

# ROTARY CLUB OF YORK – EAST

District 7390 – Meetings: Tuesdays @ 7:30 a.m.

## May 2022 Newsletter

Editor: Friedel Liebe-Elser

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



Rotary Opens Opportunities

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### Rotary Membership Anniversaries

*Thank you  
for your continued service above self*

Meighen, Jin Jou

18

May 10 2004

### York East Board of Directors 2021/22

President: Sandra Graham  
President-Elect: Karen Comery  
Treasurer: Diane Yocum  
Secretary: Friedel Liebe-Elser & Bob Elser  
Past President: Kyle King

Sergeant at Arms:

At-large Members & Committee Chairs:

Becky Disney – Fundraising & Giving  
William Gierasch – Club Administration  
Elizabeth Wolf – Rotary Foundation  
Deb Klinedienst – Membership  
Chris Izzo – Grant Committee  
Greg Kern – Community Service  
Tim Koller – Public Relations  
Bob Straw – Vocational  
Kris Pollick  
Hunter Mink

### Happy Birthday to you...

Helt, Chris	May 01
Krug, Jack	May 07
Reiley, Sue	May 09
Bene, Ada	May 12
Nunn, Lydell	May 26

\*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

May 3<sup>rd</sup> Kristen Greenaway from Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum at St. Michaels President and CEO.

May 10<sup>th</sup> Frank Kempf and Gwen Loose: York County Heritage Rail Trail - Authority on Hanover Trolley expansion.

May 17<sup>th</sup> Kevin Schreiber York County Economic Alliance

May 24<sup>th</sup> Kelly Blechertas, Program coordinator for York County Homeless, and Robin Shearer

May 31<sup>st</sup> Megan Craley York County Area Agency on Aging (on Zoom)

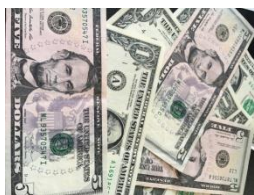
**For ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING: Instructions on how to join the virtual meeting will still be sent to members - or guests upon request - via the email meeting reminder each Monday.**

**The in-person meetings are held at Heritage Hills Hotels with the venue - location advertised on a sign outside - opening at 7 am.**

### YORK EAST ROTARY CLUB BOARD MEETING

Board Meeting on Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
7:30 a.m. via ZOOM Virtual Platform only

# HAPPY



\$\$\$\$\$

I would be grateful if  
**once you have pledged your HAPPY DOLLARS**

PLEASE send an email to

[friedel.liebe@gmail.com](mailto:friedel.liebe@gmail.com)

asap with the amount, your story and if possible, a photo.  
 Since it is impossible to get any of the above details during  
 hybrid meetings, your help is very much appreciated.

THANK YOU

Your backdated Happy Dollar Stories are always welcome  
 Aat any time!

## HAPPY DOLLAR SUPER TUESDAY April 12<sup>th</sup> 2022

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$162</b>
Elizabeth Wolf	\$25
Chris Izzo	\$37
Connie Spark	\$100

### ELIZABETH

Donated 25 Happy Dollars to thank our three Silver  
 Anniversary Rotarians  
 Helt, Chris - April 11th 1997  
 Izzo, Chris - April 15th 1997  
 Lutz, Pete - April 22nd 1997  
 For their SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Mind you, Pete took the celebration of his 25 years as a  
 Rotarian of the Rotary Club of York a little further –  
 actually all the way to the Caribbean. From there he joined  
 that morning's hybrid meeting using his phone to share  
 images of himself on a sleek yacht, gliding through azure-  
 blue waters while basking in glorious sunshine – a memory  
 that may well be worth a few Happy Dollars on his return.

### CHRIS

Our most heartfelt congratulations to Beth and Chris as  
 they celebrate their 37<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. We assume  
 that on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> of 1985, they and their wedding  
 guests may have danced the night away to top on the chart  
 songs, like WE ARE THE WORLD and ONE MORE NIGHT.  
 Only 2 days and 12 years later, Chris joined the RC York  
 East. Their double celebration on 13<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> gives us every  
 reason to be grateful for the gift of this lovely couple.

