

**Peace
Through Service**

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Rotary International President
2012-13



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Laurie Vonglis, Editor

DG Gaven Hurley visits Avon Rotary by Laurie Vonglis

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On Tuesday, September 11th DG Gaven Hurley and AG Walt Springer visited Avon Rotary. Our meeting opened with many members wearing red/white & blue to mark the anniversary of 9/11. We had a packed room singing ‘God Bless America’ and I will admit there were some teary eyes and goose bumps throughout the group. Dan Jones provided a moving remembrance and following a moment of silence we sang proudly honoring this great country.

Our meeting continued with the usual friendship

folly and celebrations creating much laughter and the usual entertainment.

This year DG Gaven has asked each club President to introduce him rather than his AG. Be assured that I did my best to review his background for the club including my thanks for his support and guidance in my preparation for President.

DG Gaven shared his passion for Rotary, Foundation, Leadership Institute and so much more. He asks all of us to be prepared to answer “What is Rotary” at any oppor-

tunity. His humor, matter of fact way and countless stories had this groups attention which at some times is no small task!

Come visit again any-time Gaven!

Below: DG Gaven Hurley, Avon Rotary President Laurie Vonglis, AG Walt Springer



Next Meeting

Tuesday, Sept 18

Program

United Way Gala

- Avon Rotary Club
- Meets Tuesdays at 6pm
- Peppermints Restaurant
- Board of Directors
- Laurie Vonglis, President
- Marcia Cameron, VP
- Tim Dickinson, Sr. Director
- Dan Jones, Director
- Jerry Dougherty, Sr. Rep
- Kirk Vanderbilt, Past Pres.
- Diana Williams, Secretary
- Kelly Cole, Treasurer

Avon & Skaneateles Clubs; Fellowship & Peace

by: Peter Adams Skaneateles Rotary President

On Sunday September 16th, 2012 with beautiful blue skies & temp’s in mid 70’s, 35 Skaneateles, NY Rotarians, & friends met 28 fellow Rotarians & friends from Avon, NY for a Multi District Wine Tour down beautiful Seneca lake!

We started at the Ventosa Winery on the East side of Seneca Lake. While we had a working lunch, Avon Rotarian & school principal Rob Lupisella, gave us a presentation about his work in Nicaragua building a school for the children there last year. The

pictures & video of the impoverished country, inclusive of the old school & the newly built school helped to paint a vivid picture of the needs these people have. It was well done & Rob had hand made baskets made by the ladies of that Village for sale & a sign up sheet for those interested in going down there to do work to build a second school! We’ll ask Rob to come to our Meeting in the near future to show his presentation to the entire membership!

Following our lunch, we headed to Three Brothers

Winery (which included a brewery) and concluded at Zugibe Winery which had relaxing Adirondack chairs, a deck, live music, with views of the vineyards & the lake while we enjoyed the late afternoon rays of the sun!

We enjoyed each others company & the fellowship with the Avon Club!

Who knows this just might become an annual trip!

Continued on page 4—photo display

Avon Ambulance Building Dedication by Kelly Cole



Avon Rotary’s favorite ‘curmudgeon’ Ted Coyne, who some say Jack Benny tailored his penny-pinching modus-operandi after, and who former Avon Rotarian Kent Durepo once said “Ted Coyne would pinch a nickel until the

buffalo *mooed*” has been honored for his long service.

On August 19th, under the guise of attending a ‘free party’ Ted was surprised when he was diverted to the Avon Ambulance Building, where a group of friends and family gathered to pay tribute to his **57** years of continuous service to the Avon Rotary-Lions Ambulance Service.

Ted was one of the original founders of the Avon Ambulance in 1955, which started providing service to the Avon community with a used hearse and a handful of volunteer drivers. Not only did Ted and former Avon Rotarian Ira Brown take the very first call, but years later when Ted went to the bank for a loan to borrow \$235 to buy Caledonia’s used ambulance, Avon Rotary’s own Hoyt Mason made Ted co-sign the loan!

For a great majority of the years, Ted has served on the board of directors, keeping an eye on expenditures and making sure that the ambulance was fitted with everything it needed to operate. When the ambulance moved to its current home base, Ted was there donating time, equipment and experience to help bring the facility up to a suitable operational level.

Over the past 57 years, the Ambulance has provided lifesaving services to those in need, and it is through the generosity and dedication of those like Ted that has made it all happen. It is an incredible feat that Ted has quietly achieved to have dedicated this many years to a cause that benefited some many citizens of Avon. Ted, we are extremely proud of you, and thank you for your focused drive and commitment!!!

Multiple Paul Harris Fellow Named



Dr. Hans Koomen was presented with a multiple Paul Harris pin at the September 11th Avon Rotary meeting. DG Gaven Hurley was present and congratulated Hans. He reminded the club of the importance of being a multiple Paul Harris Fellow.

