” climbing contest. For 42 Rotary meetings, the name of one of the High Peaks was drawn from a hat. Russ then would describe his knowledge of the location, some of its history, sketches, and adventures to the Rotarians.

Those attending these sessions would be credited points equal to the elevation of the selected mount. This led to many people becoming interested in hiking the near-by trails or joining the new Adirondack Mountain Club.

Russ believed strongly in the importance of mountain designations, and was instrumental in naming some of the peaks. He stated, "True Adirondack lovers feel that the mountains which are most appropriately named are those who perpetuate the memory of men who have a close connection to the region."

On May 1, 2008, Glens Falls Rotarian members all signed a petition to rename one of the Dix High Peaks. For years, South Dix was unofficially known as Carson Peak. The nickname was finally changed circa 2017.



*South Dix aka Carson Peak*

The list of speakers who have appeared before the Club is extensive and varied. From the most famous to the simplest contributor of service, the members have been treated to opinions, thoughts, and information ranging from matter of great importance to the most mundane.



*Charles Peltz*

Most presenters make only one appearance, others might address the Club two or three times. But one speaker has stood at the podium more than anyone else: Charles Peltz first addressed the Club in the summer of 1999 when he was auditioning to be Musical Director of the Glens Falls Symphony Orchestra.

Since his appointment in 2000, Maestro Peltz has spoken before the Glens Falls Rotarians 21 times.

Except for during the COVID-19 pandemic years of 2020 and 2021, he has updated us on Symphony happenings and explained the Symphony's rise to being "one of the greatest orchestras of the country." Today, Maestro Peltz and the members of the Glens Falls Symphony are proud to reside in the smallest city in America to fully support a professional symphony.

At the end of a speaker's presentation, the Club used to give the guest a pen and pencil set or a Certificate of Appreciation. In October 2008, the Club started having a children's book signed by the speaker and donated to the Children's Room at the Crandall Library. By now, there is a significant collection of autographed volumes by men and women who have enlightened the Club on countless subjects.

## Club Service—The Newsletter

The earliest Club newsletters were written by Russell M. L. Carson. He was the first editor of the Club paper known as the *Weekly Letter*. Initially, it was the responsibility of the secretary to publish both the minutes of the Board of Directors meetings and to edit and print the Club newspaper. The *Weekly Letter* set the standard for all the publications that followed.

The content included information about the previous week's speaker, which future speakers were scheduled, and listed member absences or make-ups. There were articles announcing any Club business, including the posting of proposed new candidates and any open classifications or resignation. After printing, the letter was distributed, normally by mail, to all the Rotarians in the Club. The *Weekly Letter* was routinely forwarded to a number of district governors, club presidents, and secretaries in the region.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *“Russ developed The Weekly Letter into an institution - a factor for the expression of Rotary second in importance only to the weekly meetings. With pithy phrase and piquant paragraphs Russ gave the Weekly Letter that human touch, which is so necessary to a House Organ, if it is to have readers as well as subscribers.” William Curtis, the Weekly Letter dated April 6, 1926.*

Russ ceded his role as secretary/editor of the *Weekly Letter* to William “Bill” Curtis on April 6, 1926. For the next 22 years, William B. Curtis became the outspoken voice of the Glens Falls Club. No one served the position of club secretary and editor of the Club newsletter with more spirit than Bill Curtis. Much of what is known about the early years of the Club comes from Bill Curtis and his faithful execution of the office.

Born in 1874, Curtis came to Glens Falls in 1918 seeking a position with the Chamber of Commerce. After a few years with the Chamber, he started a business with fellow Rotarian J. Theodore Beaudet. Russell Carson wrote in 1946 that, “Bill and his weekly letter are known far and wide. The letter, for twenty years, has reflected the character and traits of its editor. Fair play, frankness, social and economic broadmindedness, avoiding extremes, honest ribbing, barbed or in fun as occasions (sic) calls for, and an occasional mistake to demonstrate that editor and paper, like the rest of us are only human. ”



William "Bill" Curtis

Given a rare editorial honor shortly after his death in 1948, *The Post Star* wrote of his contributions stating, "Those who knew Bill Curtis best, invariably thought of him in connection with one organization, his only extracurricular activity. This was the Glens Falls Rotary Club, of which he was the secretary for 22 years and to which he devoted an inordinate amount of time. The club's weekly newsletter was generally informative, rarely dull and always a reflection of Mr. Curtis's enthusiasm for Rotary. One of its features was a comment on the prior week's entertainment. If the speaker was good, the secretary was generous with his praise. If the speaker was bad, the secretary gave him what he most needed, honest un-equivocating criticism."

After Bill's death, the publishing of the newsletter passed through many hands. Secretary/Editors like Walter Reichert, Maurice Simmonds, Art Suttly, and Art Fisher continued the tradition of getting Rotary information to the members. But the job was taking more and more time as the Club entered its most explosive growth period. Finally, in 1966, the duty of editing and producing the newsletter was removed from the secretary's office. These obligations were transferred to an appointed Club committee. Ultimately, the responsibility for the reporting, writing, and publication of the journal fell to the various members of the committee.

Under the leadership of Chairman Charles Howard, the "magazine" committee decided to change the name of the bulletin from the *Weekly Letter* to *The Fallout*. Because postage costs had become prohibitive, mass mailing of the paper to the general membership was discontinued. Instead, the newsletter was handed out at the regular meetings. Only a selected few continued to receive the bulletin by mail.

Then, in 1973, a mysterious new editor took over the writing of *The Fallout*. This anonymous author provided the Club with a multi-paged report that successfully combined information and humor. Each week, he printed commentary on the speakers, gently poked fun at different members, and created a unique style that has yet to be duplicated.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *"Week after week I receive and read with great pleasure the Glens Falls "Weekly Letter". I pay nothing and make no return. I have in the past requested the privilege of paying, but my offers have been rejected. I think the "Weekly Letter" is as well edited as any club publication with which I am familiar. Reports on your programs are unique and refreshing. The news from my friends in the Glens Falls Club is always welcome."* Letter dated Jan. 21, 1954, George D. Ryder, past district governor, Cobleskill, NY.

After passing the responsibilities as editor to a fresh writer, it wasn't until 1982 that the Club learned the true identity of the mysterious newsletter producer. An editorial in *The Fallout* thanked Col. Bob Avon for his news-reporting abilities and literary accomplishments.



Col. Robert Avon

“Bob Avon willingly shouldered alone the weekly burden of writing the “Fallout” for almost nine years. Too often his hard work and exceptional talent, although always appreciated was taken pretty much for granted. If the current editor fails, from time to time, to appreciate the weight of Bob’s burden, he surely does now with a certain degree of passion. There are some acts which are hard to follow and a few which are impossible. Bob’s act is the latter category.”

Although many suspected Col. Avon as the curious author, the revelation clarified why he was granted the privilege of asking the first question to the guest speaker each week. This tradition continued for years, and Bob never disappointed by asking questions designed to stimulate lively conversation.

In 1987, the name was changed from *The Fallout* to *Sparks* and was edited by Norman Barnes. By 1989, *Sparks* became simply known as *The Rotary News* until it was retitled in 1991 as *Spinoffs*, with Patricia Joyce assuming the responsibility of keeping the Club informed.



Pat Joyce

For 22 years, Pat served as executive director for LARAC until her retirement in 2006. She made sure the events of the Club were reported each week and the members provided with a comprehensive newsletter. With the exception of Bill Curtis, no one has outlasted Pat Joyce as the voice of the Glens Falls Club. The Club recognized Pat for this feat in 2006 when it honored her as the first female recipient of the Charter Day Award. When Pat retired and moved away, her duties were handled by an ad hoc committee until a volunteer replacement could be found.

Danielle Valente stepped up to monitor a Club meeting schedule scrambled by the uncertainties of the ongoing pandemic. Never knowing when or where the Club was going to meet, Danielle adapted the members to the new electronic age. During COVID, *Spinoffs* was not printed as in the past, instead Zoom meetings at that time were recorded, and a follow-up bulletin was sent to every Rotarian via the internet. As of 2023-24, Kim Heunemann took on the responsibility of communicating the meeting content in the President’s regular email to all Club members. This communication has now evolved into a President’s Letter.



Danielle Valente

## Along the Information Super Highway

With retired AT&T executive Dave Bogue leading the way, the Glens Falls Rotary Club enhanced its presence in the community with its use of technology. The Club's emergence into the digital age of the 21st century coincided with Bogue's arrival in 2006. Like many, he was recruited by Jack Cushing, the extraordinary one-man membership chair.

"My background is steeped in technology," Bogue said. "And I knew no one here. I wondered how I could be of some value, so I figured I could build a club website to start. And that opened up a platform where club members could communicate." That website is [glensfallsrotary.com](http://glensfallsrotary.com).

What he didn't realize, he remembers, was "how few of our members had email or even knew how to use it. It was an older membership that was being brought into the 21st century. It was a movement away from the old traditions with a new platform we could all use." Photos and bios populated the website. Pat Joyce's meticulous *Spinoffs*, a weekly record of meetings and events, now had a home online and was being distributed via email.

Then came Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. "The website is a static storefront," Bogue said. "Social media is the real way to have instant communications and to raise awareness of what we are doing. We needed to be able to communicate with the public in ways that they prefer. As a club, we've got to be where the people are."

Social media has increased the depth and breadth of the Club, allowing us to create Facebook events and promote Glens Falls Rotary in ways we could never do before. "We use it as a major source of fundraising," Bogue said. "Most of our participants in the Rotary 5K sign up online, and the race has grown every year. You can also donate online."

The Club also met remotely for much of 2020 and 2021, then in 2022 moved to weekly meetings that were hybrid, meaning there were members there in person at the Queensbury Hotel and those connected via Zoom. "There will always be a need for people to socialize in person," Bogue said. In addition, as COVID waned, the Club decided to move to all in-person meetings, only on the first and third Thursdays of each month. Due to the reemergence of "normalcy" after the pandemic, the Club decided to bring back monthly breakfasts and quarterly dinner gatherings to give more opportunities for members to engage and socialize.

"We need to continue to create compelling services for the community. We're seeing great crowds. There's a pent-up demand. We need to tap into the dynamic of finding events younger people are passionate about."

## **Club Service—The Educational Program**

The Glens Falls Rotary Club Educational Fund was the brainchild of two men, Children's Court Judge George S. Raley and Frank Smalley. Both understood the need to provide educational opportunities to the youth of the area.

Judge Raley, a young prosecutor and later as a Surrogate and Children's Court Justice, saw the impact that lacking the means for higher education had on society. As a result, the Judge developed a keen interest in finding ways to help finance the continuing education of his young charges. Club President in 1928-29, he often used his own resources, combined with the private contributions of other Rotarians, to provide short-term loans to help meet needy students' tuition costs.

When Judge Raley died in August 1930, Frank Smalley decided the Club should continue these good works and, accordingly, was instrumental in establishing a special educational fund for that purpose. Started in 1931, the Club quickly raised a substantial amount of money that could be loaned to qualified students. This was accomplished by a combination of assessments to the luncheon tickets and the production of theatrical performances, along with individual bequests and gifts. While many individuals still contributed to the educational fund on a private basis, a sufficient amount had been accumulated by 1951, allowing the weekly luncheon assessment to be discontinued.

The single largest source of revenue came from the "birthday table." This tradition asks that at the first meeting of each month, members celebrating a birthday during the period should sit together at a special table. After lunch, they sell pieces of birthday cake to the rest of the members of the Club as dessert. In addition, they are called upon to make a special donation to the educational fund, normally one dollar representing each year of their age. These "birthday babies" then announce to the Club the net results of their efforts.

Frank Smalley, who created the birthday table concept, faithfully delivered an original birthday poem every month to the "babies." His rendition was often interrupted by falling trays or other spontaneous rejoinders. A comment was once made that even though Frank knew he would receive a ribbing, he fired back in his good-natured way, creating a great deal of fun for everyone. Frank confided, "If the collection did not go into the scholarship fund, I wouldn't make an ass of myself every month."

Later birthday poets included Richard "Dick" Garrett Sr. and Jim Minnick Sr. For years, the responsibility of tallying and announcing the birthday table results fell to Jim Minnick, who could always be counted on for an \$11.00 opening bid for any item being auctioned at a meeting or contribution towards a worthy cause.



The mantle of reporting the birthday table's take was then passed on to Lloyd Coe and Mike Bonan (above left), neither of whom treated the Club to a poem. Currently, the duty of notifying and collecting the funds from monthly celebrants falls to Past Club President Bob Rosoff (above right), continuing a tradition started over 90 years ago.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *"It seems safe to assume that the majority of these students could not have finished college without the resources of the Rotary loan fund. We do not know what careers these young people have chosen to follow, but we can assume again that they themselves, their families, the community and the nation are sharing the dividends of those added years of study and training. Service clubs are occasionally dismissed by the unknowing only as, "luncheon clubs", whose members get together, exchange pleasantries, pat each other on the back and adjourn. If the Glens Falls Rotary Club had accomplished nothing more than educating these students during these years-and it has accomplished many other worthwhile things in the community- that work alone would justify the club's existence." Editorial, The Post Star, August 9, 1958.*

By the early 1990's, the Glens Falls Club faced a pressing need for operating funds. During a detailed review of Club operations, questions were raised about the financial health and status of the educational fund. An audit of the books revealed many loans over the years had been granted, but the repayments of those loans were slow and, in many cases, non-existent.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *"Here is a check for \$290.00 which I calculate is the balance of the loan I received Sept. 16 and Dec. 31, 1940. I wish to thank you gentlemen very kindly for the loan. It kept me in school. Because of the war and the fact that I finally graduated in February 1951 it has taken me 13 years to pay. I thank you also for your patience." Letter dated June 23, 1953, from O.D.*

With a cash balance over \$100,000, the educational fund was in healthy shape. Actually, it was far healthier than the Club's general financial standing at the time. The problems with the educational fund centered on the number of outstanding unpaid loans being carried, and that the trustee's bank administrative expenses for essentially just holding the money were unacceptable.

After cleaning up the books by collecting delinquent loans and writing off several thousand dollars in bad debts, in 1993, the remaining funds were incorporated into the newly revised Glens Falls Rotary Club Foundation. New rules, procedures, safeguards, and oversight were installed by the board of directors and the Glens Falls Rotary Foundation Trustees, which was given the responsibility of

administrating and managing the assets. The total money allocated for educational loan purposes was capped at \$50,000. Any surplus funds available over this amount could be used on other Club service projects in compliance with foundation guidelines.

A maximum of \$1,500 per year, up to a total of \$5,000 per person, became available to qualified students, helping them to defray the costs of continuing their education. Repayment of the loans with fair market interest was expected to begin shortly after graduation or students would risk discontinuance from the educational institution. The program was designed to allow as many students as possible take advantage of these low-cost loans, knowing that as the money got repaid, additional loans could be made.



*Ray Agnew*

During Club President Ray Agnew's 2004-05 term, because of continuing problems with originating and collecting loans, a committee was formed to revise the goals and direction of the educational fund. With the increasing costs of college, the amounts offered as a loan by the Club seem insufficient to significantly impact those expenses or attract many interested applicants. At the same time, the cost of administering outstanding loans over a number of years didn't seem to warrant the effort.

The suggestion to change the account from a "loan" fund to a "scholarship" fund made more sense. With the continued success of the birthday table in raising meaningful amounts of revenue each year, non-repayable scholarship grants of \$5,000 or more per year would be possible, thus eliminating all the paperwork and fuss of creating a loan file.

Approved by the board of directors and Glens Falls Foundation Trustees during John Mucha's term as president (2007-08), the conversion of the educational fund into a grants program was official. After 75 years of being in the loan business, helping to assist more than 100 students with college aid, the Club is now the source of a direct scholarship to qualified students.

As long as Rotarians continue to have birthdays and make their contributions, the original vision of Judge Raley and Frank Smalley should continue far into the future. This commitment to youth education is the longest lasting program ever started by the Club.

### **Club Service—Charter Day**

Prior to the creation of the Charter Day Award, the Club celebrated its origin every year by honoring the surviving charter members. On the anniversary date, these individuals were invited to sit at the head of the table and reminisce about the early days. It was not unusual for Dwight Marvin to attend these meetings as a representative of the Troy "daddy club."

In October 1944, a reenactment of the preliminary meeting held prior to the establishment of the Club was performed. The program featured the remaining charter members asking questions of Dwight Marvin in the same fashion as the original sessions in 1922. Dwight fielded such questions as, “Why so much stress on attendance?” “Are we as Rotarians expected to favor one another in trade?” “Do you think it will work out well to call every member by his first name?” “Will it be proper for us to advertise that we are Rotarians in order to possibly help our business?” These and other questions were asked and answered in what Bill Curtis said, “was as serious as the original, with no levity or horseplay.”

As the number of original 1922 Rotarians began disappearing, a resolution was passed in 1966 to celebrate the anniversary date of the original Club founding. This special award would recognize extraordinary long-term service to the Club by a member. Known as the Charter Day Award, it is the highest Club honor that can be bestowed to one of its own.

The rules governing the citation are very simple. It is to be presented on the last Thursday of April to a Rotarian in good standing of the Glens Falls Club as selected by a majority vote of the board of directors.



The recipient of the prize must be a person who has distinguished themselves in service to the Club, to the community, or through international service. Because this award is special, the Club tries to have 100% attendance at the presentation ceremony.

The award is a small gesture of the deep gratitude extended to the honoree for their long history of service and dedication to the Club. The photo on the left shows Steve Borgos receiving the Charter Day Award from Dave Bogue.

Like many things in the recent past, the Club’s admiration for the Charter Day honoree has not diminished, but the actual implementation as outlined by the proposed guidelines have been significantly reduced. The timing and presentation criteria have become more relaxed, and COVID-19 and relaxed attendance requirements have made 100% attendance almost impossible.

Not satisfied with just the Charter Day acknowledgements, in 1992, President Lloyd Cote formally began a new annual tradition by extending recognition to those who best exemplified the spirit of Rotary with two new designations: Rotarian of the Year and Citizen of the Year.

Where the Charter Day rewards consistent service throughout the years, the Rotarian of the Year plaque is designed to praise a member who has made significant contributions to the Club within the past year or over a shorter period of time. The Citizen of the Year award is conferred on a non-

Rotarian in the community who has actively demonstrated the Rotary ideals of service. Recipients have ranged from local newspaper publishers to college presidents, noted educators and humanitarians, doctors and others who dedicate their time and talents towards making a difference in their community and around the world.

The Student of the Year designation was created to recognize those young people who have developed the positive attributes associated with Rotary. These include becoming involved in community service and fostering goodwill and friendship, along with an appreciation of the importance of international understanding. Normally, a Student of the Year scholarship is given to a pupil from both the Glens Falls and Queensbury High Schools.

Adding to the list of recognitions in December 2007, President John Mucha presented Louis Whitney with the first “Distinguished Club Service Citation.” President Mucha hoped to begin a new tradition by honoring long time Rotarians for their distinguished service not only to the Club, but also to recognize their significant and meaningful contributions to the Glens Falls/Queensbury communities. This award combines aspects of Rotary service associated with Rotarian of the Year and the Citizen of the Year awards. So far, the only recipient has been Whitney, who died January 2008.

Whitney was not the first member to receive extraordinary recognition. A special Club classification of “Veneration Member” was proposed on April 10, 1962, for Glens Falls native Charles Evans Hughes. This “unofficial” designation was created by former Club President Stanley MacArthur (1953-54) as a way to recognize and honor Hughes on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birthday. Hughes, who was elected as Governor of the State of New York in 1907, ran for president of the US in 1916, and served with distinction as Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court in the 1930’s; he died in 1948.

### **Club Service—Honorary Membership**

Rotary International describes an Honorary Member as, “Persons who have distinguished themselves by meritorious service in the furtherance of Rotary ideals, and those persons considered friends of Rotary for their permanent support of Rotary’s causes.” This designation, which is granted by the board of directors, can be given to both active and non-Rotary members.

Before the advent of Citizen of the Year awards, very often “Honorary Membership” was used to recognize community leaders for their contributions. This was the case with the first honorary membership conferred by the Club in 1925 to the internationally acclaimed, concert baritone Oscar Seagle, founder of the Seagle Colony. Moving to Schroon Lake in 1915, Seagle built a studio that later transformed into a world-renowned summer residency for talented singers and musicians. During the summer, he often attended the meetings of the Club and gave recitals.

