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INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RELIEF

The following examples of the Club's efforts for international disaster relief are only those found in the limited minutes of Club and Board meetings from 1989 onward, so this list is incomplete. Even for this period, there are unavailable minutes, especially from May 1999 through Aug 2004.

2004 - Indian Ocean Tsunami

The 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and resulting tsunami occurred on Dec 26, 2004. The undersea megathrust earthquake was caused when the Indian Plate was subducted by the Burma Plate and triggered a series of devastating tsunamis along the coasts of most landmasses bordering the Indian Ocean, killing 230,000 people in 14 countries, and inundating coastal communities with waves up to 100 ft. high. It was one of the deadliest natural disasters in recorded history.¹¹⁵

The Tunkhannock Rotary donated \$1,000 through the Rotary Foundation for disaster relief efforts after this catastrophic tsunami.

2013 - Super Typhoon Haiyan (Philippines)

On November 7, 2013, the largest tropical cyclone ever recorded, struck the central Philippines and changed the lives of 25 million people. This Category 5 storm, Super Typhoon Haiyan, produced 147 miles per hour winds. More than 6,000 people died & nearly 2,000 were missing. The homes of millions of people were destroyed or washed away.¹¹⁶

In response to this disaster, our Club sponsored five Shelter Boxes (cost \$5,000) for the Philippines. Each ShelterBox contains a tent designed to withstand extreme weather conditions, a water purification kit, blankets, tools, cooking utensils, a stove, children's activity book and other necessities to help a family survive after a disaster. ShelterBox Response Teams distribute boxes on the ground working closely with local organizations and Rotary clubs worldwide.

2015 - Earthquake Relief in Nepal

In April 2015, a magnitude 7.8 earthquake hit Nepal, killing more than 8,000 people. Hundreds of thousands of people were made homeless with entire villages flattened.¹¹⁷

In response to this disaster, our Club sponsored two ShelterBoxes for Nepal.



¹¹⁵ From Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2004_Indian_Ocean_earthquake_and_tsunami

¹¹⁶ Taken from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Typhoon_Haiyan

¹¹⁷ Taken from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/April_2015_Nepal_earthquake

Youth Service

Formerly known as New Generations Service, this area of service was renamed by the 2013 Council on Legislation as Youth Service.

The Tunkhannock Rotary Club recognizes that the future of Rotary and the world will be determined by the youth of today. Therefore, the Club has a variety of programs to encourage the spirit of scholarship, leadership, international friendship and philanthropy in the youth in the Tunkhannock area.

In addition to sponsoring the very active Tunkhannock Interact Club, awarding scholarships to graduating seniors and sending students (and counselors) to RYLA every June, the Club also sponsors the Josh the Baby Otter Water Safety Program (partnered by Rotary International) each summer and distributes dictionaries to 3rd graders each fall. Most years, the Club also has one or more outbound and inbound exchange student(s).

PROGRAMS FOR ATHLETES

The Club has always been a big supporter of sports in the schools.

Sports' Banquets

For many years, the Club hosted a sports banquet for the High School athletes with well-known coaches as guest speakers. Most of the banquets were held at the Methodist Church or in the auditorium at the old High School.

Table 13 Some of the Coaches That Have Spoken at the Sports' Banquets

Year	Coach	Affiliation
1939	Bob Higgins	Head Coach – Penn State University
1943	William Boelter	Head Football Coach – Syracuse University
1944	Andy Kerr	Football Coach – Colgate University
1946	Norman Smith	Football Coach - Wyoming Seminary
1947	Lou Little	Head Football Coach – Columbia University
1948	George “Lefty” James	Head Football Coach – Cornell University
1949	Hugh J. Devore	Head Football Coach - St. Bonaventure
1950	Harvey Harmon	Head Football Coach – Rutgers University

There was a write-up in the July 1944 edition of the Rotarian on how the

“Rotary Club of Tunkhannock conducts its own “cheering section” for local high-school athletic teams. Each year all the youngsters who report for drill on any of the teams are invited to a banquet given by the Rotary Club in their honor. This year 55 football, basketball, volleyball and track stars were

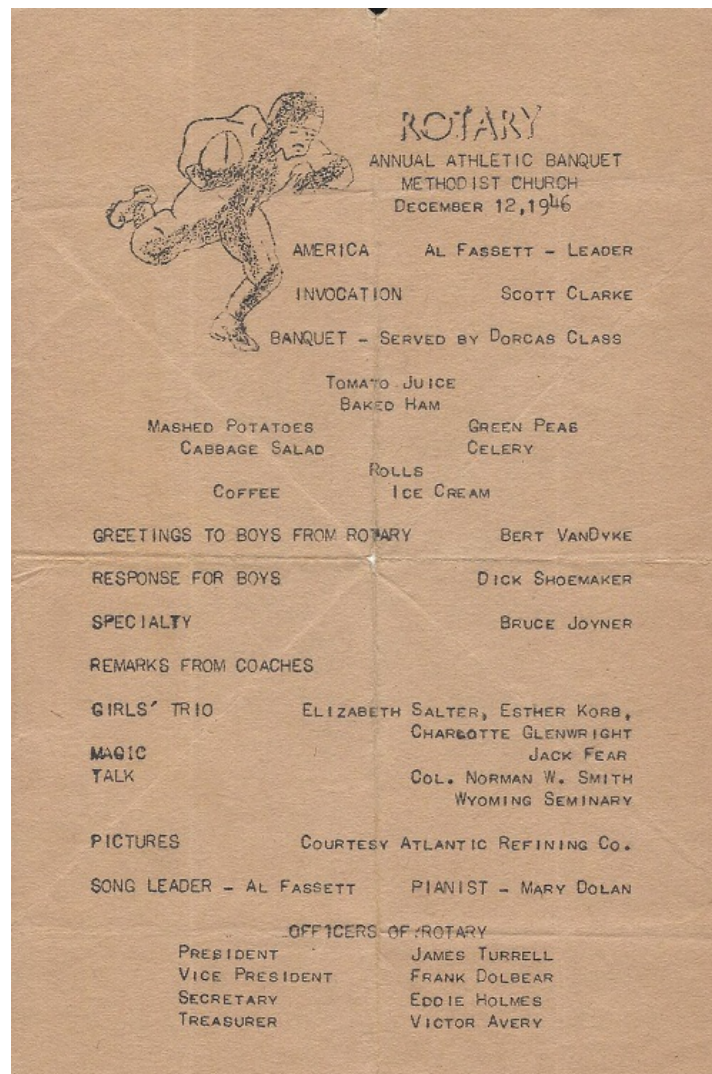
entertained at the dinner, which was served by the girls of the school's home-economics department"

Additionally, in Dec 1947, the New Age Examiner posted that:

"The Tunkhannock Rotary Club's annual athletic banquet, proved to be an outstanding success. Columbia Coach Lou Little expressed his opinion that 'today's football game is the best in history.'"

In Dec 1949, the Club was also noted for its annual athletic banquet in the New Age Examiner:

"The annual athletic banquet given by the Tunkhannock Rotary Club to all the boys in the high School who have won certificates in all athletic teams will be held Thursday evening. Principal speaker is Hugh J. Devore, who is head football coach at St. Bonaventure."



Program for 1946 Annual Athletic Banquet (Courtesy of Jim Welch Sr.)



One of the All Sports Banquets held in the old High School Auditorium. (Photo courtesy of the Wyoming County Historical Society.)

T-Ball (1985-2015)

The Tunkhannock Rotary has sponsored a Teener-ball (T-ball) team since 1985.



Pre-2000 Rotary Sponsored T-Ball Team



1993 Rotary Sponsored T-Ball Team

Other Sports Sponsorships

The Club was also a sponsor for the Red Cross Swim-a-Cross in the 1990's. On a few occasions the Club won the award for getting the most pledges for the Swim-a-thon. In 1990, 6 Rotarians swam 100 laps in 42 minutes raising \$367 for the Red Cross. The Club rounded it up to a \$400 donation to Red Cross. In 1991, pledges were 10 cents per lap and participants swam their laps at the school pool.

In 1990, the Club supported a Basketball Clinic at the High School for both boys and girls and in 1991 provided team support. In 1990, the Club was also one of the sponsors for the girls' soccer team.

Special Olympics

Special Olympics was created by the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation. The mission of Special Olympics PA is to provide year-round sports training and competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy, and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills, and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes, and the community.

All training and competition opportunities are provided free of charge to the athletes and their families, enabling everyone to experience the benefits of Special Olympics that extend well beyond the playing field.

Wyoming County is part of Area P Special Olympics that encompasses: Susquehanna, Wayne, Pike, Lackawanna and Wyoming County.

The money raised from the Rotary Relays gate receipts described in the Fund-raising section later was donated to Special Olympics. Even when the Rotary Relays were discontinued, the Club has continued to support Special Olympics with a minimum \$500 donation each year.



L to R: 2007 donation to Special Olympics and 2012-2013 President George Gay with a plaque of appreciation for the Club's contributions to the Special Olympics.

OTHER PROGRAMS FOR YOUTHS

1929 – 1930s – Christmas Party for Children

In 1929, the Club began a Christmas tradition of sponsoring a free movie for children at the Savoy Theatre owned by Rotarian C. Elmer Dietrich. In addition, Club members collected, repaired and repainted toys to give to needy children.

At the party in Dec. 1932, it was reported that over 200 children attended the free movie, received red and green stockings with candy, nuts and fruit and a toy. Other organizations also provided some funding for this event, although it was led by the Rotary Club.¹¹⁸

1933 – Landscaping at High School¹¹⁹

In 1933, the Rotary Club with help from the senior class, undertook a landscaping project at the High School. They planted evergreens (spruce, pine and ground firs) on the school grounds, some of which were over 4 feet tall to beautify the school area.

The funds allocated did not cover the full cost for the landscape project. So in April, the Rotary Club sponsored a Band Concert with the outstanding Montrose High School Orchestra at the Tunkhannock High School to help defray the cost of the shrubbery and landscaping.

¹¹⁸ Tunkhannock Republican, Dec 29, 1932.

¹¹⁹ Tunkhannock Republican, May 4, 1933.

1952 - Summer Youth Program

In 1952, the Club initiated a summer program for the youth of the community. It gradually evolved into the joint schools summer playground program.

1972 – Kiwanis-Rotary Film Joint Venture

Reminiscent of the free Christmas movie events in the 1930s, in Dec of 1972, the Tunkhannock Rotary Club and the Tunkhannock Kiwanis joined together to provide free movies for children on Dec. 13 & 14. The Rotarians and Kiwanians also volunteered their time to support these movie events at the Dietrich Theater.

1991? – 2008 - Middle School Environmental Education Program

For over 18 years, Rotary donated funds to the 6th grade class at the Middle School for the Environmental Education Program held annually at Camp Lackawanna. Unfortunately, sometime after 2008, the Club discontinued funding for this program since it no longer received solicitation letters from the School for this event.

The camp was run as a day camp usually in the month of May. Each student spent two full days in a beautiful, outdoor environment, just a few miles from school.

In the early days of the camp, Rotarians participated in the camp with the children. In 1992 Jerry Morgan (6th grade faculty) wrote a letter to 1991-1992 Club President Norm Werkheiser praising the Rotarians who helped with the camp under the direction of Don Sick and Paul Thomas. He commented that

“The children raved about Tommy Kukuchka’s and Judd Fitze’s secret barbecue sauce as well as Don Sick’s famous flapjacks. Without a service group like Rotary whose members are committed to our youth and environment, a program of this magnitude would not be possible. We at the Middle School salute you for your efforts.”



1992 - Bicycle Helmet Project

In 1992, the Club also undertook a helmet safety program for our kids in the Community.¹²⁰



1995 – Teach 911

According to the minutes of the May 9, 1995 Board of Directors' meeting, the Club provided \$645 to buy kits to aid presentations to the students in the Tunkhannock Area schools on the 911 emergency call system.

1997 – Link Elementary Schools to the Internet

The Club purchased 1 wiring kit (\$600) to add 6 drops to connect Elementary School computers to the Internet, according to the Feb 26, 1997 Board of Directors' minutes.

2003 to Present - Dictionary Distribution Program

The Tunkhannock Club's participation in the Dictionary Project was started by Rotarian Don Sick approximately 12 years ago (approved by Club July 10, 2003). Tunkhannock Rotarians distributed dictionaries to third grade students at the four elementary schools (Mill City, Evans Falls, Roslund and Mehoopany) in the Tunkhannock Area School District.

The Club has purchased and distributed over 3,300 dictionaries to third graders over this period. Since the beginning of the Dictionary Program, Rotary clubs have handed out over 19 million dictionaries.

Even in this age of technology, the third graders are always excited to receive their own dictionaries. The Rotarians are always gratified by the enthusiasm of the children and

¹²⁰ From 75th Anniversary Presentation by Eugene Milnes and Minutes of the Apr. 6 1992 Board Meeting.

amazed when they ask “do you mean this is now my book and I can take this home and keep it forever and ever?”



The late Don Sick (left) spearheaded the local drive to get a dictionary in the hands of every third grader in the Tunkhannock Area School District. He is shown here with TASD superintendent Steve Moyer and former president Julie Orloski.

Their teachers plan games and activities that encourage the students to use them, like having them find the longest word and try to pronounce it. The dictionaries are more than a traditional dictionary. They contain information on: weights and measures, science elements, sign language, the world, the states, the presidents, the planets and much more. The dictionaries help the students complete the school year as better writers, active readers and creative thinkers.



2014 3rd Grade students at Roslund Elementary School and (l to r back row) Rotarians Jim Welch Sr., Jennifer Williamson, Ruth Gorski, Dave Wilson & Chairperson Sandra Lane

After the event, Club members are entertained by the thank you notes that come from many of the students, in which they detail how they are using their new dictionaries, in some cases to actually write their thank you notes. Some of the students have commented that they especially like the section on sign language.

2005? – Present - H.A.N.D.S.

H.A.N.D.S. (Helping Area Needs for Diverse Early Child Care/Education Services) of Wyoming County is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the quality and availability of early care and education in Wyoming County. This is done through implementing planning strategies, supporting growth and development of high quality early child care, and making sure early child care staff are well trained and informed with the latest information about the care of children.¹²¹

Annette Smith (Executive Director), Becky Corby and/or Cathy Franko have visited the Club and discussed the pre-K to K Transition Program that has been very successful in preparing kids for kindergarten and exceeded all expectations.

For many years now, the Club has donated money annually to H.A.N.D.S. to help them continue this important work and to fund designated projects such as: the Resource Lab Lending and Listening Library (2005) and the Parenting Project (2011).

In addition, the Club buys Josh the Baby Otter Water Safety Books, which H.A.N.D.S. staff provide to the students in Kinder Camp and/or kindergarten.



L to R: Annette Smith, Becky Corby and 2012-2013 Club President Bill Barber

¹²¹ From <http://wyomingcountyfamilyresourcecenter.org/hands>

2010? – Present - Penn State 4 H Camp

4-H camps are about making friends, enjoying new experiences, and participating in fun activities. These camps provide opportunities for young people to explore their interests, learn cooperation and teamwork and develop life skills. Swimming, water sports, archery, games, arts and crafts, campfire and other activities are offered in a safe, supervised environment.

Since at least 2010, funding has been provided by the Club for the Penn State 4 H Camps.

2013 to Present - Josh the Baby Otter Water Safety Program



The goal of the Josh the Baby Otter Water Safety Program is to educate children with a fun and simple message: To stay away from water unless accompanied by an adult. “Josh the Baby Otter” was created to help children comprehend and remember this important message. Ultimately, the aim is to create a water safety behavior for all children that will be passed on from generation to generation.

The Program provides a book with an audio CD of someone reading the book.

The Club began its participation in the Josh the Baby Otter Program in 2013 during the Presidency of Karen Fuller. The books with audio CDs were purchased by the Club and provided to H.A.N.D.S. for inclusion in their Kinder Camp activities for pre-school children. Children who did not participate in Kinder Camp received their book and CD when they entered kindergarten.

Cathy Franko from H.A.N.D.S. recently praised the program, especially the fact that an audio CD is included with the book. She reported that in some cases, the parents cannot read to their child. However, the child can listen to the CD and read along in their books and hence get this important message, plus help with their reading.

