

# ROTARY CLUB OF YORK – EAST - District 7390

Meetings: (please check website for changes/updates) **Tuesdays @ 7:30 a.m.** follow signs for venue  
& every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday @ Heritage Hills from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

## December 2022 Newsletter

Editor: Friedel Liebe-Elser

[www.clubrunner.ca/york-east](http://www.clubrunner.ca/york-east)



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### Rotary Membership Anniversaries

*Thank you*

*for your continued Service above Self*

#### • Founder Member

Schmitt, John *	35 years	Dec 01 1987
Wonders, Don	33 years	Dec 01 1989
Agarwal, Nik	26 years	Dec 03 1996
Klinedinst, Deborah	21 years	Dec 11 2001
Dick, Victoria	9 years	Dec 17 2013
Meighen, Jin Jou	18 years	Dec 31 2004



### York East Board of Directors 2022-23

President: Karen Comery  
President-Elect: Elizabeth Wolf  
Treasurer: Diane Yocum  
Secretary: Friedel Liebe-Elser & Bob Elser  
Past President: Sandra Graham  
Committee Chairs & Members-at-large  
Becky Disney – Fundraising & Giving  
William Gierasch – Club Administration  
Elizabeth Wolf – Rotary Foundation  
Deb Klinedinst – Membership  
Chris Izzo – Grant Committee  
Greg Kern – Community Service  
Tim Koller – Public Relations  
Bob Straw – Vocational Service  
Kris Pollick  
Hunter Mink

### *Happy Birthday to you...*

Wurster, Charles	Dec 02
Bankos, Joanne	Dec 09
Beck, Chris	Dec 12
Norton, Jim	Dec 16
Kern, Greg	Dec 20

\*If your birthday is not listed, please contact  
Bob Elser at [navman9@comcast.net](mailto:navman9@comcast.net) or  
Friedel Liebe-Elser at [friedel.liebe@gmail.com](mailto:friedel.liebe@gmail.com)

### Programs for this month

December 6<sup>th</sup> – Dr. Peter Aiken, CYSD Superintendent -  
*Hybrid*

December 13<sup>th</sup> – TBD - *Hybrid*

December 20<sup>th</sup> – Students of the Month / Classification  
Speeches. – *Hybrid*

December 27<sup>th</sup> – **NO MEETING**

December 16<sup>th</sup> – President Karen invites you  
To our club's Christmas Party at her home  
- See her emails for details – RSVP to Karen

**For ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETINGS on Tuesdays ONLY:**  
Instructions on how to join the virtual meeting will still  
be sent to members - or guests upon request - via the  
email meeting reminder latest each Monday.  
The in-person meetings are held at Heritage Hills Hotels  
with the venue opening at 7 am.  
All meetings on every 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday are in-person  
ONLY at Heritage Hills Hotels – please follow signs. This  
is a fellowship event only. There will be no program and  
no email invitation/reminder will be sent.

### NEXT YORK EAST ROTARY CLUB BOARD MEETING

on Wednesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 7:30 a.m.

In person only at Brewery Products at 1017 North Sherman Street

# 35 YEARS! HAPPY ANNIVERSARY ROTARY CLUB YORK EAST

ADMITTED TO ROTARY INTERNATIONAL ON 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 1987



*Since all our historic Club documents and records seem to have been lost through the passage of time we are trying to recreate our history – hopefully with YOUR HELP. Above is an official RI Certificate in lieu of our original Charter.*