### Connie

As usual, her customary generosity knows no bounds so  
 Connie had a list of reasons to show her happiness:  
 1. Happy \$\$\$ to show her gratitude to our incoming  
 President, Karen, who was brave enough to step up to the  
 plate when our club's original President Elect, Sheri  
 Stamm, suddenly found her work situation changed, forcing  
 her to opt out.

2. Happy \$\$\$ to her dear friend and loyal supporter on her  
 many medical missions around the world, Vicky, who,  
 together with Roger always comes to her aid – no matter  
 what it takes, how rough it gets, or how dangerous it is.  
 Vicky has been at Connie's side from the beginning and no  
 mission would be the same without her gentle, yet firm  
 helping hand

3. Happy \$\$\$ to her devoted ally, Cher, who is jus as  
 dedicated to Connie's *Missions Impossible*, ready to do  
 whatever it takes and often to capture the moments of  
 hardship and joy on camera for Rotarians around the world  
 to witness some of the truly amazing work, professionally  
 produced by Cher.

4. ... and Happy \$\$\$ to me – for producing our club's  
 monthly newsletters.

As my gratitude to Connie, I will share with you a story  
 which shows a completely different talent she possesses.  
 But that is a Happy \$\$\$ story for our next Newsletter.

\*\*\*\*\*

### HAPPY \$\$\$ from Deb

*With this heartwarming story*

Our daughter, Jennifer Tracy, has worked in the broadcast  
 and cable industry for much of her career. She worked for  
 Comcast in Philadelphia, until she and her family moved to  
 Florida where she worked virtually from home.



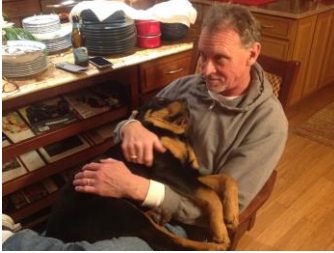
Being a people person and not enjoying working from home  
 she decided to accept a position at Bright House Networks,  
 LLC. She enjoyed her time there and moved to North  
 Carolina when Charter Communications purchased Bright  
 House.



She is now the Vice President of Talent Attraction and  
 Acquisition, for Spectrum and recently was invited by her  
 former Bright House CEO to attend the Broadcasting and  
 Cable Communication Hall of Fame Dinner where Savannah  
 Guthrie and Hoda Kotb were inducted in New York.

## ELIZABETH

To thank Elizabeth Wolf, our tried and tested former Foundation Chair, for taking back this recently vacated position, we welcome this opportunity to shine our club's spotlight on her life. But as the regularly used quote says: behind every great man stands an equally great woman, we must reverse this statement and also turn the light towards Steve, her husband, best friend, and soulmate. Judging by his delightful, often actively quiet presence at so many of our events, we all feel that Steve is one of our fellow Rotarians in all but name – especially when hosting all our club's Summer Parties



If some of Hollywood's casting teams were scouting for the perfect actress to epitomize confidence, professionalism, trust, and competence, combined in a gracious lady who is cultured, sophisticated, and courteous, they would look no further because once they'd met Elizabeth, they'd have found their star. Yet there is so much more to her because she is passionate about being creative. It started even before she, a third generation York countian, attended York Suburban High School. Growing up in York in a warm, lively household, abuzz with eight siblings (6 brothers!), who filled their home with laughter and joy, her close-knit family gave her the chance to thrive on many levels. The only time she lived outside the county was to attend the University of Pittsburgh where she graduated with a B.S. in Psychology.