2013 to Present - Breaking Ground Poets

The Breaking Ground Poets (BGP) is a volunteer-run organization formed in Nov 2011 that is rooted in the belief of storytelling, self-expression, and educational programming to build a stronger generation of readers, writers and thinkers. The group seeks to create opportunities for local youth to build self-confidence through free monthly open mics, poetry slams and writing workshops. They believe in cultivating safe environments for self-expression to create positive engagement between youth leaders and their community.¹²² The BGP take part in local and national poetry slam events.

¹²² Information taken from https://www.facebook.com/pages/Breaking-Ground-Poets/307412026038723?sk=info&tab=page_info

Since 2013, the Rotary Club has provided some funding to help the group attend national slam events.

In 2015, the Club became a sponsor for a poetry event organized by the BGP.

2014 – Inaugural Peace Camp – District Grant

In 2014, the Tunkhannock Rotary Club used a District Designated Grant plus additional Club funds to provide the financial support for an inaugural Peace Camp that was held July 6-10, 2014 at St. Peter's Episcopal Church facilities in Tunkhannock. The Peace Camp for Children helps them to build skills to settle disagreements peacefully and introduce them to environmentally safe ways of living and eating nutritious meals. The Camp was open to kindergarten to 5th graders and was held in cooperation with the Interfaith Peace and Justice Commission in Wilkes-Barre.

This first year of Peace Camp brought delights, challenges, insight, and joyful peace throughout the week. Each day, the children named something they were grateful for before breakfast and lunch. They could not be grateful for the same thing the person in front of them was grateful for. Each idea and offer of thanks was different.

Part of each day was learning peace-making skills by directed role play. One child would pretend to do something, another (or more) would try to entice the child to do something they should not do, and the child had to use language to resist.

The Camp director pointed out that each child was able to name a particular person who had either bullied them individually or had bullied another child. Even when this bully was reported to an adult, no response came from the adult. He said he had never heard this before. Children might say they had been bullied, but did not name, or were unable to directly name, the perpetrator.

A professional clown talked about anger (Silly Sally was a highlight!). Other speakers included Phil Swank who spoke about the local environment, especially the Iroquois trail near the church. Daralynn Carr talked about juvenile detention and probation, with complete police gear, including handcuffs, attached.

The children enjoyed working in the garden, and walking on a special mowed path throughout the week. Another highlight was using sidewalk chalk to write words, messages, and pictures of Peace Camp.

The food was very good! Well prepared, well liked, and all were full! The children and adults ate fresh fruit, sugar-free cereal, drinks and snacks, salads, wraps, veggie burgers, and pita pockets filled with fresh vegetables.

Rotarian Rev. Lou Divis, Rector of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, thanked the Tunkhannock Rotary for sponsoring the inaugural Peace Camp. She indicated that the program was successful and will be repeated by St. Peter's, using lessons learned from this Camp.



Left: Rotarian Rev. Lou Divis updating & thanking the Club for Peace Camp 2014 funding.

Right: One of the many of the drawings done by the Peace Camp children.



Left: Peace Camp attendees. **Right:** One of the projects undertaken by the children.

2015 - Rotary Reads Project

For the 2015-2016 Rotary year, District 7410 Governor Barbara Huffman de Belon inaugurated a "Rotary Reads" event throughout our District. In conjunction with public and/or private libraries, Rotary Clubs were asked to plan a simple service event, targeting pre-school through 4th graders. The idea was to set up a "reading spot", where on a designated day and time, a Rotarian read a story to the children who attended.

On Wednesday, July 8, President Ron Furman read to 16 children at the Tunkhannock Public Library (TPL) as part of this initiative. President Ron read two books, "Giggle, giggle, quack" by Doreen Cronin and "Bella lost her moo" by Judith Zorfass, with help from his granddaughter Katie, who turned the pages of the big book. There was a Farm theme for the event, so after the reading, they all sang 'Old MacDonald Had a Farm'. President Ron then got to help the children make a cow out of a paper bag and cut-outs.

Ron commented afterwards: "It was a blast!" He encourages other Rotarians to give it a try.



President Ron Furman (and 4 yr. old granddaughter Katie) reading to the kids at TPL



President Ron helping the kids with their cow craft project.

Boy and Girl Scouts

The Club has provided periodic funding to the local Boy Scouts and annual funding to the Girl Scouts of the Heart to support their various programs for our youth.

In addition, upon request, the Club has underwritten all or part of an Eagle Scout project as it did in 1995 for the construction of a planter by an Eagle Scout for downtown Tunkhannock.

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Middle School Student of the Month Program

The Middle School Student of the Month program is ongoing in the 6th grade. Each month, 9 students are selected, based on academic achievement, positive interaction with the community, and regular school attendance. The students are excited about the opportunity to be nominated and strive to achieve the award. When they are nominated, they receive a certificate from the school, a pack of incentives and a Rotary sponsored t-shirt.¹²³

The Tunkhannock Rotary has been providing \$300-500 in support for this program in the Middle School since at least 2006.

Rotary Boys and Girls Leaders Camps

As part of District 7410's Rotary Vocational Service Project that was ongoing since approximately 1961, the Club selected and paid for 1-2 sophomore boys and girls to attend a Leader's Rotary Camp most years.

The boys Camp's objective was to offer outstanding high school boys (1) experience in democratic living; (2) ideals of conduct and service; (3) additional career guidance; (4) Armed Service workshops; and (5) responsibilities of leadership. The boys ran their own activities for the week.

A separate girl's Camp was also held. The camp's objectives for the girls was the same as for the boys, except for the elimination of the Armed Service workshops.

The Leaders Camps were discontinued when RYLA was changed to admit High School sophomores.

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is a leadership program coordinated by Rotary Clubs around the globe.

The RYLA program began in Australia in 1959, when young people throughout the state of Queensland were selected to meet with Princess Alexandra, the young cousin of Queen Elizabeth II. The Rotarians of Brisbane, who hosted the participants, were impressed with the quality of the young leaders. It was decided to bring youth leaders together each year for a week of social, cultural and educational activities. The RYLA program gradually grew throughout all the Rotary districts of Australia and New

¹²³ From Sara Ergott's presentation to the Club on Nov 6, 2008

*Zealand. In 1971, the RI Board of Directors adopted RYLA as an official program of Rotary International.*¹²⁴

RYLA has been active in District 7410 since 1988 and was initially geared to young adults (20 to 30 years of age) in the work place to sharpen their leadership skills and enhance their personal talents. The Tunkhannock Rotary Club sponsored one RYLA participant for this week-end seminar almost every year.

The seminars covered leadership skills, panel discussions, enhancement of personal traits, development of skills needed to work as a team and identification of areas in their communities where their talents could be utilized. After the week-end, each participant was invited to share with the Club what they had learned at the seminar.

At some point, RYLA ceased to be a program for 20-30 yr olds and became a program for high school students completing their sophomore year, who have shown leadership potential in their home, school, and community.

The conference is now designed to introduce participants to thoughts and ideas which, if utilized, will strengthen and develop their leadership skills. It also provides an environment where participants may discuss and exchange their ideas with other students.

In 2011, RYLA was established at Keystone College in La Plume, PA within District 7410. The 5 day workshop has been held annually with a maximum of 80 students. The number of students each year has increased until it reached the maximum number in 2014.

Our Club has sponsored students each year to attend RYLA at Keystone College. Most recently, we sponsored 14 students in 2014 and 9 in 2015. The students who complete RYLA are invited by the Club to present on their experiences. These students have proved to be the best ambassadors to promote this event to the next class of RYLA applicants. Reports from those students that attended RYLA have described the week as “life-altering”.

In addition, this program has resulted in several of the students returning to RYLA as junior and senior counselors in subsequent years.

¹²⁴ <http://www.rotaryfirst100.org/library/organizations/youth/ryla.htm#.VWPOXenbKM8> – Rotary Global History Fellowship website.



Some of our RYLA students and Counselors in 2013

HOBY Awards

Founded in 1958 by actor Hugh O'Brian, the Hugh O'Brian Youth (HOBY) organization's mission is to inspire and develop our global community of youth and volunteers to a life dedicated to leadership, service and innovation.

HOBY programs are conducted annually throughout the US, serving local and international high school students. Students selected by their schools participate in unique leadership training, service-learning and motivation-building experiences.

The Tunkhannock Rotary Club makes an annual donation of \$325 to the HOBY organization to help them pursue their mission. This program allows a student(s) from the Tunkhannock Area High School to participate in this experience, as Hope Murray did in 2011.

Essay and Poster Contests for High School Juniors

District 7410 has sponsored an essay contest that is open to 11th grade students. In 2014, a poster contest was added. The students write a 250-300 word essay or produce a poster that bears on the topic for that year. In 2001, TAHS student Christine Stroka won the District Essay Contest.

For 2015, the topic for both the Essay and Poster Contests was "what does "Service Above Self" mean to you?". Both the essays and posters were first judged at the Club level with the top poster and top 3 essayists receiving gift certificates from the Club. The winning poster and essay were then submitted to the District competition.

At the 2015 District 7410 Conference, the essayists were invited to read their winning essays. There was a first place tie between Christina Drofich (Lehighton) and Alexa Singer (Wellsboro). There was a 3 way tie for third place among Stephanie Ostir (New Milford), Morgan Zotta (Trail) and Gabrielle Frigano (Tunkhannock).



Gabrielle Frigano reading her essay and receiving her award from President Norm Kelly

Selection Committee Chair PDG Budd O'Malia then introduced the winner of the District 7410 Poster Contest: Meridian Garinger from Tunkhannock. Budd asked Meridian what her inspiration was for her poster and then Contest Chair Richard Black helped President Norm Kelly unveil Meridian's poster that our club had scanned, enlarged and printed on canvas.



Meridian Garinger receiving her award for her winning poster from President Norm Kelly



L to R: PDG Budd O'Malia, Richard Black, artist Meridian Garinger & Pres Norm Kelly

The poster was highly regarded by many Rotarians and a suggestion was made to have it reproduced on note cards that could be sold for a fund-raiser. R.I. President's Representative (RIPR) Jayaram Kumar later suggested during his keynote address that the poster should be published in the Rotarian magazine. The poster was displayed in a place of honor next to the podium for the rest of the day on Saturday and on Sunday.

Academic and Vocational Scholarships to Graduating Seniors

According to an article in the Tunkhannock Republican, the Scholarship program began in 1953 during Frank Dolbear's year as District Governor. Each year, the Club selects 1 graduating Tunkhannock Area High School (TAHS) student to receive a \$1,000 academic scholarship, so they can continue their education. The selection committee reviews the students' records and their written essays to make their selection.

In 2012 a \$1,000 vocational scholarship was added.

The names of some of the most recent recipients are presented in Table 14 and Table 15.

Table 14 Some Recipients of Tunkhannock Rotary Academic Scholarships

Year	Recipient	Year	Recipient
1980	Heather Scanlon	2007	Melissa Charles
1981	Elizabeth Schicktanz	2008	Michael Russell
1982	Jane Mitchell	2009	Casey Hampsey
1983	Andrea Kelly	2010	Tiffany Rule
1984	Eric Belles	2012	
1985	John Henry Scott	2013	
1999	Chris Fitze	2014	Danielle Buchter
2001	Benjamin Osterhout	2015	Daniel F. Shurtleff

Table 15 Recipients of Tunkhannock Rotary Vocational Scholarships

Year	Recipient
2012	Sisile Maruzzelli
2013	
2014	David Sinker
2015	Kennedy Smales

In May 2014, then President Karen Fuller presented \$1,000 scholarships for continuing education to 2 graduating seniors (Danielle Buchter – academic and David Sinker - vocational) from the Tunkhannock Area High School on Senior Awards night.



President Karen Fuller (**at right in both photos**) presented Danielle Buchter (**left**) with an academic scholarship and David Sinker (**right**) with a vocational scholarship.

On May 19, 2015, Scholarship committee member Jami Hearn had the pleasure of presenting Daniel F. Shurtleff with the Club's academic scholarship and Kennedy Smales with the vocational scholarship on Senior Awards night.

Follow-up on a Vocational Scholarship Winner

DG Carol Hemphill's visit to our Club in August 2014 coincided with the club's celebration of the 89th Anniversary of its chartering on Aug 25, 1925. Rotarian Samantha Maruzzelli's daughter, Sisile Maruzzelli, made the Anniversary Cake for the celebration (see below). Sisile was a 2012 recipient of one of the Tunkhannock Rotary's vocational scholarships, which she used to attend the Culinary Institute of America (CIA).

Sisile graduated with honors as a pastry chef from the CIA and this was the second occasion that the Club had the opportunity to sample her incredible, out-of-this-world delicious creations. Sisile has on many occasions expressed her gratitude to the Club for her vocational scholarship and the Club has benefited from her advanced training with some incredible desserts.

Sisile is making the cake for our 90th Anniversary Celebration on Aug 30, 2015.



Sisile Maruzzelli with some of her incredible desserts and our 89th Anniversary Cake.

HIGH SCHOOL INTERACT CLUB

Interact Club

Interact, the Rotary youth program, was launched by the RI Board of Directors in 1962. The first Interact club was established by the Rotary Club of Melbourne, Florida. Interact clubs provide opportunities for boys and girls of secondary school age to work together in a world fellowship of service and international understanding. The term, Interact, is derived from "inter" for international, and "act" for action. Every Interact club must be sponsored and supervised by a Rotary club and must plan annual projects of service to its school, community and in the world.

Interact is a Rotary-sponsored service club for young people ages 14-18. Today, there are over 11,000 Interact clubs with more than 250,000 members in over 120 countries and geographical regions. Brazil, India, the Philippines, and the United States boast the highest number of Interact clubs.¹²⁵

The Tunkhannock High School Interact Club was sponsored by the Tunkhannock Rotary Club, organized on Dec 12, 2000 and chartered on March 1, 2001 during Jeannie Brady's year as President. Each Interact Club requires a teacher as a Club Advisor and a Club Rotarian as a mentor. Interact clubs are encouraged to organize at least two service projects a year: one that benefits their community and one that encourages international understanding.

The first Interact Faculty Advisor was teacher Elaine Walker, 2000-2001 Club President Jeannie Brady served as the first Club mentor and was followed by Roberta Danniels and Carol Blundell. Paul Oliver, son of Tunkhannock Rotarian Frank Oliver, was the first Interact Club President.

The current Interact Faculty Advisor is Tommasina Fiorillo, a teacher in the Foreign Language Department. In 2014, she was made a Paul Harris Fellow in recognition of her excellent service to the Interact Club. Tommasina has also recently been made an honorary member of the Rotary Club of Tunkhannock by the Board of Directors due to her outstanding service as Club Faculty Advisor. Rotarians Marta Kovacs-Ruiz and Dave Wilson are the current Club mentors.

The Club has used a variety of fund-raisers over the years to raise money for charitable donations, including: car washes, bake, pizza and hoagie sales, Christmas tree sales and purple pinkie events, just to name a few.

¹²⁵ <http://www.rotaryfirst100.org/library/organizations/youth/interact.htm> - Rotary Global History Fellowship website.



An Interact Club bake sale (Rotarian mentor Dave Wilson on extreme left)



Interact Pizza Sale

The Tunkhannock Interact Club has been involved over the last several years or are in the planning stage of a variety of projects. In addition to helping the Tunkhannock Rotary Club collect donations at the Tunkhannock Rotary July 3rd Fireworks and for Toys for Kids for Christmas on Black Friday Candy Cane Day, the Interact Club has contributed to the following projects:

- TOMS World Sight Day – fundraiser to sponsor eye exams. Tom's World sight day focused on raising global awareness for people in other countries in need, to give them the opportunity to better their lives by being able to see and experience the

world around them. 80% of the visually impaired cases are curable or preventable. TOMS, with the help of the Interact Club, is helping spread awareness.¹²⁶



Mrs. Florillo is the advisor of Interact, sponsor of the recent World Sight Day.

- Stop Hunger Now – volunteered their time for a day of preparing packages of food and vitamins.
- Heifer International – raised over \$2,500 including generous donations from local businesses and matched by the Tunkhannock Rotary Club to purchase a \$5,000 Gift Ark. The Interact Club had hoagie and pizza sales, sold Xmas trees and had other fund-raising events throughout the year.

The Ark that was purchased included two water buffalos, two cows, two sheep and two goats, along with bees, chicks, rabbits and more. Donating a Gift Ark helps a community by providing milk, eggs, honey and wool and helps sustain farming by providing livestock to work the land. A Gift Ark can improve the lives of families for generations.