Avon Rotary Exchange Student Erika van Rooyen from South Africa met DG Gaven Hurley at our September 11th Rotary meeting.



Avon Rotary Exchange Student Marius has arrived!

Marius, our new exchange student from Germany, has a blog. Please feel free to read about his adventures as the year goes along. It says Colorado because that was where he was scheduled to go. The school there would not accept a 15 year old. So, their loss is our gain!!! <http://my-year-in-colorado.blogspot.com/>

2011-12 Outbound Exchange Student Maggie Lloyd

After a wonderful six years at Harley, I have deferred my admission to Carleton College and moved to Spain for the year. I am a Rotary Youth Exchange student in Zaragoza, where I live with a family and attend senior year at a public high school. Thanks to the phenomenal Harley Spanish program, the transition here was fairly smooth, but there have been many amusing bumps along the way.

It was a Wednesday morning and I had just told a group of girls in my class about my favorite type of live chickens, which they don't sell in Spain. As eight pairs of eyebrows rose in stuttered confusion, I retraced my words in search of the error.

"GALLETAS, no gallinas!" I exclaimed. I would have been embarrassed, but these girls were friendly and amused by the error. In Spanish, it's fairly easy to confuse the word for cookie with that for live chicken. Note taken.

The bell rang, signalling the end of the morning recess.

We stood up, balling up tinfoil from our sandwiches and tossing it towards a trashcan. As we funnelled back into the old school building, one of the girls tapped me on the shoulder and asked me what my plans were for the upcoming weekend. I tried not to stare. Was she joking? I hadn't even been in this country for a full two weeks - of course I was free! So yes, I would love to come to Irene's birthday party. Which one was Irene again?

Four and a half months later, that group of Spanish faces has become my group of friends. Occasionally I think back on that Wednesday in early September. I remember the churning in my stomach as I approached them and sat down, knowing that I had to throw myself out there and risk awkward rejection if I wanted to let my host sister and her boyfriend have their Saturday nights back.

I found myself reflecting on that turning-point recess

a few weeks ago at a Christmas dinner with my friends. At the end of a late-night dinner laughing and chatting in Spanish over shared plates of pasta, my friend Miriam raised a toast to me, "the American who will always be in [their] hearts." The next thing I knew, I found myself making my own toast, the once foreign words flowing without any thinking on my part. I thanked them for making me feel at home, for helping me to be truly happy here so far away from my loved ones. The candles on the table swam as I raised my glass—I meant every word. Behind me the restaurant burst into applause; apparently my accent had drawn an audience.

Walking down the night streets after paying the bill and laughing for another forty minutes, I thought about how far I really have come. I am no longer invited out just because my classmates are being polite. I have (nearly) mastered the public transportation system and no longer get (too)

lost in the nest of pedestrian streets. I find myself looking at my watch at 9:30 p.m and thinking that it's still a bit early for dinner. After weeks of second guessing the Spanish two kiss greeting, I can no longer fathom shaking hands. Last Thursday as I was counting out coins to pay for a hot chocolate, a friend asked me what language I count in. I blinked. Spanish.

Spain is different, but as my time here passes it really hits me that I no longer see the differences that were once so flagrant. I am not a tourist, but rather a resident who takes lots of photos. I have learned a lot of Spanish and a lot of history, but more than anything I have learned cultural sensitivity, independence, and how to find happiness on my own. While I wouldn't say that this year has changed who I am as a person, I can say with conviction that I have gained true confidence and learned how to display this confidence in who I am even when I can't find just the words I am looking for.

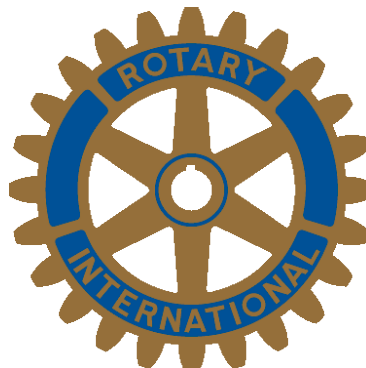
Many thanks,
Maggie Lloyd

Thanks Rotarians for your generous donations to the Avon Food Pantry. We filled several grocery carts with much needed items!

Coming Soon...

"The Magic of Rotary"

October 23, 2012



***Eastern Cities Dinner
Sun. Nov 4th
Last chance to sign up!***

Plan a Committee meeting today!

Multi District Wine Tour & Peace Through Service Program



Avon Rotary Club 9/16/12

Rob Lupisella delivers our Peace Through Service program— Building a school in Nicaragua.



L-R: Phyllis Danks, AG; Dib Glisson, DGN; Rob Lupisella, speaker; Laurie Vonglis, Avon Pres., Peter Adams, Skan. Pres., & Dennis Schonewetter, DGE



At Peace!



Tom & Pres Laurie Vonglis Avon Rotary with Diane & Pres Peter Adams