Today, most honorary memberships are awarded to Rotarians who, due to their advancing years, find it difficult to attend the weekly meetings. Missing more and more lunches because of age-

related infirmities, many chose to submit their resignations instead of continually affecting the Club's overall attendance record. Many times, various Rotary Boards have opted to grant honorary membership to these long-term, dedicated Rotarians rather than accept their total disconnection from the Club.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *"Your action in electing me an honorary member for the coming year is deeply appreciated, and I look forward with much pleasure to our continued association...When one has passed the eighty-mark new honors and bouquets are hardly expected and their receipt make a very pleasant break in old age monotony. Many thanks for the remembrance."* Letter dated July 23, 1949, from Frank C. Hooper.

As an honorary member, the person can still participate at Club meetings but are exempt from the attendance requirements, dues, and classification system.

These Rotarians appreciated the simple gesture made by the Club to keep them on the Club roster, including Orson C. Beaman, who joined in 1956 and made honorary in 1996, Jim Potter, joining in 1957 and achieving honorary in 2000, and Ames Barber, who joined in 1943 and was made honorary in 2000. Other members, like Bob King, a member since 1949, and Bob Westcott, who became a Rotarian in 1966, were carried on the rolls until their deaths many years later.

While the above Rotarians are now gone, there are other aging members who someday will have trouble making regular meetings or participating in some Club activities. Being an honorary member is the Club's way to say thank you for your past contributions—we value your fellowship and want to keep you on the current roster of the Glens Falls Club.

### **Club Service—The District Governors**

A district governor is the only "official officer" of Rotary International who represents a grouping of clubs in a designated area. While many Rotarians believe they are members of Rotary International, the fact is, only clubs can be members of that organization, while individuals are the members of those clubs.

To become a governor, a person is nominated by their club and must be elected by a vote conducted among all the clubs in that particular district. Currently, there are approximately 530 districts worldwide, each with their own district governor.

As the Club grew in size and stature, several Glens Falls Rotarians were nominated and elected to leadership positions on the district level. When Rotary first established itself in Albany, it was part of the Eastern Division. In 1915, the idea of divisions was replaced with the creation of districts. When the Glens Falls Club was formed in May 1922, it was part of District 3 under District Governor J. Lyle Kenmouth, from Ashbury Park, NJ.

Within six years, J. Thatcher Sears went from a rookie member in 1922 to Club president in 1925. He then volunteered to serve as the first district governor from the Glens Falls Club from 1927 to 1928.

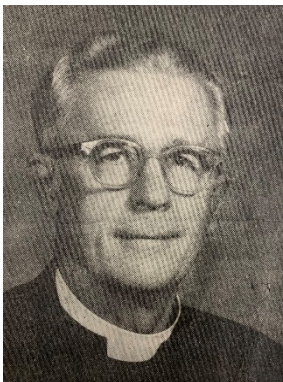


J. Thatcher Sears

Elected as leader of District 29 for 1927-28, Thatcher Sears' domain included parts of New York City, Staten Island, Long Island, and up the Hudson River valley almost to the Canadian border. Among his duties was to visit the more than 60 clubs that comprised the district, including a stop in Bermuda.

His care and devotion to the proper completion of these tasks led to significant contributions to Rotary's growth and influence in this region. He was described as, "a gentlemen scholar, never pedantic or stuffy, rather gracious, stimulating, and friendly." His rapid rise is an extraordinary example of dedication to the ideals of Rotary.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *"The great mission of Rotary lies in the days ahead. It behooves every functioning club and every individual Rotarian of today to transmute the lofty ideals of Rotary into a living thing, an irresistible force." Private correspondence from J. Thacher Sears, May 1942.*

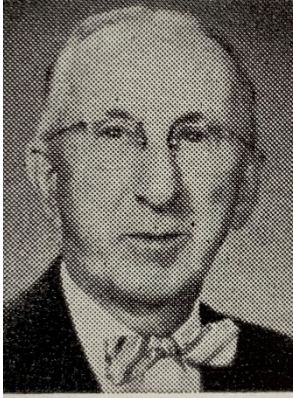


Rev. Gary Germann

Twenty-two years later, Reverend Gary Germann became the second governor sponsored by the Club. District Governor in 1950-51, he represented the newly revised District 255, which included 57 clubs from Whitehall, NY, to Pearl River, NJ. Originally a member of the Peekskill Club, Reverend Germann moved to Glens Falls in December 1947 when he assumed duties as pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, a position he held until his retirement in 1974. Although at the time he was only a member of the Glens Falls Rotary for less than three years, the membership supported his nomination to be district governor in 1950.

Since he had served as club president in Peekskill shortly before he moved, he was eligible to be a governor candidate. So, while he was never a past president of the Glens Falls Club, he did simultaneously hold the office of Club vice-president, along with being the district governor.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *The Reverend Gary E. Germann expressed his appreciation to the entire membership of the local club for its assistance in obtaining his election...particularly the officers and directors of the last year; Ed Trimbley, his district aide for the northern district and past District Governor J. Thatcher Sears, whom he described as a constant source of strength to him in his work." The Post Star, December 1, 1950.*



Within two years, another Glens Falls Rotarian answered the call of higher service to the district. He was affectionately known by the Club as, “Mr. Rotary.” Edward Trimbey worked as a test engineer for International Paper before starting his own papermaking equipment business, Trimbey Machine Company in 1920.

Joining the Glens Falls Club in 1925, he actually left Rotary a couple of times because of temporary business situations. Returning in 1938, he maintained a perfect record of attendance for the next 27 years. The Club nominated him as district governor for 1953-54.

*Ed Trimbey*

Trimbey was well known for his numerous philanthropic interests, both locally and internationally. Normally, his contributions were made as “an anonymous donor.” Ed’s dedication to Rotary International continued long after his term as governor, when he was a member of two important committees: The Rotary Foundation Fellowship Committee (1954-55) and the International Student Exchange Committee (1955-56).

In 1957, Trimbey was also given the job of creating the new boundaries for District 719, which ran from Granville to Fort Plain and from North Creek to Coeymans-Ravena. The most unique aspect of Ed Trimbey’s long years of contributions to the growth of Rotary in the North Country is that he never served as president or held any positions on the board of directors of his home club.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *“The post of District Governor is a high honor and the position is not merely an ‘honorary’ title. No man should permit his name be considered unless he is ready and able to devote the necessary time to fully perform the duties of the office.” Ed Trimbey, December 1953*



Elected district governor for 1971-72, Walter Reichert Sr. retired in 1968 after 40 years of teaching and being principal of the Glens Falls Junior High School. Walt joined Rotary in 1931 and served as president in 1946. From 1948 to 1962, he kept the Club records as secretary. Later, he would draw on these documents to write a quick history of the organization in the early 80’s. During his term as district governor, he responded to the needs of 42 clubs in the area, the largest being Albany, Schenectady, Troy, Scotia, and Glens Falls.

*Walt Reichert Sr.*

**Voices of our Club Members:** *Attendance and membership suffer simply because men who join Rotary become disenchanted and eventually drop out. A project involving every member would help retain these men and strengthen the fellowship and interest in the club because that’s what Rotary is about.” Walter Reichert Sr., November 1971.*



Dr. Robert Westcott

As district governor, Dr. Robert Westcott, during his tenure in 1991-92, saw the 46 clubs of District 719 change their designation to District 7190.

Joining the Club in 1966, Bob's many activities in the Glens Falls community included president of the Club in 1978, member of the Glens Falls Hospital Board, president of the Dental Society of New York, president of the Glens Falls Country Club, representative to the Rotary International Council on Legislation, and president of Rotary District 7190, Gift of Life program.

Retiring from a successful dental practice in 1991, Bob stepped in at the last minute when the district governor nominee, Frank Kelly of the Glens Falls Club, had to resign because of a business transfer to the Syracuse area.

With a shorter than normal training period, perhaps his greatest challenge was his goal of refurbishing the Rotary Lodge at Camp Chingachgook. Lloyd Cote, president 1991-1992, commented on this initiative as follows, "Replacement of the Rotary Lodge at the YMCA Camp on Lake George was the district project. A goal of raising \$100,000 to replace the lodge was established. When I first saw the lodge, the reason for the project was obvious. A total replacement of the building was needed. I remember Bob Westcott saying, 'We either have to rebuild it or take our name off it.' The project had begun."

***Voices of our Club Members:** Before I became Governor, I had committed to the rebuilding of the Rotary Lodge at Camp Chingachgook. This was a huge undertaking and I suppose a bit of a risk. It took a lot of work by many Rotarians throughout the district to make this effort the total success it was. On June 14<sup>th</sup>, I had the honor of dedicating the lodge before 150 Rotarians and their families. I felt humbled and most grateful for having the opportunity. Our goal of \$ 100,000 has been met- what a tribute to Rotary." Robert Westcott, June 1992.*

Fred Carvin became the sixth governor from the Club in 2002-03. Having worked on Bob Westcott's Cooperstown conference committee during his year as governor, Fred was elected to the Rotary District 7190, Gift of Life Board of Directors in 1992, where he again served with Dr. Westcott.

As president of the Club in 1997-98, Carvin traveled to St. Petersburg, Russia, to attend the Rotary International Presidential Peace conference, where he became active with "Rotarians for Russia." Working with the Gift of Life, he was instrumental in providing heart operations to needy children, and shipments of medical supplies and equipment to various parts of the former Soviet Union, South America, and Mexico. In 2005, as Zone Coordinator for the Open World program of Rotary International, he helped initiate a new Rotary club in Ulyanovsk, Russia.

During his year as governor, he broke with the district tradition of sponsoring an ambassadorial scholar, choosing instead to allocate those funds to 23 matching and community grants issued from

The Rotary Foundation, allowing the clubs in the district to help hundreds of individuals. Included in these grants was the first district involvement in the production of clean water filtration systems for Honduras.

Addressing the needs of membership growth, he was involved in establishing a new club in Twin Bridges (Southern Saratoga County), and realized a total net increase of 100 new members to the district. This was one of the few times in those years that the district had a positive upward movement in numbers.

Again, with the assistance of former Governor Bob Westcott and a dedicated Foundation committee, he was successful in raising \$97,000 for the Rotary International Foundation and an additional \$67,000 for the special polio eradication campaign called for by Rotary International President Bhichai Rattakul. The combined amount represented the largest amount ever collected for the Foundation at that time.

District Governor in 2016-17, John Mucha was born in Utica, NY, in 1949. He graduated from Assumption College and obtained a master's from Syracuse University. Later, he became the General Manager of WBNG in Binghamton, NY, where he joined the Rotary Club of Binghamton in 1987. He eventually became General Manager for Harron Cable TV and was transferred to the Glens Falls area in 1994.



*John Mucha*

Initially, John stated the motivation for joining Rotary was, “basically for business reasons. However, after a few weeks, I realized what a unique organization Rotary was, and I was committed to the motto ‘Service Above Self.’”

“I began to attend Glens Falls Rotary meetings. The Club was quite similar to the Binghamton Club and I appreciated the acceptance I received from the members.

“As time went on, I joined committees, enjoyed bread dough events, and eventually became a Board member and then Club President. This led me to working at the District level and eventually becoming District Governor in 2016-17. However, there’s no doubt in my mind that the best job in Rotary is Club President!”



Each of these district governors contributed to the expansion of the goals and ideas of Rotary in the district, no matter the geographic boundaries. Because of their faithful service and many accomplishments, they are true role models of the finest traditions of the Glens Falls Club and our community.

The picture on the left shows Kevin Markham, Kevin O'Brien, John Mucha, Robert Rosoff, and Dave Bogue at the 2017 District Conference Committee at Lake George.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *“Mr. President, please read this entire letter to the club at your next meeting. The reading time is 4 minutes and 41 seconds. If it is good, the members may obtain some benefit. If it is ‘terrible,’ read it to them anyway! Let them suffer with you.” Ed Trimbe, Governor’s Newsletter, March 15, 1954.*

## Vocational Service

**Voices of our Club Members:** *“Rotarians believe that the world owes no one a living but that everyone should have an opportunity to earn one.” Paul Harris, This Rotarian Age, published 1935.*

Vocational service in Rotary is difficult to define. Often referred to as “the forgotten Avenue of Service,” it demands Rotarians adhere to high ethical standards in their business and professions as a way of providing service to each other and to their communities. It further stresses the tenets of the Four-Way Test as rules of conduct for activities with others on a day-to-day basis. Rotary and Rotarians are first and foremost an association of businesspeople. As such, the pursuit of honest enterprise, ethical behavior, and fair competition are core values, and profits gained by these actions are legitimate goals.

While Rotarians need to address the ideals of vocational service from an individual standpoint, they should also create or make available vocational opportunities to others. By talking about and describing their businesses or professions, perhaps new careers or business ventures will be formed. Again, the interchange of information, ideas, and telling others in the Club about your work reach back to the very beginnings of Rotary.

It was the responsibility of the Club’s vocational committee to concentrate on providing education and guidance to those who were about to enter the job market. Rotarians developed programs, gave guided tours of different businesses in town, and arranged for speakers to talk to

students on subjects related to possible career choices, or how they might succeed in business or industry.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *“I think the Rotary Club is doing a great service to both the boys of the high school and the merchants of the surrounding areas by conducting these tours through the various industries in our area. I think I learned more of industry in Glens Falls in those four hours than I had ever previously known. Since many of us are still in the dark about what to do when we graduate this June, it afforded us a chance to see what the possibilities are for jobs in the various industries here in Glens Falls.”* Comments from an unknown high school senior, September 18, 1952.

Giving the youth of the community employment counseling was very popular in the 1940’s, 50’s, and 60’s when it was Rotary, Kiwanis, and, later, the Chamber of Commerce who were frequently responsible for organizing and developing trade shows or “Career Days.” Many of these joint service club projects helped new job seekers meet and become acquainted with the business community and the types of work they offered. Today, these “job fairs” are still held but are more related to college placement services or direct campaigns looking for specific skills.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *“I left the luncheon with a new spirit of confidence and I am sure it will have some effect on my plans for the future. Your program is certainly a worthwhile one. The only complaint I heard was that they didn’t give the boys any samples at the bank.”* Comments from an unknown high school senior, April 3, 1952.



Earl Ellsworth

One of the more hands-on, vocational-related ventures started in 1975, when Earl Ellsworth (president 1974-75), in conjunction with the Board of Cooperative Educational Service (BOCES), involved the Glens Falls Club in a program sponsoring the construction of residential homes.



Rotary-BOCES house

The plan called for Rotary to provide funds for the fabrication, while the BOCES students, under the direction of their instructors, supplied the labor. These work-related experiences involved them in the different phases of home building, including carpentry, electrical work, roofing, masonry, and plumbing, which were all taught on the job. The modest profit earned from the sale of the completed house helped defray the cost of the program.

This enterprise was enthusiastically supported by the Club for almost 20 years. Along with the Hudson Falls Rotary Club who had a similar project, it was responsible for the completion of a large

number of area homes. In addition, a scholarship check was given to a deserving BOCES student as part of the overall commitment to vocational service. Unfortunately, with the increase in construction costs, changing building codes, and competition from area developers, the house building and scholarship award no longer exist.

While the emphasis on youth involvement in vocational service has waned to the point of extinction, the Glens Falls Club has had a long history of contributing its time and talent to these endeavors, and in many cases, providing job opportunities to the young people of the community.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *“Baker Middleton of Marinette Paper Company stressed the importance of the attitude of “giving a full day’s work for a full day’s pay.” He deplored the tendency of avoiding promotion, unwillingness to get further training and the tendency to demand advancement to which the individual is not entitled.” Weekly Letter, March 9, 1954.*

### **It’s All About Community Service**

There are very few aspects of life in the Glens Falls—Queensbury community that have not benefited from the Club, either by direct support or through the involvement of one or more of the members. Part of that commitment comes from the belief Rotarians should do all they can to improve the quality of life in the towns they reside; so, it’s rare for a Rotarian to only belong to the Rotary Club.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *“We do not feel that Rotary should be just a luncheon club. Rotary should help to coordinate and sponsor worthwhile undertakings with the thought perhaps of turning them over to well organized groups to handle after they have been properly launched. It was felt the policy of the Club can best be stated in the following words: The Rotary Club does not endeavor to promote civic activities rightfully belonging to other organizations, but every Rotarian, as an individual, is urged to participate in all activities which make his community a better place in which to live.” Letter dated July 11, 1952, from George R. Coughlan, Jr., president 1952-53.*

The Glens Falls Club launched its first community service project with the establishment of the Buddy Club in 1922. This venture was started by Judge George S. Raley in collaboration with the YMCA as a means to reach underprivileged boys. After being recommended by caseworkers, schools, or other agencies, the boys were assigned a Rotarian buddy or sponsor, with whom they met once a week. The aim was to encourage the exchange of ideas between a mature responsible adult and a boy needing assistance or support in his schooling and personal life. A written statement confirming the meeting allowed the lad to enjoy access to the YMCA pool, along with lunch and free movie.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *“George Knapp outlined what he thought should be the club’s efforts in the line of Boy’s Work for the coming year. He criticized members who had no other contact with their buddies than to have their secretaries sign slips for them. We don’t think these instances are numerous enough to be serious, and knowing some of the secretaries as we do, our guess is that this arrangement is not always to the boy’s disadvantage.” Weekly Letter, June 29, 1943.*

In many instances this relationship between the boy and the Rotarian later expanded to include their parents or other brothers and sisters. The young men were treated to a special Christmas party, where they were entertained by magicians or other such programs.

During World War II, the Buddy Club was fully integrated with the other services and activities provided by the YMCA. The Club continued financially supporting the young men, but their identities were only known by the Y staff and their Rotarian buddy, with whom they still had to meet. This action removed the perceived stigma of being “underprivileged,” allowing the boys free association with the other Y members on an equal basis. Even though the Buddy Club had no formal organizational structure within the YMCA, it continued receiving Club funding until the early 60’s when it was dropped.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *“Some men are not good buddies. In some cases, the men are willing, but just lack the ability to get on common ground with boys of this age and character.” Letter from Walter Reichert, May 19, 1957.*

During the 40 years of its operation (1922 to 1962), the Buddy Club helped hundreds of boys enjoy many of the aspects of childhood they might have otherwise missed. Both Club Secretary, Tom Angelo, and Club President, John Porter (1996-97) commented that as children they were members of the Buddy Club. They reminisced about how much fun they had and the memories it created. Both men attributed much of their success in later life back to those days when Rotary and the YMCA helped shape their young lives.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *“Mr. Sweet was born in GF 78 years ago (1930) and returned to his hometown to share with our Rotary Club memories of his association with a Buddy mentoring program our club had when he was a boy, and what a great impact that had on his life. He told how he was able to go to the YMCA each weekend to swim, play games, read and socialize with other young boys from ‘disadvantaged families.’ His sponsor was Rev. Charles C. Noble, who also brought him to a Thanksgiving dinner each year. Sweet also attended summer camp thanks to the program. When it came time for college, his sponsor, now in Syracuse, helped him obtain admission to Syracuse University, where he also arranged for a student loan, allowing Sweet to get his degree in engineering and build a successful adult life.” Spinoffs newsletter, June 5, 2008.*

Judge Raley’s commitment to assisting the community’s youth by molding their characters also led to the establishment of the Boy’s Work Committee. This committee was responsible for finding projects around town where the young lads could use their labors in helping others. A 1925 quote found in conjunction with a tree planting project, in an area known as the “Rotary Woods,” shows how these energies were channeled: “The boy’s work committee now took hold and appointed a planting bee to do the work that would require bending over, an art lost to so many Rotarians.” This parcel of land the boys were cultivating had been donated to the club by Elmer J. West.



Judge Raley working with boys

Approximately 20 acres in size, “Rotary Woods” was located along Sherman Avenue, west of the present-day Northway. Research of the parcel history showed that several hundred trees were planted on the acreage in 1925 in hopes of creating a park for the general public’s use.

In 1937, a Club project removed trash and other debris from the site that had accumulated over the years. In 1939, a portion of the plot was conveyed to Niagara Mohawk for an easement.

The remaining acreage was pretty much forgotten until 1978, when the Town of Queensbury updated their tax records indicating ownership of the remaining piece by the Glens Falls Rotary Club.