- Raised money for the Rotary International Polio Plus program at the Homecoming Bon Fire and during Parent-Teacher Conference days. In the past, they also had a purple pinkie day and bake sales to raise additional money for this effort.
- Pulsera Project for Nicaraguan citizens – semi-annually the Interact Club members has sold bracelets made by Nicaraguan citizens and returned the money earned to Nicaragua (see article below for more information on how the money is used in Nicaragua)¹²⁷.

¹²⁶ Photos and information taken from September/October 2014 Issue of the TAHS The Prowler newspaper. Article entitled “Getting Shady” by Gabrielle Frigano.

¹²⁷ Article on Pulsera Project by 2014-2015 Interact President Gabrielle Frigano in Jan/Feb 2015 issue of the TAHS The Prowler newspaper.

Pulsera Project

Helping people one bracelet at a time

By GABRIELLE
FRIGANO

As some may know, the Pulsera Project is a fundraiser that the Interact Club holds semi-annually. Although you may have bought a few you might not know what the amazing organization does for families and students in Nicaragua. Prepare to be enlightened.

Not only are bracelets from the Pulsera Project great gifts for loved ones, you are also providing money for a family in Nicaragua for food, or money for a teenager's college fund. The purpose of the project is to provide those underprivileged families or youths with jobs they can take pride in instead of working in a dangerous factory for slave wages. The Pulsera Project gives them a chance to practice a Nicaraguan pastime and create



PHOTO COURTESY OF PULSERAPROJECT.ORG

beautiful pieces of art while earning money.

No two are the same and neither are the stories behind them. Every bracelet has a picture of the person who made the bracelet. You will be able to see whose life you are impacting, and hopefully you will feel impacted by their stories as well.

- TOMS One for One: One Day without Shoes – The club is exploring the idea of adding the TOMS One for One: One Day without Shoes, to their current projects.
- During the 2014-2015 Rotary year, the Interact club sold gift cards to Twig's, a Tunkhannock restaurant, and raised \$500.
- They also received \$100 for the sale of their Kentucky Derby Hat at the 2015 District 7410 Conference.

For their outstanding efforts over the two year period of 2012-2014, at the June 2014 Officer Installation and Awards Banquet, the Tunkhannock Rotary Club presented a plaque for Excellence in Humanity to the Interact Club in recognition of their generous contribution of time, effort and funds to help the world's needy.

¹²⁸ Taken from 2014 Issue of the TAHS The Prowler newspaper. Article entitled "Pulsera Project Helping People One Bracelet at a Time" by Gabrielle Frigano.

At the same event, DG Irene Carey presented the Interact Club with a Presidential Citation for 2013-2014. Both awards were accepted by advisor Tommasina Fiorillo on behalf of the Interact Club.



Left: Tommasina Fiorillo accepting the Excellence in Humanity Award for the Interact Club from 2013-2014 Club President Karen Fuller. **Right:** DG Irene Carey presenting a Presidential Citation to the Interact Club.

YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Rotary Youth Exchange Program

Youth Exchange began during the 1920s as an effort among a handful of clubs in Europe, the first documented exchange was in 1927. These European exchanges continued until World War II and resumed in 1946. The reciprocal long-term academic exchange grew in popularity during the 1950s.

The Rotary Youth Exchange Program (YEP) was initiated in the eastern US in 1958. Tunkhannock Rotarian Roy Gardner, then a young lawyer, helped write the bylaws still used in what has become the largest youth exchange program in the world.

In 1972, the RI Board of Directors recommended YEP to clubs worldwide as a worthwhile international activity.¹²⁹ Today, more than 9,000 Youth Exchange students travel abroad each year to live and study in about 82 countries. These students serve as ambassadors of Rotary and of the country from which they come.

Exchange students are called "outbounds" by their home (sponsor) Rotary club and district, and simultaneously "inbounds" by their host Rotary club and district in the country they spend their year in. Today, many Rotary Exchange students can be recognized by their Rotary Youth Exchange blazer. While most countries recommend navy blue, the blazer may also be dark green, red, black, or maroon. The color of the blazer usually depends on which country or region the exchange student is from. One Rotary tradition is that students cover their blazers in pins and patches they have traded with other students or bought in places they have visited as evidence of their exchange.¹³⁰

The program is open to Rotarian and non-Rotarian families. In general, student candidates are academically above average, have demonstrated leadership skills, and possess qualities which enable them to become good cultural ambassadors.

Candidates for our District program must be sponsored by a Rotary Club within District 7410. Traditionally, District 7410 has exchanged ten to twenty or more students annually with dozens of Rotary Districts in other countries.

District 7410 joined the multi-district youth exchange program ESSEX (Eastern States Student Exchange Program) in January, 2010. For Rotary Year 2015-2016, District 7410 also began accepting applications for the Short Term Exchange and New Generation Exchange Programs.

¹²⁹ Youth Exchange Handbook, p. 1 (2008 edition).

¹³⁰ Wikipedia – Rotary Youth Exchange

The Club has hosted and sponsored well over 150 YEP students as presented in Table 16. Tunkhannock hosted its first inbound student Dag Rodsand from Norway in 1960-1961 and sponsored its first outbound student Susann Weizavich, who went to Denmark in 1961-1962.

Table 16 Inbound and Outbound Exchange Students

Year	Inbound		Outbound	
	Student	Country	Student	Country
1960-1961	Dag Rodsand	Norway	None	
1961-1962	Jon Willem Buning	Netherlands	Susann Weizavich	Denmark
1962-1963	Solvig Piltz	Sweden	Clayton Ryce	Australia
1964-1965	Susan Abby	Australia	None	
1965-1966	Aida Elva Pareja	Bolivia	Martha Brooks Jerome Furman	Bolivia Italy
1967-1968	Anne Larsson	Sweden	Janice Kehrili	England
1968-1969	Willem den Hertog	Netherlands	Kathy Harter Cheryl Kintner	Sweden Brazil
1969-1970	Eva Eriksson	Sweden	Carol Forte Karen Vaughn	Sweden Philippines
1970-1971	Antonia Moreno	Mexico	Jill Kehrili	Switzerland
1971-1972	Lars Eric Persson	Sweden	Karen Houser	Switzerland
1972-1973	Jacqueline Quinn	South Africa	Denise Reeves	Japan
1973-1974	Ieda Maria Daniel	Brazil	Susan Turner	Sweden
1974-1975	Gregory Knight	England	Dorsey May Lisa Colavitti	New Zealand England
1975-1976	Bengt Christer Patti Anne Thomson	Sweden Australia	Marjorie Sick	Holland
1977-1978	Mariko Yoshimura Jose de Lima, Jr.	Japan Brazil	None	
1981-1982	Edward Lim	Philippines	None	
1982-1983	Tracy Talbot Mitesh Kulkarni	South Africa India	Jenneth Layaou Megan Cooper	Sweden South Africa
1983-1984	Marko Lehtimaki	Finland	Kathy Bauer Luzy Lencoski	Sweden Germany
1984-1985	Cecelia Westlund Mauro Telli	Sweden Brazil	Cathy Kern Audra Krause	Mexico Sweden
1985-1986	Andres Bundguard Desley Boorman Charmaine Swart	Denmark Australia South Africa	Kelly O'Dea Elizabeth Walker	Columbia Germany

Year	Inbound		Outbound	
	Student	Country	Student	Country
1986-1987	Sonja Rodrigues Franco	Mexico	Tami Roger Edward Shaffer Stacey Sheridan	South Africa Denmark France
1987-1988	Patricia Fernandes Patrick Lucuis Diane Strelow	Brazil Germany Australia	Kim Lione Sarah Thatcher	Brazil France
1988-1989	Noriyuki Fukuda Verdiana Riccin	Japan Brazil	Brian Lione Monica Wilcox	Netherlands Germany
1989-1990	Andres Larsen Susan Marshall	Denmark South Africa	Kara Richie Jennifer Jordan	Mexico Brazil
1990-1991	Kamel Aygun Yoshiko Ichikawa Mireille Rob	Turkey Japan Netherlands	Brian Selders Sarah Vanston	Netherlands France
1991-1992	Jody Mansfield	Australia	None	
1992-1993	Zoltan Andov Gal Rodrigo Musicante	Hungary Argentina	Erin Kennedy Karim Olachea	Germany Turkey
1993-1994	Celyne Filhol Fabio Furtado	France Brazil	Dulci Kinter	Argentina
1994-1995	Jessica Balderrama Rhiannon Johnson	Mexico Australia	Jon Deutsch	Japan
1995-1996	Nikki Fattori Gustavo Ivancic	Italy Argentina	None	
1996-1997	Dia Siraki Paulo Lara	Hungary Brazil	Liza Snyder	Japan
1997-1998	Maricia Tania Suzanne Mortimore	Bolivia Australia	Kathryn Foresman	Spain
1998-1999	Dewi Renouard Laura Koshenkorva	France Finland	Peter Kashinsky Laura Daniels	Spain Bolivia
1999-2000	Helena Santos Bart Blankers Luiz Alves	Brazil Netherlands Brazil	Alyssa Kinter	Finland
2000-2001	Melih Yalcin Rebekah Barlow	Turkey Australia	Nathan Daniels	Argentina
2001-2002	Jamaica Marma Alcedo	Philippines		
2002-2003	Diego Marin Olivella Flavio Watanable Yamazaki	Venezuela Brazil	Chris Whipple Ryan Bogedin	Philippines Brazil
2003-2004	None		None	




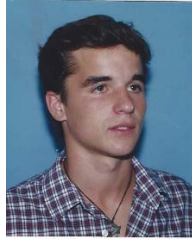












Year	Inbound		Outbound	
	Student	Country	Student	Country
2004-2005	Wei-tin Yang Chanwichit Tae Tanasriwatana	Taiwan Thailand	Benjamin Skovran	Brazil
2005-2006	Divya Sheth Phillip Walter	India Germany	Shannon Kovacs Sarah Orloski Teresa Stage	Germany Brazil Norway
2006-2007	Daniel Guerrero Sandoval Marion Garnier	Mexico France	Colette Boylan Zachary Zoegner	Australia Japan
2007-2008	Yuki Tosaka Filip Wojnowski	Japan Poland	Tenisun Kronmiller	India
2008-2009	Leticia Allison Villanueva Rios Yukino Kawamata	Mexico Japan	Kristen Russell	Belgium
2009-2010	Valeria Almeida Jonas Milk	France Germany		
2010-2011	Rodrigo Zamalloa Rubina	Peru		
2011-2012	None		None	
2012-2013	Charlotte Linz	Germany	Adam Sehne	Ecuador
2014-2015	Shiv Naik	India	Jason Linden	Mexico
2015-2016	Julia de Souza Alonso Louis Emil Metens Teng Lu Yu “Frank”	Brazil Belgium Taiwan	Emily Dunning Stefan Sehne	Denmark Brazil

This table may not be complete as some records were not available for 2008-2012.

The Faces of Some of Our Inbound Exchange Students

While there is not a catalog of photos of all of our Club’s inbound exchange students, photos do exist for some of the students (Table 17).

Table 17 Some of Tunkhannock Rotary's Inbound Exchange Students

 <p>Jody Mansfield Australia 1991-1992</p>	 <p>Jessica Balderrama Mexico Jan - Dec 1995</p>	 <p>Nicola Frattore Italy 1995-1996</p>	 <p>Gustavo Ivancic Argentina Jan-Dec 1996</p>
 <p>Dia Siraki Hungary 1996-1997</p>	 <p>Paulo Lara Brazil Jan- Dec 1997</p>	 <p>Suzanne Mortimore Australia Jan-Dec 1998</p>	 <p>Dewi Renouard France 1998-1999</p>
 <p>Helena Santos Brazil 1999-2000</p>	 <p>Bart Blankers Netherlands 1999-2000</p>	 <p>Luiz Alves Brazil Jan-Dec 2000</p>	 <p>Melih Yalcin Turkey 2000-2001</p>
 <p>Rebekah Barlow Australia 2000-2001</p>	 <p>Marma Alcedo Philippines 2001-2002</p>	 <p>Flavio Watanable Yamazaki Brazil Jan-Dec 2002</p>	 <p>Diego Marin Olivella Venezuela 2002-2003</p>

 <p>Wei-tin Yang Taiwan 2004-2005</p>	 <p>Chanwitchit (Tae) Tanasriwatana Thailand 2004-2005</p>	 <p>Divya Sheth India 2005-2006</p>	 <p>Phillip Walter Germany 2005-2006</p>
 <p>Daniel Guerrero Sandoval Mexico 2006-2007</p>	 <p>Marion Garnier France 2006-2007</p>	 <p>Yuki Tosaka Japan 2007-2008</p>	 <p>Filip Wojnowski Poland 2007-2008</p>
 <p>Leticia Allison Villanueva Rios Mexico 2008-2009</p>	 <p>Yukino Kawamata Japan 2008-2009</p>	 <p>Jonas Milk Germany 2009-2010</p>	 <p>Rodrigo Zamalloa Rubina Peru 2010-2011</p>
 <p>Charlotte Linz Germany 2012-2013</p>	 <p>Shiv Naik India 2014-2015</p>	 <p>Teng Lu Yu "Frank" Taiwan 2015-2016</p>	 <p>Julia de Souza Alonso Brazil 2015-2016</p>
 <p>Louis Emil Metens Belgium 2015-2016</p>			

Tunkhannock Rotary Club Sponsors District 7410 Exchange Student Events

Over the years, the Rotary Club of Tunkhannock has sponsored events for the exchange students in District 7410.

Halloween Weekend

One year, the Club held a student exchange weekend over Halloween. The students stayed with local Rotarians Friday and Saturday nights. On Saturday, they had the opportunity to tour a local paper mill. After lunch they went on a hay ride and after dinner visited the local haunted house.

Ski Weekend



For many years, the Club sponsored a ski weekend at Elk Mountain with the Youth Exchange students. In Nov 2002, one of these ski events was written up in the Rotarian magazine since one student made a lasting impression on everyone. Her name was Vanessa Fundaro from Argentina, who was hosted by the Rotary Club of Hazelton. Vanessa had no experience with snow and she was completely blind.

Guided by a ski pole held by Tunkhannock Rotarian John Skovran, Vanessa skied right along with all the other students and had a great time. Vanessa called skiing “one of the most adventurous things I’ve ever done” and said she was grateful that the Tunkhannock Rotarians had encouraged her to try. It was also a very rewarding experience for our Club members, especially John.

Pizza Party & New York City Trip

On Friday March 1, 2013, the Tunkhannock Rotary Club sponsored a Pizza Party for District 7410 Exchange Students, Tunkhannock Rotarians and their families as a kick-off for an Exchange Student weekend. The students stayed at the homes of 2013 Club Student Exchange Chair Samantha Maruzzelli and AG Al Noble for the weekend.

Friday night’s event was followed by a bus trip to New York City on Saturday. The trip was organized and chaperoned by Samantha Maruzzelli (along with her family) and Rotarian Frank Maher. As summarized by Frank:

“Although it was a little chilly, the trip was a great success as we saw most of the sights New York had to offer and the kids learned how to ride the subway and bargain on Canal Street!”



District 7410 Exchange Student in Grand Central Station in New York City



On the New York City Subway (**left**) and Battery Park with the Sailor Memorial directly behind the Students and the Statue of Liberty in the distance (**right**)

Recent Inbound Exchange Students

The new inbound exchange students are usually introduced to the Club soon after their arrival in Tunkhannock. The students have an opportunity to tell the Club a little about themselves as they begin their school year at TAHS.

Toward the middle to end of their stay, they present a longer presentation on their home country, family and some highlights of their stay in Tunkhannock and the US.

2012-2013 Inbound Exchange Student Charlotte Linz - Germany



On Dec 27, 2012 inbound exchange student Charlotte Linz introduced us to her home town of Bonn, Germany, which is about 1 hr. from the border with Belgium. She attends a girl's school in Bonn and will need to repeat her junior year upon her return to Germany. Charlotte mentioned that kindergarten is for 3 yrs. from age of 3 to 6 or 7. She took us on a tour of some of the highlights of Bonn and her life there with her family.

She also talked about some Christmas traditions that are different from how Christmas is celebrated in the US. On Dec 24th they attend church, have family dinner and exchange presents. Every city has a Christmas market with traditional foods, spiced wine and advent wreaths. St. Nikolus day is celebrated on Dec 6, where children put out their shoes on Dec 5 and they find them filled with treats on Dec 6.