'Small Family Gathering'



At a Party to celebrate her Dad's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Her passion to be creative did not stop at her life-long hobby of sewing, as her motto 'design, measure, cut, assemble' transitioned easily to other areas of her life. And to keep thriving she knew she needed the perfect partner, one who would be her best friend and her loving, hands-on husband. Whether they were both in muddy dungarees or carrying in a backpack all they needed to survive during a trip into uncharted foreign lands or attending a glittering gala, wearing tuxedo and ball gown, they had to be the perfect match.



Steve served his country in the United States Marine Corp from 1975-1979, training as a combat engineer electrician and obtaining the rank of Sergeant. His overseas service included assignments in mainland Japan, Korea, and Okinawa. "Steve and I met in 1981 shortly after he was out of the Marine Corps, and I was out of college. We were "fixed up" by a woman I worked with who lived across the street from Steve's mother, with whom he was living at the time."



They knew they were made for each other and didn't waste any time to find the right place for their forever home - a farmer's field then in the middle of nowhere. Where less inspired couples would have seen weeds, dandelion, and stinging nettle, this young couple visualized their very own 'Forever Home'. Giving their claim to the land an additional, romantic meaning, on August 24<sup>th</sup>, 1985, they got married there, celebrating the event on the soil where they would spend their life together on 585 Kreutz Creek Road in Hellam township.

"We've always enjoyed working toward a common goal, whether it be a *major* project like building our own home, or an everyday task like yard work or going to the gym. I think we share similar qualities of persistence, determination and bringing out the best in each other." What an amazing, heartwarming statement after having been married for 37 years. Knowing Elizabeth and Steve, it was clear from the start that their home would be created on anything but a boilerplate design. One of their many assets as a couple is their hands-on approach to everything that needs to be done. And planning, building, and constructing their dream home including all of the unique interior for them was not, what mere mortals like us would call, a back-breaking effort. For them it was 'Fun!' And seeing the fruit of their labor, even decades later, means looking at their shared love to create something more extraordinary than



bricks and mortar, something tasteful that oozes happiness and warmth from every inch of that beautiful wood interior they call home. What they designed and built is their passive solar “envelope” home. Saving energy, protecting the environment, while creating the coziest atmosphere inside during all seasons was their dream. And they made it a dream come true.



It was only natural that lovingly landscaping what had been a farmer’s field into the bucolic, three acre setting where Elizabeth, Stephen and their two Rottweilers can roam was always part of their master plan, long before they knew how much her fellow Rotarians would relish the chance to feel at home in their environment. After all, they have the perfect garden where scores of friends can play croquet, chat in the shade of mature trees, feast on crab meat while sitting on their large verandas – or even walk up to admire Steve’s trademark, his amazing fixed-wing airplane, which has turned into a landmark because no first-time visitor will ever miss their driveway once directed to turn in next to his plane because Steve just happens to be a private pilot with fixed wing and helicopter ratings.



“Having a small family of his mother and brother, Steve embraced my family, including my eight siblings and their ever-expanding families. We stuck to fur babies. It took a while, but Steve made a dog lover out of me. Steve had a Rottweiler and a stray he’d picked up in Memphis, Tennessee when we met. I tolerated the dogs and took care of them, but never really loved them (which explains the outdoor kennel) – until – we got puppies!



Over the years we have adopted, from various donors, at least 4 Rottweilers, a Newfoundland, and a mutt (thank goodness for the outdoor kennel)! Now we can be seen on a daily basis, in

fluorescent green, walking our Rottweilers Sparkle and Nani along Kreutz Creek Road.”



To understand the many levels of that special magic between Elizabeth and Steve it helps to know that Steve has served as Facilities Director of the YMCA of York and York County since 2010, having transitioned to the nonprofit world from his 23-year tenure as Manager of Maintenance and New Construction for Shipley Stores, LLC. His broad background in construction, carpentry, concrete, plumbing, electrical, heavy equipment operation, and whatever else might come in handy is almost essential when you are married to Elizabeth, whose ideas of home-improvement know no bounds.