An additional request for more land along a right-of-way by the power company and the arrival of a tax bill from the town again brought the property to the Club’s attention. These two events raised several legal questions regarding the original filing of the deed in 1925, along with other intricate complexities. After extensive research, it was determined the expense of untangling and resolving these complicated issues would have been greater than the value of the property at that time. Thus, in the end the land was abandoned.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *“The club should not obligate itself financially for reoccurring projects, but rather be on the alert for deserving groups requiring assistance on a temporary basis.” Notes on a Fireside Chat, May 1957.*

To list all the civic, educational, or philanthropic projects the Club has been involved in would run the risk of boring the reader or missing an organization that should be included.

Suffice to say, the following are only a few of the groups or agencies that have benefited from the Glens Falls Rotary. Significant bequests were made to a variety of programs for young people including the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, YMCA, and the Youth Center as well as funding for many of their capital improvement campaigns, equipment, or supplies.

Youth and adult activities such as The American Legion Little League Baseball, Junior Basketball, Pop Warner Football, the Junior Miss Program, the Fresh Air Fund, the Queensbury Community and Youth Leagues, the Association of Retarded Children, along with the Glens Falls and Queensbury Schools post prom programs, have all looked to the Club in times of need. Support has also been given to the Glens Falls and Queensbury Little Leagues, the YMCA campership program, music camps, cross-country skiing clubs, the Coquin Swim Club, swimming pools, workshops, and family services, along with a multitude of other scholastic, educational, and artistic programs.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *“A very special treat...We will proceed to the pool side and observe 6 young ladies, “The Coquins,” perform their synchronized competitive swim sequences.” The Fallout, May 27, 1976.*

Similarly, many other community organizations including the Glens Falls Hospital, Muscular Dystrophy Association, the Glens Falls-Queensbury Historical Association, the World Awareness Children’s Museum, DARE, the American Heart Association, the Lake George Opera Festival, Friends of Free China, Liberty House, the Senior Citizens Center, the Cancer Society, the Salvation Army, Crandall Library, the United Way, the Lake George Association, the Glens Falls Symphony Orchestra, along with a host of others, have all received the Club’s attention. Many of these programs have been supported on a continual basis, while others have been one-time only donations.

As with all service organizations, there were some requests received where no action or contributions were made at the Club level. A forum was often provided for either concerned petitioners or Rotarians to make their appeals directly to the general membership for support.

Most of the Club’s involvement has been in financially supporting other community organizations, but there are some notable projects where the Glens Falls Rotary took the lead in getting the job done with sweat.

In 1964, the Club spearheaded the effort to beautify downtown City Park. The combined resources of the Glens Falls Foundation, the Zonta Club, city government, and local citizens resulted in several long over-due improvements to that location. They included the widening of the main street; the removal of dead trees, and other debris, replacing shrubs and flower beds; and installing an expansive lawn.



*City Park Rotary sign*

This refurbished park now offers a pleasant resting spot on a warm summer’s day. Throughout the year, it is the focal point of many of the community’s activities and a source of civic pride.



*Ted Zoli and Bob Westcott at Mt. Trashmore*

Another major project in which Rotary took a hands-on approach involved the Luzerne Road city dump, euphemistically referred to as “Mount Trashmore.”

This manmade pile of rubbish had grown to the point of being highly visible from the Northway. In many instances, it was the first sight that greeted new arrivals to the Glens Falls area. After its closure in 1979, the Club accepted the gigantic task of beautifying this monstrous hill of trash.

Under the leadership of Ted Zoli and Robert Westcott, the site was graded, new soil brought in, and trees and other appropriate plantings made. For years, people traveling along Luzerne Road or on the Northway would hardly know this forested green area was once an eyesore to the community and was restored by the Club.

But even the best of intentions sometimes have difficulties. When the environmental laws regarding closed landfills changed, the State of New York ordered the removal of all the trees and the instillation of drainage and alarm systems to monitor the buried trash. Most of the Club’s work survived the new landscaping, keeping our original promise to clean up this blemish.

Other ventures have been undertaken to provide access ramps for the handicapped at both the Hyde and Chapman Museums. The Environmental Committee, under the leadership of Sharron Simmonds, sponsored hazardous waste collection days and involved the Club with the Adopt-A-Highway Program, maintaining a section of Aviation Road from Exit 19 west to West Mountain Road.

Twice a year, Rotarians have walked this path under the direction of Don Krebs, pictured on right.



One of the more traditional Club activities involves ringing the bells for the Salvation Army at Christmas time. There is an informal competition with the other service organizations to see who can raise the most money to help those less fortunate. According to the Salvation Army, Rotary has consistently beaten the Kiwanians for the last 30-plus years.

Originally, through the efforts of Tom Haley, Rotarians started taking needy children and their parents shopping for warm clothing. Haley, who worked for *The Post Star* newspaper, was asked to coordinate a new program they wanted to start called, "Warm the Children."



Tom Haley

As a Rotarian of long standing, Tom quickly brought the challenge to the Glens Falls Club, who immediately pitched in on the idea. By 2007, this program became a jointly-sponsored action of the Rotary Club of Glens Falls and the newspaper.

Since Haley's retirement, a number of Rotarians, including Bob Rosoff and Dave Bogue, have stepped forward to keep this worthwhile endeavor going. Endorsed by *The Post Star* and operated primarily by Rotary volunteers, the Warm the Children campaign is keeping children around the communities warm in the winters.

For several years, the Club was an active participant, with other service groups, in clearing and maintaining sections of the Feeder Dam Canal. Under the direction of the Feeder Dam Canal Alliance, Rotarians donated labor, equipment, and cash in an effort to provide a new recreation spot enjoyed by thousands of visitors each year.

In 1989, it was the Glens Falls Club who provided initial funding for the Paper Recycling Program conducted by the Association for Retarded Citizens (now The Arc). Donna Farrar and the newly created Environmental Committee adopted the slogan, "Rotary Recommends Recycling" to coordinate plans designed to involve businesses to participate in office paper recycling.



Recently, Rotarians from Glens Falls and Chestertown planted 250 trees at an experimental forest project in Horicon, Warren County, to create a wildlife habitat. When the project is completed, over 2 million trees will be planted by Rotarians from around the world.

On the left are Dave Bogue and Kevin O'Brien planting trees.

**Voices of our Club Members:** "Each year the president of the club has the opportunity for a project of their choosing that is part of our budget... To accommodate the March 1, 2020 deadline for retail grocery stores to cease providing plastic grocery bags to customers, I have purchased cloth grocery bags that have our club name and Rotary International logo printed on them. I was able to purchase 750 of these bags which will be given to customers at one or more grocery stores in the near future." Tim Bechard, Spinoffs, November 10, 2019.

Glens Falls Rotarians also purchased Secchi dishes, which are measuring devices used by the Lake George Association's Classroom on the Lake. The Club has worked with Habitat for Humanity building homes, the Feeder Dam Alliance repairing storage silos along the canal, and the Salvation Army boxing and delivering thousands of pounds of food for needy people.



A more recent effort involved a project designed to help the environment while improving flowerbeds and vegetable gardens around town. At an informative Composting Workshop sponsored by the Club, professional gardeners taught the do's and don'ts of basic residential composting.

In addition to dozens of hands-on projects, starting in 1998, a new method of providing Community Service was started called the President's Project.

*Composting classes*

The board of directors decided to allocate a sum of money each year dedicated to a project suggested and supported by that year's club president.

The first project paved a bike path from exit 20 of the Northway to the Gurney Lane swimming pool. This allowed younger children to safely bike across Route 9 to the recreational area. Over the years, not all presidents took advantage of this allocation. Those who did pledged funds for the bread dough trailer, and later Clean Water projects. Money was also invested in a micro-credit program that provided low-cost loans to women who were starting small businesses.



*Don Krebs at Habitat for Humanity*



*Charles Adams along the Canal*



*Cindy Amell helping out*



Depicted on the left is Dave Bogue directing traffic at a Salvation Army food pick-up station.



On the right is Gordon Woodworth making a home delivery to those in need during the Pandemic.

One president had a gazebo built along the Hudson River, another painted the band stand in Crandall Library Park and had needed repairs made. Donations were made to the Adirondack Community College building fund and music program. The Glens Falls Sympathy Orchestra received help, along with the Open Arms Pregnancy Center. A couple of presidents chose to provide “Cots for Haitians with Cholera” by combining their commitments over a longer period of time.

In 2020, Club President Tim Bechard (pictured at the right) used funds allocated from the President’s Project to purchase 750 cloth grocery bags, imprinted with the Rotary logo and Club name. These bags were given free to shoppers after the local ban on plastic grocery bags.



### **International Service**

Many Rotarians mistakenly think service projects are limited to the borders of their communities. While service in any form is appreciated, this perception misses the bigger picture of Rotary. Paul Harris, after seeing the effects of two World Wars and the Great Depression, felt the scope of Rotary should include the stated goal of enhancing understanding, goodwill, and fellowship throughout the world. Only Rotary, he emphasized, has the ability and mission to bring about world peace.

International Service asks each club to become involved in accomplishing these aims by addressing issues like pollution, education, health, delinquency, starvation, poverty, and the problems of the less fortunate in a global context.

Rotary International’s largest and most famous undertaking, known as Polio-Plus, has been called “the greatest humanitarian effort ever undertaken by a service organization.” Growing from a

program started in the Philippines in 1979, the Board of Directors of Rotary International has raised, in conjunction with the Gates Foundation, over 1.5 billion dollars to fight the ravages of polio.

Tremendous progress has been made by Rotary and its partners. The total number of annual new polio cases dropped from 300,000 in 1988 to less than 100 in recent years. The number of countries affected by polio has been reduced to only three or four worldwide.



*Polio victim in an iron lung*

In spite of the complications of the COVID-19 pandemic, progress has been made in quelling fears that the polio vaccine was a “western plot” designed to kill Islamic children. This misunderstanding severely hindered the distribution of the medication in several Muslim countries, which led to an increase of new polio cases that have, once again, been brought under control.

This outbreak was a stark reminder that Rotary needs to finish the job it started. Both the spread of COVID-19 and polio truly are “just a plane ride away.” Understanding the dire consequences, Rotary recommitted itself to the total eradication of polio—no other “officially sanctioned” humanitarian project would take precedence until this task was completed.

Most of the money raised goes to buy vaccine, organize immunizations, assist in research, and purchase a host of other vital tools needed to win the fight. What can’t be calculated is the total time, talent, and energy contributed by Rotarians worldwide. They have traveled into remote areas, motivated millions of volunteers, and administered over 2 billion doses of medicine to children everywhere in the world.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *“Rotary needs to be fashionable, so doing things like hooking up with the Gates Foundation to get money to finally eradicate polio, is a good thing. That makes us current. Even younger people have at least heard of Bill Gates. They know who he is. They don’t know who Paul Harris is and probably won’t ever know unless they join Rotary.” Jean Lapper, Interview on December 13, 2007.*

But the Club’s dedication to International Service is not restricted only to polio. Members have hosted youth exchange students in their homes, been part of Group Study Exchange teams, sent medical equipment, toys, medicine, food, disaster aid, and clothes to people in need around the world. They have helped build water filtration systems, dug wells, purchased water buffalos, built playgrounds, provided medical operations for needy children, purchased ambulances, and sent books.

The Club and its members have a long list of achievements all designed to increase understanding, promote goodwill, and, hopefully, make a more peaceful world for everyone. An example of this dedication is illustrated by the Club’s involvement with the Open World Program. The

Open World Program was created by the US Congress in 1999 and administered by the Library of Congress as a way to increase US and Russian understanding by exposing Russian leaders to American democratic and economic institutions.

The goal was to bring groups of professional individuals from Russia or the Ukraine to the US, so they might learn from seeing how Americans address different issues such as elections, health care, women's rights, the legal profession, and other important topics.



*The Open World Team with Sen. Betty Little*

Operating very similar to the Group Study Exchange, the visiting team stays in the area for approximately one week, being hosted in Rotarian homes.

The first group to visit District 7190 was co-sponsored by the Glens Falls and Saratoga Springs Rotary Clubs in 2004. As a direct result of this project, a new Rotary Club was founded in Ulyanovsk, Russia, the following year.



Shortly after this Russian club was chartered, they sought advice on how to help a small child, Olesya Kolotilova, pictured to the left, who had a heart defect.

Contacting the District 7190 Gift of Life program, and with the support of the Glens Falls Club, arrangements were made to have the child operated on in Moscow, approximately 11 time zones away from Glens Falls.

This relationship with the Moscow Institute ultimately led to 40 other operations being provided to needy children of the new club.

In 2007, gifts of Rotary ties and scarves were sent by the Glens Falls Club in celebration of an ongoing Sister Club arrangement worked out with the Ulyanovsk Club. Glens Falls now has Sister Club arrangements with clubs in Japan, Brazil, and Peru.

Perhaps one of the most ambitious projects undertaken by the Club was the instillation of thousands of personal water filter systems in Honduras, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic. At the start of his administration, President Ray Agnew (2004-05) felt the Club was ready for something new. Returning from the International Convention in Osaka, Japan, and excited about different water projects he'd learned about, Ray asked Kay Walter to explore ways they might get involved.

Doing her homework, Kay began looking at the statistics and was horrified to find the number of water-borne illnesses and related deaths, especially since these conditions could be dramatically reduced by simply providing clean water to people. Building on previous work done in the district in the 2002-03 timeframe, Kay connected with a 501(C)3 corporation called Pure Water for the World, started by a Rotarian dentist in Brattleboro, Vermont.



*Kay Walters and friends in Honduras*

In February 2005, she traveled with six other individuals, including Donna Farrar, to a small town in Choluteca, Honduras, to observe some of the work that had been done by Pure Water for the World. They witnessed the positive impact the installation of bio-sand filtration systems in villagers' homes had made.

With her "engines fired up to how great Rotary is," Kay returned to wake the "sleeping giant," the Glens Falls Club. With the initial Rotary Foundation grant for Choluteca running out, she gathered around her other like-minded individuals, receiving guidance from Past District Governors Dave Benson of the Fair Haven Club and Carolyn Crowley Meub of the Rutland, VT, South Rotary Club, and Ian Williams from Glens Falls.

The group began planning the first water walk dedicated to a second matching grant for Honduras. The committee established four goals: (1) they wanted to keep Pure Water for the World's mission of providing bio-sand filters sustainable; (2) they wanted to engage the Club by tapping into the resources and talents of the members; (3) they wanted to educate the Glens Falls community and surrounding area on the need for clean water; and, finally, (4) they wanted kids involved.



Knowing they would need money to continue to install water systems, the committee worked on an idea to hold a “Water Walk,” which had been successful in other areas. They also decided to keep 20% of the profits to help the Club in its other projects. This way they would not interfere with any other local or international commitments. Depicted here are children enjoying clean water.



In May 2006, the first walk attracted over 300 participants and netted \$18,000. This amount, plus contributions from other Rotary Clubs and districts, helped fund a matching grant for over \$150,000, which built and installed thousands of new bio-sand filters in Honduras.

According to Kay, after the first walk, the project, “took on a life of its own.” Due to the publicity and the Rotary network, water programs were started or continued in countries like Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Haiti, and Guatemala.

*A day at the races*

As a direct result of his involvement in the Water Walk project, Charles Adams, who, according to Kay Walter, “does not think small,” was able to organize a multi-national, high-level conference on water problems in Haiti in December 2007. The conference attracted such notables as Rotary International President Wilf Wilkinson, along with other political leaders and interested dignitaries.

The water walk was instrumental in opening new possibilities of a joint venture bringing clean water to Guatemala with the Glens Falls Medical Mission. Having worked with this group in the past, it seemed a natural fit, according to Kay.

For their passionate work with water, Charles was honored with the Rotary International “Service Above Self” award and Kay Walter and Ian Williams were presented with the Club’s Rotarian of the Year recognition.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *“I saw people in this club get excited, that I think, were just coming to lunch. It was a waste of talent not having people like this, who are bright and talented or retired, engaged. They’re here because there is a fire burning in the belly somewhere. Or they wouldn’t be here. And they’re looking for an opportunity (to serve) and it’s up to us to give them one.” Kay Walter interview, December 6, 2007.*

## Honduras 2005, by Ian Williams

The Water Committee met to discuss how the Glens Falls Rotary Club could implement President Ray (Agnew’s) initiative. A near-by organization was already doing water projects overseas, was Rotary affiliated, and could offer us suggestions on opportunities we could become involved in. That organization was Pure Water for the World (PWW).



*Ian Williams and Kay Walters*

PWW suggested the Club adopt a “Water Walk” event. A number of them had been successfully done by other Rotary clubs, with the potential to draw the whole Club into a single fundraiser and community awareness campaign. The other thing PWW offered was a chance for members of the Club to travel with them to see the work first hand.

Kay floated the idea of a trip to Honduras that was being organized by PWW in early 2005. She was excited at the thought of going herself and sought other Club members to join her. I decided to go and have never looked back.

Thus started a very long relationship with the Glens Falls Rotary Club and PWW. Kay and I attended several pre-trip informational meetings before going, and learned a lot about the organization and their work overseas.

The trip was led by Bob Mohr from the Rotary Club of Colonie-Guilderland, NY, and his wife, Sue. There were a number of Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Wilton, along with a number of Rotarians from other parts of New England and elsewhere. We flew out of New York’s Kennedy Airport to Miami, before the flight from there to Tegucigalpa, the Honduran capitol.

Arrival at Toncontin airport in Tegucigalpa was an eye-opener. The visual-only landing on the single runway involved flying around hillsides and down into the airport itself. The approach was low-level (I swear I could count the clothes pins on washing lines as we flew overhead!). The whole aircraft burst into applause upon touchdown. I later found out that we had completed one of the ten most dangerous landings in the world! Our trip began by getting through the arrivals procedures, getting

our bags, and heading to the rented minibus. The forecourt of the airport was swarming with people all scrambling to “help” us with our baggage and convert our valuable US dollars—neither a “service” we needed.

Aboard the bus we first went for a planned stop for lunch. I had been a little bit apprehensive about the possible food offerings, but this was soon melted away with this first meal. It was a lovely restaurant where we sat outside under a veranda, family style. An appetizer was ordered, which consisted of a little ceramic cheese warmer holding what was described to us as “farmer’s cheese.” It was melted and greasy, but delicious and kept warm by live coals placed under the ceramic bowl. Into the cheese we dipped what essentially were home-made tortilla chips. I ordered a “Plato Typico,” which was a sampler plate that had a number of small portions of different foods. Included were some fried plantains, beans, and rice. From then on, I knew the eating was going to be good.

We had to press on towards our first destination, Danli. The minibus was heading out of Tegucigalpa for the mountains and the town of Danli. The first sizable climb became too much for the minibus and the driver pulled to the shoulder of the road. We stopped and a flurry of phone calls were made. After a considerable time, a number of pick-up trucks arrived, and we continued our journey with our luggage in those pick-ups. One part of the mountain highway had collapsed down the mountain side, leaving only a single lane to serve both directions of travel. The missing section of road was barricaded by some bollards and both lanes shared the remaining ground. No traffic rules were in place; whichever vehicle outstared the other apparently was granted the right-of-way.

We visited a number of sites in and around Danli. We saw how the concrete-shelled bio-sand filters were made and how they were installed in homes. We visited a number of towns and villages where the filters were being used. In particular was the town of Poterillos, where we were shown inside a large church as well as visiting homes serviced by PWW.

Out in the countryside, we visited a more remote settlement that required crossing a dried stream bed and traversing unpaved roadways. The settlement included a number of homes around a central area that had chickens, cattle, and other animals wandering through. We saw where the filters had been installed and walked by several large grain bins. Rapping on their sides revealed that they were empty. They were out of much needed grain and other staples and were in a dire situation. We assembled that evening in our hotel and decided they needed our help. We pooled our money and came up with enough to have some local Rotarians buy them enough grain to tide them over until a more permanent solution could be worked out.

Another highlight of our stay in Danli was visits to two different hospitals: the still-used hospital in town and a brand new one on the outskirts of Danli. The older hospital was something out of the pages of a history book. Cinderblock walls with crumbling stucco and peeling paint greeted us on arrival. Patients were both assembled outside awaiting their turn, or triaged along the corridors inside. Patients kept overnight had to have their families provide bedding and meals for them. The

“pharmacy” on-site had no medicine per-se; families often had to purchase the medicines outside and have the nurses administer them to the patients. The whole scene was surreal, and I half-expected to see Florence Nightingale herself walking the corridors holding a lamp.