During the Q&A session, Charlotte commented that the biggest difference she had to adjust to was the lack of public transportation in Tunkhannock. In Bonn, she could go anywhere she wanted by herself by bike, bus or train, whereas here she needs to find someone to give her a ride to go to most places. She also mentioned that she had not had the opportunity to see much of the US except for Philadelphia, Wellsboro and Tunkhannock. At the end of her Rotary year, Charlotte was going on the Exchange Student Tour of the US.

2014-2015 Inbound Exchange Student Shiv Naik - India



On August 14, 2014, the Tunkhannock Rotary Club welcomed incoming exchange student, Shiv Naik from District 3060 in India. Shiv gave a brief presentation to the Club explaining that he wanted to come to the US as an exchange student to experience our culture and learn about the way we do things. In return, he planned to share with us facets of Indian culture and customs and presented a gift to President Norm Kelly.

Shiv Naik later spoke at the March 5, 2015 Tunkhannock Rotary Club Luncheon. Shiv's parents are dentists (his father is a member of the Rotary Club of Vapi India) and he has a twin brother Hari, who is an exchange student in Florida this year. Shiv talked about his sponsoring Rotary Club in India, the permanent projects that they have undertaken and about the incredible diversity in India with 4 major religions, 28 states and 25 major languages.



Shiv Naik, dressed in Indian garb, speaking at March 5, 2015 Rotary Luncheon

Shiv then spoke about his time in the US. Although he loves our fast food (especially hamburgers), he does miss some of the foods of India. He loves music and theater and acted in the play *Break a Leg* in the Fall at the High School. He did cross-country last Fall and was on the Tunkhannock Swim Team.



He has experienced several firsts: his first METS game, first Thanksgiving, first snow. Shiv also went to his first Homecoming Event and he was Homecoming King (see photo at left)¹³¹. In the article, Shiv stated, "I was surprised when I got Homecoming King. It was truly an amazing experience that I'll never forget."

Along with the other 5 exchange students in Rotary District 7410, he went to New York City in December, attended a UN Conference and they later in their exchange year visited Washington D.C.

Before Shiv left us on June 15 to return home to India, the Club entertained him at our June 4 Rotary Luncheon and presented him with some mementos of his time with us in Tunkhannock and PA.

Shiv and President Norm Kelly exchanged Club banners.

Jeannie Brady gave Shiv a card with a small gift.

Secretary Carol Ziomek gave him a hamburger (his favorite food) shaped USB drive with photos of Shiv from his year with us.

On behalf of the Club, President Norm presented Shiv with a book on PA that was not only signed by the book's author, but by many members of the Rotary Club of Tunkhannock.

¹³¹ Photo taken from Nov 2014 TAHS The Prowler newspaper.

Norm also gave him a coin minted by the US Mint with images of Dr. Jonas Salk and President Franklin Roosevelt to commemorate the fight against polio.



(L to R) Shiv exchanging banners with President Norm, with his hamburger USB drive of photos and receiving a signed book on PA.

Recent Outbound Exchange Students

Before they leave for their foreign destinations, our outbound exchange students are invited to tell the Club about where they are going. They can also review with the Club the presentations that they have prepared to give to their host Rotary Club(s).

2014-2015 Outbound Exchange Student Jason Linden - Mexico



On August 7, 2014, Jason Linden, gave an overview on his year as an outgoing exchange student to Rotary District 4150 in Guadalajara, Mexico. Jason attended RYLA in 2012, returned as a junior counselor in 2013 and as a senior counselor in 2014. He has great presentation skills, gave the invocation at a session of the May 2014 District 7410 Conference and an excellent presentation on RYLA. Jason's host family are University professors.

2015-2016 Outbound Exchange Student Stefan Sehne - Brazil



At our May 21, 2015 Rotary Club Luncheon, outbound exchange student Stefan Sehne, who is going to Brazil, gave a presentation to the Club that he will be using during his time in Brazil. His presentation gave a brief history of PA, currency, holidays and other differences between US and Brazil.

2015-2016 Outbound Exchange Student Emily Dunning - Denmark



At our May 21, 2015 Rotary Club Luncheon, outbound exchange student Emily Dunning, who is going to Odenza Denmark, briefly summarized information about her host family and the area of Denmark where she will be residing.

Her host father is in IT technology and her host mother does horse medicine. She will have a host brother.

Short-Term Exchange Program

Rotary's Short-Term Exchange Program presents opportunities for students to advance their knowledge and world understanding by allowing them to visit a different country for a limited period of time. Participating students live with a matched host family in their selected country from three to six weeks in the summer under the sponsorship of a local Rotary Club. The objective of the Short-Term Exchange Program is to foster world peace, international understanding and good will by extending international communication at the personal level through the exchange of students of high school age. It is hoped that these students will be able to see firsthand the problems and accomplishments of other peoples of different colors, creeds, and cultures.

For the first time, Tunkhannock had 2 short-term exchange students for the summer of 2015. Virgilio Osuna Herrador (Spain) and Sophie Raballand (France) came first to stay with the Fowler and Sehne families for several weeks in the June-July timeframe.

Then Mitchell Fowler and Anika Sehne returned with them to Spain and France, respectively, to complete the short-term student exchange process.



L to R: Mitchell Fowler, Virgilio Osuna Herrador, Sophie Raballand and Anika Sehne

At the July 16, 2015 Rotary Luncheon, President Ron Fuller presented both visiting students with Tunkhannock Rotary trading banners and received one in return from Sophie's

sponsoring Club in France. The each student gave a brief presentation on their families, homes and countries.



L to R: Virgilio Osuna Herrador and Sophie Raballand giving their presentations

Returning Outbound Youth Exchange Students

One tradition in the Club is an invitation to our returning outbound exchange students to talk to the Club about their year abroad.

2008-2009 Outbound Exchange Student Kristen Russell - Belgium

At the Sept 3, 2009 Rotary luncheon, Kristen Russell took the Club on a tour of her year in Belgium and the places she visited with her host family. She gave a breakdown on the county of Belgium, as to languages, ethnic differences, customs, likes and dislikes. Also while in Belgium, she became the first student to visit a meeting of that host countries Rotary. Kristen was also able to visit many places in Europe that have historical significance.

2012-2013 Outbound Exchange Student Adam Sehne – Ecuador



On Sept 13, 2013, outbound exchange student Adam Sehne spoke to the Club about his year in Ecuador. The Rotary District where he lived included all of Ecuador. Adam related that the Ecuadorians are very family-oriented and do a lot of activities together.

Although the holidays were difficult being so far from his family in Tunkhannock, being with families in Ecuador helped. He went to Leonardo daVinci High School and when not in school, he was traveling. Adam became fluent in Spanish.

There were 6 exchange students from various places in the world in the city where he was located. The foreign exchange students went on 6 trips, including trips to: the Galapagos, the Amazon rainforest, the coast and an island inhabited solely by blue-footed birds. They also got to visit alpaca and llama farms. Adam also got to experience some exotic foods like guinea pig and llama meat.

Adam concluded that it was an outstanding experience that did change his future plans. Although he still wants to become a doctor, he would like to use his medical talents to also help people in Ecuador or other foreign locations.

Updates on a Few Inbound Youth Exchange Students

Occasionally a former inbound exchange student may revisit our area and they would be asked to give a presentation to the Club on what impact their exchange year had on their subsequent education and careers. In addition, some host families are still in contact with the inbound exchange students they hosted.

1960-1961 Inbound Exchange Student Dag Rodsand – Norway

Rotarian Clarence Fitze visited with Dag Rodsand, our very first inbound exchange student, on a trip to Norway. He reported back to the Club that Dag was enjoying great success as a commercial artist.

1961-1962 Inbound Exchange Student Jon Willem Buning – The Netherlands

Our second Inbound Exchange Student (1961-1962), Jon Willem Buning stopped by the Club on Sept 17, 2009 and updated the Club on how his life has unfolded and what he has accomplished.

During his exchange year, Jon's host families included the Fassett's, Fitze's, Robinson's and others. Wayne Krause remembered that he and Jon graduated the same year.

Upon returning to Holland, Jon went to work for the government of Holland in agriculture. Upon retiring from government work, Jon started several agricultural businesses.

Jon has two sons, one of which lives in PA, which gives him ample excuses to visit the area.

1991-1992 Inbound Exchange Student Jody Mansfield – Australia

At the Oct 14, 2010 meeting, the Club heard from Jodi Mansfield (now Hatchman) who attended the meeting along with her husband Mark and children Fletcher and Harper. Jodi was an exchange student during Jeannie Brady's Presidency.

Jodi and her family still live in Australia and were on a visit to the US.

1996-1997 Inbound Exchange Student Dia Siraki - Hungary

Dia Siraki was sponsored for her exchange year in Tunkhannock by the Open Society Institute founded by George Soros, a Hungarian-born American business magnate, investor, author, and philanthropist. The Institute paid for her transportation costs and provided a monthly stipend during her stay.

In 1997, Dia was accepted at Drexel University but was unable to finance her educational costs. One of her exchange hosts Sandy Lane asked for help from the Club in obtaining a loan for Dia to pay for her education. Several Tunkhannock Rotarians, including Sandy, co-

signed for the loan, which enabled Dia to get her Bachelor of Science in Commerce and Engineering (concentration in Finance) in 2002. She repaid her loan early.

From January 2001 - December 2004, Dia was in the honors program at Drexel University, where she got a second Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (concentration in accounting). She then went on for her Masters of Business Administration, (concentration in Leadership and Change Management) at the New York University, Leonard N. Stern School of Business, which she earned in 2008.

1997-1998 Inbound Exchange Student Suzanne Mortimore - Australia



On July 10, 2014, former exchange student, Suzanne Mortimore from Australia, and her boyfriend visited the Club to renew old acquaintances with her Tunkhannock host families and Rotarians. She also updated the Club on her life since she was an exchange student here in 1998.

Suzanne is now a teacher in Australia and spoke about the rich and very rewarding experiences she had during her exchange year in the US.

Patti Whipple, wife of PDG Dave Whipple, has just returned from Australia where she attended Suzanne's August wedding.



Fundraisers

To raise money to fund the various projects that the Club has undertaken since 1925, a variety of fundraisers have been held.

1953 - Need an Extra Hand Mister?

A very interesting fundraising project was undertaken by the Club sometime in 1953 that appeared in the Jan 1954 copy of the Rotarian magazine in an article entitled "Need an Extra Hand Mister?"

"There was many a strange sight to be seen in Tunkhannock, PA, not long ago as Rotarians there hit upon a novel way to raise funds for Club projects. The postmaster was seen raising hamsters, a heavy-smoking newspaper editor was never seen puffing away, a druggist turned to sweeping floors in a factory and so on. In keeping with the Club's "earn it or double it" contest, Rotarians went to work at jobs other than their own to raise \$5 each in wages paid them. The "double it" figured in the plans this way: If only \$1 were earned, then the remainder of \$4 was to be doubled and contributed; If earnings came to \$2, then \$3 would have to be doubled; and so on. A committee was appointed to decide on all questions of earnings. As it turned out, no double penalties were assessed, and the Club netted \$171 from the contest."



The article above was accompanied by a photo of Druggist Robert Noone sweeping a floor in a shoe factory, earning \$5 at a job different from his classification.

This fundraising activity was considered so novel that it was also noted in the 1954 Proceedings of the Forty-fifth Annual Rotary Convention in Seattle, Washington.¹³²

1954 - Indoor Picnic Supper

The Sept 1954 issue of the Rotarian (p 56) described a way that wives of Tunkhannock Rotarians helped their husbands be better Rotarians.

“An indoor picnic supper provided by the ladies recently meant \$38 for the Rotary Foundation. You see, we fellows didn’t have to pay for the meal – so each of us dropped one dollar into a hat.”

1970s – 1980 - Intramural Wrestling Tournament

Another fundraiser undertaken for several years was the sponsorship of an intramural wrestling tournament at Tunkhannock Area High School. It was open to elementary grades 1-6 and junior high grades 7-9.

The entry fee for wrestlers was \$3, which included a t-shirt, and the admission fee to watch the event was \$1 for adults and \$0.5 for children.

Trophies were presented to the first and second place winners and ribbons for those in third and fourth place. PIAA rules were followed for this event.

1974 – Country Western Jamboree¹³³¹³⁴

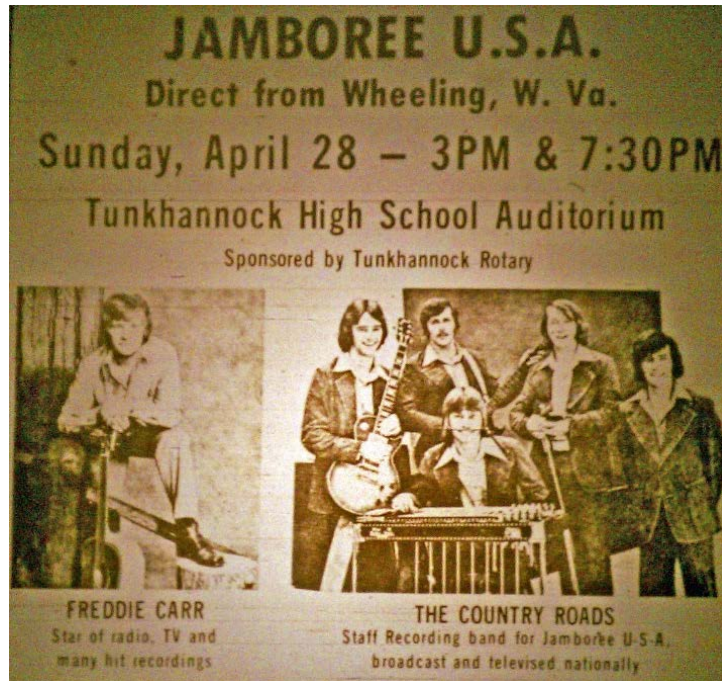
On April 28, 1974, the Club sponsored a country western show –“Jamboree U.S.A.” out of Wheeling, W. Va. as a potential fund-raiser. There were two shows (3 and 7:30 PM) booked for the Tunkhannock High School Auditorium.

The headliner was Freddy Carr, who had been with the Jamboree since 1965 and had appeared on radio and TV. The band was The County Roads. A sister singing act (The Heckels) performed, as did Crazy Elmer, who had been doing country comedy for 30 years. As a special feature, country singer Bobbi Stacey from Tunkhannock also performed.

¹³² Page 293 of <http://www.genryu.org/archives/files/pdf/o6/o6001954en.pdf>

¹³³ Tunkhannock New Age, March 21, 1974.

¹³⁴ Tunkhannock New Age, April 4, 1974.



Unfortunately, the country western show was not financially successful, so it was necessary for the Club to come up with another fund-raising venture in 1975.

1975 – 2007 - Rotary Auction and Flea Market

After the failure of the country western jamboree, the Club decided to try an antiques auction and flea market as a fund-raiser. So for 33 years, the Club held an annual auction and flea market to raise funds to support various Club activities including charitable donations.

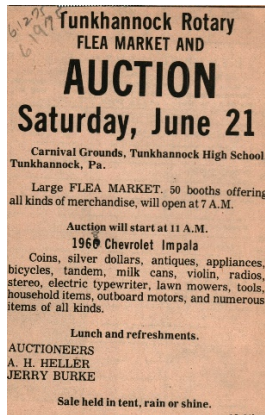
The first auction took place on June 21, 1975, when a very successful event was held at the carnival grounds of the then Tunkhannock High School. Nelson Folsom was president at that time, but the idea for the auction was reportedly the brainchild of Rotarian Don Sick.

Fran Turner was the first chairperson for this event with Clarence Fitz in charge of the flea booth. Agnes Place managed the first flea market with over 50 concessioners. The auctioneers were A.H. Heller and Jerry Burke and the sale was held in a tent so it could take place rain or shine.

A 1960 Chevrolet Impala was a featured item at the auction in addition to coins, silver dollars, antiques, appliances, bicycles, milk cans, a violin, radios, stereo, and various tools, household items and outboard motors.

Lunch and refreshments were available.

Ads were placed in local newspapers and on radio and television.



Over the years, there were items such as antique and hardwood furniture, used cars from Tunkhannock Auto Mart and Sherwoods and gift certificates, in addition to used items donated by Rotarians and by the community. The Club also sold raffle tickets with cash or other prizes. The most raised at one of the auctions was approximately \$18,000.



