

# CLUB NEWS

TURBINE NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2022

**DATE: April 9, 2022 - ROTARY DAY OF SERVICE!**

We will be spreading mulch at the Holyoke YMCA - please join us at 9:30 a.m.

**DATE: April 19, 2022**

12:15 p.m. @ Slainte

PROGRAM SPEAKER: Michael Moriarty

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

Thomas Hazen	Apr 02
Dan Glanville	Apr 05
Doris Ransford	Apr 08
Jacob Perkins	Apr 11
Michael Moriarty	Apr 13
Ken Seyffer	Apr 27

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!**

Bill & Ann Rogalski	Apr 16: 39 years
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**ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES**

Barbara Baran	16 years
Helene Florio	20 years
Jim Jendrysik	27 years
Jacob Perkins	9 years

**KEN SEYFFER TURNS 101 YEARS OLD**

Ken joined the Holyoke Rotary Club in 1975 and continues to be an Honorary Member. He received a Paul Harris Award in 1992-93 and the Dwight Award in 1999. Wayne Gass recently shared an article from Loomis where Ken was recently interviewed. Here is an excerpt from the article:

Ken Seyffer will turn 101 this spring, a still-lively man who has 15 great-grandchildren spread across the country. Ken lives with his 20-year-old cat.

His father was a sales manager for Ford Motors, overseeing 5,000 dealerships, and during his childhood the family moved eight times. He attended Colgate University, which is currently down to "a class of one," he added: himself.



He graduated in 1942 and immediately joined the infantry, fighting his way across Europe under General George Patton.

After the war, he joined Ford, becoming the owner of a dealership in Holyoke in 1949. Ten years later, he left the automobile business to enter banking. He joined the Shawmut Bank in Holyoke, eventually becoming senior vice president of the Shawmut Bank of South Hadley. He worked in banking for 25 years.

Ken has lived alone since his wife, Lolita, died six years ago. He still takes a drink a day, takes only one pill, reads three or four nonfiction books a month, watches news and sports on TV, and takes care of his ancient cat. He keeps up with public affairs and has an optimistic outlook on life.

Happy Birthday Ken!

**Holyoke Rotary Club Contributes**

**\$30,000** towards Holyoke  
"Playground  
for All"



The Holyoke Rotary Club has pledged \$30,000 to the Miracle League of Western Massachusetts towards its efforts to construct a Playground for All welcoming everyone of different ages and abilities, not just children. This includes families with children and parents who have sensory-processing disorders, autism, and people of all ages in wheelchairs or other mobility devices. The Playground For All in Holyoke has been approved and will be at Kennedy Field on Lincoln Street. The playground will be designed to provide a multi-sensory play experience, to encourage all people to play, to allow greater accessibility, to ensure that people do not feel overwhelmed and to create a welcoming social environment. Total cost of the project is \$477,822.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: KERRY PARSONS

**Q: How long have you been a member of the Holyoke Rotary Club?**

I joined June 1st, 2012

**Q: Why did you join the Holyoke Rotary Club?** I initially signed up so

I could have a weekly lunch date with my mother :) and to learn more about what Rotary was all about.

**Q: What's your favorite part of being a member of Rotary?** I love the

volunteering aspect of it. It really shows that all of our members want to make a difference however they can.

**Q: What committee do you currently volunteer with?** I am a member of the Board of Directors and also serve on the Concert committee.

**Q: What do you enjoy most about volunteering?** I love being around people and making a difference in the community. Really seeing the impact that we are making.

**Q: What is your current occupation?** I am the Southern New England Service Operations Manager for Colonial Life

**Q: What's one thing — either industry-related or not — you learned in the last month?** I am really trying to learn how to live in the moment these days and take it all in, especially with my children. Time goes way too fast!

**Q: What is your favorite hobby?** I LOVE to travel.

**Q: What's the next place on your travel bucket list?** Bora Bora or Greece. Some day!!

**Q: Are you currently binge-watching any shows?** I hate to say it, but I do love reality TV!

**Q: If you had to eat one meal every day for the rest of your life, what would it be?** Tacos!



Chloe (17), Emily (5), Olivia (6), Kerry

Will you be our next Member Spotlight? Or do you have something else to contribute to next month's newsletter? Email [rotary.macg@gmail.com](mailto:rotary.macg@gmail.com).

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: WAYNE GASS

**Q: How long have you been a member of**

**the Holyoke Rotary Club?** I joined the Holyoke Rotary Club in January 1968. If my arithmetic is correct, that is 54 years ago. How can that be?

**Q: Why did you join the Holyoke Rotary**

**Club?** Because I was new to the Holyoke area, I joined to meet new people and knew that I would meet good and interesting people in Rotary and people who were active in and leaders in the community.

**Q: What's your favorite part of being a member**

**of Rotary?** Hard to say. I like the fellowship and look forward to the meetings, especially when there are good and interesting speakers. I also like the international aspects of Rotary.

**Q: What committee do you currently volunteer**

**with?** I am in line to be the president for 2022-2023, am on the Board, have been responsible for the annual giving to The Rotary Foundation and work with Ed McCarron on the Club's pure water efforts.

**Q: What do you enjoy most about volunteering?** I like the sense of giving back to the community, helping people who need assistance moving themselves forward.

**Q: What is your current occupation?** I am retired after working 38 years as a college administrator.

**Q: How do you define success?** Success to me is achieving your goals and the goals of your organization.

**Q: If you could choose anyone as a mentor, who would you choose and why?** I had several wonderful mentors in my professional life. If I had to pick one it was Robert Barrett who was a long time member of this club and a model Rotarian.

**Q: What advice would you give to someone who wants to enter your field?** In the last month, since the invasion of Ukraine, I have been reminded that there always has been a Putin in this world, men who want more power or what someone else has and will do anything to obtain it. Just in my lifetime there has been Hitler, Stalin and Mao Zedong. In the past there has been Julius Caesar, Alexander the Great, Genghis Khan and others. We would be well advised to remember our history and maintain a strong defense.

**Q: What's the last book you read?** I have recently completed Thomas Sowell's *Basic Economics* and am currently into *Midnight Line*, a Jack Reacher novel by Lee Child.

**Q: What is your favorite hobby?** I try to either hike or ski once a week, weather and conditions permitting.

**Q: Are you currently binge-watching any shows?** Marilyn and I enjoy watching *Masterpiece Theater* on public television. Most recently that has been *All Creatures Great and Small* which has been terrific.



Wayne & Marilyn Gass



Wayne in 1968