We were then taken to the newly built hospital on the outskirts of town. It was paid for by money from other countries as Honduras had no resources to build it. There were brand new and well-equipped operating rooms, patient accommodations, and even a modern morgue. The equipment was all covered and sealed up from dust, and the whole facility was surrounded by chain-link fencing and razor wire with security guards patrolling the grounds. A brand-new Mercedes Benz ambulance sat in the forecourt, unused. The new facility sat idle all because of a lack of being connected to the public sewer system—and no money existed to make the connection!

We left Danli to travel down to Choluteca in the southern part of the country. There, we were able to look at some new prospective locations for future projects and visit one location where a project was in progress. The interesting part of this was being present and watching as a town-hall style informational meeting took place. The town had previously been offered to have water filters installed. It seems that the money was handed over, but no filters were ever delivered. The community leaders had been skeptical, so in a brilliant piece of theatrics and good timing, there were trucks delivering water filters right as the meeting was being held, proving that PWW would be true to its promises.

### **Update on Haiti, by Ian Williams**

July of 2006 saw a little drama unfold on the streets of Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Club member Charles Adams was the victim of a kidnapping right off the streets of the Haitian capital. Charles had been instrumental in the Club’s efforts to provide relief in Haiti and had partnered with Vermont-based NGO Pure Water for the World. He and his driver were snatched from the streets of Cite Soliel, the slum area of Port-au-Prince, and held captive for a number of days. They were eventually released unharmed and lived to tell the tale. No ransom was paid. Charles went on to forge the link between the Club and Pure Water for the World.

On January 12th, 2010, Haiti suffered a 7.6 magnitude earthquake, which destroyed a huge amount of infrastructure in Port-au-Prince. Club member Ian Williams traveled to Haiti to see the devastation firsthand and thus began a many-year relationship with Haiti, helping them in their rebuilding and improvement.

The Club then partnered with the Rotary Club of Grand Rapids in Michigan to complete a water project based around the Trianon region in Central Haiti. Club member Bob Rosoff wrote an International Grant from Rotary and traveled to Haiti to secure participation from the Petionville Rotary Club to partner in its execution. In all, 980 homes were serviced with bio-sand filters and families received hygiene education.



*Ian working on a project site in Haiti*

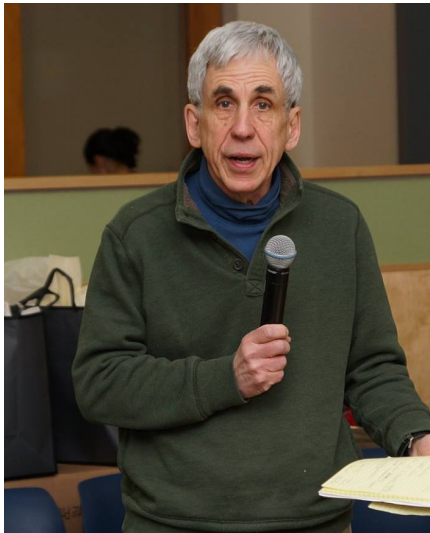


*Bio-sand filters in use at a school in Haiti*



*Ian with members of the Petionville Rotary Club*

## **The Rotary 5K**



*Jim Goodspeed*

The idea of the Rotary 5K and Corporate Challenge sprang from the head of Jim Goodspeed, an avid marathon runner. Seeing how successful the Water Walk was, he planned to expand the concept to include both long distance and average athletes who liked to run.

Adding a charity component to the race allowed the runners to get sponsors who would donate funds, encouraging competition among various corporate or educational teams. Once the pledges had been collected, a portion would be turned over to a designated charity or two, with a small part going to the Club to help with its other obligations. Started in 2011, the first recipient was the Open Door Mission, a food kitchen that fed the poor.

Since then, the race has been an annual fundraising event helping support local agencies who may need additional financial support to carry out their work in the community. "We think we can do more to help, and we certainly are seeing the increased need in the past few years," said David Bogue, a past president of the Club. He continued, "The 5k Race will be the first time we have organized an event like this, but we have quite a few experienced runners in our club who also have managed other race events...We think we can establish an exciting and healthy event for the community that will benefit a lot of people."

Race Director, Jim Goodspeed, talking about the race stated, "It's a great course with great views and is especially accommodating to runners and walkers of all abilities. We think this can

become a very special event in April each year, that will attract lots of people from our community and well beyond."



*Bill Nealon on safety patrol*

During the pandemic years, the race committee developed a “virtual” marathon that allowed competition without necessarily exposing everyone to the COVID-19 virus—a unique solution to a difficult situation. By April 2022, the race was back live, benefitting The Ben Osborn Foundation and the Southern Adirondack Independent Living Center (SAIL).

Other groups who have received assistance are WAIT House, the Adirondack Samaritan Counseling Center, the World Awareness Children’s Museum, and Big Brothers and Big Sisters. The Club also co-sponsored a marathon for the Lyme Action Network.

*Voices of our Club Members: "We are always monitoring the needs of organizations in our community, and we asked the club membership for suggestions on which agencies needed some additional help. For example, The Warren, Washington CARE Center and STARS were two organizations both doing incredibly important work for our children and families in the community and they often work closely together. We have supported over a dozen agencies in our community since the inception of the race and we hope we will continue to do more through the support of our runners in this great event." President Cindy Amell, September 11, 2018.*



*Racers stretching before the 5K*



*Racers of all ages*

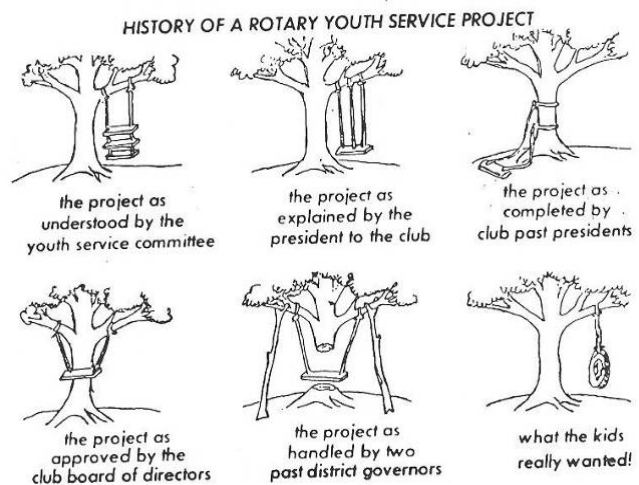
The picture on the right gives a sense of just how large the race is each year, with race numbers in the high three hundreds as shown on the runners' jerseys and racers stretching as far as the eye can see.



## The Fifth Avenue of Youth Service

When Rotary International added Youth Service to its official roster of undertakings, like many clubs, Glens Falls had been active with children almost from the beginning.

The Youth Committee was a natural evolution of the Boy's Work Committee from the 20's and the Buddy Club from the 30's through the late 50's. Picking up where its predecessors left off, the goal had always been to continue providing support and guidance, and opportunities for involvement in service by young people of the community.



The Club has actively endorsed the efforts of youth organizations such as the Glens Falls Youth Center, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and the YMCA by supplying Eagle kits, badges, or helping deserving kids to go to camp with a campership, to name a few.

In 1971, the committee sponsored a cross-country ski meet in Cole's Woods in Crandall Park. Under the direction of the Glens Falls Recreation Department, racers from area high schools as well as local youth competed for trophies and prizes. Rotary's responsibility included making sure the course and competitions were run efficiently and safely.

Because of this close working relationship, in 1984, the Jaycees and the Glens Falls Recreation Department asked for assistance staffing their annual fishing derby, held at Crandall Park pond. Since then, the Club has become the derby's main organizer and supporter, subsidizing expenses by selling coffee and donuts at the event.

The derby is open to all Glens Falls and Queensbury children. Held either in late April or early May, the event attracts hundreds of youthful fishermen, where attempts to catch the biggest fish are made. Trophies and prizes donated by area businesses are given to the largest and smallest fish landed. There are also awards presented to the winners of a fly reel casting contest.



For years in the capable hands of Bruce Lundgren (photo on left) and his committee, the program successfully provided children of all ages an opportunity to experience the joy of hooking their first fish. Today, new leaders such as Don Krebs and others have emerged, continuing this supervised youth adventure.



*Tom Haley and grandson at the derby*



*Past derby participants*

Another program dealing with pre-adults is “Rotary Youth Leadership Award” or RYLA, a Rotary leadership training program for students ages 14-18. Each year, the Glens Falls Club interviews and selects a number of hopeful candidates by underwriting their attendance fee to a special “camp.” There, courses are conducted encouraging initiative, developing critical skills, and promoting the power of youth to spearhead other youths. These future leaders are chosen more for their potential abilities to render public service rather than just pure academics.

Two other areas for pre-Rotarians are Interact and Rotaract. Interact asks youth ages 14-18 to form, in essence, a miniature version of a Rotary Club. These clubs can be single gender or mixed, large or small. They are created by a local club, primarily in one or more school systems, where Rotarians

offer the kids guidance in their service activities. The kids are expected to complete at least two community service projects each year, one of which should be international in nature. Shannon McKeighon and the Glens Falls High School Interact Club have been integral to many of our Club projects in recent years.

Rotaract is similar to Interact except the ages are 18-30. These clubs can be based in a community or university setting. Again, these young adults address issues related to the community by rendering service. Many “Rotaracters” assist or organize Interact Clubs, participate in RYLA, and are a great source of Ambassadorial or Group Study Exchange team members. The eventual hope is that as these young professionals will settle in their businesses and communities and become active Rotarians.

All of these programs—RYLA, Rotaract, and Interact— were suspended for up to three years due to the pandemic, but had resumed by 2023 to provide the youth of today the skills they will need to lead in a changing world.

### **The Youth Exchange Program**

Another Rotary agenda modified by the pandemic is the Youth Exchange program, which is one of the best-known examples of Rotary’s commitment to understanding through education. Each year, hundreds of American students ages 15-19 are sent overseas, while a like number of foreign students are received in return. Worldwide, thousands of exchanges typically occur, with each Rotary scholar spending an academic year attending an educational facility outside their home country.

The students are often housed with a host family who does not regularly speak their native dialect. The exchange students initially may struggle linguistically, but soon adapt to new customs or ways of living. In the process, they learn a great deal about themselves and their relationships with others. Not only do these goodwill ambassadors gain fresh insight, but through their daily interaction within the community, they share their culture, language, and life styles, bringing the world closer together.

The first involvement the Glens Falls Club had with exchange programs began in 1957, almost 10 years before Rotary International started its program. Rotarian Harold Long, a Glens Falls High School social studies department chair, organized a research study exchange program called “Improving the Teaching of World Affairs” or ITWA.

During the period from 1957 to 1963, over 200 visitors from 60 different countries came into the Glens Falls community under the ITWA banner. This interaction was responsible for motivating many teachers and students from the area to travel and study abroad.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *“The Rotary Club shared the expenses of lectures on world affairs, helped establish pen pal programs, and sponsored contests in which prizes were awarded to high school seniors for distinguished achievement in designated aspects of the ITWA program.” Harold Long, 1964.*

According to Mr. Long, “The Glens Falls community is genuinely interested in establishing communication with people from other lands.”\*

\* Harold Long, in conjunction with Rotarian Robert N. King, wrote of their experiences in a book published in 1964 called, *Improve the Teaching of World Affairs-The Glens Falls Story*. Many of the conclusions they formatted became the basis for teaching world affairs that are still being utilized today in school systems across the country. In 1966, Harold Long was named New York State Teacher of the Year and was a finalist in the National Teacher of the Year recognition.

Using his experiences from ITWA, Long developed an exchange program called HOST, “Helping Overseas Students and Teachers.” The first exchange student fully funded for a whole year by the Glens Falls Club under HOST was Daniel Mboya from Nairobi, Kenya. Invited to spend a year in Glens Falls, Daniel attended both Glens Falls High School and Adirondack Community College in 1963. Following graduation from the State University at Geneseo, he returned to Kenya and later was sent to Oxford University for additional training in the Foreign Diplomatic Service Corp.

He eventually represented his government by becoming Kenyan Ambassador to Sudan, Charge d’Affaires and Head of Mission in Ethiopia, and a special counselor to Japan. After serving in a cabinet position in the Kenyan government, he ended his career as Special U.N. Envoy to the Secretariat on Peace for the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development, working to bring peace and conflict resolution to Sudan and Africa.



*Daniel Mboya*

In May 2008, the Club arranged to have Mr. Mboya return to Glens Falls after 45 years absence. During an address to the Club he stated, “My heart is in Glens Falls. I feel very happy to be among you people again. You have made Daniel Mboya what he is today, and for that, words cannot repay your generosity. Thank you very much.”

His gratitude was answered with a standing ovation. For the rest of his stay, the former exchange student visited numerous schools throughout the area speaking on how the region shaped his life.

Starting in 1966, Rotary International began sponsoring its own student exchange program. Approximately 10 years of previous experience with exchanges proved valuable in Glens Falls when local student Suzanne Winbauer (Catana) went to Mexico and Sergio Zertuche came from Mexico here. Suzanne, who later joined the Glens Falls Rotary, commented she was originally scheduled to go to

Norway but, at the last minute, her country was changed to Mexico. She went to Mexico knowing “zero” Spanish. She returned fluent in the language, which she credited to the help she received while being hosted by Sergio’s parents. She acknowledges this “life changing” event facilitated her later qualifying for a Fulbright Scholarship.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *“It’s a daunting thought, to be away from your family and friends for a year.” Suzanne Winbauer (Catana) interview, December 6, 2007.*

Since 1966, an almost uninterrupted stream of kids from the Glens Falls-Queensbury area have applied to become exchange students. One example of how the Youth Exchange Program can become a family affair started in 1975-76 when Marite Guardabassi from Argentina stayed with Rotarians Jack and Donna Haanan. Approximately 30 years later, in 2005-06, Marite’s daughter Lourdes Gonzales was also an exchange student assigned to the Glens Falls-Queensbury School Systems. It is rare to have a mother and then a daughter exchange, and even rarer to have both exchange students hosted by the same Club.

One of the highlights of their stay that most foreign students talk about is a tradition started in the late 1980’s. Normally in February, all the Youth Exchange kids from across the district gathered in Glens Falls to enjoy a winter weekend in the North Country. These weekends originally were planned and organized by two men, Frederick “Fritz” Shenk (president, 1987-88) and John Porter (president, 1996-97).

The event started with a reception dinner on Friday, allowing the Rotarians of the Club to greet the young students. Then the next morning, the group would go for the day to Lake Placid and tour the Olympic facilities. Later that evening, after returning to Glens Falls, they and their local Rotary host families attended a hockey game at the Civic Center. On Sunday, everyone gathered at West Mountain Ski Center to try their hand—and other parts of their bodies—on the ski slopes before returning to their home clubs.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *“Edith and I have had over 20 students in the past 20 years stay with us, either for a weekend or as long as four months. Today, we still have the same problems of getting host families, not only of inviting these students for dinner, but also taking them for a three month stay. We have wonderful memories of this great international exchange and still keep in contact with students we hosted 10 years ago, now with their families.” John Porter, December 7, 1996.*

The weekend getaway was revised when exchange students from District 7190 combined forces with exchange students from District 7230 in the New York City area to hold a larger gathering at the YMCA facility located at Silver Bay. However, the getaway remains one of the major highlights for the exchange students of both districts. Like many previous events, COVID-19 has changed how the exchange programs are working. It is anticipated after the pandemic is successfully squelched, things will return to normal.



*A foreign exchange student on the slopes tubing*

**Voices of our Club Members:** *“Upon this occasion, I wonder how different my life would be were it not for the opportunity you provided me. I hope you continue to provide other students with this opportunity to meet new people and learn about both themselves and the world around them. The impact this program has is immeasurable. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be an exchange student, it changed my life.” Matthew Decker, exchange student to Sweden 1988-89, letter dated April 23, 1997.*

### **Club Fund Raising**

To a large degree, the ability to provide service to others has been directly related to the ability to raise funds—the more funds generated, the more services can be provided. In the early years, the main emphasis revolved around raising funds for the education or scholarship aspects of the Club. Most of the proceeds were used for student loans or to subsidize the activities of the Buddy Club. Any additional community involvement was normally left to the individual members to contribute their time, talent, or money.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *“General discussion was held on the need to involve all members, perhaps in some project to raise money for Rotary Service projects. Among the ideas suggested were: A Rotary Minstrel Show, an Air Show at Warren County airport, a bazaar, a rummage auction; it was suggested that Charles Wood be contacted to see if anything could be worked out, such as a Rotary day at Storytown. It was further suggested that club members be invited to submit in writing any suggestions they might have for generating funds.” Board of Directors minutes, December 12, 1973.*

A close working relationship existed with the other service groups and clubs in the area. A number of joint bowling or baseball fundraisers were conducted where the Glens Falls Club would either challenge or be challenged by the Kiwanis, Elks, or Lions or other Rotary Clubs.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *“A polyglot gathering-Kiwanians, Lions, Rotarians, guests, visitors, Red Cross workers, all mixed up--rather it would have better served the primary purpose of such a mass affair (getting acquainted) if we had been “all mixed up,”-- but club members seem to seek their own clan. Anyway, from the standpoint of size-and hotel profits-the meeting was a BIG success.” Weekly Letter, March 13, 1945.*

One of the longest remnants of those inter-service club challenges was the Glens Falls-Saratoga Bridge tournament. This event dates back to the 30's and, until 2003, tried to determine which club had better bridge players. Meeting several times over the winter months, the contestants had dinner together and then played bridge. At the end of the season, a trophy was awarded to the club with the better record. As bridge players became scarce, the efforts to keep this tradition alive finally ended.

An attempt to rekindle cooperation between all the service clubs in town started again in 2000, when President Bob Walter hosted the first annual inter-service dinner held at the Queensbury Hotel. Members of major service organizations used to meet occasionally to share a meal and compare notes. Since 2000, there have been few efforts to continue this practice. The advent of COVID has also put a damper on large mass gatherings.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *"Why not consider an inter-city meeting? Such meetings have drawn well from area clubs and have provided a night of entertainment and fellowship. We do not have enough of this sort of thing. No one seems to know why our members do not take an interest in this activity." Notes from a Fireside Chat, May 1957.*



Program Cover from Ginger Snaps, 1931

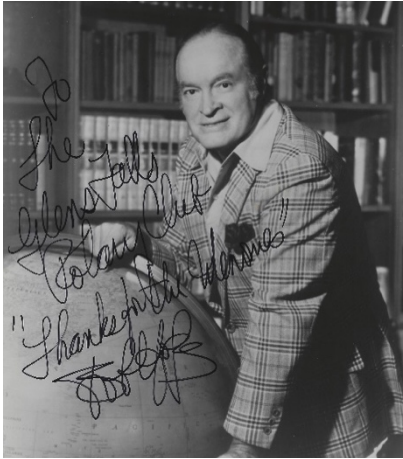
Perhaps the most unusual fundraisers were the production of several plays featuring many, if not all, of the Club members. During the late twenties and thirties, the Drama Committee organized these theatrical performances staged for the community.

The first production identified by the Club was a comedy/farce entitled "My Friend from India," written by Henry Du Souchet in 1896. It was performed in either 1928 or 1929 for the benefit of the Buddy Club. In 1931, the musical "Ginger Snaps" was performed at the Empire Theater on South Street, and in 1934, the "Rotary Players" presented "Cock Robin" as a benefit for the education fund.

The Club also sponsored a number of antique and art auctions in the mid-80's under Jack Irion, Frank Kelly, and Lloyd Cote. The idea was later revived by Club President Susan Balfour in 2000, 2002, and 2005. They proved to be modestly successful.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *"The sense of the meeting was to abandon the present time, place and format of the show and design the next show according to prudent business practice of reducing cost and increasing income." 1984 Antique Show post mortem.*

Starting in the late 1970's, the Club began experimenting with producing professional events that utilized either the Civic Center or other local large venues. In 1979, Rotary sponsored "Holiday on Ice," an ice show preformed at the Civic Center. The success of the "Holiday on Ice" venture led the Club to its single largest funding campaign up to that time. The Club took a gamble by booking Bob Hope, an appearance which netted over \$15,000.



