



**December 3 2012**

## Saying Goodbye

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Avon Rotary lost a dear friend and Rotarian on November 17. The following was read by Jerry Dougherty at Tom's funeral service.

Today, in Tom's Church, we say farewell to a decent, gentle man, quick to smile and slow to anger, and a great friend to many. I must take a moment at this point to thank Ben Siragusa and Tom's many friends for helping to put these thoughts and memories together.

Tom loved his family and spoke of them in the dearest of terms, his grandchildren Adam and Laura had a special place in his heart.

And his beautiful Jennie. . . the love of his life. . .

Tom loved his country. He enlisted in the Navy during the Korean War and was very proud of his service on Adak, in the Aleutian Islands.

His trip to the inaugural celebration of the World War II Memorial in Washington was a highlight of his life. He sat next to a World War II vet and asked him what unit he was in. Later, when he visited his brother Carl's gravesite at Arlington National Cemetery he realized that Carl was in the same unit as the vet he had met earlier. Although Tom was unable to find the gentleman he had spoken to again, he felt it was providential that they had met.

The Ippolito trip to Sicily was another highlight. He had the unexpected opportunity to meet a cousin when he stopped at a church office to inquire about family records. When they were introduced, Tom very proudly and assuredly said "Buon journo cucina" (ku-cheena) which means "Hello kitchen". . . all in the translation, the word was Cugina, for cousin. Along with many other happy and sometimes funny moments, the trip to Sicily made for a time of great joy for both Jennie and Tom.

Tom was a tireless and devoted member of Avon Rotary Club. He was always volunteering for various projects and treasured the year he spent as President of the Club. Tom always knew when it was a time to be serious, but also led the club through many fun and lighthearted occasions.

On a visit to Tom and Jennie's home last holiday season, several of us were amazed and in awe of his beautiful woodworking creations. Tom was a master carpenter, whose attention to detail and the beauty of wood was apparent in his many furniture pieces. He crafted bedroom suites, a grandfather clock, a secretary's desk with a closing mechanism that he invented and proudly demonstrated. He also crafted small pieces including a beautiful jewelry box for Jennie. Their home, which they have lived in for nearly their entire married life, is full of his handiwork, moldings, cupboards, shelves and a variety of built-in amenities all crafted by Tom. Take time to notice the wood and glass display case in the vestibule as you leave here today. Another piece lovingly crafted by Tom.

Tom lived his life by the rules, and golf was no different. Try as he might with his golf partners Sonny Cole, Harry Longfellow and Ben Siragusa, calling a well deserved penalty on themselves was unheard of, even after Tom recited the "rules" chapter and verse! It fell on deaf ears, but caused many a fun and exciting, if not frustrating day on the course.

Last, but not least, Tom was a true and loyal friend. He will be sorely missed by his morning and afternoon coffee hour groups, and the "Prayer Meeting" before Rotary each Tuesday, and his Thursday lunch group, which he usually guided to an Italian Restaurant. Although, in deference to Doc Hayes and me, he sometimes permitted a trip to an Irish Restaurant or Pub. Although everyone ordered a different lunch, we could always plan on Tom beginning with a V.O. and ginger and ending with a cannoli for the ride back home.

Tom lived a life of grace and dignity, much laughter, and always dedicated to the service of others. He will forever live through the fond memories and love of his family and friends.

Until we meet again, good friend!

**Next Meeting**  
**December 4**  
**Program**  
**Chances & Changes**

Avon Rotary Club  
 Meets Tuesdays at 6pm  
 Peppermints Restaurant

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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

## *Reflections of November* by Laurie Vonglis

Where to start? We ended October with a fun party for Halloween at the Hayes residence. November birthdays and such were celebrated, such a distant memory. November started with a bang and 24 of us traveled into Rochester for the annual Eastern Cities Dinner. As President I was invited to the President's Reception which provided photo opportunities

with THE President Mr. Tanaka. It was an honor to be there. All who gathered for dinner enjoyed the company, food, wine and especially the Presidents speech. His message was excellent. Quickly following was our Auction! I'm told that as predicted, events ran very well. Our Auction Committee worked hard planning this fundraiser and despite a

few minor glitches (which one can never predict) the day was a great success. Dinner had a good showing with 26 Avon Rotarians in attendance. Let me just add that we are such a fortunate club to have the leadership that we do. The Auction Committee does an excellent job and they should be commended for taking on this difficult task! Thank you Tim for your commitment to run this.

Finally we ended November with a much needed meeting at our 'home' - Peppermints. It felt good to be together. Our Thanksgiving buffet was excellent! Thanks to Jim & Kevin for providing us with the Foundation program and all Rotarians who made contributions.

I'm happy to say good bye to November. It was the most challenging month personally and as President that I've ever faced. Thank you for your support, love and patience.

November 20th the Board decided to cancel our meeting to allow the club time to pay respects. I never imagined sharing a funeral home with my Mother and Tom Ippolito. How very sad to lose these two wonderful people, but our loss is heavens gain!