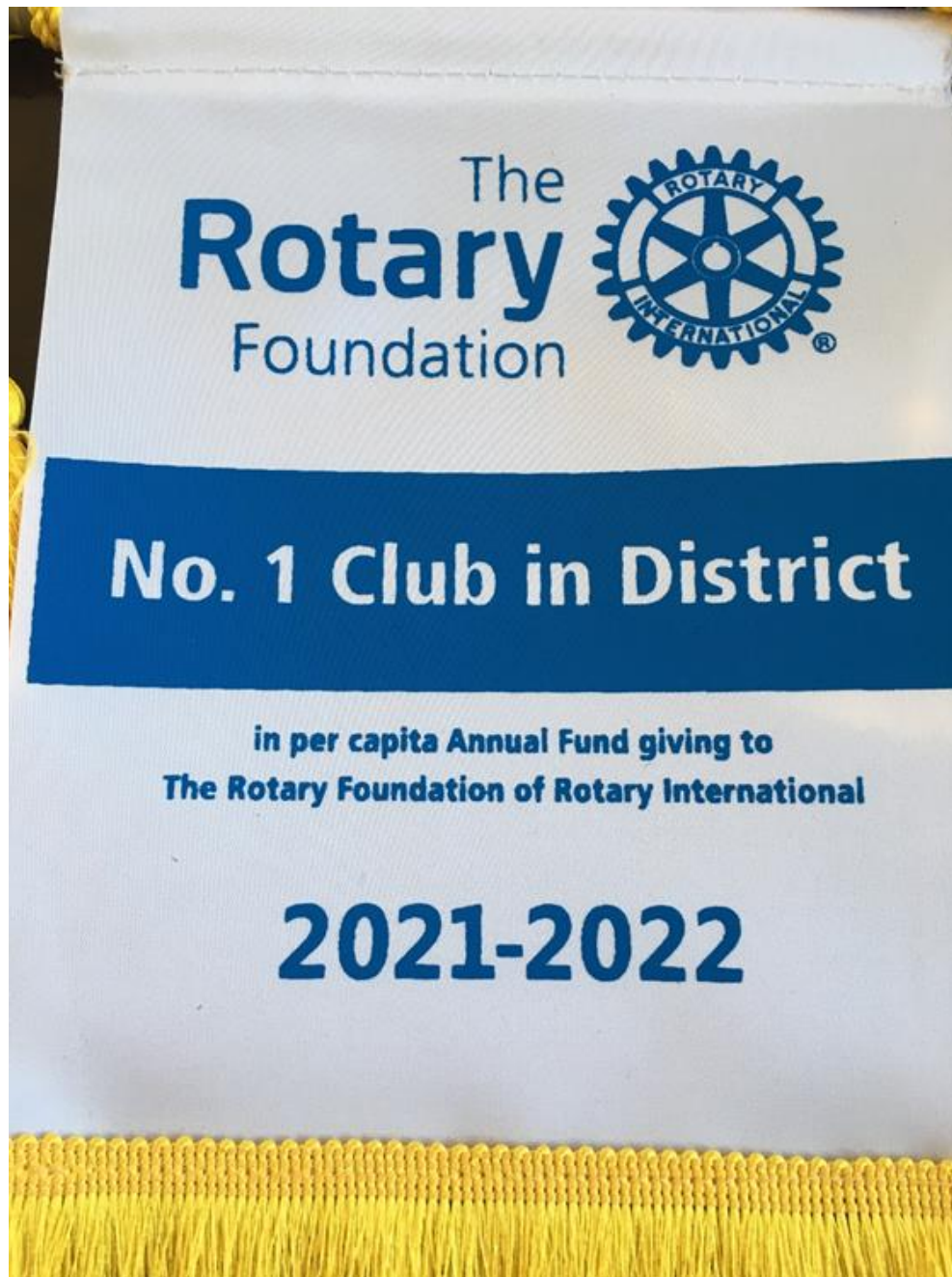


The Perfect ANNIVERSARY GIFT for our Club's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
 Connie receiving the award from DG Juliet next to Rotarians representing  
 #2 Mechanicsburg North and #3 Harrisburg Keystone

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***As a special Anniversary Present for our Fellow Rotarians at York East:***

*As we are trying to collate YOUR ROTARY MOMENTS and MEMORIES. Therefore, we are asking for YOUR STORIES. May they be long or short, funny or introspective, sad or inspirational, we would like you to send them to your newsletter editor ([Friedel.liebe@gmail.com](mailto:Friedel.liebe@gmail.com)) so that we can share them not only with your Fellow Rotarians but with the future generations that will keep our Club alive and continue our work.*