Steve also has a history of service to the Hellam Township community, dating back to his first term as Township Supervisor in 1990, with a total 20 years serving in that capacity which saw him being involved in ancillary services, such as Police Supervisor, having negotiated police contracts; Emergency Management Committee; and York County Association of Township Supervisors, serving as its President for 2 years. Those in charge of the township know that if you want to get things done, Steve is your man.

The same holds true for the Horn Farm Center in Hellam Township, where Steve volunteered over several summers to provide water lines that supply hose bays to the community gardens and a huge retention pond that provides water for the partner farmers learning their trade.

Therefore it is not surprising that Elizabeth has felt the same for decades and we know that she could not have done for Rotary what she did without his help. Yet reminiscing about the early influencers in her Rotary journey there are many that come to her mind – including the one Rotarian responsible for her ‘Rotary Moment’.

“Charles Wurster, The Rotary Foundation Chair for our club when I joined Rotary, solicited me to serve as Foundation Chair and then Club President. Jim Walters preceded me as Club President and included me in his leadership team and strategy. This inclusion strengthened both of our presidential years and our club. Connie Spark, who was about to become Club President when I was inducted, later represented our club as District Governor. Her passion for Doing Good in the World has resulted in continuous mission trips in all parts of the world with teams built through Rotary clubs near and far. Ben Hoover served as District Governor during my preparation for Rotary leadership.

Fred Fay was Assistant Governor during my year as Club President. He was a strong supporter, worker bee and champion of The County Cup. Lew Elicker was Assistant Governor during my time as District Foundation Coordinator. He was my Rotary leadership meeting buddy and another strong supporter of The County Cup.

My Rotary moment came early in my Rotary membership when, at Connie’s urging, I attended a district conference in Hershey where local Rotarians played the part of a Rotary club president in a country where polio was still endemic at that time and a

local woman from a rural African village telling the story of how she and her entire community benefited from a micro loan. In a reenactment of the real story, the Rotary club president told of the physical perils of vaccine delivery that resulted in the drowning death of one of his club members while traveling to reach children in remote regions. Even so, he and his fellow Rotarians persevered with the immunizations. He managed to redeploy the refrigeration originally provided for the polio vaccine to a maternal care clinic, saving additional lives of mothers and their newborns. His country is now polio free. In the same reenactment of the real story, a local woman told her story of meeting Rotarians who were in her country on an immunization project and who took an interest in her and her children. Realizing the impediments for her to earn a wage, they wanted to help her in some way. She wanted a sewing machine to make craft items and handbags, which she could then sell at the local markets. She ended up expanding her business to the point of hiring others in her village. For under \$100, which she repaid in full, and the caring of one Rotarian, this woman's life was dramatically changed."

This brings Elizabeth to why The Rotary Foundation is her charity of choice because she can see what her money does. "I can see what my money does when Rotarians from my club and district return home from Ethiopia or Peru or Ghana or Kenya or Haiti or Jamaica with stories and pictures of the children and adults who got glasses or relief from tooth decay, had surgeries otherwise unavailable to them, and girls who can continue to go to school because there are now sanitary facilities for them.

I can see what my money does when Rotarians in my district return home from India, having vaccinated countless children. I can see what my money does when Rotarians return home from New Orleans or North Carolina or Texas or Puerto Rico, having provided disaster relief. I can see what my money does when our local clubs can provide funds for food banks, books, and dictionaries and now iPads for York County school children, making our community better by planting trees or maintaining memorial gardens, providing access to programs like Junior Achievement's Biz Town, enhancing senior centers. The projects go on and on.

The reason I can see what my money does is because every project everywhere is developed and implemented by Rotarians, just like us. We've raised the money, we've designed the project, we've developed the team. That's accountability. And to me, that's comfort in seeing that through my fellow Rotarians, my money truly is doing good in the world."