*Club members at our Halloween Meeting on Oct. 30th*

## *Hurricane Sandy Relief Donation*

Avon Rotary Board of Directors has met and agreed to donate \$1000 to help those victims affected by hurricane Sandy. With several options to choose from we decided the best avenue would be to make a contribution directly to Rotary clubs in that area. They are on the ground working with victims and understand where the needs are. Donations sent to District 7490 Walter D. Head Foundation, this 501(c)(3) foundation will be shared equally among the six (6) NY-NJ Districts affected.

Note: The Rotary Foundation is not a first responder and does not do disaster relief.



**Avon Rotary Christmas Party December 15th at the Big Tree Inn—Geneseo**

## *Building Award Presented to Howlett Farms*



**Save the date!**



At our November 27th meeting guests Bruce & Sandy Howlett of Howlett Farms joined us. Diana Williams presented them with a plaque, congratulating them on their business accomplishments and thanking them for their investment in our community.

## *Eastern Cities Dinner (from Nov. district newsletter)*



President Laurie Vonglis, RI President Tanaka and Tom Vonglis at the Presidents Reception

RI President Sakuji Tanaka, special guest from Yashio, Saitama, Japan, addressed the 2012 Eastern Cities Dinner in Rochester, New York on November 4th. His entire speech, given in English, focused on the 2012-2013 Rotary International Theme of, "PEACE THROUGH SERVICE." He said he is not a philosopher. His background is a businessman. He knows that in business, happy customers are good for business.

He said that the business of Rotary International is Peace. And we should strive to make people in the world our happy customers.

He said not enough people truly think about Peace in everyday life. And how important it is.

He inspires all to not only live for Peace - but to join in eradicating Polio worldwide.

He also remarked how Rotarians must help people in the PA, NY and NJ areas hit hardest by hurricane Sandy. A collection was made at the Eastern Cities Dinner (\$4,600.00) to give relief to victims of Hurricane Sandy.



RI President Sakuji Tanaka

## *Dictionaries for Avon 3rd Graders by Laurie Vonglis*



Rotarian Dan Jones helps distribute dictionaries to Avon 3rd graders on Nov. 29th

As part of our Literacy program each year at this time Avon Rotary donates dictionaries to Avon 3rd graders. Last Thursday Rotarians, Dan Jones, Kirk Vanderbilt and Barb McCormick assisted Principal Rob Lupisella with the distribution to eager young

students. The books are meant to encourage the students to learn and give them a sense of pride owning this dictionary gift

Rotarian Dan Jones is chairman of our Literacy Committee and tackles our numerous

literacy projects with great expertise. Avon Rotary recently purchased two pallets of books for the multi-district international book project. Under Dan's leadership, Avon Rotary is well on our way to meeting our literacy goals for the year.

## *Rotarian Rob Lupisella—Building a School in Nicaragua by Laurie Vonglis*



L—R Avon Rotarian Tom Vonglis, Laurie Vonglis, President, Skaneateles Rotary President Peter Adams, Avon Rotary Rob Lupisella, HFL Rotary Jeanine Lupisella

Thursday evening November 29th Rob & Jeanine Lupisella provided their 'Building a School in Nicaragua' program to the Skaneateles Rotary Club. Tom and I attended in support of Rob and Jeanine as well as to pay a visit to our friends in Skaneateles. This club holds their weekly meetings at the Sherwood Inn on West Genesee St. in Skaneateles. If you ever get a chance to pay a visit we recommend stopping there.

Fully decorated for Christmas, friendly staff, cozy fireplace, Irish pub bar, beautiful woodwork and endless charm set the stage for a lovely evening.

The Lupisellas began their program explaining how they made the decision as a family to go. The difficulties faced throughout their stay but more importantly the satisfaction and life changing experience they gained. This project was completed last February. An-

other school is planned to be built beginning February of 2013. Rob and Jeanine plan on going in February. Others are welcome to make this journey with them to build a second school.

This is a great example of an International project that has real meaning, long term benefits and sustainability. I hope to work with our Board and our friends in Skaneateles to assist with funding.

## *The Auction From A New Perspective by Tim Dickinson*

Many of us have been to an auction at one time or another. We know what they look like. Crowds of people all hoping for the amazing bargain of the day. People milling around, inspecting the merchandise, checking the contents of those boxes of stuff looking for a hidden treasure. Everyone making notes about which items they want to bid on. What is the item worth? How much am I willing to pay for that hidden treasure I think I found in that box over in the corner? All questions the bidders ask and answer before the action begins. Then, right on cue, at the stroke of 9AM the action starts. The auctioneer begins, "What is my bid on this lovely antique lamp?.....". We are off to the races. This dialog between auctioneer and bidders will continue until everything has a new owner. That's the view of the auction we all know and love. Bargains to be had, treasures to be found. One man's trash is another man's..... You know the sentiment. We all enjoy the action, the bargain hunt, and the competition to get that much wanted item, but not to pay any more than necessary.