L to R: 1999 Auction Sign and Jeannie Brady, Exchange Student Dia Siraki and Carol at 1997 Auction



L to R: Auction 2000 - Rotarians hard at work and Exchange Student Bart Blankers pre-testing the merchandise for auction.



However, as the years past, the items donated were less desirable. Club members picked up still serviceable items put out by town's people, but these types of items resulted in the funds raised decreasing and the work involved increasing. Thus, the Auction was discontinued in 2007 and replaced by the Harvest & Wine Festival in Oct 2008.

1979 – Circus

One of the fund-raisers starting in 1979 until the late 80s or early 90s, was the Tunkhannock Rotary sponsored circus. For a time, Rotarians were actively involved in selling tickets for this visit of the circus, but then turned over ticket sales to the circus ticket office.

The annual income from this event brought \$1,200 to \$1,500 into the Club's coffers. There were occasional years where the circus was not held so that the Club could focus on its other activities.

1981 – 2012 - Rotary Relays

From 1981 (first relays on April 25, 1981) until 2012, the Club hosted local junior (1991-2012) and senior (1981-2007) high school track teams at the annual Rotary Relays, which were Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association sanctioned. Although for a time both junior and senior high school teams competed in the events, toward the end of this timeframe (2008-2012), the event focused only on junior high school teams. Athletes from all over Northeastern PA participated in different track and field events.

All gate proceeds went to Special Olympics. However, income from the Tunkhannock Rotarian manned food concession stand and the sale of Rotary Relay t-shirts helped fund various Club programs. The Rotary Relay t-shirts were sponsored by generous donations from Rotarians, local businesses and townsfolk. Most of the funds to run the event came from selling advertising.

2ND ANNUAL Tunkhannock Rotary



Relays

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 1982
12:00 NOON

Tunkhannock Area High School
Track

1982 TEAMS ENTERED

Senior High Boys

WYALUSING
LAKE LEHMAN
SAYRE
STROUDSBURG
WYOMING VALLEY WEST
MT. POCONO
TUNKHANNOCK
LAKELAND
PITTSTON AREA

Senior High Girls

WYALUSING
LAKE LEHMAN
SAYRE
STROUDSBURG
WYOMING VALLEY WEST
MT. POCONO
TUNKHANNOCK
VALLEY VIEW
CRESTWOOD
LAKELAND
PITTSTON AREA



Junior High Boys

STROUDSBURG
WYOMING VALLEY WEST
TUNKHANNOCK
LAKELAND
PITTSTON AREA



A minimum of \$500 was donated each year of the Relays to the Special Olympics, even if the gate receipts might be less than that amount due to inclement weather.

Unfortunately, after 33 years, the Program was discontinued in 2013 when the PA state budget cuts for the schools resulted in some junior high school track and field teams being disbanded and/or unable to find funds to even transport their athletes to the event.

1983 – Fishing Derby & Hoagie Sale

For several years starting in 1983, The Club sponsored a Fishing Derby for the kids at Sugar Hollow Trout Pond. The event was suggested and organized by Tom Kukuchka with help from Bill Yoki. The Derby was open to children aged 5-14. A \$50 savings bond was the prize for anyone catching “Derby Dan”. After fishing, the kids would get a tour of the Hatchery.

The Derby earned a little over \$300 the first year when it was held in June and only about \$100 in the 2nd year due to its move to the Fall, when no fish were biting. It was then moved back to a Spring time event.

TAKE A KID FISHING
Tunkhannock Rotary Club
FISHING DERBY
Sat., June 4th 11AM to 2PM Tickets: \$5.00
AGES 5-14 ELIGIBLE FOR PRIZES
SUGAR HOLLOW TROUT POND

Bring your Favorite Rod & Reel
4 FISH LIMIT INCLUDED IN PRICE
Refreshment Stand on Premises
PRIZES
Pond will be RESTOCKED for Fishing Derby
NO FISHING LICENSE REQUIRED
BRING YOUR FAVORITE FISHING PARTNERS FOR PRIZES
Bring Your Bait
PRIZES
Have a Fun Day with Your Favorite Fisherman

CATCH "DERBY DAN"
during the Fishing Derby and WIN A
\$50.00 SAVINGS BOND

FOLLOW RT. 309 SOUTH from Tunkhannock. WATCH FOR SIGNS for Sugar Hollow Fish Hatchery

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM: A Rotary Club Member; Sugar Hollow Trout Farm; Brady & Cavany Sporting Goods; Gay's Sporting Goods Dept.; Endless Mountain Archery; Murphy's Mart Sporting Goods Dept.
PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT ROTARY SERVICE PROJECTS

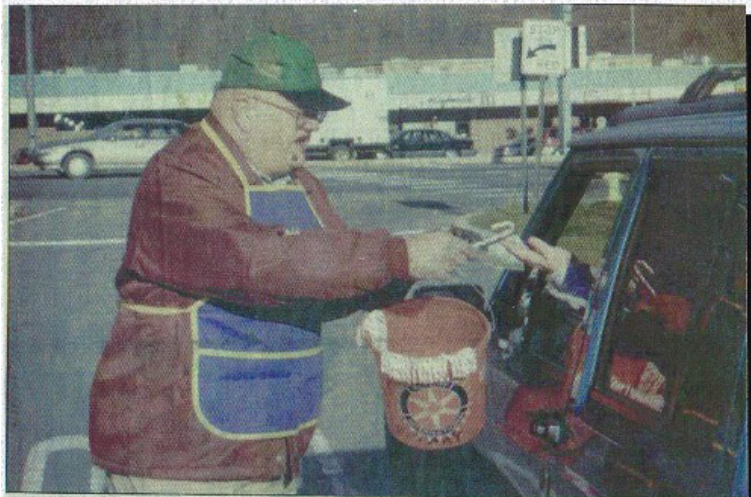
In addition to the Fishing Derby in 1983, the Club had a successful hoagie sale at the Fish hatchery for the first and second day of trout season (April 16 and 17, 1983).

1983 – Brown Bag Lunch Fund-raisers

In Jan 1983, President Otto Keil suggested to the Board of Directors that the Club consider having periodic brown bag lunch fund-raisers. So on April 21, the first brown bag lunch was held. Each Rotarian would bring a bag lunch and pay \$4.00. \$1.00 would go to the restaurant and \$3.00 would go to the Club for the District Health, Hunger and Humanity Fund. Members not attending the Brown Bag lunch would still be expected to pay at a later date.

1984 - Present - Candy Cane Day

Every year on Black Friday (day after Thanksgiving), Tunkhannock Rotarians collect monetary donations from shoppers at various shopping locations within Tunkhannock to buy toys for kids for Christmas. Shoppers are offered candy canes as a treat for their donations. This fund-raising event has been undertaken by the Tunkhannock Rotary Club for more than 25 years and is known as Candy Cane Day or has been referred to affectionately in previous Club minutes as the “annual dodging of the cars” event



Candy Cane Day

Tunkhannock Rotary Club member Don Sick gives a candy cane to a motorist at the Tioga West shopping center as thanks for a donation on Candy Cane Day on Friday. The club collects donations to buy Christmas toys for needy children. – Staff photo by Michael J. Rudolf.

L to R: Candy Cane Day Sign & Don Sick giving out a thank you candy cane to a motorist



L to R: Pat Ehrenzeller, 2000-2001 President Jeannie Brady and Murray Fisk with Candy Cane Day signs



L to R: Rotarians Fran Turner, George Gay, Bill Barber, Matt Pompey and Jeannie Brady

The money raised was divided between Interfaith Friends, Wyoming County Children & Youth and St. Michael's School (although St. Michael's was discontinued in 2010 after its sale).

The generosity of the shoppers has made this a very successful fund raising event for the Club and ensures that children in need or in foster care in Wyoming County, receive at least one toy/gift for Christmas. Tunkhannock Interact Club members have regularly joined in this fund-raising project.



L to R: Tunkhannock Interactors with Rotarian Don Streby outside Brick's Market and with Norm Kelly and Ron Furman at Walmart's entrance

The weather does not always cooperate with this event, but our Rotarians are a dedicated group and will not let cold temperatures or inclement weather stop them. In 2014, Candy Cane Day Chairman Matt Pompey related that it was so cold on Black Friday that, "we nearly froze to death, but it was worth it in the end." The frozen Rotarians and Interactors were very grateful for the hot coffee, cocoa and donuts provided by Dunkin Donuts.

Thanks to the generosity of the Black Friday shoppers, typically \$1,800 to \$2,400 is collected and now equally divided between Interfaith Friends and Wyoming County Children and Youth.



L to R: On Dec 6, 2012, President Bill Barber presented checks to the late Elaine Lee (Interfaith Friends) and Patricia Skrynski (Wyo Cty Children & Youth).

On Dec 4, 2014, President Norm Kelly presented checks to Patricia Skrynski (Wyo Cty Children & Youth) and Mary Foley (Interfaith Friends).

1991 – Memorial Day Flag Sale

In May 1991, the Club purchased 576 mini American flags to sell at \$2 each at the Memorial Day Parade and at the July 4 Fireworks¹³⁵. There is no record of the amount of money raised by this sale.

1991 – Car Raffle

As a fund-raiser, the Club sold raffle tickets on a car donated by Wayne Krause. The Club netted approximately \$3,500 on this raffle.

1992 – 2000s - Club Fines

At the July 16, 1992 Club luncheon, a list of infractions that were fineable was presented to the membership. All fines were considered income to the Club and were used to help fund Club projects.

- Calling a fellow member Mr., Mrs. or by the last name \$1.00
- No Rotary pin \$1.00
- Late arrival \$0.25
- Birthdays 1 cent per year or \$1.00

1993? - Present – Happy/Sad/Advertising Bucks

Although this meeting tradition is now called “Happy Bucks”, according to meeting minutes, it started out as “Happy Quarters”. At the weekly meetings of the Tunkhannock Rotary Club, members are asked if there is anything that they are Happy/Sad about and contribute a

¹³⁵ From Minutes of May 14, 1991 Board of Director’s meeting

dollar to the Club to announce this information. It may just be that they are happy: about the great weather or that a relative is visiting or about the speaker or a new member. Sad bucks usually reflect an illness or death of someone known to the Club, but may also be for a losing sports team.

Advertising bucks are also collected when a member wishes to advertise events at other organizations with which they may be involved.

Since at least July 7, 1993, Happy Bucks appeared in the Rotary budget as an income line item, although this practice may have been ongoing before this date.

2008 - 2010 - Northeast Rotary Golf Tournament

In 2008, the Northeast Rotary Golf Tournament was held at Shadowbrook for the first time with 3 Clubs (Tunkhannock, Trail and Montrose) in charge of raising money for the Rotary Foundation. Each Club raised \$2,000 by selling holes during the tournament. All money raised that exceeded expenses, was equally divided among the 3 Clubs, which was then donated to the Rotary Foundation.

Although this event has continued and our Club continues to sponsor a hole and a team most years, we are no longer involved in the organization nor receive proceeds from the Tournament. This event now takes place at Stonehedge Country Club.

2008 - Present - Harvest & Wine Festival

After the demise of the Rotary Auction, a variety of other fundraising events were considered to replace it, including a beer festival and Casino night. Eventually, the idea was put forward for a Harvest and Wine Festival. At the Nov 20, 2007 Board of Directors meeting, Al Noble, Sandy Lane and Pat Ehrenzeller were charged with exploring the possibility of planning an October Fest for the Fall of 2008.

Every October since Oct. 11, 2008¹³⁶ (Judd Fitze's Presidency), the Tunkhannock Rotary Club has held a Harvest & Wine Festival at Lazybrook Park in Tunkhannock, PA. Al Noble chaired this event for the first 3 years (2008-2010), then George Gay took over for 2 years (2011-2012) and Ron Furman is now in his 3rd year (2013-2015) as Festival Chairperson.

In the first year of the Festival, there were 5 wineries and 26 vendors.¹³⁷ The number of wineries grew to 10 in 2010, with 22 vendors.

Today, the Festival attracts approximately 60 wine, food and craft vendors. There are usually 11-12 wineries represented including: Antler Ridge, Bartollai, Capra Collina, Ferrone, Grovedale, Hidden Creek, Maiolatesi, Nimble Hill, Pickering, Sand Castle and Colonel Ricketts Hard Cider.

¹³⁶ From the 2008 Tunkhannock Rotary Meeting Minutes.

¹³⁷ From the Oct & Nov 2008 Tunkhannock Rotary Meeting Minutes.



L to R: Entrance to Lazybrook Park and 2011 Harvest & Wine Festival Sign



Some of the over 3,750 people attending the 2014 Harvest & Wine Festival



Left: People waiting to enter the 2014 Festival. **Right:** getting their wine samples.

Music is provided throughout the day by 2 alternating bands. In 2008 thru 2010, bands amRadio and High Falls entertained. AmRadio is a fixture at this event and has performed every year, including being scheduled for the 2015 Festival. For 2014 and 2015, the 2nd band was/is The Idol Kings.



(L to R): amRadio and Idol Kings performing in 2014.

Preparations for the Festival begin 9 months before the event, with the Festival Committee reviewing comments and suggestions gathered from members, who also obtained input from last year's vendors. More than 60 Rotarians, their families, and friends work the event each year.





For several Harvest Festivals, we have also had the help of our District 7410 Governors. And of course, our very own Past District Governor Dave Whipple and his wife Patti are always available to lend a hand delivering supplies and wine to the hospitality tent.



L to R: DG Budd O'Malia (2011-2012) and AG Al Noble. An alpaca, DG Irene Carey (2013-2014) and President Karen Fuller (2013-2014)



Patti Whipple and Tunkhannock PDG Dave Whipple (2002-2003)

Sponsorships from 30 local businesses and corporations help defray the expenses for this event in addition to the proceeds from ticket sales. Each attendee also receives a complementary wine glass etched with the name of the wine glass business sponsor.

For several years, the Club had a food stand at the Festival, which was especially renowned for Judd Fitze's pulled pork sandwiches, but the food stand was discontinued in 2014.

The Club also uses the Festival to promote information on Rotary and has sold t-shirts, Polio Plus purple crocus pins, raffle tickets and painted peoples' pinkies purple for a donation to Polio Plus.



(L to R) Master Chef Judd Fitze, Ann Way and Marta Kovacs-Ruiz in 2011 at the Tunkhannock Rotary Food Tent. Harry Sharpe handing out Rotary promotional cards at the 2012 Festival at the Tunkhannock Rotary booth.





Some of the 2014 Rotary crew selling tickets, t-shirts and purple crocus pins.

Each year, the Festival seems to grow with attendance at 1,603 in 2009¹³⁸, over 3,000 in 2012 and over 3,750 in 2014. Pre-Festival tickets are sold at a discount from the ticket price at the gate, so it is most economical to buy tickets prior to the event either online or at several local locations. The Festival takes place from 11 AM to 5 PM rain or shine. This event is a fun day out with family and friends while tasting some new wines and old favorites, enjoying great music and delicious foods and shopping the creative vendors.

A new category of tickets with additional benefits was added in 2014. Approximately 120 VIP tent ticket holders were allowed to enter the Festival 30 min before the general public. Also included was a buffet lunch, commemorative wine glass and T-shirt and a sheltered seated area with tables from which VIPs could freely come and go throughout the day. The buffet menu included: marinated center cut pork loin, brisket and boneless chicken thighs along with various salads, assorted desserts, bottled water and sodas.



(L to R) Rotarians Barbara Tourscher, VIP Chair Tom Kukuchka and the VIP Tent

¹³⁸ From Oct 2009 Club Meeting Minutes.

The Harvest and Wine Festival is the major fundraiser for the Tunkhannock Rotary Club. It allows the Club to fund the annual July 3rd fireworks display, provide donations to local non-profit organizations and support a variety of activities to benefit our youth and our community. Additionally, the Club provides funds for international programs, including polio eradication, as well as, relief efforts for victims of natural disasters in the US and internationally.

Miscellaneous Fund-Raising Activities

In addition to the major fundraiser events, over the years the Club has raised money through 50/50 chances, raffles for computers, artwork and wine/harvest baskets, sales of T-shirts, purple crocus pins, glow wands and food including barbecued chicken, pulled pork sandwiches, funnel cakes and sno-cones,



Who wants to buy a Rotary Relay or Harvest & Wine Festival t-shirt or glow wands?