Bob Hope

*The Post Star* reported on April 16, 1980, "Some 6,400 enthusiastic fans attended Hope's show and heard the superstar tweak Hometown, U.S.A. by purposely referring to it repeatedly as "Glen" Falls, and by good-naturedly referring to the civic center as a "garage."

Some of the proceeds from this show went to repair damage caused by vandals at the "Mount Trashmore" site. Funds also went to the Glens Falls Hospital to help support a Mobile Dental Unit proposed by Dr. Bob Westcott. The bulk of the money, over \$10,000, went to support the Hyde and Chapman Museums.

After Bob Hope, in 1981, the Rotarians underwrote an additional event, "Beatlemania," again held at the Civic Center. The rewards generated by the cover band were less than anticipated. Thinking the problem was seating, the Club next staged a "Youth Goodwill Mission" from Taiwan in conjunction with the Glens Falls chapter of the Friends of Free China, which promised Chinese folk songs, dances, and costumes along with an evening of fun and excitement. The event scheduled for October 1982 was well attended, but not a noted fundraiser. It was more of a concession to Rotarian Dr. Charles Eisenhart, president of the local Friends of China group.

The final attempt to produce hit shows came approximately two months later with a Rotary invitation to a national phenomenon called "Up With People." This popular show was touring the country and agreed to make a stop at the Glens Falls High School. Spending over \$10,675 to produce, the box office receipts came up roughly \$3,200 short. This loss was covered by a "loan" from the student loan fund. Since then, few attempts have been made to utilize this method for fundraising.

According to Steve Borgos, president 1980-1981, "They were a lot of fun doing but they were extremely time consuming." Because of the limited prospect of generating sizable revenue on a consistent basis, other ways to derive money needed to be discussed.

***Voice of our Club Members:*** "We were too slow on the project of selling food at the balloon festival. The consignment has been given to the Lions Club." Board of Directors minutes, September 14, 1977.



*Dr. John Schutze*

Switching its efforts from theatrical performances in 1982, the Club increased its attempts to become involved with the Adirondack Hot Air Balloon Festival. According to John Schutze, “Our club’s association with the Adirondack Balloon Festival began when Frank Kelly, the outgoing president and I met with Walt Grishkot and ‘negotiated’ an agreement with the festival.”

The agreement was to hold a special Rotary event in downtown Glens Falls to help expand the festival. A committee chaired by Tim Seeley and Mark Kubricky met to develop and organize the new idea.

On September 21, 1985, the first annual Glens Falls Rotary Club “Balloon Release” was held on Glen Street near the walkway along Exchange Street. During the festival, little name cards were sold and attached to several hundred small helium-filled balloons. The balloons were gathered under a large net and, after proper fanfare, launched all at once. If a card was returned, cash prizes were awarded to the individual balloons that had traveled the greatest distance from Glens Falls. The remaining money went towards the Club’s community projects.

Jack Irion, president 1986-87, remembered those days by citing an incident where, “Several of us were lifted off our feet and almost sailed away at (the) balloon festival. We had filled (the) balloons and they were under a net in downtown Glens Falls. A heavy wind came up and we almost went good-bye.” The mini-balloon launch proved to be very popular and was a welcome addition to the festival.

In 1988, after concerns were expressed to the Club and balloon festival officials that these types of mass launchings might be environmentally harmful, the Balloon Release was discontinued. As a substitute, the idea of frying bread dough was suggested. Gaining knowledge and guidance from Saseen “Doc” Joseph, a local restaurant owner, along with borrowing some of his equipment, the Rotary Club of Glens Falls joined the food court with the Lion’s Club hamburgers and hot dogs and the Flying Farmer’s breakfast.

This greasy treat found a strong market and huge demand at the balloon festival. Two years later, in 1989, the Club expanded its operation to include the LARAC Summer Arts Festival. With attendance at the balloon festival in excess of 60-70,000, and LARAC drawing more than 30,000 people to the downtown City Park, Glens Falls Club volunteers now cook several hundreds of pounds of dough at each venue to satisfy the cravings of these crowds. The unique flavor of our Rotary bread dough is now a permanent fixture at both these massive community events.

Frying bread dough became so popular with many of the members that a song about it was written by Steve Holmes. It was not unusual for those working the bread dough booth to raise their voices and issue forth:

Oh, the best fried dough is  
Rotary fried dough  
It will make your arteries harder  
It's got cholesterol and that's not all,  
It will make your waist size larger.  
Rotary fried dough is the best fried dough  
The best fried dough by far  
If you're in the know,  
You'll try Rotary fried dough,  
The best fried dough I know.

It's hard to imagine Rotarians of the Club singing this song when there was such a reluctance to sing each week at the meetings.



*Balloon festival and sign for the Rotary Fried Dough Trailer*

Over two, two-day weekends, the bread dough production generated sufficient revenue to operate the Club and most of its service commitments for the year.

Since 1988, the Club has become very adept at serving the public. The Club transitioned from borrowed equipment, to renting deep fat fryers, to eventually having Dick Merrill and Jack Haanan design and manufacture custom burners. A major step was taken in 2004 during President Linc Cathers term, when the board approved the expenditure of almost \$50,000 to purchase a specifically built trailer to house the entire operation.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *"I do not think that we should feel that we need to have a project each year. On the other hand, if there is some important and worthwhile thing that we can do for the betterment of Glens Falls, we should undertake it. I am not one of those who feel that a Rotary Club justifies its existence just by being one."*  
*Walter P. Reichert, Weekly Letter dated November 10, 1953.*



*Rotary volunteers preparing dough*



*A typical line for fried dough*



*Rotarians (left to right): Courtney Smith, Patti Pape, Dave Bogue, John Fitzgerald, Kevin O'Brien, and Harrison Freer stand duty at the bread dough trailer during the LARAC festival*



Who do you buy your bread dough from: Dave Schwenker, pictured on the left, or Patti Pape, pictured on the right?



Perhaps the greatest example of the Club's commitment to "something important and worthwhile" came in 1997 with the Adirondack Air Show. Knowing the Club's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary was approaching, a group of selected Rotary leaders were called together in late 1994 by Dr. Bob Westcott to discuss appropriate ways of celebrating the milestone. They talked about ideas such as writing a short history of the Club, hosting a grand party, and putting on an air show to benefit the Glens Falls Hospital.



*Patty Wagstaff*

For almost two years, the air show committee, under co-chairs John Porter and Fred Carvin, developed and planned this event, which involved the coordination of approximately 400 people, a host of governmental agencies and permits, multiple vendors, dozens of companies, several clubs, and Glens Falls Rotarians towards one goal: bringing quality acts of aviation skills to the Warren County Floyd Bennett airport.

Headliner Patty Wagstaff, three-time US National Aerobatics Champion, led a cast of performers including The Black Hawks duo, The Misty Blues parachute team, Stan Segalla, "The Flying Farmer," and Sandy Rosell's vintage P-80 Shooting Star as they entertained thousands of spectators over the weekend of June 7 and 8, 1997.

The greatest thrills occurred eight days earlier when, on May 29, 1997, the Canadian aerobatic jet team "The Snowbirds" displayed their stuff in a special appearance. Unable to adjust their schedule to fit in at the regularly scheduled air show, the group agreed to provide a unique one-time exhibition a few days prior. Excited to host this great team, the pre-show was hoped to be the perfect way to create a lot of anticipation and enthusiasm for the main air show.

If publicity and advertising was what the Club wanted, it got more than it bargained for when two of the jets collided, narrowly avoiding a major catastrophe. Knowing that bad news sells more papers, the media "took off." It's unsure whether the eight days of "media coverage" helped or hindered the show, but in the end, the Club netted approximately \$60,000, making the air show the largest single fundraiser to date.

According to Celeste McCrory, president of CenterPoint Air Show Management Company, "For a first-year show to breakeven is good. To show a sizable profit is outstanding."

The accomplishments of this united effort by the Club showed, once again, its ability and willingness to successfully undertake major fundraising missions when the good of the community was involved.

That characteristic was again exemplified in July 1999 when the Fund-Raising Committee, chaired by Kay Walter, presented an outline of a car raffle proposal to generate money to the board of directors. Fine tuning the idea in March 2000, Board Director Monty Robinson suggested the profits from this venture be directed towards a new group called the Homeless Youth Coalition, with which he had been working. The coalition was a collaboration of people interested in eliminating the growing problem of homeless kids in Warren and Washington Counties. Certainly, any financial help given to them would be appreciated.

Making connection with *The Post Star's* annual charity rodeo, the West Mountain Ski Center, and the Great Escape, Club members sold tickets for a Chevy Blazer that was raffled off during the Adirondack Balloon Festival in late September 2000. President Bob Walter announced that 825 tickets were sold, and presented the coalition with a check for \$17,000. This money went towards a down payment on a house to shelter children left homeless due to family problems, abuse, or by simply being unwanted.

For the next couple of years, Rotarians sold raffle tickets for a Chrysler PT Cruiser to benefit the Stigma Action Coalition and their "Catch A Falling Star" program, raising awareness about mental illness. The winner had the choice of a Chevy car, truck, or boat, with the proceeds bolstering the general funds of the Club.

Once again, while the raffle results were very successful, the Club members either did not like selling tickets or were weary of the idea. Feeling the pushback, Club leadership discontinued this means of making money by looking for something more satisfying to produce the needed revenues.

Certainly, the Club always did an outstanding job producing results for specific projects such as the Glens Falls Hospital, the Homeless Youth Coalition, and many others, but when combined with its other obligations, the money never seemed to stretch far enough to cover all the needs.

This was very obvious in 1998, when, due to unusual weather conditions, both the balloon festival and LARAC Arts Festival bread dough sales hit historical lows, and Club President Fred Carvin's spending on humanitarian and community projects was at an all-time high. This shortage led to the planning and creation of the first annual Glens Falls Rotary Golf Tournament, under the direction of Joe Trombley and Lloyd Cote.



Started on September 24, 1998, at the Hiland Golf Club, the tournament consistently provided the additional currency needed to operate the Club's activities in the community and for international service. The picture on the left shows Joe Trombley (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) and team.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *"I have to say I was humbled beyond belief at the support the club gave to Glens Falls Hospital. The Board of the club authorized a substantial gift through the Glens Falls Rotary Club Foundation and Bill Smith organized and helped build a 'mini hospital' – it toured the region and raised more than \$4,000. I will never be able to thank the club enough for all they did." Ray Agnew, e-mail January 8, 2022.*

Another project started by Jim Goodspeed and Leo Rigby was getting the Club involved with a micro-credits program. They learned about several Rotary-inspired programs that created loans primarily for women who were in the process of beginning new small businesses. Since most banks were reluctant to provide these types of "micro" loans, the idea was to generate funds and have them administered by a trustee.

As the women paid back the loans, the money would be recycled, thus continuing the lending process into the future. Approximately \$10,000 was raised towards the goal. Working with our partners in Haiti, the money was forwarded to Fonkoze, an authorized controller for distribution to qualified business prospects.

### **The Rotary Foundation**

The Rotary Foundation (TRF) had its inception at the 1917 International Association of Rotary Clubs Convention held in Atlanta, Georgia. There, the sixth Rotary President, Arch Klumph, recommended an endowment fund be established, "for the purpose of doing good in the world in charitable, educational and other avenues of community progress." In 1928, the Endowment Fund changed its name to "The Rotary Foundation" and placed all the responsibilities for generating revenue and determining how those funds were to be spent under the supervision of a separate board of trustees.

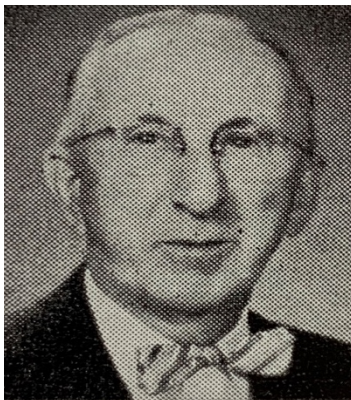
The first grant approved by the trustees was to the International Society of Crippled Children in 1930. This society was the predecessor to the "March of Dimes" and, later, the "Easter Seals"

movement. It wasn't until after Paul Harris died in 1947 that the Foundation's coffers really grew. Rotarians worldwide searching for ways to express their grief over the Rotary founder's death started sending contributions to the Foundation. From around the globe, almost two million dollars came in to the Paul Harris Memorial Fund.

A good portion of these funds were used in 1947 to grant 18 "Foundation Fellowships" to students willing to study in a country other than their own. This program later evolved into the "Ambassadorial Scholarship" program. For almost 10 years after Harris' death, the money kept coming in. Then, in 1957, the board of directors designed a permanent way to honor the father of Rotary. They decreed that anyone making a total contribution of \$1,000 or more would be known as a Paul Harris Fellow.

In recognition of this donation, a Paul Harris Fellow receives a certificate, is allowed to wear a special pin, and is presented with a bronze medallion signifying their noteworthy contributions. Although the honoree is expected to contribute funds towards this award, one feature of the Paul Harris Fellowship is that clubs or other individuals can bestow the award to other Rotarians or individuals worthy of the distinction.

Since that time, many other categories of recognition for various levels of support have been created. Sustaining Members, Benefactor and Bequest Society, the Paul Harris Society, Major Donors, and the Arch Klumph Society all represent significant monetary assistance to promote the work of the Foundation.



*Ed Trimbley*

The first Glens Falls Rotarian to receive the Paul Harris Fellowship designation was Edward J. Trimbey, district governor 1953-54. Sending a considerable donation to the Foundation in 1949, Ed became one of the first 10 men to qualify for the "official" Paul Harris award in 1957.

Because of Ed's early and continued support, his Paul Harris Award was back dated to 1949. Almost single handedly, Ed Trimbey's financial support established the Glens Falls Club as one of the nationally top ranked clubs for individual giving.

Today, he is recognized as the Club's first "Major Donor," signifying a personal cash contribution in excess of \$10,000 to The Rotary Foundation. Overlooking Ed Trimbey's extemporaneous financial backing, the Club was slow in appreciating the role of The Rotary Foundation. Almost 30 years passed before the next Paul Harris Fellow was granted to Arthur P. Irving in 1979.

According to Bob Krug, president 1983-84, "I was rather appalled to find that a sixty-one-year-old club the size of ours could only claim two Paul Harris Fellows. I discussed it passionately with my

board and we each agreed to immediately become sustaining members. We then made periodic pleas at meetings encouraging others to do the same. It now delights me to read the names of thirty-eight Fellows and twenty-three sustaining members.”

Since that time, the list of Paul Harris Fellows has grown considerably, along with a sustained campaign to raise money for the Foundation. To date, Fred Carvin, Harry Durling, Linc Cathers, Dave Lebel, Mike Scoville, Shelle Kelz, and John Mucha have joined Ed Trimbey as Major Donors. Currently, the Club has over 168 officially recognized Paul Harris Fellows.

The Glens Falls Club has benefited from dozens of Rotary International Foundation programs over the years. While many of the opportunities have either been changed or dropped, numerous Club members, their family, or friends have participated in the Group Study Exchange (GSE) teams, 3-H grants, Ambassadorial Scholarships, Matching Grants, and other TRF-sanctioned programs.

The earliest involvement was mainly with the Ambassadorial Scholarship program, which is an all-expenses paid grant for one year of post-graduate study in a foreign country. Applicants had to prove scholastic ability, possess qualities of friendship, show leadership skills, and have an interest in international affairs.

Six local Glens Falls students successfully applied for Fellowship grants to continue their education abroad: Robert McNulty studying at Oxford University, England, in 1951-52; Susan Bridge at the Sorbonne University, France, in 1961-62; Neil Akins at the University of Glasgow, Scotland, in 1968-69; David Little at the University of Goettingen, Germany, in 1970-71; Mary Donovan at Cardiff University, Wales, in 1978-79; and John A. Gallucci at Avignon University, France, in 1981-82.



*Alex Torok welcomes a GSE team from Brazil*

The other major sector of Rotary Foundation involvement by the Club has been in hosting or being a part of Group Study Exchange teams. The GSE concept promoted a shared learning experience between paired districts in different countries. A group of young, non-Rotarian professionals ages 25-40, under the leadership of a local Rotarian, traveled from District 7190 to study the culture, business practices, and traditions of another part of the world.

At approximately the same time, a team of similar individuals from the international district visited the Capital Region to understand the social, economic, and customs of this area. A host Rotary

club provided food, local transportation, housing, and a schedule of events for the teams as they toured various parts of the district over a four-to-five-week timeframe.

Hundreds of these exchange members over the years have been invited by local Rotarians to stay with their families as they toured the Glens Falls community. Some of the non-Rotarian Glens Falls residents who have participated on Group Study Exchange teams include Daniel Gealt, who exchanged to District 463 in Brazil in 1981; Shirin Parsavand, who exchanged with District 2430 in Turkey in 1991; and Michael Seeley who visited District 3030 in India in 1992.

Christine McDonald exchanged in 1993 to District 4290 in Columbia and Caprice “Cappie” Sellars exchanged to the Philippines in 1996, along with Sue Beadle who visited Ghana in 1999. Later, both Cappie Sellers and Christine McDonald joined the Rotary Club of Glens Falls. Rotarian team leaders from the Club included Dr. Jacqueline Touba who went to India in 2001, followed by Don Hess to Korea in 2002, while Ted Brothers led a team to District 4630 in Brazil in 2007.



*Dr. Jacqueline Touba*



*Ted Brothers*



*Don Hess*

One final area that the Glens Falls Club has used The Rotary Foundation was with Matching Grants. Although the Grants programs rules have been adjusted over the years, funds have been made available for various projects based on club and district contributions to TRF.

### **Rotary Group Study Exchange to India, January 2001, by Dr. Jacqueline Touba**

I was the Team Leader from the Glens Falls Rotary Club for three young, professional men in the social welfare field. The exchange was with Orissa Province on the Bay of Bengal, India. The team flew to Bhubaneswar, where we were picked up and driven 60 miles to Puri to attend the District Conference. The trip was an introduction to driving on Indian roads with sacred cows roaming freely as well as pedestrians, motorbikes, cars, trucks, and other vehicles. Indian drivers are the best in the world to navigate such a situation. While in Puri, I discovered the local Rotary had planned a trip that would have taken nearly two months to complete. Thus, the first task was working with the Indian Rotarians to reroute the trip to fit into our one-month schedule. We needed to return to Bhubaneswar in time to get a flight home as there were only two cities in the province that had an airport.

After the conference, the group boarded a train to the next city on the agenda. The group visited schools, including a school for the blind, hospitals, and an agricultural village, and attended Rotary meetings. We all stayed with different families in all the scheduled cities. The next city was quite large but did not have piped water supply and many residents had Sickle Cell Anemia. The government had to trek water in by truck. We visited a doctor's office that had the only x-ray machine in the city, and it was quite old. Everywhere we visited people asked us for assistance, but the Rotarians in this city requested an ambulance to transport people with Sickle Cell Anemia to the nearest larger city for blood transfusions. In fact, they were not really asking for an ambulance of the kind found in the West, but rather a simple van they could consider as an ambulance.

This was a project that seemed necessary and doable, so the Glens Falls Rotary collaborated with the Indian Rotary Club and wrote a grant for the District upon returning to the US. It would only cost around \$8,000, but save thousands of lives. The project was accomplished, and the van was painted with the Rotary Symbol with the district identified as 7190.

The team sometimes traveled by train, sometimes by land rover, and sometimes in private cars. One time, we were scheduled to take a train to the next city but we had to wait for hours because there were disturbances and strikes on the tracks. Finally, we started but were told not to disembark at the original location because of disturbances. We had to continue to the next province and disembark at a whistle stop, allowing two minutes to disembark in the middle of the night. We just hoped that the Rotarians had made the appropriate arrangements for us to be picked up in the middle of nowhere—and they did. The families bent over backward to show the team their best hospitality, and the trip was extremely beneficial for the team even though it had moments of uncertainty.

The last city we visited had recently had a cyclone hit it and all the trees were destroyed. The Rotary Club there wanted to establish a nursery of fruit trees to be distributed to the villages that would have two functions: first to replant trees and second to provide food and possible income for the villages. Upon return to the US, the Glens Falls Rotary wrote another grant to provide the Indian Rotary Club with funds to establish the tree nursery, which would have enormous repercussions for the area.