Elizabeth joined our Club on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2004 and took over as president in 2011-2012 after having served several years as Foundation Chair and worked on various fundraising, service and administrative committees, including The County Cup Committee from 2011-2015, when largely thanks to her efforts they returned the staggering amount of more than \$223,000 to the York non-profit community.

She served as Assistant District Governor for six Rotary clubs of Group G in 2018-19 under Governor John May; 2019-20 under Governor Patrick Rooney; 2020-21 under Governor John Anthony.

In the tradition of Rotary, with pins for every occasion, Elizabeth periodically sports the following:

- Paul Harris Fellow (PHF) since Dec 2005 – cumulative giving of \$1,000
- Major Donor as of March 2019 – cumulative giving of \$10,000
- Sustaining Member - \$100 Every Rotarian Every Year
- Paul Harris Society (PHS) – commitment to donate \$1,000 per Rotary year
- Polio Plus Society (PPS) – commitment to donate \$100 per Rotary year to Polio Plus
- Graduate of Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI)

It is typical for her that she joined our club only after she had reached the 'top of her profession'. Having started her career in the financial services industry in 1985 and once she had moved to Wells Fargo Advisors in late September 2009, she earned her CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ designation in May, 2004 – and the next month saw her become a Rotarian. This timeline was critical to her because to earn the CFP® designation, Elizabeth had to complete an approved educational program, pass a rigorous examination, and meet stringent experience requirements. She adheres to a professional Code of Ethics and fulfills annual continuing education requirements to remain aware of current planning strategies and financial trends.

For her it is important to build long term relationships with her clients as she helps each of them toward creating and implementing his or her financial legacy.

With a twinkle in her eye, she reports: "I must be starting to look my age, because more and more, I am being asked about my retirement plans – none as yet, as Steve and I both are happy in our jobs and the people interaction that comes with them. "We enjoy travel. One of our early trips was to Japan, to revisit places Steve knew as a Marine stationed in that country, and to explore new places. In those days, with one backpack each, we hiked, travelled by train, and stayed in minshuku, the Japanese version of B&B's. You may know our favorite destination now is Maui, Hawaii, where we vacation annually over the weeks of Christmas and New Year's. Much of our other travel is planned around family and family events."



Sunset at the Beach on Maui

# *Great Egrets at Kiwanis Lake in York*

Interview & Photos by Friedel in Mid-April 2022

Here is our Egret's story:

*"You see there's a lot of Competition here. . .*



...

*... but since I am building the best nest*



*... and a really gorgeous body*

*... and I am the prettiest bird around*



*I will find the perfect wife*

*... with the finest feathers...*



*Oh look - here they come!*

*The cutest girls of all!*

*Let's see which one is my dream bird!*



**After our club has donated more than \$10,000 to the Ukraine Fund to assist with some of the latest projects as of 20 April 2022 Elizabeth wants to share the following information**