Tunkhannock Rotarians Having Fun

Most Tunkhannock Rotarians have a highly developed, and sometimes irreverent, sense of humor and enjoy fun and playfulness. This section will showcase some of the humorous or fun scenes from the recent history of our Club, since few photos are available from early Club days.

The Club Bulletin

Since the 1920s, the Club has published a weekly bulletin to report on the happenings at the Club meetings. Some of the editors of the bulletins have had a great sense of humor as reflected in the bulletin write-ups, some of which appear to be written to get a chuckle out of the reader. For example, the May 29, 1980 bulletin summarized the formal program for that day's meeting.

"The formal program for this meeting was presented by Fran Turner. He opened the program by turning the slide projector switch to "ON". He finished the program by reversing the process.....i.e. switched to "OFF". In between Fran's two major contributions, somebody else went to a lot of effort to prepare a fine slide preview of the Rotary 75th Anniversary Convention to be held in Chicago. Davis will be attending from our club this year – so maybe next week or the following we can get a first-hand report....."

Tunkhannock Rotarians at Play

There have been many memorable parties held by the Club, like the trip up the mountain to Ron Furman's Forkston cabin that resulted in Fran Turner's Cadillac getting hung up on a rock, trips to Seneca Lake Wineries, outdoor barbecues and even the pizza parties at Lazybrook Park prior to the Harvest & Wine Festival.

In addition to District social events, several Club social events are planned each year to bring our Rotarians together in a more relaxed environment. It also allows the family of Rotarians to get to know each other.

In the early days of the Club prior to women being accepted as Rotarians, there were typically 4 Ladies Night Dinners per year.









Left: Rotarians & their spouses putting their best pose forward (or backward??).

Right: Do these Rotarians need a lesson in how to properly wear a Paul Harris Medallion?

1985 – Bring a Kid to Rotary

In 1985, the Club had a “Bring a kid to Rotary” meeting for kids and friends of Tunkhannock Rotarians at the Triton Hose House. The kids and adults too, had fun playing “Musical Chairs”, contests of skill carrying eggs, throwing and catching eggs, walking blindfolded in bare feet trying to avoid stepping on eggs, etc. The party finished with hamburgers, hot dogs, Hose House beans, potato chips, birch beer and an exotic ice cream sundae.

Seneca Lake Wineries

The Club has sponsored a few trips to the Seneca Lake Wineries in NY. The April 14, 2005 bus trip included visits to the Lakewood, Wagner’s and Red Newt Wineries.

Theater Shows

Over the years, the Club has put together bus trips to see shows on Broadway. The Club has sponsored trips to see:



- Showboat in 1994
- An unnamed play in 1995
- A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum in 1997
- Another unnamed play in 2000
- Stones in Your Pocket in 2001
- Producer in 2004
- Hairspray in 2006

- Jersey Boys in 2007

In addition to the theater trips to Broadway, the Club also sponsored several Ladies Night dinners and some included dinner and a show at the Music Box Theater. Other Ladies Night Dinners were also inter-club dinners or special celebration events.

Jeannie Brady in Taiwan



(Left) Jeannie Brady does not look too happy after stuffing all members of her GSE Team into a phone booth. (Right) An exhausted Jeannie after having too much fun in Taiwan.

Members' Obsession with Hats

For some reason, the members of the Club seem to have an obsession with hats. Over the years, some of the headgear worn by Rotarians at Club and District functions have been worn for identification purposes and some have provided entertaining moments. District Conferences were an ideal opportunity for Rotarians to try out a new chapeaux. To not embarrass some Club members, names have been withheld from all the photos below, but you know who you are wearing these stylish/interesting hats.





The theme for the Friday April 24th 2015 District 7410 Conference dinner was the Kentucky Derby. Rotarians and their guests were asked to wear their favorite Kentucky Derby attire including appropriate hats.

At the April 23 Tunkhannock Rotary Club Luncheon, the Tunkhannock Interact Club's Kentucky Derby Hat was delivered to Club President Norm Kelly, so he could take it to the District 7410 Conference. The hat was modeled at the meeting by Indian exchange student Shiv Naik.



L to R: A close up of the Tunkhannock Interact Kentucky Derby Hat and Indian exchange student Shiv Naik modelling the hat

At District Conference, Norm Kelly, Al Noble and Matt Pompey all wore the Interact hat. You can decide who wore it best. After a bidding war, the hat was sold for \$100 that went to the Tunkhannock Interact Club.



L to R: Norm Kelly, Al Noble and Matt Pompey

Rotarians Love to Dress Up

District conferences not only gave Tunkhannock Rotarians the opportunity to wear interesting hats but also to wear outfits that reflected the theme of the District Conference Dinner or their native dress. There were the: Speakeasy, Cowboys and Indians, Western, Sailor, Tyrolean and Toga Party themes, in addition to the Kentucky Derby theme for 2015.

Also when Otto Keil was running for DG in 1986, all Tunkhannock Rotarians attended wearing orange t-shirts with “Running with Otto” on the front and “Who the hell’s Otto” on the back. Then Otto came in with a T-shirt that said “I am Otto”.

According to Tom Kukuchka, for many years at District Conference, the Tunkhannock Club rented a party suite at the Conference site. Food (especially strawberries & a chocolate fountain) and beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) were available along with music and hijinks. It was so popular that the Conference organizers eventually asked the Club to tone it down, since attendees were skipping the sessions to party in the Tunkhannock party suite. So ended the Tunkhannock party suite at District Conference.



L to R: Pat Ehrenzeller and Jeannie Brady as cowgirl and Indian at District Conference.
Jeannie Brady in traditional Taiwanese dress. Ruth Gorski in Western dress.



L to R: Millie & Otto Keil and Jean Sick at the Toga Party. Diane and Judd Fitze



The Full Toga Party Crew (date unknown)



1982 District Conference



Red, white and blue theme at the 1983 District Conference? Don Sick (**1st on left**) definitely gets the prize. That's Tom Kukuchka in the pink jacket; wonder if he still has it?



Jim Welch (trumpet) and Roy Gardner (piano) making music in 1986. The front of the sweatshirt says "Running with Otto" and the back says "Who the hell's Otto"



1990 District conference - Anchors Away



Club members with famous friends. Watch that hand Dave!!!!



L to R: Sandy Lane, our lady in blue at District Conference (circa 2001)
and partying/dancing with Dave Whipple



2005 Conference: These guys should be in a German beer garden. Look at all those knees!



L to R: Don Sick, Clarence "Klee" and Judd Fitze



L to R: 2015 Kentucky Derby Theme – Norm Kelly & Marcia Wright,
Matt Pompey and Kentucky Colonel Ted Silver

Sporting Events

One of the fun activities that the men enjoyed were friendly sports' competitions against other Rotary Clubs (particularly Montrose) and other local organizations.

A front page report in the Sept 2, 1927 Wyoming Democrat newspaper "Montrose Rotarians Take Cogs from Wheel of Local Club - Dinner, Speeches and Arnica", detailed a spirited baseball game between the Montrose and Tunkhannock Rotary Clubs at the Fairgrounds.

It seems the Montrose Club took an early lead and won the game 24 to 18 in six innings, although some suggested that Walter Tewksbury did something to make it seem much longer.

After dinner at the Graham Hotel, past president William Kittredge entertained both Clubs with musical selections played on his "musical saw".¹³⁹ It was reported the following week that the Club raised \$20 on the event, which was earmarked for the Boy Scouts.¹⁴⁰

¹³⁹ "Montrose Rotarians Take Cogs from Wheel of Local Club --- Dinner, Speeches and Arnica", Wyoming Democrat, Sept 2, 1927.

¹⁴⁰ Wyoming Democrat Sept 9, 1927.

It seems there was a fierce softball/baseball/canoe competition between the Tunkhannock Rotary Club and the Tunkhannock Kiwanis. However, in the minutes of the meetings where the outcome of these games was reported, it simply referred to them as the “other club”. In fact, in all club minutes they were rarely mentioned by name. For example, the July 2, 1981 minutes, mentioned the annual “Other Club” canoe race.

Tunkhannock Rotarian Hijinks

As mentioned previously, Tunkhannock Rotarians have a highly developed sense of fun and this was evident even from the early days of the Club.

Hazings

In the early days, new Club members were initiated into Rotary with business related hazing, which were customary for initiations into colleges, clubs etc. in that era. So far, we have been unable to determine the exact nature of these hazings.

President's Gavel

Every year, the current Club President must guard their gavel with extreme care. Gavels have been known to walk away, accidentally get lost and even disappear in plain sight.

This tradition has been ongoing for many years. A notation in the minutes of the May 8, 1980 minutes state that:

“President Kent rejoiced at the return of his gavel....”

According to the minutes of the Jan 26, 1984 Rotary meeting (President Davis Haire),

“Bob Skovronsky was appointed Special Sargent at Arms to protect the club's banners, bell, fine box and badges for the balance of President Davis' term. He will also protect President Davis' gavel and badge.”

In the minutes of the June 21, 1984 Rotary meeting, it was noted that:

“Tom Kukuchka auctioned off Davis' missing gavel for \$7.00 but found he had been had – the gavel he sold was a Davis “plant” and the engraved official gavel was safe. Good boy Davis!”

The most extreme case of gavel disappearance occurred when Bill Barber was President in 2012-2013.



Bill received his President's gavel from outgoing President George Gay at the June 2012 Officer Installation Barbecue and Awards night. The two appeared very happy together and looked forward to a bright and long partnership.

But then the unexpected happened, Bill's gavel was gavel-napped at one of our Rotary Luncheons. Bill was devastated.

From the April 11, 2013 Club Bulletin:

"Bill then showed posters offering a reward for the return of his President's gavel, which went missing several months ago, and its faithful companion ("the box"), which made a break for freedom over 2 weeks ago. (SN!¹⁴¹ It is possible "the box" was feeling abandoned, went looking for its gavel companion and got lost trying to find its way back to Bill, so the two items may now be together again.) However, Bill would like to have his President's gavel back before his time in office is over. (SN! Although an Apr 11 e-mail from the Hamlin club addressed Bill as Immediate Past President already, so they may know something that we don't know yet. Or maybe the loss of a President's gavel and its box triggers an immediate demotion for a President.) The missing gavel is approximately 10-1/2" long (similar to photo below) and answers to the name "gavel". Its companion box is cream colored with a quarter taped to the side and answers to the name "the box". "The box" is very camera-shy, so no picture is available. If anyone in the club knows the whereabouts of these items, Bill will pay a very, very generous reward of \$0.25 for any information leading to their apprehension and return."



Wanted Dead or Alive

¹⁴¹ SN = Secretary's note.

From the April 18, 2013 Club Bulletin:



“Bill has still not received a ransom note nor any information on his missing gavel, which went missing several months ago, and its faithful companion (“the box”), which made a break for freedom over 2 weeks ago. Secretary Carol has provided Bill with a temporary gavel¹⁴² in the meantime, but he would like his original gavel back before he leaves office as President. If anyone in the club knows the whereabouts of these items, Bill has increased the reward from \$0.25 to lunch at The Freeze (including a milkshake) for any information leading to their apprehension & return.”

The gavel saga continued in the May 9, 2013 Club Bulletin:



“President Bill Barber began the meeting by revealing that his missing gavel “box” with taped quarter still attached, mysteriously reappeared at his place-setting at last week’s Rotary Luncheon. Bill was very happy to see “box” but was saddened, when upon opening it, “gavel” was not inside, just a bag filled with wood chips. Could this be all that is left of “gavel”? There was no ransom note included. Bill had previously raised the reward from \$0.25 to lunch at The Freeze (including a milkshake) for any information leading to their apprehension and return. Today, Bill once more raised the reward to 2 Rotary lunches and no 4-Way Test/Pledge leading for the informant for the remainder of Bill’s Presidency.”

¹⁴² Actually a meat tenderizer.

The finale of the gavel sage was noted in the May 23, 2013 Club Bulletin:



“President Bill Barber began the meeting by revealing that his missing gavel was found at the Sunday Social at Ron Furman’s Cabin. President Bill stated he will continue to use the meat tenderizer while his gavel is resting from the ordeal.”

Gavel was found hanging from a ceiling fan in Ron’s cabin. After sufficient rest, Bill was able to use his gavel once again as he closed out his year as President in June 2013.



Bill’s successors as President, Karen Fuller and Norm Kelly, have also been victims of the gavel snatchers.

2013-2014 President Karen Fuller found her missing gavel at her place setting at the 2014 Officer Installation and Awards Banquet.



2014-2015 President Norm Kelly found his missing gavel among the hors d’oeuvres at the 2015 Officer Installation and Awards Banquet.



Now it will be fun to see how long 2015-2016 President Ron Furman can hang onto his gavel. We will also see if the gavel snatchers are up to the challenge of thwarting Ron's efforts to hang on to his gavel for all of his Presidency.

As of Aug 13, Ron's gavel has already temporarily escaped twice (on Officer Installation night & at the July 16 Club meeting). It was returned on both occasions by Rotarians who felt it was too early for a prolonged gavel-napping. However, since it only takes 3 strikes to be "out", the next gavel snatching could deprive Ron of his bell ringer for the rest of his Presidency. Hopefully, Ron will have learned his lesson and will now guard his gavel more carefully.

Recently, Ron has taken to putting his gavel in his pants pocket. As one of the infamous gavel snatchers commented: "This will be the first time I may have to snatch a pair of pants to get the gavel."

Let the GAMES BEGIN!!



Facts About the Rotary Club of Tunkhannock

As of Aug 25 2015, the Rotary Club of Tunkhannock had 66 active and 6 honorary members.

Members with Greater Than 20 Years of Continuous Service

There are 12 active and 4 honorary members in our Club who have been Rotarians continuously for greater than 20 years of service (Table 18). Fran Turner is the longest continually serving Rotarian in our Club with 65 years of service on Aug 1, 2015.

Table 18 Tunkhannock Rotarians with 20 Years or Greater Continuous Service

Member	Member Type	Date Joined Rotary	Years of Service
Milligan, William	Active	1-Dec-92	22
Lane, Sandra	Active	1-Sep-89	25
Brady, Yen Fong	Active	1-Sep-89	25
Fisk, Murray	Honorary	24-Sep-87	27
Krause, Wayne	Active	1-Jun-87	28
Hovan, John	Active	1-Jan-85	30
Whipple, David*	Active	1-Mar-96	32
Thomas, Stephen	Honorary	18-Feb-82	33
Kukuchka, Thomas	Active	1-Jan-79	36
Fitze, Judd	Active	1-Dec-77	37
Flatness, Ronald	Active	1-Jan-77	38
Werkheiser, Norman	Active	1-May-76	39
Stark Jr., Richard	Honorary	27-Mar-75	40
Holcombe, Glenn**	Active	Aug 1973	42
Schicktanz, Thomas	Honorary	8-Sep-71	43
Welch, James	Active	1-Apr-71	44
Turner, Francis***	Active	1-Aug-50	65

*Dave was a member of the Wilkes-Barre Rotary Club since 1983 before transferring to our Club in 1996, therefore, he actually has approximately 32 years of continuous service.

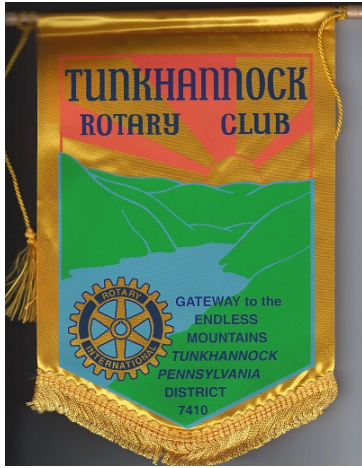
** Glenn has 40 years of service in the Spring-Ford PA Club and 2 years of service in our Tunkhannock Club.

*** Fran began his service in the Wellsboro, PA Club and transferred to our Tunkhannock Club in the 1960s.

Unfortunately, an idiosyncrasy of RI's membership software program, sometimes restarted the time clock when a member transferred to or from another Club, so there may be other members who have long time continuous service that are not reflected in Table 18.

We also have current Rotarians who have taken a break from service for several years, who have greater than 10 years of cumulative but not continuous service, such as Matt Pompey, Harry Sharpe (this is his 3rd time in Rotary), George Gay, Frank Oliver and Davis Haire. This list may not be complete.

Tunkhannock Rotary Mini Banner



In May 1972, the Club decided they wanted a mini banner to present to visiting Rotarians. The Board ran a contest for the high school students to design a banner that featured the Endless Mountains.