In general, Orrisa is an agricultural poor area of India and has many problems. It is far away from the seat of government and does not receive resources. Our projects made a small dent in helping the needs of the Rotary district.

### **The Glens Falls Rotary Club Foundation**

At times, there has been confusion between The Rotary Foundation (TRF) and the Glens Falls Club Foundation. They are two separate and distinct operations. The Rotary Foundation is located and administered by Rotary International in Evanston, Illinois. Contributions to this Foundation are received

from Rotarians around the world. It is the main funding tool for providing educational opportunities or humanitarian grants to improve the quality of life, mainly internationally.

The Glens Falls Rotary Club Foundation is a separate branch of the Glens Falls Club and is the major funding mechanism for most of the Club's service projects or commitments locally. The biggest confusion between the two foundations often comes when members make their birthday table contributions or other individual donations. They believe the amounts given to the Glens Falls Foundation will be credited towards Paul Harris Fellowship pledges and find out this is not the case. The fact is that any money given to the Glens Falls Rotary Club Foundation does not count towards the Rotary International Foundation or its programs. Rotarians must be very careful to designate which Foundation they want their support to be credited.

The evolution of the Glens Falls Rotary Club Foundation began shortly after the Rotary Club was incorporated on September 25, 1925. This incorporation, done initially to receive a parcel of land donated by Elmer J. West, was established as a "membership corporation" under the 1905 US legal code that granted authority, "to carry out the purposes of a Rotary Club duly formed under Rotary International." This allowed the Club to receive donations of property and conduct activities normally associated with a "charitable" organization as outlined by Rotary International.

In 1931, Frank Smalley's "Education Fund" was established as an independent entity apart from the general accounting of the Club. By the mid-1940's, questions about the status of this separate fund were raised: did it also fall under the guidelines as described in the tax codes? On November 10, 1944, a letter from the board of directors was written to the Honorable J. Edward Singleton proposing that the Glens Falls Club establish a "Foundation" to be administrated by the Rotary Scholarship Committee. From this correspondence, it appears an honest attempt was made to form a separate "legal" foundation specifically for the Educational Fund.

Unfortunately, the outcome of this request is not clear. No further documentation could be found nor any other records indicating a legally constituted foundation was actually created. Apparently, the Club believed all the necessary paperwork had been completed as the scholarship/ education loan committee ran the account as if a foundation had been fashioned. They annually elected trustees to oversee the proper distribution of the money. This segregated function remained apart from the general operation of the Club. Where appropriate, many of those who contributed to this "Foundation" presumed they were entitled to utilize any tax benefits generated.

Once again, because of increasing sensitivity regarding the ever-changing tax laws and the importance of allowing contributions to charitable institutions to be tax deductible, questions were raised in the early 1990's about the true legal status of the "Glens Falls Foundation." In an effort to resolve those issues, the Club's official corporate standings were reviewed in relation to Rotary International and the separate education fund was legally brought into compliance with current tax

codes under Section 501(C)3. The Glens Falls Rotary Club Foundation was officially and legally created in 1993.

The Glens Falls Rotary Foundation has received several sizable bequests beginning with Elmer West in 1925. Rotarians George Sauter and J. Ernest Miller made arrangements to leave part of their estates to the Foundation. J. Ernest Miller, a former president of the Queensbury Central Volunteer Fire Department who helped construct their firehouse in 1950, remembered the Foundation in his will.



*Linc Cathers*

Monetary estate gifts were received from many people including former Club President Elmer (Earl) Ellsworth, former District Governor Rev. Gary Germann, and Adirondack Community College benefactor Merritt (Mike) Scoville. Others included Harry Durling and Linc Cathers, showing how much these men loved and respected the role of Rotary and the activities of the Glens Falls Club in helping the community and the world.

### **The Gift of Life by Robert Rosoff, Current Treasurer, District 7190**

The Gift of Life started in the Capital Region as a district project in 1984 after a critically needed heart operation was provided to little Katya Bargiozzi, an eight-year-old girl from Venezuela. Her family was visiting relatives in the Schenectady area when she was diagnosed with a severe heart condition by physicians at Albany Medical Hospital. Suffering from a potentially fatal narrowing of the aorta, the \$25,000 cost of the corrective surgery was well beyond the means of the Venezuelans.

A friend of the family, Rossann Ferrari, pledged her restaurant as collateral and established a special fund to accumulate the necessary money so the operation could be done immediately. She also contacted a group she had heard about on Long Island, called the Gift of Life (GOL).

This organization, established in 1974, gained notoriety in 1983 when they successfully brought two children from Korea on Air Force One with the help of Nancy Reagan. One of the founders, Robbie Donno, made contact with District Governor Bill Baird of the Schenectady Club. Robbie then began a district-wide campaign to help raise the additional revenue needed to settle the medical costs at Albany Medical.

In a very short period of time, Rotarians contributed more than \$16,000 towards this mission of mercy. Realizing this program needed to be administered locally, Governor Baird assigned past District Governor Al Courtney, along with Glens Falls Rotarian Phil Santasiero and others, to explore the possibility of creating a Gift of Life program in the Capital District area.



Roughly one year later, in 1985, a new 501(C)3 non-profit corporation was launched with a mission statement, “To foster and promote care and alleviation of the condition of those, especially children, suffering from heart disease, other similar or allied diseases and any other life-threatening conditions.”

What is unique about the GOL is that it is sanctioned by Rotary International, allowing them to use the Rotary logos, but it is not recognized as an official “structured program” and, therefore, is not directly funded by Rotary International.



*Gift of Life photos*

District 7190’s Gift of Life Board of Directors are chosen from and elected by the members of the local clubs. In addition, the immediate past district governor, current district governor, governor-elect, and nominee also serve as ex-officio officers. One hundred percent of the funding for the Gift of Life comes from voluntary contributions from those clubs and individual Rotarians, along with any support from area corporations, bequests, or memorials.

The Glens Falls Club has taken a keen interest in supporting this program by making substantial contributions from the budget each year and/or conducting different events for its benefit. Several Club Rotarians have served in different capacities including Alex Torok, Tom Haley, Jack Cushing, Susan Balfour, and Dr. Bob Reid. Other Glens Falls Rotarians who have served the Gift of Life include past District Governors Fred Carvin and John Mucha, and Bob Rosoff.



*Ed Hooker, Bill Levandowski, and Jack Cushing pack medical supplies*

Dr. Robert Westcott was elected president of the corporation from 1993 to 1995, where he helped arrange operations not only in Albany, but also in California and New York. While most of the operations are conducted at Albany Medical, in 1998, Nelson Salazar from Guatemala was brought to the Glens Falls Hospital to undergo radical surgery that saved his life.

Working with the Glens Falls Guatemala Medical Mission, local Rotarians got to see the program up close and in action.

Glens Falls Rotarians were involved in sending several shipments of medical supplies and equipment arranged under the auspices of the GOL to such far off locations as Russia, Peru, Mexico, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, and Belize. Glens Falls individuals have helped coordinate, transport, and greet children from Venezuela, Korea, Russia, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Tatarstan, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Peru, Kenya, Columbia, Guatemala, Antigua, Ukraine, Honduras, Bosnia, Zimbabwe, Haiti, China, Nicaragua, Mongolia, and the Philippines.

Hundreds of individuals have been helped by the GOL's medical missions to Honduras and Dominican Republic, where medical teams are sent to perform heart operations. Currently, the main emphasis for most Gift of Life organizations, of which there are dozens around the world, is supporting Vocational Training Teams (VTT). These teams are assembled and sent to various third-world countries where they perform 50 or more heart operations while also training the local doctors on how to do the surgeries themselves. The two-week missions have included teams from Albany Medical, most notably to Romania, Bolivia, Pakistan, and the Philippines.



*Young child from Mongolia at Albany Medical*

Funds are accumulated from several GOL groups like ours. Money is also given by The Rotary International Foundation under the Global Grants program.

From its beginnings in our area in the late 80's, representatives from Glens Falls have been a part of this organization as it performs its duties of alleviating heart and other related diseases in children—a record of success the Club can be very proud of.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *“Overall, looking at all the clubs in the district, not that we don't have shortcomings or that we couldn't do things better, but in the aggregate, this is the best club. We're always here—and always responsive.” Lincoln Cathers, interview December 20, 2007.*

## **A Closer Look**

Over its 100 years, the Club has had many items that it accumulated but which eventually disappeared. The piano was one such item. On November 13, 1975, then Club Secretary Orson C. Beaman wrote, “We were pleased that one of our members, Lowell Henry, recently gave our club a piano. We appreciate your willingness to let us keep this piano in our meeting room. It seems to me that it should be put in the record that this piano is the property of the Glens Falls Rotary Club.” Apparently, this simple request was never acted on. In the early 1970's, the Club moved its meeting location from the Queensbury Hotel to several other locations—the final fate of the piano is unknown.



*William Nicoll and Dr. Charles Eisenhart with giant gavel*

The same can be said for another prized possession, “The Gavel.” Back in 1966, one of the Club’s newer members, Milt Klein, noticed then Club President Bill Bitner was beating the meeting gong with the wooden handle of his knife. Believing a more appropriate method of calling the Club to order was needed, Rotarian Milt purchased two beautifully made and suitably inscribed gavels with his own funds.

The first was a king-sized mallet measuring two to three feet in length. The second was a smaller, normal-sized device. Both were identified as property of the Glens Falls Rotary. It was believed because of the unusual size of the big mallet and the identification tags neither of these items could be lost or stolen. It’s unclear when the smaller gavel disappeared. The gigantic mallet went missing sometime in 1995. To date, neither has been found nor returned. After the latest gavel disappeared sometime during the pandemic, President Kathy Grasmeder, as a parting gift, provided incoming Club President Jennifer Brink with a brand-new gavel in 2022. Perhaps President Bitner was on to something in using his knife handle.

Sometime in the summer of 2005, comments between a couple of friends set in motion a golf challenge between the Glens Falls Rotary Club and Glens Falls Kiwanis Club. Kiwanian Karl Klein and Rotarian Rob Spratt worked extremely hard to put the tournament together. Held on September 20, 2005, at the Kingswood Golf Club, the Glens Falls team led by former Club President Lloyd Cote was victorious. Lloyd presented the trophy to the Club with the strains of “We Will Rock You” loudly pounding from a boombox. A good time was had by all. At the next meeting, it was announced the golf tournament raised \$7,000. Rotarian Spratt introduced Kiwanis President Karl Klein who graciously accepted defeat amid lots of good-natured ribbing. He stated the event had been good for both Clubs creating a ton of camaraderie and fun-filled spirits, along with some cash for the communities.

As the meeting broke up, no one noticed the Kiwanian had secretly purloined the trophy as he walked out the door. A few days later, a ransom note was received demanding compensation. On November 10, Rob Spratt announced he would attend a dinner meeting at LaFontana in Hudson Falls to rescue our trophy. He would bring a fictitious ransom check to negotiate the exchange.

Apparently, something went wrong during the swap because it wasn’t until August of the following year before Spratt held up the missing trophy before the Glens Falls Rotarians—along with the Kiwanis club bell and gavel. Again, the Glens Falls Club was triumphant. These items were not returned until after the Kiwanians tied Glens Falls at the third annual golf tournament in 2007. The

winning Kiwanis team was determined by a coin flip tossed by Rotary President Jean Lapper. Otherwise, the pilfering and shenanigans might still be going on today.

A third prized possession of the Club disappeared more recently. A relic from the Glens Falls - Saratoga bridge tournament dinner, there was a silver-plated trophy cup that was exchanged at the end of the year to the winning Rotary Club. When the clubs stopped playing, the Glens Falls group became the final owner. After 30 years or more of use, the trophy had seen a lot of wear and was in need of repair. Pat Joyce saw some hidden potential and spent a great deal of time and elbow grease polishing and shining the old artifact. It was given to the 50-50 table who used the trophy cup as the ticket holder for the potential winning numbers that were drawn. Each week for several years this holdover from the past continued to serve an important function. Finally, after almost 70 years of dedicated service, it too, disappeared in the dead of night.

### **The Queensbury Hotel Story**

Rotary has often claimed to be older than the Chamber of Commerce in its affiliation with business entities. The fact is, the Chamber of Commerce in many communities can trace their beginnings back to the 1700-1800's. This is especially true in Europe, where different guilds and industries bonded together for both political and economic power. In April 1912, at the request of then President Woodrow Wilson, hundreds of Chambers across the United States joined together to form the US Chamber of Commerce. This date is roughly seven years after the founding of Rotary in Chicago by Paul Harris in February 1905.

It was not until 1914 that many of the Glens Falls merchants merged to create the Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce under the US Chamber's banner. This is roughly eight years prior to the establishment of the Glens Falls Rotary. Glens Falls, at this time, was a small but growing community whose wealth was created by paper mills, insurance companies, and chemical plants, which all prospered in the surrounding areas. There were a couple of hotels that serviced the occasional traveler, but these were mostly rooming houses that did not offer many of the amenities that hotels in larger cities could provide.

In 1916, the local chamber began seriously looking into the idea of building a brand-new hotel in downtown Glens Falls. The president of the chamber, Elmer West, also president of the local electric company, asked Frank Smalley of the Glens Falls Insurance Company to set up a committee dedicated to accomplishing this task. Fred W. Wiley, who owned a dry goods store, B.F. McCreery, a merchant, and George Bayle, owner of the Boston Store, answered the call. By 1924, the committee had exhausted dozens of proposals.

At a meeting chaired by Mr. Smalley, George Bayle stated, "The opportune time had arrived for Glens Falls to have a modern hotel." Mr. Bayles outlined the committee's conclusion: they had reached an agreement with American Hotel Corp., who would be part owner and operator of the new facility.

Certain provisions were guaranteed over a three-year period if American Hotel didn't hit its stated goals. All the community needed to do was raise \$600,000 dollars and construction would begin.

The first stock went on sale on March 17, 1924. In one day, they had subscriptions of over \$217,000. Over the next few days, they received block purchases from Finch Pruyn and Glens Falls Insurance Co. for \$50,000 each. By April 1924, the committee met with representatives of J.G. White Company of New York City, one of the largest construction firms in the country. In June, American Hotel closed on the purchase of the Marsh house on the corner of Ridge and Maple Streets. After the site was razed, construction broke ground for the new building. Concrete was poured in March 1925, with steel and brick work soon to follow. The project was completed by May 6, 1926, when The Queensbury Hotel officially opened its doors.

The first Board of Directors was elected to help American Hotel manage the new enterprise. The initial directors were Frank Smalley, Chair, Dan Cowles, George Bayles, George Tait, Judge James McPhillips, Benjamin Franklin McCreery, and Fred Wiley. What does this all have to do with Rotary?

With the exception of Judge James McPhillips, the new board of directors of the Queensbury Hotel all were founding/charter members of the Glens Falls Rotary. Judge McPhillips joined Rotary shortly after the Club was formed. Along with Elmer West, George Sauter, and Charles Wiley, son of Fred Wiley, dozens of other prominent Rotarians in the community all played major roles in the creation of the hotel. Within a few days, the board of directors of the Rotary Club, including Dr. Fred Field as president, C.V Peters, Fred Richards, William Curtis, Art Irving, Daniel Imrie, and J. Thatcher Sears, voted to move the Club's meeting site to the new hotel in the center of Glens Falls.

### **Men and Women Working Together**

On December 16, 1918, a group of five women attended a Christmas holiday party held by the Kiwanis Club of Buffalo, New York. The Kiwanis Club was an all-male service organization based on many of the same precepts of Paul Harris's original Rotary Club of Chicago. Members were recruited through a strict professional and business classification system, limiting membership in order to secure the strongest pool of varied experience for civic service. One of the main differences between the two organizations was new members paid a royalty to Kiwanis founder Allen S. Browne, while Rotary placed a stronger emphasis on business relationships.

The five women were interested in forming a similar club exclusively for executive women. The new club would model elements drawn from both the Kiwanis and Rotary Club examples. Hoping to empower women through service and advocacy, they wanted to take advantage of the changes brought by World War I. Women's services were needed in a wide range of occupations to replace men who had volunteered or were drafted into the armed forces. Prior to the war, women were paid poorly for menial jobs with little possibilities of advancement. The opportunities presented by factory

employment, including better pay and more freedom, along with demanding the right to vote, was the start of important social and cultural changes that continue to this day.

A few months later, on February 6, 1919, these ladies successfully launched the first “Quota Club of Buffalo.” By November of that year, their idea had spread to nine cities across upstate New York and Michigan (Buffalo, Rochester, Elmira, Syracuse, Erie, Ithaca, Binghamton, Utica, and Detroit, Michigan.) They also changed the name from the Quota Club to Zonta, which is Sioux for trustworthy or honest.

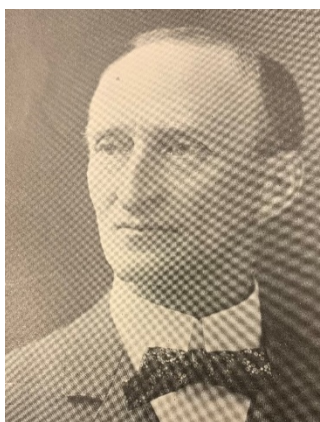
Zonta was born in Glens Falls on February 12, 1924, under the leadership of Florence Bromley. One of the first members of the Board of Directors was Katherine Sears, wife of J. Thatcher Sears, who was the head master at the Glens Falls Academy and a Charter Member in 1922 of the Glens Falls Rotary Club. Both Katherine and Thatcher dedicated a lot of time to their chosen organizations.



Katherine (pictured on the left) served as Zonta president and later as a district representative for Zonta in upstate New York. Thatcher also served as the second president of the Glens Falls Club and later was among the first district governors in 1927-1928.

According to Zonta records, a meeting was held in April 1925 at Katherine’s home where the ladies were making plans for their summer work projects. About the only thing decided was that they needed money. The meeting ended when it was proposed that a card party would be their salvation.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *“Of course we had ‘eats’ at Katherine’s- There was just one man to join us but that was enough for ‘some’ people.” Zonta newsletter, April 24, 1925.*



Elmer West

In 1925, Katherine attended a Zonta Convention in Toledo, Ohio. The story goes that Katherine asked the bellhop, “Please call me a cab, boy.” To which he replied, “Well, I might call you a cab, but I’d never call you handsome.” (1925 humor: A handsome was a form of a horse drawn carriage.)

Another benefit of having an important Rotarian husband involved the Zonta 1926 project. During J. Thatcher Sears’ year of being Club President in 1925-26, Elmer West, president of the Adirondack Light and Power Company and charter Rotarian of the Glens Falls Club, gave the Zonta Club the right to build a bath house at Haviland Cove for the use of children.

The record indicates Finch Pruyn's Fred Chapman, a Glens Falls Club charter member, drew up the plans for the bath house. Volunteer labor supplied by Rotary Club husbands helped in the construction. The YMCA contributed workers, along with students from the high school. Kendrick and Brown furnished a brown stain paint, with the women of Zonta putting the stain on the bath house. International Paper gave 88 yards of canvas for dressing. Merkel and Gelman donated three dozen bath towels. All these individuals and businesses had close ties to the early Rotary Club of Glens Falls.

The wooden structure was completed in about three weeks, while beach cleaning efforts took an extra few days to clear stumps and cut away the underbrush. Even Mayor Orville C. Smith pitched in by providing assistance from different city departments. There is no doubt this project combined the efforts of many newly established service groups in a common cause for the community.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *"Success is assured for "Zonta" and "Rotary", too." With such presidents working together as these two. For in their homes and their school life too, they have always shown what they can do." Zonta newsletter dedication to Katherine and Thatcher Sears, March 20, 1925.*



Another couple who have exhibited a long-term devotion to helping others are Jan and Dan Hazewski. As a past president of the Glens Falls Kiwanis club, Jan provided excellent leadership to that group.

Dan's contributions to the Rotary Club are widely known and varied over the last several years. Both of them have been seen giving their time and talents to each other's endeavors.

Dan and Jan Hazewski are pictured on the left at a Ben Osborn book station.

It doesn't matter if they are stocking books for the Ben Osborn project or selling tickets for the annual Kiwanis Feeder Canal duck race, if the net results will make a difference to someone in the community or around the world, Dan and Jan will wear whatever hat fits.