This award, being the evidence of our members' Generosity,  
was proudly received by our PDG Connie Spark during the  
ANNUAL ROTARY FOUNDATION DINNER  
on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## WELL DONE York East

As this list shows we are \$50 ahead of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and \$78 ahead of the 3<sup>rd</sup> in PER CAPITA GIVING  
And \$199 ahead of the RC York, the oldest club in our District and the 26<sup>th</sup> largest Club in the world

The following Clubs met or exceeded the \$100 Annual Fund per capita giving goal:	
\$383.10	York-East
\$322.14	Mechanicsburg-North
\$305.38	Harrisburg-Keystone
\$283.00	Hershey
\$271.44	Yellow Breeches
\$256.94	York-North
\$214.11	Gettysburg
\$204.76	Southern York County
\$184.15	York
\$166.67	Northern Lebanon Coun
\$152.63	Palmyra
\$150.12	Mount Joy
\$143.06	Littlestown
\$142.00	Lancaster Penn Square
\$131.44	Elizabethtown
\$129.17	Lancaster South

We have every reason to  
**Celebrate**  
Our club's achievements



And another magical present arrived out of the blue .....  
highlighting yet further the unique work that has been carried out by our  
members in conjunction with Rotarians from all over the world:  
the ***International Medical Missions***, the brainchild of no other than our  
PDG Connie, who is sharing with us this heartwarming story:

"I received a message, from LinkedIn, that someone had mentioned my name in a broadcast. As I checked there, I found it was our former York-East member and past Medical / Water team member Akram Ayoub. He left York-East to go to Dubai for a promotion in his job.

The broadcast was filmed and streaming from Dubai. Akram was being interviewed by a 25-year-old Rotarian. The interviewer was asking Akram what Rotary has to attract and offer young people his age. During Akram's remarks, the producer broke to show parts of our mission to Peru. Akram participated in that mission while he was a member in York-East. He is now being recognized for his professional work, his community leadership, and his celebrating of 25 years in Rotary. He was commenting on how that mission and Rotary has affected his professional life.

Hearing his words, once again, reminded me of the real reason I became a Rotarian. It also refreshed my spirit and dedication to live up to those words. I will continue to work as hard as possible to lead the medical teams and to train new members. Hopefully, with the support of our club, District 7390, and The Rotary Foundation, we will be able to continue to help many less fortunate people.

Akram also reminds us that "we are who we associate with."

In Rotary, we are all lucky that we meet likeminded people, like all of you and Akram, and so many others in our clubs and our Rotary moments along the way. Together, as a club, we strive to understand our Rotary purpose and our shared ideals of the organization we represent. It's a lifetime journey!"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YsOjJ81ogKM&authuser=0>

This is an irrefutable testament of the unique work of those Rotarians, who stood by, travelled, and worked together on these Medical Missions, often under the most difficult circumstances. They have seen the horrors of disease and poverty as well as the joys on the faces of those they were able to treat. These Rotarians – who often joined Connie's missions from around the world – have become friends for life while giving more than their fair share of *Service above Self*, like Vicky, who hardly missed a mission, her calming influence helped more than we can imagine while Roger was always the safest pair of hands; Jin Jou, whose 'hands on' approach and additional financial contributions were invaluable; Cher, whose sterling work behind the camera and in her studio documented with her images and videos more than words can say for all future generations to appreciate; – to name but a few.

Here are the voices of some of those who know best:

## Vicky's response

Dear Connie,

Akram Ayoub, serving as a Rotarian for 25 years, respects your leadership and character so highly that from Dubai he acknowledges your incredible actions he witnessed as a humanitarian mission team member in Peru many years ago. And to think he has quite a different life now in the Mideast yet he speaks of your work without prompting because it is so outstanding and memorable to him.

Akram Ayoub describes you as a true leader who rallies support for actions needed and manages those seeking to be corrupt. He notes that you deal with trouble in a manner that is out of the box and your strategies work. Doors open to opportunities when they otherwise could be closed by lawlessness you bring to a halt.