Once all the designs were submitted to the Club, a winner was selected. The winning design was created by Susan Turner, who also happened to be the daughter of Rotarian Fran Turner.

The club then ordered mini banners with this design as trading banners and it is the same banner that we still use today.

The design and colors of our banner are so distinctive that when pinned to a wall of other banners, one can almost immediately pick it out at a distance.



Jeannie Brady at the Rotary International Convention in Taiwan after pinning our banner on the banner wall. Can you pick it out?

World War II Veterans

There are 2 World War II veterans who are still active members of our Club and 1 honorary member. The active members are Fran Turner and Norm Werkheiser and the honorary member is Murray Fisk. Over the years, Fran, Norm and Murray have given presentations to the Club about their war experiences, and in Fran's case, his return to Europe for several WWII Anniversary commemorations.

Norman Werkheiser

At the Nov. 6, 2008 Club meeting, Norm Werkheiser gave a presentation entitled "WWII-As I Saw It" wearing his original Army shirt with his campaign ribbons, rifle pin and good conduct medals. He had this on under his plaid shirt and only displayed them as he got up to speak. He said it was the first time he had ever been asked to talk about his experiences during the war.

His narration was riveting – his experiences witnessing death, heroics and his funny stories about army life. Mounted on display was an M1 rifle, ammunition belt, German 8 mm rifle, Walther P38 (a gun that German officers carried), bandoleer, helmet, map of his 87th division 345th campaign across Europe, and a couple of beautiful carved signs. He also passed around pictures depicting Army life.



Recently, a photo banner of veteran Norm has been put up near Van Duzer's Gas station in downtown Tunkhannock as part of the military banner program sponsored by the Tunkhannock American Legion Post. The banners are designed to be a living tribute to the area men and women who bravely served our country.

Murray Fisk

On Nov 11, 2010, Murray Fisk presented at the Club meeting on “WWII in his own words”. Unfortunately, no information is available from the meeting minutes on the content of Murray’s presentation.

Francis Turner

Fran Turner, aged 95 and a long-time Rotarian, has given several presentations on his service in World War II and his participation in commemorative events over the years since the war. Most recently, he gave a great presentation at the Dec 11, 2014 Tunkhannock Rotary Luncheon on his Sept 2014 trip to Europe to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the liberation of Europe during WW II.



Fran Turner talking to the Tunkhannock Rotary Club about the Liberation Tour 70

Fran was 1 of a 3 WW II veterans, all of whom served in the European theater, who attended commemorative ceremonies in France, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany. In several locations, international groups of re-enactors lovingly restored tanks and equipment from the war and put on mock battles and parades to commemorate the events leading to the liberation of their towns or countries.

Fran enlisted in early 1941, went to officer candidate school and became a combat engineer lieutenant. Although he was first in North Africa, he was re-assigned to England to prepare for what turned out to be the D-Day invasion. His unit was part of the second wave that landed to establish a beachhead before heavy armor such as tanks could be sent over. 2nd Lieutenant Turner commanded a platoon of 40 soldiers in the 17th Engineers in the European theater in support of the 6th Armored Regiment. They were the first army combat unit to enter Belgium and then into Germany, but waited outside Berlin until the Russians could enter first.

A large commemorative ceremony was held in Rumes, Belgium, a town first liberated by the Americans. The ceremony was attended by 3 American vets (Fran Turner, Charles Grunert and Bob Connerton), 1 British vet (Ernie Turner) and by Prince Laurent of Belgium. The ceremonies were featured on Belgium TV, including a segment on Fran laying a wreath at one of the memorials.

The group then went on to Peronne France and Arromanches France, where further re-enactments were done as part of the commemorations. They also visited Omaha Beach and the encampment at Bray-Sur_Somme France.

Fran then visited Margraten Cemetery in the Netherlands where American troops were buried, including PFC Albert Clark, one of the men in Fran's platoon. Fran laid flowers and led a salute at the grave of PFC Clark.

The group next traveled on to ceremonies and re-enactments in Mons Belgium, Noorbeek the Netherlands, the Elbe River in Germany and Berlin, Germany. Fran and his family enjoyed this amazing trip to Europe, although not Fran's brief stay in a Berlin hospital due to dehydration at the end of their trip.



Left: Fran (middle) signing commemorative book in Rumes, Belgium.

Right: Fran (sitting on chair), regaling the re-enactors with stories from the War.



Left: Fran at grave of Albert Clark and **(right)** in restored US Army jeep with a re-enactor.

Weekly Speaker's Program

Except for special meetings like Club Assemblies and District Governor's visits, the Club has a varied and interesting program of weekly speakers. Rotarians are assigned to a particular month and are responsible for ensuring there are speakers for each meeting that month.

While most speakers are local business, political, artistic, medical or organizational leaders, some talks are about people's hobbies, travels or life experiences (as exemplified above for World War II veterans). Exchange students, Interactors, and RYLA participants are also invited to speak to the Club about their experiences. In addition, representatives of organizations who have received funding from the Tunkhannock Rotary give presentations that address how they spent the money they received or their wish list for various new or ongoing projects.

Occasionally over the years, speakers that have national or regional renown have spoken at our Rotary luncheons including: Congressmen Don Sherwood and Chris Carney.

Some national and regional TV celebrities that have also addressed the Club include:

- 1970 - George Stimmel, station manager for WVIA, Channel 44 who presented on the "Future of Educational TV Both Nationally and in NEPA".
- 1971 - Curt Gowdy from NBC Sports, who spoke about the "5th Game of the World Series"
- 1973 - Tom Bigler from WBRE TV news, who spoke about the "Free Press"
- 1976 - Dick Wilson, who made 504 commercials as Mr Whipple in the Charmin Commercials, who talked about "Please don't squeeze the Charmin"
- 1976 - Elden Hale, News Director for WNEP TV, who presented on the "Commercial Bi-Centennial"
- 2012 - Andy Mehalshick, the Lead Investigator of the WBRE Eyewitness News I-Team, who talked about his reporting style and some behind the scenes information regarding the Penn State scandal.



L to R: Guest speakers Dick Wilson (Mr. Whipple) and Andy Mehalshick

Some Tunkhannock Rotary Special Events

Over the years, the Club has held special events to honor individual Rotarians on special occasions or for outstanding services to the Club over a long time period. Information is only available for 4 of these events, although others have been held during the past 90 years.

1988 – George Gay’s 50th Anniversary in Rotary

On Sept. 22, 1988, the Tunkhannock Rotary Club honored George Gay for his 50 years of service to the Club and the community with a special banquet at the Warren Hotel. The celebration was attended by Rotary Members and their wives. George was accompanied by his wife, Ruth, and joined by his sons, Doug and Dave Gay.



Ruth and George E. Gay

George was President of the Club in 1964-1965 and served as song leader for most of his time in Rotary.

It was a surprise party and George remarked:¹⁴³

“It knocked my eyes right out.”

“He said he is happy that he has been able to serve the community for so long. He added that many people don’t want to devote that much time and many others don’t live long enough even if they wanted to.

Not many people have made it that far, he said.

Gay said that he has served on almost every committee Rotary has and has enjoyed all the activities he has been involved with.”

¹⁴³ From “Rotary Club honors George Gay”, Sept 30, 1988.

Club President Bill Gilroy recognized George for his work in many Rotary activities, including fund-raising events and the Rotary Relays.

George also received a congratulatory letter from PA Senator Charles D. Lemmond, Jr. for his 50 years of service to the Club and community with best wishes for health, happiness and continued success for his future.

1999 – Celebration of George “Papa” Gay

In 1999 during the Presidency of Sandy Lane, the Club decided to honor Rotarian George “Papa” Gay at a community wide celebration.

Papa Gay, a legend in his own time, was well-known for his friendly advice in the seed department at the store, his love for gardening and his skill as a beekeeper. His ability to tell a story and recite poetry to the young and old was also well-known.¹⁴⁴

According to an article in the Wyoming County Press Examiner in 2007, George was a member of several track teams and even competed in the Rotary Relays at the age of 83.¹⁴⁵

Rotarian Tom Kukuchka was charged with organizing this event at the Wyoming County Fairgrounds, as site dear to George Gay and home to the Farm Museum he started that now bears his name (George Gay Farm Museum).

According to an article in the Times Leader newspaper on Sept 28, 1999¹⁴⁶:

“TUNKHANNOCK- More than 350 people plan to attend an honorary dinner Wednesday for George Gay, a community favorite.

Trouble is, Gay would just as soon not show up.

"I'm too busy for that," said Gay, 92, of Tunkhannock. "I've got too much to do. That's going to take the whole night."

As a longtime community activist and historian, Gay will be honored at the Kiwanis Wyoming County fairgrounds. But the spotlight has always been a difficult place for Gay, who prefers to do community work without much fanfare, said friends and family members.

¹⁴⁴ Taken from Obituary for “George E. Papa Gay 96” in the July 2004 Rocket Courier.

¹⁴⁵ From “George Gay Olympics Set” in Wyoming County Press Examiner, June 20, 2007.

¹⁴⁶ “Gay: Tunkhannock’s True Value Town to Honor Longtime Activist, Historian Wednesday”, Times Leader, Sept 28, 1999.

"George is a person who has done a tremendous amount for Wyoming County and has done it very quietly," said Tom Kukuchka, a member of the Tunkhannock Rotary Club, the group organizing the dinner.

"Everybody just felt it would be nice to get together and say 'Thanks, George.'"

So far, 350-400 tickets have been sold for the celebration, which begins at 6 p.m. It will include music from the Tunkhannock Area High School band. Gay, who plays the xylophone, might join the band in a rendition of "Liberty Bell."

"We're going to invite him to take part in this however he chooses," said Kukuchka, who is also the event chairman.

All of which is just fine, according to Gay, but quite unnecessary.

Gay, part owner of the 87-year-old Gay's True Value Hardware store, has never sought attention for his community work, and doesn't plan to start now, he said.

In addition to being a Rotary Club member and honorary member of the Tunkhannock Kiwanis Club, he maintains an antique farm machinery museum at the fairgrounds. The museum features hundreds of old, horse-drawn farm implements, said Ed Coleman, president of the county fairgrounds.

It was created about six years ago after Gay's sons told Coleman about their father's collection.

Since then, "It's gotten to be quite the display up there," Coleman said.

As a one-time farmer, Gay believes all children should have some farm experience. Gay's strong work ethic remains.

Every morning after 10 a.m., the quiet, friendly man with a sly sense of humor and cane walks into the hardware store, ready to work and greet customers. He is known throughout the community as a helpful man who can seemingly find anything a customer needs in the store's attic.

Gay was born in 1907 in Bradford County. He served from 1943-45 on a destroyer in World War II. He began running the store in 1958 on the heels of his father, Marble C. Gay, who bought it in 1912.

The younger Gay turned over the reins to his two sons during the 1960s, he said. "I'm lucky. They allow me to still come in here, which is nice."

The dinner portion for Wednesday's event is sold out, Kukuchka said. But others can still attend the after-dinner celebration at 7:15 p.m.

The affair has become overwhelming for Gay and his wife, Ruth.

"We're very, very pleased that people appreciate him," said Ruth, 84.

But is she looking forward to the evening?

"Let's just say I'll be glad when it's over," she said, and laughed.

Needless to say, a great time was had by all.



L to R: 1999-2000 Club President Sandy Lane, George and Ruth Gay

2002 - George "Papa" Gay's 95th Birthday Party

As reported in the Sept 25, 2002 The New Age – Examiner:

"The Tunkhannock Rotary's official bun-thrower got his comeuppance Thursday.

The club surprised longtime member George Gay at its weekly meeting with a birthday cake – complete with candles – and a "roast".

Gay, who earned a reputation for throwing buns during a club meeting if a speaker was boring, turned 95 on Friday. Several board members even winged a few buns at him.

Old friends and two of Gay's sons, Doug and Dave, shared anecdotes about Gay's life, generosity and some of his antics.

According to club records Gay, known affectionately in Tunkhannock as “Papa Gay” joined Rotary on March 13, 1938. His length of membership and service “speaks volumes about his dedication to the community right from the start” said past president Matt Pompey.”

A variety of Club Rotarians paid tribute to George including Club President Harry Sharpe, DG Dave Whipple, Tom Kukuchka, Don Sick and John Hovan. John wrote 2 poems in Gay’s honor (Papa Gay’s Call of Comfort and Magic Man) that were reproduced in the newspaper article. Finally, Doug and Dave Gay reminisced about their father.

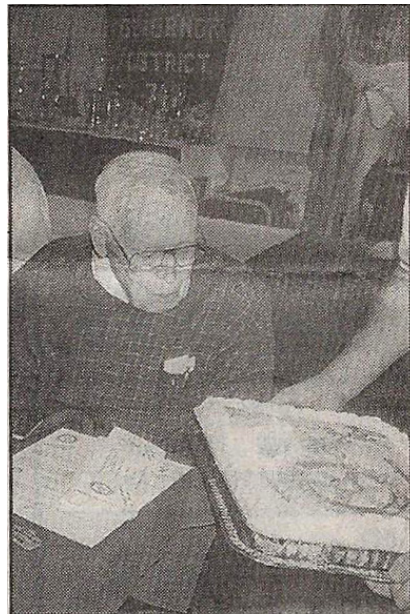
At the end of the meeting, it was reported that

“Gay said he was glad to be at the meeting with his sons. “There are a lot of things they won’t admit to, and a couple of things I won’t admit to” he said.

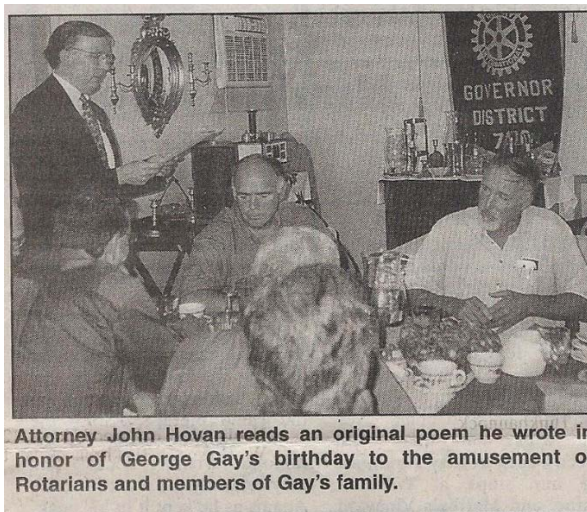
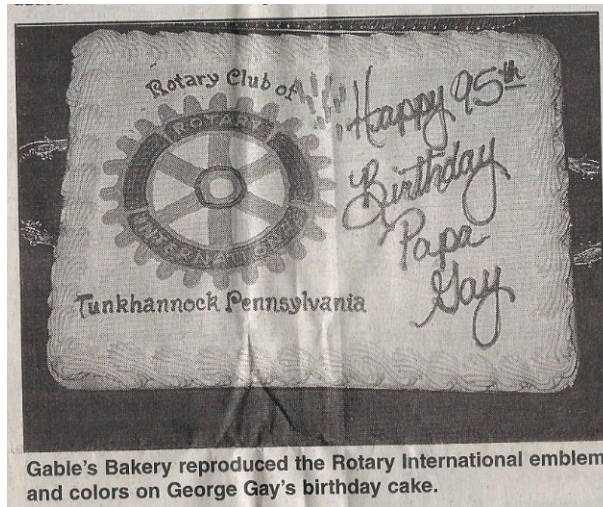
Thanking the club for its recognition, he said “You made me weep.””



George Gay leads the Tunkhannock Rotary Club in singing “God Bless America” to open Thursday’s meeting, which celebrated his 95th birthday. – Staff photo by Mary Baldwin.



With one breath, George “Papa” Gay easily blew out all the candles on his birthday cake.



Attorney John Hovan reads an original poem he wrote in honor of George Gay's birthday to the amusement of Rotarians and members of Gay's family.

Papa Gay's Call of Comfort

Everyone's hero is
calling us to join him in
song!
Reciting poetry on the way,
playing a tune with the band,
making a child smile,
listening to his bees,
telling how a garden grows,
touching life all around town,
I can hear him say,
"Don't listen to your critics,
come join me in song!"

All those great stories!
I don't even care if they are
false or true.
Please, just tell your stories,
Papa Gay.
I need to be near you.