Trying to list every Rotarian and their spouse who have either joined other service clubs or worked together in Rotary would be an endless process. That said, naming husband-wife combinations who have joined Rotary together started with Rod and Peggy Bacon in the 1990's. They were followed by Robert and Kay Walter who both became president of the Club, he in 2001-02 and she in 2008-09. Another couple who also acted as president of their clubs was Cindy Amell in Glens Falls (2020-21) and, previously, her husband, Jim (currently Club President), in Scotia (2002-03) before they moved to Glens Falls. Shelle Kelz was Club secretary for a number of years and her husband, Arnold Abrams, took attendance.

There are probably dozens of other examples over the last 100 years of how women and men worked together in a time of single-sexed service clubs. While most of those gender restrictions have been removed, it shows the desire to do good runs strongly in the human spirit. Today, the Glens Falls Club is a leader in the arena of men and women working together.

### Supporting Youth Literacy

Various programs relating to youth literacy have been implemented over the years, owing to Rotary and the Club's deep commitment to children. At one time, Club members brought dictionaries to all the third graders in the Glens Falls and Queensbury schools. The photo on the right is Jean Lapper in a classroom.



Once new technology in the schools made hard-bound dictionaries a thing of the past, this program evolved into the Scholastic Book program, which we supported in the schools for several years. Now, we are engaged in community service through the Ben Osborn Memorial book project, with over 20,000 free books distributed to children across 30 schools.

When Corporal Benjamin Osborn was killed in the line of duty in Afghanistan in 2010 while serving in the United States Army during *Operation Enduring Freedom*, his father, William, started a memorial fund in his honor. Its mission and hope was to pass on as his son's legacy the values that Ben learned such as having a charitable heart, positive work ethic, sportsmanship, leadership, discipline, and pride.



A Ben Osborn book station.

The fund is aimed at helping children in need, ages 5 through 18. Modest assistance can be provided towards school supplies, tutoring services, winter clothing items, field trip admission expenses, electronics, musical instruments and classes, eyeglasses, and more.

As a way of easing his grief, William started building unique book stations and placing them around town. His idea began to spread. Now, Ben's Book Stations are designed and built by shop students at many area school districts as permanent all-weather structures. These stations are stocked with suitable children's books, hoping the visitors will take them home and read them. Afterwards, the books could be returned to the stations or kept by the youngsters.

Then in October 2020, Rotary, along with SAIL and the Aviation Mall, held an event decorating cars and handing out goodies to the kids, among which were books collected by the Osborn Foundation. Bill was spending a tremendous amount of time traveling to the over two dozen stations in Washington and Warren Counties. The process of collecting the thousands of books needed to fill the locations was wearing him out. After Bill made a presentation to Rotary in May 2021, Steve Borgos asked how Rotary could help. Bill asked if Rotary could service and maintain the book stations.



*Dave Lebel, Bill Osborn, and Steve Borgos*

Now, all the book stations have a Rotarian caretaker who is responsible for visiting the sites at least once a month to restock the books and make sure the stations are secure. Rotary has also taken on the job to find and keep a steady source of available books ready for use.

## **Community Awards**

Glens Falls Rotarians have a number of Club-sponsored awards for which they are eligible (i.e., Charter Day, Rotarian of the Year, etc.). The community also has many honors and appreciations available to its local citizens. Among them are *The Post Star* “40 under 40” candidates who have shown significant contributions in either their professions or through community service.

Perhaps the most prestigious of these community recognitions is the Chamber of Commerce J. Walter Juckett Award. Named for the longtime board chairman of the Sandy Hill Corporation, J. Walter was a major community leader for the entire Glens Falls region. From his home in Hudson Falls, Juckett served a wide range of civic, charitable, religious, political, business, and educational organizations. He was a tireless supporter of the arts, and motivated by a strong sense of giving back to the communities he had profited from.

Since its inception, 11 of the 32 recipients of this prestigious award have been or currently are Rotarians. Starting in 1991, with past District Governor George Frost from South Glens Falls, Glens Falls Rotarians Merritt Scoville, John “Jack” Cushing, Tom Haley, Michael Massiano, Paul Pontiff, Thomas Hoy, David Kruznicki, Kevin O’Brien, Kathy Duncan, and Paul Downen have all been honored at a special ceremony for their continuous dedication to service and the ideals of Rotary as exemplified by J. Walter Juckett.

## **The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala**

From the March 6, 1997, Spinoffs: “The club gathered in the banquet room at the Sagamore Hotel in Bolton Landing to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rotary Club of Glens Falls. President-elect Fred Carvin acted as Master of Ceremonies, President John Porter gave the welcome and club

members and their guest enjoyed a sumptuous dinner interspersed with remarks by visiting guests and dignitaries. The anniversary program itself was a history of the club through seven- and one-half decades, narrated by Dr. Bob Westcott, author and key developer of this special evening. Bob was joined on stage by Laura Roth, well known cabaret entertainer and her three-piece accompaniment that performed three songs for each decade. The evening ended at 11 p.m. with the club's special heritage and accomplishments well recognized and the glow of club fellowship lighting our path to even greater projects together."

### **A Veteran's Story**

The following is the description of action presented during the awarding of the Distinguished Service Cross to Frank A. Llewellyn. Llewellyn, Frank, A. Captain (Air Service), U.S. Army, Pilot, 99<sup>th</sup> Aero Squadron, Air Service A.E.F. Date of Action: August 17, 1918.



Citation: The Distinguished Service Cross is presented to Frank A. Llewellyn, Captain (Air Service), U.S. Army for extraordinary heroism in action east of St. Die, France, August 17, 1918. Captain Llewellyn, acting as pilot, and Lieutenant Roland Neel, acting as observer, carried on a successful liaison with infantry during the attack on Frapelle. They flew over enemy lines at an altitude of only 400 meters, firing on and disconcerting the enemy, thereby giving courage and confidence to the American forces.

*Frank A. Llewellyn left receives medal in 1918*

Despite heavy fire from 15 anti-aircraft machine guns and several batteries of anti-aircraft artillery, they performed their work efficiently. Their aeroplane was struck by a number of machine-gun bullets, one of which cut the rudder and elevator control wires and caused the rudder to jam. The broken control wire was held and operated by Lieutenant Neel, under direction of Captain Llewellyn. Running the machine together in this manner, they continued their liaison work until the plane began to become unmanageable, when, in spite of its damaged condition, they brought it back to their airdrome. General Order no. 121, W.D. 1918.

### **About Herbert Beecher Hudnut**

Herbert Hudnut was born in 1894 in Port Jervis, NY. When Congress declared war on Germany in April 1917, Herb, a recent graduate of Princeton, enlisted immediately in Cleveland, Ohio. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in South Carolina, and assigned to the 115<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery 30<sup>th</sup> Division. He arrived in France May 18, 1918, where he joined the 8<sup>th</sup> Balloon Company as an observer.

Early on the morning of September 26<sup>th</sup>, Hudnut and fellow observer Lieutenant Cleo Ross entered the basket and put aloft in the dark during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. At some point during the day, the two soldiers were attacked by a Fokker D. VII. Attempting to escape, Lt. Ross jumped from the balloon, but his parachute caught fire and he crashed to the ground. Ross was the only balloon observer to die in combat during World War 1.

Hudnut survived the attack and was honorably discharged in April 1919. Having had his life spared that day, he felt he should do something especially worthy with his life. Returning home, the veteran became a Presbyterian minister, serving for the next 60 years at various parishes around the country. He joined the Glens Falls Rotary in 1965 and died at age 93 in 1987.

Undoubtedly, there are dozens of stories of valor and sacrifice connected to the host of veterans that have been associated with the Glens Falls Club. As Rotarians, we honor and respect the patriotic service of all these individuals and truly “Thank them” for their service.



*Left to right, Veterans Bob Krug, Dan Stec, Ted Brothers, Scott Severance, Russ O'Connor, and Mike Bonan honored on Veterans Day in 2014*

## **Why I Am Here**

“I had initially joined as I had taken a new job role at my office and my board thought it was a good idea. However, I have stayed because I believe in the mission...In Rotary, there are so many individuals that are funny, smart, hardworking and supportive of each other during struggles, hard times, sickness- to lose that would be a disservice to my life.” **Kim Heunemann**, March 15, 2021. (Future Club President 2023-24.)

“Rotary seemed to me the best way to do that (get exposure in the community). After all, it was a club made up of the most prominent business people...I quickly learned something deeper, something more important. Over the years, and scores of conferences, workshops and volunteer committees, it’s still ‘Service Above Self.’ Pure Water for the World, Rotary International Exchange, Polio Plus, local projects like playgrounds, public works and youth centers. Everyone so special in their own way. What I came to realize is that caring business people join Rotary to make good things happen in their communities, and across the world.” **Ray Agnew**, March 12, 2021.

"I retired from AT&T in 2005. I took a position at a local business (Cost Control) here in Queensbury and within a week Jack Cushing was on my doorstep recruiting me to the club...What I didn't expect was how warm, welcoming and powerful this club actually is. I knew no one when I moved here but I quickly realized that it was easy to make new friends, become a part of the community and find so many ways to continue to do work that was helpful and inspiring. I love this club, its members, and everything we do to serve our community; especially those in need...We give people hope...and that is one of the most fulfilling things about being a member of this great club and Rotary." **David Bogue**, March 18, 2021.

"When we arrived in the area in 2008, I was looking for a way to get involved with the community. Fortunately, Shelle Kelz and Arnie Abrams were active members of the club and asked me to join. To be clear, I knew next to nothing about Rotary at the time. It was my honor to serve on the club board and as president in 2017-2018. Our president-elect was Cindy Amell...To say Cindy was a legend would be an understatement. What a wonderful lady! I miss her in many ways. Not the least is the great relationship she developed with Art Norton, past president 1977-78. This group and organization represent the 'better Angels of our nature' that President Lincoln called upon." **Harrison Freer**, March 18, 2021.



*Art Norton and Cindy Amell*

"I have particularly enjoyed the Balloon Festival involvement to a large extent because the idea started a new event held in our area. I enjoy our bread dough sales activities, the clean-up of Aviation Road twice a year and the comradery. I remember having lunch with notable locals, including Arthur P. Irving [a club member and publisher of *The Post Star*] We have made many good friends over the years, and my visits to other clubs enable me to meet Rotarians who are here to help people. That's a good feeling." **Steve Borgos**, March 17, 2021.

"I was lead to Rotary by my long-term friend, Roger Howard...I think the most important thing Rotary provided for me was an organized way to give back to the community. One of the gifts I was involved in was the annual Fishing Derby. I took over from Bruce Lundgren. An example is an 8-year-old boy who caught a 24-inch trout said, 'I did not know how to fish until last night when my father taught me. But now I'm a better fisherman than he is.' Another great experience was working with the Exchange Students. I have so many great memories of my involvement in Rotary activities." **Don Krebs**, March 2021.

"I came to Rotary in 1975. My partner, Ed Kerr, brought me to a lunch meeting and introduced me to the world of community service. The Glens Falls Rotary Club with its 150+ members was just the right ticket for me to become involved. From Salvation Army bell ringing to Warm the Children shopping, to bread dough fund raising which supports our local charities, to Clean Water Walks, to Lyme disease prevention, to Alzheimer disease support....our involvement has been unlimited. And the

Youth Exchange program allowed my family to get to know a student from Denmark, another from Finland and still another from Japan. These exchanges clearly enhance our appreciation for how others live and how others see us in our American way of life. In conclusion, the four-way-test that we celebrate in our gatherings is a pledge that unites us in our desire to find truth, fairness, benefit and friendship in our business and personal lives. It turns out that being a Rotarian is much more than just attending Rotary Club meetings. It's actually a way of life!" **Dr. H. John Schutze**, March 2021.

"I initially joined Rotary because of its international reach and involvement with student and group study exchanges. I also joined to learn new things going on in the community through the weekly lunches. I found that being a member of Rotary puts one in touch with leaders in the community. I enjoyed participating in the many projects that Rotary did, such as raising funds at the Balloon Festival, and especially the shopping for children's clothes and the many Group Study Exchanges we had over the years." **Dr. Jacqueline Touba**, March 2021.

"I joined Rotary in 2001- 20 years ago. I joined to make a difference, to give back to the community which has given so much to me. I like doing something that will make a difference in someone's life. Rotary does just that. It is not only for our community but also for the world. I have traveled to different countries and attended Rotary meetings abroad. Rotarians are warm and welcoming people- the world over. We all have a common goal and we are all family." **Patricia Pepe**, March 23, 2021.

"When I retired from my career, I wanted to connect with other professionals and give back to the community. Someone introduced me to Rotary, which I knew nothing about. Joining Rotary has definitely helped me transition from my working life to retirement and helped me gain more connections in the community. After moving to Queensbury, I was traveling every week for my work for 7 years and did not have the opportunity to connect with the community. Rotary has provided that opportunity." **Timothy Bechard**, March 12, 2021.

"After having worked in Washington County for a number of years and coming to work in Warren County, I needed to get to know Warren County and create working relationships. Joining Rotary gave me a comfortable network to do both of these things, as well as, become involved in volunteering through Rotary." **Joan Tarantino**, March 12, 2021.

"I joined Rotary because I felt a need to have a greater presence in the community on which that I serve for the Hudson Headwaters Health Foundation." **John Wulforst**, March 12, 2021.

"I joined Rotary with the dual goals of learning new things and volunteering within the community. Many shared ideas later, often sparked by the wealth of knowledge of our members and their generous commitment of time, effort and club funds, has been exactly the type of experience that I want to continue to be part of. More chances, more good things, for organizations that help

our kids thrive, equal everything that I hoped for in a club membership.” **Paulette Kershko**, March 14, 2021.

“Rotary gives the opportunity to meet new people and make new friends. We get to view and listen to different programs, some of which give us insight to issues, problems and things about our community that we are not tuned into. We then get the opportunity to assist others in need through our fund-raising efforts and physical assistance.” **James Goodspeed**, March 13, 2021.

“I have to admit that I thought of Rotary because I was looking for a community service type club, and my father had been a member for so long and always spoke well of Rotary. When I decided to join an organization, I considered some of the usual suspects, thinking it might not be good to have too many Fitzgerald’s in your club. The more I considered the options and learned about Rotary, the more I realized that Rotary would best provide what I was seeking. I like the broad community service focus, as opposed to a narrow issue. The broad spectrum of members also was appealing. Probably what sealed the deal was when I realized what RI does on a worldwide scale was quite impressive.” **Edward Fitzgerald**, March 15, 2021.

“Chris Gautier asked me in 1995 and I had no real understanding of the club’s purpose. I knew most of my peers were members and thought it made sense to join them. It wasn’t long after that I realized Rotary brought out the best of us as we practice our professions. Many will say it is the charitable work that we do is the most important. I disagree. It is applying the rules of the Four Way Test in our daily lives. I thought them ‘hokey’ at first but then realized that if we all apply them to our professions, personal lives and interaction with each other the world is a better place. The Four Way Test represents how I have always felt. Rotary provides me a connection with people who feel the same.” **Dan Hazewski**, March 15, 2021.

“I was invited to Rotary by Bob Edwards. It was about 1967 and I was impressed with Rotary’s work with polio and local charitable organizations. And it gave me the opportunity to meet some great local people and also provided me with business contacts in the community since I was not from the area. We also had fun at our Thursday meetings. Quite a few characters, very interesting people. I ultimately became a director, then president, which I enjoyed very much. It was a good group.” **Paul Pontiff**, March 12, 2021.

## **Conclusion: Looking to the Future—Jim Amell**

Congratulations to the Glen Falls Rotary Club on its first 100 years of service to the community! Rotary International's mission is to provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through its fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders. The Club strives to unite people and take action to create lasting change globally, in communities, and in themselves. This is achieved through various avenues of service, including promoting peace, fighting disease, and supporting education.

The sum of the accomplishments made by Rotarians as told in the previous pages is truly humbling, sets a high standard for future endeavors, and clearly demonstrates that Glens Falls Rotary Club is meeting the mission of Rotary International.

I am honored to lead the Club into its second century of service. Our core fundraising activities - the concession trailer and Harrison Freer 5k - are vibrant as ever. We will continue to assist families via the Warm the Children program, support students through scholarships and foreign exchange student programs, and make grants to local nonprofit organizations. There will be needs that we cannot even think of now that Rotary will identify and meet.

As we look to the future, it is difficult to imagine what our Club will look like at our 150<sup>th</sup> or 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I am confident that our members will aspire to our motto, "Service Above Self" and Glens Falls Rotary will continue to evolve and adapt in order to continue the legacy that precedes us.

Jim Amell

President 2024-25

## Presidents and Years of Service

Frank M. Smalley 1922-1925	J. Thatcher Sears 1925-1926	Fred G. Fielding 1926-1927	Daniel F. Imrie 1927-1928
George S. Raley 1928-1929	Alfred S. Clark 1929-1930	Charles McLaughlin 1930-1931	Frederick B. Richards 1931-1932
Arthur P. Irving 1932-1933	Powel J. Smith 1933-1934	Earle H. Stickney 1934-1935	Dr. Edwin H. Reese 1935-1936
Russell M. L. Carson 1936-1937	Alexander W. Miller 1937-1938	Romney C. Patterson 1938-1939	Rev. Charles C. Noble 1939-1940
Robert C. Carter 1940-1941	William H. Barber 1941-1942	Fred C. Belmer 1942-1943	Rev. Wm E. Montgomery 1943-1944
Alexander P. Robertson 1944-1945	Henry W. Fales 1945-1946	Walter P. Reichert 1946-1947	Donald C. Hallenbeck 1947-1948
William H. Brown 1948-1949	Alonzo W. Morgan 1949-1950	Harold H. Friar 1950-1951	Dr. Robert N. King 1951-1952
George R. Coughlan, Jr. 1952-1953	Stanley H. MacArthur 1953-1954	John D. Toomey 1954-1955	Robert S. Buddy 1955-1956
Rev. A. King Wise 1956-1957	John D. Austin 1957-1958	Dr. Lester C. Husted 1958-1959	Albert J. Robinson 1959-1960
Maurice H. Simmonds 1960-1961	Dr. Irving M. Falkenbury 1961-1962	Donald S. Creal 1962-1963	Holden Findley 1963-1964
Robert P. Larson 1964-1965	James H. Minnick 1965-1966	Dr. William L. Bitner, III 1966-1967	Stanley A. Frederick, Jr. 1967-1968
J. Gardner Bridge 1968-1969	Dr. Charles R. Eisenhart 1969-1970	William O. Nicoll 1970-1971	Robert F. Whiteman 1971-1972
G. Nelson Lowe 1972-1973	John Carusone 1973-1974	Earl Ellsworth 1974-1975	Jack Haanan 1975-1976
Frank DiCresce 1976-1977	Arthur Norton 1977-1978	Dr. Robert C. Westcott 1978-1979	Theodore Zoli, Jr. 1979-1980
Stephen J. Borgos 1980-1981	Carter A. White 1981-1982	Paul E. Pontiff 1982-1983	Col. Robert W. Krug 1983-1984
Francis E. Kelly Jr. 1984-1985	Dr. H. John Schutze 1985-1986	Dr. Jack V. Irion 1986-1987	Frederick R. Shenk, Jr. 1987-1988
William E. Fitzgerald 1988-1989	Timothy A. Seeley 1989-1990	Kanti A. Jasani 1990-1991	Lloyd F. Cote 1991-1992
Wayne A. Getman 1992-1993	Dr. Dalen K. Showalter 1993-1994	Paul L. Downen 1994-1995	Donna Farrar 1995-1996
John Porter 1996-1997	Fred A. Carvin 1997-1998	John Cushing 1998-1999	Sharron Simmonds 1999-2000
Robert Walter 2000-2001	Alexander Torok 2001-2002	Michael Bonan 2002-2003	Lincoln Cathers 2003-2004
F. Raymond Agnew 2004-2005	Jean A. Lapper 2005-2006	Susan Balfour 2006-2007	John Mucha 2007-2008
Kay Walter 2008-2009	Rob Spratt 2009-2010	Kevin O'Brien 2010-2011	Leo Rigby 2011-2012