Well, here is a look at an auction from another point of view. The annual Avon Rotary Auction is the effort of 50 or so dedicated Rotarians, a community of around 6,000 residents, and many generous business owners to raise significant funds to help local, national and international charitable organizations. You

start about two and a half months before the day of the auction with a small, dedicated, and diversely talented individuals. After all, they will need to play such roles as advertising specialist, announcer, organizer, programmer, data entry specialist, and motivational speaker, just to mention a few. Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to help your fellow 50 Rotarians find, ask for, or personally donate 400+ items that will be of sufficient interest to some 150+ bidders that you will need to find, communicate with, and convince to spend approximately 5 hours with you in about 8 weeks. Do all this while you continue to work your full time job, see your family every now and then, as well as find an hour or so every once in a while to sit and relax to gather your thoughts.

Sounds challenging and it is. The group, known as the Auction Steering Committee, actually started work last year when they sat down over a meal, fellowship, and some wine and took a critical look at the Auction just past. What went well? What needs more work? What do we want to try that's new? All questions to be asked, discussed, answered, and plans made to address the issues. We won't have another shot at this 'til next year so whatever we do differently, we should be prepared to observe its effectiveness on that all important day.

Fast forward 10 months. It's now a call to action. We had

better have made any necessary changes in your software, as there won't be much time to do that from this point out. Advertising needs to be arranged but wait, all we know right now is we have scheduled another auction. Better get our 50 fellow Rotarians out on the road, collecting donations of items for our bidders. After all, our goal this year is to raise \$20,000 for a host of needy organizations, some special projects, and then there is that school that needs to be built in Nicaragua. Twenty thousand just doesn't go as far as it used to. In the 8 weeks between asking everyone to begin collecting items for the auction and the auction day itself, documentation for the 400+ items needs to be filled out, delivered to the individual who will place the information into the computer, sequenced by the Steering Committee for actual placement in the auction, donor and item description passed on to the advertising coordinator for placement in printed, electronic, and social networking media. The items are stored by the diligent Rotarian until the day before the auction. Bulk items such as salt, fertilizer and food will arrive the day before as well, so we make plans to deal with them. Then there are the much treasured baked goods from Rotarian kitchens all around town. They too will arrive the day before, sometimes still warm from the oven.

In advance, Wonder Lots and, to the extent possible, food



*Final preparations being made  
Barb Herman & Jim Ryan at work*

**Sounds challenging and it is. The group known as the Auction Steering Committee, actually started work last year..."**



*Data Master Kelly Cole  
always hard at work*

## The Auction From A New Perspective (cont.)



Avon Primary School gym is lined with donations from generous Rotary supporters



All ready for the bidders to arrive  
Let the show begin

lots are prepared, the entire list of auction items reviewed and the sequence of presentation planned. Everything converges on the auction site Friday night as Rotarians arrive with their collection of donations. In two hours these items will be identified again from their documentation, labeled, and placed around the room so that bidders can find them, auction assistants can locate them for the auctioneer at the appropriate time, and organizers can determine just what has and has not yet arrived. It's like an orchestra warming up while the musicians are still arriving at the concert hall. As more arrive,

the sounds grow louder. Once all have arrived and the instruments have been tuned, the true music begins.

Auction day arrives and now, results are a matter of circumstance. How many of those whom we contacted by letter, or advertising page, or hits on the website, or views on Facebook will show up today? Is the weather going to keep them away? Good weather means a chance to do yard work. Bad weather will tempt them to stay home. We hope the people who would like to have those things we collected for this auction

have found us and made the time to be there today, ready to bid, and help raise the much needed twenty thousand dollars we are hoping for. The auctioneer steps to the fore. The auctioneer steps to the microphone, "What is my bid on this lovely antique lamp?.....". And we are off.....



Auction supporters fill the room and the bidding begins

**Thank you Auction Steering Committee for a job well done! 3 cheers to all the Rotarians that worked Friday & Saturday to help make this a success. Funds raised will help others in need in our community.**

### Pirate Toy Fund Project...

Avon Rotary Club and Interact members have partnered up in November and December to collect toys to benefit children in need. Many thanks to Avon Rotarians who made donations at the November 27 meeting. Interact students are working with Principal, Rob Lupisella and the Avon Primary School on toy collection.

On Thursday, Dec. 6th we will make our donation at Marketplace Mall and have an interview with Rebecah Leclair from TV10 and Gary the Happy Pirate. More details to follow...

Thank you Pam Hayes and your dedicated committee on this new club venture.

<b>Checks In Seats</b>	Oct. 30	22
	Nov. 4	24
	Nov. 10	26
	Nov. 20	0
	Nov. 27	37

#### Avon Rotary Slate of Officers 2013-2014

- Marcia Cameron, President
- Tim Dickinson, PE
- Dan Jones, Sr. Director
- Scott Holmes, Director
- Bob House, Sr. Representative
- Cathy Jo Murphy, Secretary
- Kelly Cole, Treasurer
- Laurie Vonglis, Past President



### CLUB SCHEDULE

Dec. 4	Chances & Changes Program
Dec. 6	Pirate Toy Fund—Marketplace Mall
Dec. 10	Board of Directors 7 pm
Dec. 11	Election of Officers, Teresa House Program
Dec. 15	Christmas Party—Big Tree Inn