Magic Man

How do you serve those
drinks,
not as friendship's food, but as
comforting fuel to get us from
here to there with so much less
worldly care?

What words create your magic
that change ponds lakes and
coffee pots to trophies, of
which we all must partake?

From whence your magic
comes
when I shout your name,
won't you please tell me;
or must it your secret remain?

— Attorney John Hovan wrote
these poems in honor of
George Gay's 95th Birthday.

2015 - Fran Turner's 65th Anniversary in Rotary

The Club celebrated Fran Turner's 65th Rotary Anniversary at a party in his honor on June 14, 2015. The party was an afternoon informal barbecue at the Tunkhannock Moose Lodge attended by Club Rotarians, DG Carol Hemphill, DGE Barbara Huffman de Belon her Rotarian husband Edwin Belon, PDG Ray Wilmarth and his Rotarian wife Ruth, members of Fran's family, his regular golf buddies, Kukuchka Funeral Home staff and members of the Tunkhannock American Legion Dennis Strong Post 457 (Fran is 2015 Commander of the Post).

Fran joined Rotary in 1950 and was a member of the Wellsboro Rotary Club for over 10 years. He was President and Secretary of the Wellsboro Club. He moved to Tunkhannock in the 1960s and transferred to the Tunkhannock Rotary Club where he has been a member ever since. He was President of the Tunkhannock Club in 1973-1974 and Club Secretary for 25 years (1984-2009). Fran is a Paul Harris +3 Fellow.

Although Fran is 96 years young, most years he still has perfect attendance at our meetings and takes part in all our parties, fundraisers and other Club activities.

He still plays golf almost every week when the weather is good.

A variety of tributes were showered on Fran at this celebration:

- PA Representative and Dallas Rotarian Karen Boback presented Fran with a Citation from the PA State Legislature.
- Tunkhannock Rotarian and Judge John Hovan paid tribute to Fran and asked everyone to sign a book that he had bought for Fran.



- DG Carol Hemphill saluted Fran's years of Service and presented him with a "Light up Rotary" theme pin.
- DGE Barbara Huffman de Belon also noted Fran's exemplary years of Service Above Self and pinned Fran with the new 2015-2016 "Be a Gift to the World" theme pins. She said that this message was clearly something that Fran had "got" a long time ago.



- Tunkhannock Rotarian Norm Werkheiser gave an Armed Services Veterans Rotary pin to Fran from the Club.
- PDG Ray Wilmarth from Montrose remembered the time that he had to arrange a Golf Tournament for District Conference but he knew nothing about golf. Golfer Fran came to his rescue and took care of it all.



- Several others told humorous stories about Fran including Tunkhannock Rotarians Tom Kukuchka, Jeannie Brady, George Gay, Al Noble and Ron Flatness, as well as, American Legion member Frank Geaus (who also gave the before-meal blessing).



Fran and his Family. **L to R:** Nancy Denney, Susan Benninger, Fran Turner, Larry Benninger, Marianne Markunas and Rick Markunas

All those who knew Fran in Rotary, the American Legion or his family remarked that he inspired them to do more and to do good, be it in Rotary, their lives or their families.



Poster highlighting Fran's 65 years of Service to Rotary for his party on June 14, 2015
(courtesy of Glenn Holcombe)

ROTARY MOMENTS

Several years ago, RI realized that not all Clubs wanted to include a religious invocation at the start of their Club, District and International meetings and in an effort to expose non-members to the benefits of Rotary membership and the reasons why Rotarians joined Rotary, RI instituted the Rotary Moment. This is a two to three-minute personal story by a Rotarian that reflects a highly memorable experience in their Rotary life. It might be an experience that impacted them so greatly that it transformed them from simply being a member of Rotary to becoming a Rotarian, or an experience that they will always remember as a key point in their Rotary life.

Rotary Moments from Senior Rotarians

For this history, Rotary Moments were requested from all of our active Club members with greater than 30 years of service in Rotary. The following senior Rotarians provided contributions: Jim Welch, Glenn Holcombe, Norm Werkheiser and Ron Flatness.

Jim Welch Sr. – 44 Years



Don Sick asked me to join Rotary. However, I did tell him OK but I would not take any office as I had too much going on with Welch Associates Insurance and the Triton Hose Co. #1 as Chief. The meetings also had interesting speakers. At the time, Rotary was every Thursday at the Prince Hotel, just up the street from my Welch Associates Insurance office. It was great to talk with so many good people every Thursday for lunch.

Later on in Rotary, I was asked to be in charge of getting officials for the Rotary Relays.

It was great to see Rotary doing such good things with community work, as well as, all over the world. They also have a great student exchange program.

Glenn Holcombe – 42 Years



In 1987 the Supreme Court ruled that U.S. Rotary Clubs had to allow female membership. Our “Old Boys” group at the Spring-Ford Club was apoplectic! We were sure that this would ruin Rotary.

How wrong we were! The addition of women to Rotary was the best thing that ever happened. Thank you Duarte Rotary Club of California for filing the lawsuit in 1983 and to Rotary International for having the wisdom to expand the ruling worldwide.

Norm Werkheiser – 39 Years



I was born and raised on a farm in Nazareth, Northampton County, PA and attended a 1-room school up to the 8th grade. I entered the army during World War II, served in France and Germany and received a Bronze Star.

After the war, I attended several evening programs and worked on artificial breeding until 1964. I moved to Tunkhannock when the business relocated.

I joined Rotary on May 1, 1976 and have been an active member since that time and have received numerous recognition awards from the Club including the Service Above Self Award in 2003 and 2008 and Presidential Citations in 2005, 2007, 2010 and 2013.

I am very involved with our annual Harvest and Wine Festival, serving on the Festival planning committee for many years and responsible for acquiring the engraved wine glasses given as souvenirs to all attendees. Over the last several years, organization of the Fall and Spring Road-side Clean-ups has also been my (co-)responsibility.

I have always enjoyed the friendship and the “Service Above Self” of Rotary.

Ron Flatness – 38 Years



My first notice of Rotary Intl. was from my favorite teacher in high school in Morris Ill.....not only a top teacher but always very professional. He was also a state President of his vocation and he was a Rotarian. I followed him later as a high school teacher. When I came to Tunkhannock I was invited to visit both community service groups, attended their meetings and chose Rotary since I thought it was the most professional

Over the years I have done business in and traveled to over 30 countries on six continents, so my attendance was not among the best. But as the sole owner of a small business I know how Paul Harris and his small band of followers felt when they started Rotary. However, I did have time to host Group Study Exchange participants from Norway, Mexico, Guatemala, Brazil and India, which I found extremely beneficial.

In the early 90's I was an Assistant Governor, unusual, since I wasn't this club's President until 2010.

However the major internal disturbance in the club at that time... over the future profits from the Harvest & Wine Festival far over shadowed all else that year. That controversy did end unanimously through our board and my leadership during that troubling time ...with Rotary retaining 100% of the profits and a boon to our community ever since.

I highly value the friendship and fellowship I have enjoyed over the past 38 years as a Rotarian on the local and district level.

2015 Rotary Awareness Week

In early 2015, Jeannie Brady, organized the program for Rotary Awareness week. In addition to Jeannie, Rotary Club members Sandy Lane, Al Noble, Diane Ljungquist, Stephanie Holdt, Tom Daniels and Frank Oliver related through Rotary Moments the circumstances that led to their Tunkhannock Rotary Club membership.

Jeannie Brady – 25 Years



Jeannie Brady related that her first experience with Rotary was at the age of 15 in her birthplace, Taiwan. At that time, she learned one of the main programs within Rotary International was the Exchange Student program. When she moved to the United States and Tunkhannock, Mr. Fitz would hurry out the door of their workplace to attend the weekly Tunkhannock Rotary meeting. She asked if she could join, but at that time was told there were no women members.

By 1989, a woman had been granted membership in Rotary and when someone approached Jeannie to consider membership, she joined Rotary on Sept 1, 1989. She has served the Club in several capacities including Club President.

She feels that the Rotary matches qualities that her mother instilled in her and the Buddhist philosophy of the '3 Givings' – give of yourself in service, knowledge, and financially.

The Rotary project that most specifically touches her heart is Roadside Clean-Up. Her mother in Taiwan for many years had made it her own personal community service project to keep the streets clean in their neighborhood.

Sandra Lane – 25 Years



Sandy Lane related that she was one of the earlier female Tunkhannock Rotary Club members. She has served in a variety of leadership roles including President and currently as Treasurer.

She mentioned that upon gaining employment as Business Manager in the Tunkhannock Area School District, School Superintendent Kent Kresge informed her it was expected that she become involved in a community service club. Kent also a Rotary member, suggested that Sandy consider joining the Club. Sandy was hesitant at the time because there were no other female members. As soon as the first woman joined the Club, Kent approached her again and she decided it was time to join on Sept 1, 1989.

While Sandy has many positive Rotary experiences, she related her experience with hosting a foreign exchange student from Serbia. While in the United States as a foreign exchange student, Dia decided that she wanted to stay in the United States and attend Drexel University. Sandy concerned about cosigning for a rather large sum of money it would take to begin the process, mentioned in passing to Rotary member Don Sick (now deceased) how upset she was to tell Dia she could not help her with her dream. Don's response was, "Give me 24 hours". Within that time, Don found a core group of people including Sandy to be responsible for the financial funding needed.

Dia completed her degree at Drexel, paid everyone back ahead of schedule and currently lives with her husband in the Philadelphia area. Now that she is retired, Sandy has time to visit Dia more often.

Albert Noble – 13 Years



Al Noble first came to Tunkhannock as a student teacher in 1957. He added that the aforementioned Kent Kresge was also a student teacher at the same time. After teaching in the Wyalusing school district for five years, Al left education to begin a career in insurance.

He first became involved in another community service group in Tunkhannock that had their meetings in the evening. He found it difficult to attend the evening meetings and discontinued his membership.

At the time he was first asked to attend a Rotary meeting, nothing really came of it. Sometime later when he was asked to join Rotary, he accepted. The first project he coordinated for Rotary was the Road-Side Clean-Up project. Upon mastering that activity,

he was asked to become involved in more projects that led to his being considered the 'Club fundraiser'.

Al has been involved at the District level of Rotary for many years especially the Leadership Education Program and serving as Assistant Governor.

Diane Ljungquist – 1.5 Years



Diane Ljungquist, currently the CEO at Tyler Hospital, related that her parents raised her to work hard and give back to the community. As a child she was involved in Girl Scouts beginning at the Brownie Scout level.

As her career path led her from Berwick to Wilkes-Barre to Tunkhannock, she has been involved in service to her community.

When approached to join Tunkhannock Rotary, her two biggest concerns were: 1) would she be able to make a difference and 2) did she have the time to be a member. She is glad that she was asked to join Rotary and that she said yes. She has found membership has enabled her to become better acquainted with the community and is impressed with the difference the local Rotary makes in our community and Rotary International makes in the world.

Stephanie Holdt – 11 Months



Due to a friend's health event that greatly impacted **Stephanie Holdt**, she decided to obtain the necessary certification to work for Aflac Insurance. That decision ultimately brought her to employment as a Health and Life Agent at Tri-County Insurance Company in Tunkhannock. Tri-County President and CEO Al Noble and Samantha Maruzzelli (Partner and Agent) are valued members of the Tunkhannock Rotary Club. Their invitation to attend a Rotary Club meeting resulted in Stephanie becoming a member.

Stephanie, who before joining Tri-County was involved in a real estate company with her husband, has three children. When they were young, she was actively involved as a volunteer with various school activities. Now old enough to tell her that type of involvement is an embarrassment to them, she finds she can satisfy her desire to be involved in community service projects through Rotary.

Tom Daniels – 9 Months



Tom Daniels related that his journey to Tunkhannock Rotary membership took a number of years. When growing up on Long Island, he participated in Boy Scouts. Upon moving to Tunkhannock, he continued his involvement in Boy Scouts as his own sons earned the ultimate Boy Scout Eagle Award.

Sadly, he and his family lost their home to the most recent major flooding that occurred on the Susquehanna River. He remarked that the outpouring of help he and his family received from the community as they went through the process of flood recovery including building and settling into a new house was amazing.

On many occasions, Tunkhannock Rotary Club member Harry Sharpe had asked Tom to join Rotary. Now that the new house is completed, Tom related that he has simply run out of excuses and deciding that the timing was right joined the Club this past December.

He sees his membership in Rotary as an organized way to give back to the community in the spirit in which the community responded during the flood recovery.

Tom concluded by mentioning he is convinced that one of his sons, who has been involved in several community service projects including helping in Haiti, is destined to be a Rotary member.

Frank Oliver – 8 Months this time around



Frank Oliver spoke about his reasons for joining Rotary. Frank left Tunkhannock in the late 1970's to become a fund-raising consultant working on several projects throughout the United States.

During his career experiences, he learned of Peter Drucker's belief that the Salvation Army "is by far the most effective organization in the U.S. No one even comes close to it in respect to clarity of mission, ability to innovate, measurable results, dedication and putting money to maximum use."¹⁴⁷

Frank added that from his perspective, Rotary somewhat mirrors the Salvation Army, an organization that relies on local volunteers who do things that relate back to the Salvation Army's overarching mission. In his experiences while working in several locations throughout our country, he encountered individual Rotary Clubs whose members were completing projects that related to and were appropriate for their community while still reflecting Rotary's overarching mission. He attended Rotary Club meetings as a guest

¹⁴⁷ Purtell, G. (April 2002). "The Most Effective Organization in the U.S.": The Salvation Army and Peter Drucker. Capital Research Center, Compassion and Culture. Retrieved from www.capitalresearch.org.

speaker to provide information about various fund-raising projects in which he was involved. And, throughout the country, Rotary Clubs were extremely supportive of those projects.

Three years ago, Frank returned to Tunkhannock to enjoy retirement. Since his return, he has become involved in several community service projects that have also been supported by Rotary. When asked to join a community service group, Frank typically asks, "What is the mission of your group". It would seem that the mission of the Tunkhannock Rotary matches Frank's mission. When asked to join the Tunkhannock Rotary, he said, "Yes"

A common theme that was prevalent in many of these Rotary Moments from Rotary Awareness Week was the desire to give back to the community that many times had provided assistance to them or a project that was/is extremely important to them. Additionally, the majority of them added that the reason they joined the Tunkhannock Rotary Club was very simple, it was because . . . someone asked them.



Members of the Tunkhannock Rotary Club (Aug 1, 2015)

The 66 active members and 6 honorary members of the Tunkhannock Rotary Club as of Aug 1, 2015 are listed in Table 19.

Table 19 Active and Honorary Members of the Tunkhannock Rotary Club

Active Members		Honorary Members
Azar, Rodman	Krause, Wayne	Benninger, Howard
Barber, Bill	Kukuchka, Tom	Fiorillo, Tommasina
Brady, Jeannie	Lane, Sandy	Fisk, Murray
Brillhart, Nicole	Ljungquist, Diane	Schick Tanz, Tom
Buxton, Jon	Markovitz, Michael	Stark Jr., Dick
Casals, Patricia	Maruzzelli, Sam	Thomas, Steve
Chase, Gordon	Mellas, Mark	
Colley, Stephen	Milligan, Bill	
Crimmel, Bob	Murphy, Robert	
Daniels, Thomas	Noble, Al	
Davis, Donald	Oliver, Frank	
Divis, Lou	Parry-Case, Amanda	
Ehrenzeller, Pat	Perlock, Michael	
Fitze, Judd	Peterson, Rebecca	
Flatness, Ron	Pompey, Matthew	
Fuller, Karen	Powell, Mary Rose	
Furman, Ronald	Proctor, John	
Gay, George	Sakalas, Lori	
Gorski, Ruth	Sehne, Anne	
Haire, Davis	Sharpe, Harry	
Hearn, Jami	Smith-Gary, Kristin	
Henry, Thomas	Streby, Don	
Herbener, Paul	Tourscher, Barbara	
Holcombe, Glenn	Turner, Fran	
Holdt, Stephanie	Visneski, Ryan	
Hovan, Aaron	Way, Ann	
Hovan, John	Welch, Jim	
Jasikoff, Lou	Werkheiser, Norm	
Kanyok, Francine	Wertman, Terry	
Kelly, Norm	Whipple, Dave	
Kenley, Kimberly	Williamson, Jennifer	
King, Travis	Wilson, Dave	
Kovacs-Ruiz, Marta	Ziomek, Carol	