Patricia Joyce 2012-2013	James Goodspeed 2013-2014	David Bogue 2014-2015	Barbara Sweet 2015-2016
Robert Rosoff 2016-2017	Harrison Freer 2017-2018	Cindy Amell 2018-2019	Timothy Bechard 2019-2020
John Fitzgerald 2020-2021	Kathy Grasmeder 2021-2022	Jennifer Brink 2022-2023	Kim Heunemann 2023-2024
Jim Amell 2024-2025			

### Honorary Members

<b>1925</b> Oscar Seagle	<b>1927</b> J. Ward Russell	<b>1932</b> Frank Hooper Rev. John Lyon Caughey*	<b>1941</b> Robert Jamison George Culver Don Hallenbeck	<b>1943</b> George Davis George Coughlan Jr.
<b>1947</b> Dr. George Brown Dr. William Ordway	<b>1949</b> Edwin Robbins	<b>1950</b> Herbert Knight	<b>1954</b> George Sauter	<b>1956</b> Frederick B. Richards
<b>1957</b> Charles Tuttle	<b>1959</b> Ernest Miller	<b>1962</b> Charles Noble	<b>1968</b> Rev. William Montgomery	<b>1971</b> John Wiley* Fred Belmer
<b>1972</b> Charles Looker	<b>1975</b> Rev. Gary Germann Edward Trimbley	<b>1980</b> Herman Raabe	<b>1984</b> Lowell C. Henry	<b>1987</b> Walter Reichert
<b>1991</b> James Barber	<b>1992</b> Oscar C. Beaman	<b>1997</b> James Potter	<b>1998</b> Robert N. King	<b>2000</b> Darwin Leland
<b>2001</b> Ames Barber	<b>2004</b> Dr. Richard Garrett Sr.	<b>2005</b> Robert Larson Harry Durling Thomas Angelo	<b>2007</b> Norman Barnes	<b>2008</b> Richard Dean
<b>2009</b> Robert Westcott Marius Hanks	<b>2010</b> Stewart Moore Bruce Lundgren	<b>2012</b> Dr. Robert Reid	<b>2015</b> Fred Field	<b>2018</b> Art Norton

## Charter Day Award

<b>1966</b> Alfred S. Clark*	<b>1967</b> Stanley H. MacArthur	<b>1968</b> Arthur P. Irving	<b>1969</b> Edward Trimbley
<b>1970</b> Harold Long	<b>1971</b> Rev. Gary Germann	<b>1972</b> Walter P. Reichert	<b>1973</b> Maurice H. Simmonds
<b>1974</b> Robert N. King	<b>1975</b> Irving M. Falkenbury	<b>1976</b> Harold Lawson	<b>1977</b> Rev. Herbert Hudnut
<b>1978</b> Frederick G. Bascom	<b>1979</b> J. Gardiner Bridge	<b>1980</b> Earl Ellsworth	<b>1981</b> Robert L. Edwards
<b>1982</b> Merritt E. Scoville	<b>1983</b> Orson C. Beaman	<b>1984</b> Ames T. Barber	<b>1985</b> Robert P. Larson
<b>1986</b> James Minnick, Sr.	<b>1987</b> Richard K. Dean	<b>1988</b> Dr. Robert Westcott	<b>1989</b> William M. Roden
<b>1990</b> Dr. Charles R. Eisenhart	<b>1991</b> Dr. Richard Garrett, Sr.	<b>1992</b> Darwin E. Leland	<b>1993</b> John Leo Haanan
<b>1994</b> Dr. Jack V. Irion	<b>1995</b> Col. Robert Avon	<b>1996</b> Richard C. Merrill	<b>1997</b> Paul E. Pontiff
<b>1998</b> John P. Cushing	<b>1999</b> Fred A. Carvin	<b>2000</b> H. John Schutze	<b>2001</b> Col. Robert Krug
<b>2002</b> Paul L. Downen	<b>2003</b> Lloyd Cote	<b>2004</b> Joseph E. Trombley	<b>2005</b> William Fitzgerald
<b>2006</b> Patricia Joyce	<b>2007</b> Thomas Haley	<b>2008</b> Charles Adams	<b>2009</b> Monty Robinson
<b>2010</b> John Mucha	<b>2011</b> Donna Farrar	<b>2012</b> Linc Cathers	<b>2013</b> Dr. Jacqueline Touba
<b>2014</b> Ted Brothers	<b>2015</b> Thomas Hoy	<b>2016</b> Art Norton	<b>2017</b> Kevin Markham
<b>2018</b> Dave Bogue	<b>2019</b> Steve Borgos	<b>2020</b> Cindy Amell	<b>2021</b> Brian Corcoran & Kim Bren
<b>2022</b> Kevin O'Brien	<b>2023</b> John Fitzgerald	<b>2024</b> Suzanna Bernd	

\* Denotes Charter Member

**Rotarian of the Year**

1992	Jack Cushing
1993	Don Hess
1994	Thomas Haley
1995	Fred Carvin
1996	Bruce Lundgren
1997	Paul Downen
1998	John Porter
1999	Lloyd Cote
2000	Lincoln Cathers
2001	Sharron Simmonds
2002	William Sera
2003	Susan Balfour
2004	William D. Smith
2005	Ian Williams & Kay Walter
2006	Rob Spratt
2007	Ted Brothers
2008	Ray Agnew
2009	Kevin O'Brien
2010	Dave Bogue
2011	Kevin Markham & Suzanna Bernd
2012	Jim Goodspeed
2013	Barbara Sweet
2014	Dan Hazewski
2015	Gordon Woodworth
2016	Don Krebs
2017	Patricia Joyce
2018	Kathy Grasmeder
2019	Patti Pepe
2020	Jim Amell
2021	Jean Lapper
2022	Dave Lebel
2023	Rachael Hunsinger & Joan Tarantino
2024	Lynda Albright

**Citizen of the Year**

1992	Mark Frost
1993	Roger Anderson
1994	Charles Wood
1995	James Marshall
1996	Ken Minges
1997	John Bishop
1998	Dr. Richard Leach
1999	Michael Smith
2000	George Sicard
2001	Mary Adams
2002	Molly McMaster
2003	Phil & Susan Morse
2004	Dr. Kathleen Braico
2005	Robert McAvoy
2006	George Champion
2007	Rev. Bruce Hersey
2008	Dan Tarter
2009	Robert Congdon
2010	Dan Burke
2011	Walter Grishkot
2012	Joseph Lehet
2013	Dr. James Morrissey
2014	Harold McKinney
2015	Frank Munoff
2016	George Ferone
2017	Elizabeth Miller
2018	Holly Ahern & Chris Fisk
2019	Brian LaFlure
2020	Bob Curtis
2021	Ginelle Jones
2022	Elizabeth Hogan
2023	Ed Moore
2024	Alan & Dorie Redeker

**ROTARY CLUB SECRETARIES**

Rotary Club Secretaries provide continuity from one administration to the next. They worry about membership and attendance reports, minute's records, and the smooth operation of the Club.

1923-1923	J. Theo Beaudet	1965-1966	Arthur S. Fisher
1923-1924	Harry DuFlon (resign.) Dr. Edwin H. Reese	1966-1973	Maurice Simmonds
1924-1926	Russell M. L. Carson	1973-1983	Orson C. Beaman
1926-1948	William B. Curtis*	1983-1990	Dr. Robert N. King
1948-1962	Walter P. Reichert, Sr.	1990-1996	Thomas J. Angelo
1962-1964	Maurice Simmonds	1996-2009	Thomas Haley
1964-1965	Arthur P. Suttly, Jr.	2009-2014	Shelle Keltz
		2014-2024	Kevin O'Brien

\*22 years of service

## ROTARY CLUB TREASURERS

Treasurers manage and account for the Club's funds.

1922-1923	Charles V. Peters	1990-1995	Richard Frasier
1923-1933	Fred B. Richards	1995-1997	Phil Whittemore
1933-1937	Beecher Horton	1997-2003	Lawrence Ringer
1937-1939	George I. Davis	2003-2005	Paul Downen
1939-1943	Dr. George Brown	2005-2006	Karen Carpenter
1943-1949	Harold Frair	2006-2008	Mary MacKrell
1949-1956	John Meckley	2008-2012	Katherine Hughes
1956-1960	Edward J. Herlihy	2012-2014	Bob Grugle
1960-1965	Arthur F. Freelove	2014-2015	Leo Rigby
1965-1990	Robert L. Edwards*	2015-2024	Brian Corcoran

\*25 years of service

### The Paul Harris Contributors: 168 Fellows as of July 2022

Lynda Albright	Arthur Irving	Alex Torok	David Bogue
Thomas Angelo	Kanti Jasanti	Riza Touba	Harrison Freer
Charles Appleyard	Charla Jennings	Claire Trombley	Fred Carvin
Robert Avon	William Johnson	Richard Udall	Harry Durling
O.C. Beaman	Patricia Joyce	Kathryn Walter	David Lebel
Tim Bechard	Jennifer Kennitz	Robert Walter	John Mucha
Brian Blackburn	Edward Kerr	Robert Westcott	Ed Trimbey
Mike Bonan	Robert King	Catherine Wettlaufer	<b>Benefactors*</b>
JoAnn Borgos	David Kruczlnicki	Don White	Ray Agnew
Stephanie Borgos	Marie Krug	Louis Whitney	Lincoln Cathers
William Borgos	Robert Krug	Phil Whittemore	Shelle Kelz
J. Gardiner Bridge	Darwin Leland	James Williams	Merritt Scoville
J. Ted Brothers	William Levandowski	Theodore Zoli Jr.	
Stan Burdick	Bruce Lundgren		
Karen Carpenter	Peter Marshall	<b>Multiple Paul Harris credits*</b>	
Brian Carvin	William Mason	Arnold Abrams	
Mark Carvin	Mike Massiano Jr.	Susan Balfour	
Nancy Cathers	Christine McDonald	Dennis Brower	
Brian Corcoran	Robert McMillen	Judith Carvin	<b>Multiple Paul Harris credits:</b>
George Coughlan III	Bernard McPhillips	Lloyd Cote	More than a single \$1,000 contribution
Marion Cushing	Bernice Mennis	John Cushing	to the Rotary Foundation.
Carl Davidson	Richard Merrill	Karin Green	
Richard Dean	James Minnick Sr.	Thomas Haley	<b>Benefactors:</b> Left at least \$1,000 or more
Harvey Dearstyne	Stewart Moore	Dan Hazewski	contribution to The Rotary Foundation in their
Robert Dietz	David Mucha	Lester Husted	wills or as part of their estate planning.
Charles Domaszewicz	Nina Mucha	Don Krebs	
Almee Lyn Downen	Peter Mucha	Jean Lapper	
Casey Marie Downen	Thomas Mucha	Neil Lebowitz	
Erin Rene Downen	Delwyn Mulder	Russell O'Connor	
Tammy Downen	John Murphy	Ernest Peltz	
Dorothy Durling	Fred Natale	Patti Pepe	
Irving Falkenbury	William Nealon III	John Wettlaufer	
Fred Field Jr.	Todd Norton	Kathie Duncan	
John Fitzgerald	Lea O'Connor	Robert Edwards	
Lynsey Fitzgerald	Michael O'Connor	Donna Farrar	

Mark Fleischer	Judy Pontiff	William Fitzgerald
David Gee	Paul Pontiff	James Goodspeed
Dan Grasmeyer	John Porter	Katherine Hughes
Joan Grishkot	Robert Reed	Shelle Kelz
Karen Guiseppe	Leo Rigby	J Arthur Norton
John Haanan	Lawrence Ringer	Joseph Trombley
Mark Haley	LaMonte Robinson	Ian Williams
Marius Hanks	Robert Rosoff	Ray Agnew
Lucas Hart Jr.	Courtney Rowe	Cindy Amell
Scott Hayden	Patricia Schutze	Stephen Borgos
Don Hess Jr.	David Schwenker	Lincoln Cathers
Lacinda Hess	Merritt Scoville	Paul Downen
Kim Heunemann	Dalen Showalter	Kathleen Grasmeyer
Kathleen Hogan	Sharron Simmonds	Thomas Hoy
Janice Holding	William Smith	Kevin O'Brien
Ed Hooker	Ed Stewart	Oliver Winn
James Hunt	Barbara Sweet	James Amell
Caren Hurley	Daniel Tatar	H. John Schutze
Jack Irion	Neil Tater	Jacquiline Touba
Doug Irish	Stephen Tessino	

#### **Major Donors to The Rotary Foundation – Level 1 (\$10,000 – \$24,999)**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Achievement Date</u>
Edward Trembey	June 12, 1983
Fred and Judith Carvin	May 4, 2003
Merritt (Mike) Scoville	August 10, 2005
W. Harry and Dorothy Durling	January 31, 2007
Lincoln and Nancy Cathers	November 17, 2014
David J. Lebel	December 11, 2021
John and Nina Mucha	March 18, 2022

#### **Major Donor Benefactor to The Rotary Foundation**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Achievement Date</u>
Dr. Shelle Kelz	April 15, 2008

**GLENS FALLS ROTARY CLUB  
YOUTH EXCHANGE STUDENTS 1966-2025**

<b>Years</b>	<b>Incoming Students</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Outgoing Students</b>	<b>To</b>
1966-67	Sergio Zertuche	Mexico	Suzanne Winbauer	Mexico
1967-68	Robert Mangupli	Argentina		
1968-69	Julie Windrim	Australia	James Bayles	Australia
			Jay Ashton	Bolivia
1969-70	Tor Lundgren	Sweden	Merle Lebowitz	Japan
	Yashiaka Koga	Japan	Carol Klein	So Africa
1970-71	Stephen Ohlson	Sweden	Michael Kane	Japan
	Maria Bliana Aquino	Bolivia	Randall White	Argentina
1971-72	Michiko Imabuchi	Japan	Gwyn Harrison	Holland
1972-73			Judy Zabek	Rhodesia
1973-74	Lena Rasmussen	Denmark	Debra Maynard	Australia
1974-75			Laura Leroux	Finland
			Tina Hopkins	So Africa
1975-76	Marite Guardabassi	Argentina	Karen Shangraw	Germany
1976-77	Yleana Blanco	Mexico	Karen Irving	N. Zealand
1977-78	Kiyoshi Kogima	Japan	Kevin Kane	Bolivia
			Sharon Leger	Sweden
1978-79	Suzanne Jensen	Denmark	Katherine Nolan	Denmark
1979-80	Dennis Profeta	Philippines	George Shevlin	Argentina
			Wendy Brueder	Denmark
1980-81	Katarini Warpe	Sweden	Michael Richardson	Finland
1981-82	Tatiana Dubravcic	Bolivia	Karen Italiano	Denmark
	Geoffrey Taylor	England	Lisa Stanzio	England
1982-83	Angelo Fabero	Brazil	Nancy Owens	Denmark
	Naohisa Ebuchi	Japan	Robert Dingman	Belgium
1983-84	Ulla Karppinen	Finland	Tina Brandt	Finland
	Marcus Teipel	Germany	Michael Nelson	Holland
1984-85	Marie-Laure Dayan	Denmark	Liza Tabor	Brazil
			Dennis Dufresne	Finland
1985-86	Lizzeth Moreno	Mexico	Katie Donelly	Denmark
1986-87	Miya Tamanokuchi	Japan	John Jantson	Australia
1987-88	Valentina Masjoan	Argentina	Karen Steffens	Germany
	Jodie Smith	Australia	Ken Notari	Australia
1988-89	Fatima Cespedes	Bolivia	Matt Decker	Sweden
	Arto "Archie" Makinen	Finland	Cara Grassi	Argentina
1989-90	Cynthia Stinckens	Belgium	Matt Montessi	Brazil
	Anne Achenbach	Germany		
1990-91	Thomas Hamalamen	Finland	Heather Eichler	France
	Laura Moya	Argentina	Ashley LaCroix	Brazil
			Kasey Young	Sweden
1991-92	Sandrine Charlet	France	Maiken Holmes	Bolivia
	Irmie Wittreck	Germany	Kathy Mitchell	Denmark
1992-93	Malin Ohman	Sweden	Katie Vogel	Finland
	Lucia Ezpeleta	Argentina	Craig Lipps	Argentina
1993-94	Christian Mayer	Bolivia	Catherine Harrington	England
	Marcos Barcelo	Spain	Josh Maroney	Bolivia

1994-95	Henrique Cunha Henrik Svendsen	Brazil Denmark	Shahram Dabiro Laura Shevy	Bolivia Argentina
1995-96	Maurico Marito	Bolivia	Robin Smyth Bianca Aubin	Bolivia France
1996-97	Camila Leite Celine Girard	Brazil France	Robert Stockwell	Japan
1997-98	Tomoharo Ampo** June Yamamoto	Japan Japan	Jason Brown	Germany
1998-99	Veronika Kaiser Guillaume Valenbois	Belgium France	Luke Little	Belgium
1999-00	Tommy Tomicic Fernando Silva	Bolivia Brazil	Mark Lewis Bethany Neely	France France
2000-01	Marta Herbosa Julia Schier	Spain Germany	Rian Eaves Paul Decker	France Germany
2001-02	Gabriel Amaral Maria Aris Randolph Goure Julia Gouvea	Bolivia Spain France Brazil	Avery Clark Matt Gorney James Humphreys Danielle Taylor Chelsea Van Vleet Chris Baker	Bolivia Brazil Germany Bolivia Brazil France
2002-03	Benoit Larat Ricardo Brianson	France Brazil		
2003-04	Shun Goto Elina Tormala	Japan Finland	Brian Judkins Brian Atkinson David French	Japan Bolivia Bolivia
2004-05	Marine Jessel	France	Unavailable	
2005-06	Lourdes Gonzales	Argentina	Unavailable	
2006-07	Annika Meitinger Philip Post Natalia Gabas	Germany Germany Brazil	Kimberly Judkins Sara McGee Erin Higgins	France France Bolivia
2007-08	Ecen Eren Yuki Nagura	Turkey Japan	Chris McGilpin	Belgium
2008-09	Omar Pulido Dennis Amaral	Venezuela Brazil	Emily Hughes Chelsea Choppey	Chile Venezuela
2009-10	Christina Tenorio-Garcia Danny Dayan Cisternas	Spain Chile	Unavailable Unavailable	
2010-11	Javier Lopez Piqueres Hsu Chih-Yang (Alex)	Spain Taiwan	Mattie Sawyer	Japan
2011-12	Natalia Saenz Onpreeya Leeahasilp	Argentina Thailand	Melissa Affredou	Unavailable
2012-13	Santiago Buenano Alvar Stamparini	Ecuador Chile	Unavailable	
2013-14	Resa Y. Hashimoto Amelia Tharotte	Japan France	Unavailable	
2014-15	Felipe Ferguson Mohammad Nadhil	Brazil Indonesia	Unavailable	
2015-16	Hugo Bouillon Sam Winkin	France Belgium	Shay Benedetto Julia Lapper John Molloy	Brazil Frances Italy
2016-17	Ena Cengic	Bosnia/Herzegovina	William Kelley	Chile
2017-18	Lorenzo Ricco'	Italy	Delaney Brown	Bolivia

2018-19	Charles Vergneres Lautaro Jerez Henrique P. Treda	France Argentina Brazil	Maxwell Benedetto Benjamin Molloy	Brazil Chile
2019-20	Clarisse Courtoy Juliette Curat Teresa V. Suaznabar	France France Bolivia	Madeline Gorey Ella Hartenberg	France Australia
2020-22	Pandemic – no exchanges			
2022-23	Ceasar Kihlberg	Sweden		
2023-24	Kento Matsuzaki	Japan		
2024-25	Henriette Ostenfalk	Germany		

\*\*Note: Exchange Student Tomohara Ampo from Japan (1997-98) was funded by the Glens Falls Club but attended the Lake George School System and was hosted by the Lake George Club.

**Voices of our Club Members:** *“A lasting impression of going to an International Rotary convention is the fact that we see Rotary, not as a club or a district, but as a worldwide movement of business and professional men of executive and administrative caliber, united in the ideals of service. To have attended such a convention is to have imbibed deeply of the essence of the Rotary movement.” Rev. Gary Germann, June 1951.*

*“The highlight for me personally was the opportunity to attend the International Conference in Osaka, Japan. I honestly believe nothing in my life will ever compare to this experience of fellowship, international response to global needs, open and collegial debate, and just plain fun.” Ray Agnew, November 13, 2007.*