### **Ukrainian Rotary Clubs Take Action**

- The Rotary Club of Cherkasy purchased and delivered medical supplies and medicine to multiple local hospitals. The club has also organized daily meals for 250 evacuated families from Sumy, Herson, Kharkiv, and Chernihiv.
- Some members of the Rotary Club of Kharkiv International have traveled to border countries to help refugees adapt to their new situations. Members are also working, through their project Yellow Help, to evacuate families near war zones.
- Club members of the Rotary Club of Kyiv Synergy collected 350 boxes of medical supplies from Italy and distributed them to areas in Kyiv and Sumy.
- The Rotary Club of Kyiv-Sophia are preparing and delivering hot meals to residents of Kyiv and Irpen-Bucha. Members have purchased and delivered hygiene products and medicine to young mothers and the elderly.
- Members of the Rotary Club of Lviv are unloading and organizing relief aid from European countries, then facilitating delivery to several humanitarian hubs across the country.
- Members of the Rotaract Club of Klagenfurt-Wörthersee, Austria, collect medical supplies, food, sleeping bags, and generators for transport to the Polish-Ukrainian border to assist people displaced by conflict in Ukraine.
- Clubs in Rotary District 2231 (Poland) are using a \$50,000 disaster response grant to provide transportation, accommodations, food, and medical assistance for refugees who crossed the border from Ukraine.
- Rotary District 2240 in the Czech Republic is purchasing \$50,000 worth of sleeping bags, medicine, food, and defibrillators, EKGs, and oxygen concentrators to victims.
- District governors in Germany created a national task force to coordinate member initiatives and relief efforts on an online platform. A liaison office for government agencies and nongovernmental organizations has been established in Berlin.
- Rotary clubs throughout France have mobilized to collect and distribute necessities to refugees. District governors are coordinating donations from French clubs to help Rotary clubs in Ukraine as well as to assist refugees traveling through Poland and Romania or taking refuge in those countries. The needs are determined by the France-Ukraine, France-Poland, and France-Romania-Moldova intercountry committees.
- District 1910 in Austria is using a \$25,000 disaster response grant to provide accommodations, baby supplies, medicine, hygiene materials, psychological care, food, and appliances to Ukrainian refugees in Austria.

### **Rotaract Europe**

The European Rotaract Information Centre, a multidistrict information organization that serves Rotaractors all over Europe, created a United for Peace site that compiles information for refugees and volunteers.

- The site offers information about free rail, bus, and air transportation available to refugees and lists details about what's needed and how to help at specific national borders.
- It also has fundraising details for hospitals in the western Ukraine city of Lviv, as well as for clubs that are helping in various places and for other organizations in the region.

- The site lets Rotaractors coordinate shelter for refugees stranded at the border. Volunteer hosts can sign up through an online form and specify how many people they can house and for how long. Begun as an initiative to help fellow Rotary members leaving Ukraine, it's now being used by Rotaract and Rotary members all over Europe to offer help.
- A tool on the site links a demand for goods with available supplies. It was created within 48 hours after a team of 60 members from 10 countries met by videoconference about how to meet the most urgent needs.

### **Ukraine**

Ukraine has 62 Rotary clubs and six satellite clubs with about 1,100 members, and 24 Rotaract clubs with more than 300 members.

- District 2232 (Ukraine and Belarus) formed a committee to help people affected by the crisis. It has launched an appeal to Rotary members worldwide for funds to provide basic necessities.
- The city of Lviv has had an influx of people displaced from other cities around Ukraine. The Rotary Club of Lviv International, working with local authorities and major hospitals, created an online spreadsheet of relief items that can be accessed by people who want to help. Members arrange for the donated items to be delivered to hospitals and coordinate storage with local warehouses.

### **Poland**

Poland has taken in more than a million refugees, and Rotary clubs all over the country created a central account for contributions.

- The Rotary Club of Olsztyn is collecting and managing donations for more than 150 Ukrainians who are staying at Ostróda Camp, a conference and recreation center. Most of the occupants are unaccompanied children whose parents stayed in Ukraine. Four cars full of supplies including food, clothes, toiletries, and toys were donated hours after the center began accepting refugees.
- Members of the Rotary Club of Zamosc worked with a member of the Rotary Club of Wolsztyn, who owns a medical supply distribution company, to coordinate a partnership with other organizations to collect supplies and equipment.
- The Rotary Club of Gdansk Centrum is providing accommodations for four refugee families, and members who own businesses are offering them work.

### **Other countries that border Ukraine**

- The Rotary Club of Kisvárd, Hungary, is coordinating contributions and mobilizing members to donate necessities and deliver the items to where they're needed.
- Rotary members in Romania and Moldova have created a central fund for contributions and set up WhatsApp groups that organize food donations and coordinate shelter for refugees.
- In Slovakia and the Czech Republic, clubs have partnered with a railway and cargo company to offer transportation to nearly 2,300 refugees.

*Kim Widlicki and Claudia Brunner contributed to this article.*

***"Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves."***