We had many challenges in countries attempting to take our equipment and I recall how in Ethiopia customs employees had taken 200 glasses frames from the Danish team the day before our arrival at the airport. And they were attempting to keep our 20+ crates of medical equipment and medicine. You not only convinced them to move us through with all of our equipment, but you also retrieved every pair of glasses taken from the Danes. This was amazing.

Connie, your impact in doing good in the world is greater than anyone can imagine. Partnering Rotarians and those many thousands of citizens served in your clinics remember the life changing work of your humanitarian mission teams. You have effectively reached many continents in our world with your leadership. And how grateful I am that you belong to our York-East Rotary Club! It is truly an honor to work with you as such a dynamic and dedicated leader and wonderful friend.

With greatest respect,  
Victoria

## Cher's response:

Amen, Vicky!

What an amazing Rotary family we have around the world.

There are thousands of Connie Spark stories. One time in Peru, we were told to ship our equipment ahead and it would be kept safe for our arrival. Yet it was not released when we arrived. Connie drove that issue to the top Secretary to get it resolved. And she carried on the mission to help others. The offenders did not go unpunished to repeat the attempted theft.

During another mission, Connie was called to stand before the African president who normally would have been showered with gifts and more gifts. Connie stood resolutely before all the national leaders and said she brought him the gift of health and eye sight to his people. This was very well received among this prestigious gathering.

Connie never lost any team member in any continent across the globe. We all returned home time after time.

Connie, you deserve all the support you need to carry on your mission of hope and healing to those that need it most. You are always up to something good.

Love and Gratitude,  
Cher Kondor

President Karen would like to draw your attention to this information from

#### THE ROTARY REPORTER



We are encouraging clubs to move forward with your **Four-Way Test Speech Contests** and send your Club contest winner to the District Mid-Levels.

Students can register for the Mid-Levels by clicking [here](#). Students **MUST** register for the Mid-Levels by January 15, 2023. The Mid Levels will be held in late February/early March 2023 (still finalizing a date). Dates will be coordinated directly with the students.

Mid-levels will continue to be virtual. This has worked so well for all concerned. The only push back on the virtual format is that families/coaches are not able to attend. But in keeping the STUDENTS at the center of this program, they benefit from having a closed environment and having the FULL ATTENTION of the prestigious judges. Also, in previous years, one area may have had 15 mid-level entries and another area only had three entries. Some highly qualified students did not move forward because of their location. While less prepared students in other locations got to move forward. The virtual process allows for a more equitable competition.

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### 2022-23 Four-Way Test ESSAY Contest



It is time to start planning your club's **4-Way Test ESSAY Contest**. We will, once again, be using the following prompt for this year's contest: **Is it the Truth? – How I Define What is True in My Life.**

We are looking forward to receiving essays from 9<sup>th</sup> grade high school students which address questions like: What is true? Where is truth found? Is truth important? Is truth relative?

Submissions for the 2022-23 District 7390 contest are due February 20, 2023.

Contest rules, critical dates, and information for both Rotarians and Students are available on the [District 7390 Website](#).

Any questions or requests for further information can be directed to project chair, Steven Grubb, at [stevengrubb@comcast.net](mailto:stevengrubb@comcast.net).

*As your newsletter editor (always fond of the written word), I would also like to mention once again the above*

#### FOUR-WAY TEST ESSAY CONTEST

*It is a privilege for me to again be one of the Judges on this Panel, as over the years, these young students have never ceased to amaze me with their excellent, often extraordinarily insightful interpretations when analyzing the meaning and incorporating Rotary's Four-Way-Test into their lives.*

*"Keep the Rotary Foundation and the good that it does in the world at the forefront our club's thought process", our club's Foundation Chair Elizabeth*



*Wishing you and all your loved ones  
a very happy Holiday Season  
filled with laughter and joy*



*This lovingly created Christmas Decoration is displayed at a residence in Wyndham Hills*