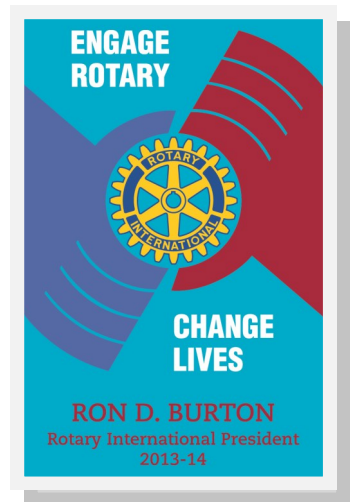


Avon Rotary News

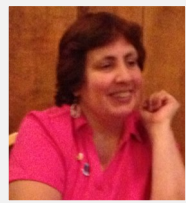
January 4, 2014



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Hello everyone.

Happy New Year. I sincerely hope that each and every one of you had a wonderful and joyous holiday season with family

and friends and hopefully some of your Rotary family as well. Once again it came and went very quickly. I didn't feel my best this season with a cold that really hit me pretty darn good. I hope the rest of you were well. A new year is upon us and I know we will accomplish many great things this year as a club as we do every year. Our Milt Mathews program will be held again graciously at Barb Herman's lovely home on January 5th from 5:00-8:00 and I hope you all can attend. Thanks go out to Jim and Sally Tompsett who will be hosting our guests.

So I am already through half my year as Queen I mean President. Everyone who has held this position before me has said that I wouldn't believe how fast this year will go and they certainly were right. As much as I was so apprehensive about doing this I have to say I have enjoyed it very much and I have learned and done more things than I have done in the past 8 years of being a Rotarian. I want to thank everyone for your kind words and encouragement leading up to and including my first half of the Rotary year. I especially want to thank my secretary Cathy Jo and all of my board members. I think I sound like I just won an award. I actually did being President of our club. So I hope together we can make this next half of the year as fun and productive as the first half. See you on Sunday January 5th and if not then hopefully our first regular meeting of the year on Jan 14th.

President/Queen Marcia

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Avon Rotary Club
Meets Tuesdays at 6pm
Peppermints Restaurant
Board of Directors
Marcia Cameron, President
Tim Dickinson, PE
Dan Jones, Director
Scott Holmes, Director
Bob House, Sr. Rep
Laurie Vonglis, Past Pres.
Cathy Murphy, Secretary
Kelly Cole, Treasurer

Milt Mathews Program—January 5, 2014

Dear Avon Rotarians, I hope you all are able to attend our club meeting Sunday evening Jan. 5, 2014 hosted by Barb Herman at the White Oak Bed & Breakfast. We will be welcoming incoming District 9710 Governor Rowley Tompsett and his wife Denise, also a Rotarian. President Marcia has sent out details, it is bring a dish, appetizer, dessert etc. Gathering is 5 to 8 pm. I am attaching Rowley's Directory Bio. He works for the Australian Department of Defense - Air Force. Cheers, PEm Jim Tompsett



Meet Rowley Tompsett: -

Rowley's Rotary history is relatively brief; inducted into the Rotary Club of Ginninderra in 2006 as the Di-

rector responsible for the new satellite Club of Mitchell-Gungahlin. However, he has served community organisations for over 40 years, both as a volunteer and as a professional administrator.

Rowley served the Royal Life Saving Society in Western Australia as its Executive Director for six years and the Scout Association in Western Australia as its Administrative Officer for four years. He has also been a Director of Hockey Associations in the ACT and Western Australia and was Chairman of Australia Defence Force Hockey Association for five years. His hockey career as an umpire and administrator spanned 40 years.

In his Rotary career, Rowley has served his Clubs as Charter President, Director Satellite Club, Director Public Relations as well as a number of Committee positions. At District he has been an Assistant Governor, Rotaract Chair, Membership Chair, Youth Chair, Club Vision Facilitator and has edited the District Governor's Newsletter on three occasions. He was awarded Key Rotarian in 2011. The Rotary Club of Gungahlin recognised Row-

ley as a Paul Harris Fellow in 2010; he has since added two Sapphires by personal contribution. Rowley is also member of the Paul Harris Society, ShelterBox and Australian Rotary Health. He is a Benefactor of The Rotary Foundation and a member of the International Fellowship of Rotary Editors and Publishers, the International Hosting and Travel Fellowship, and a Lifetime Member of the Rotary Wine Appreciation Fellowship.

Rowley retired from full-time service in the Royal Australian Air Force at the end of 2011. He and Denise share four children and nine grandchildren. Retired from the Australian Public Service, Denise is a consultant for the cookware business Thermomix. While Rowley's passion is Rotary, Denise—a Charter Member of two Rotary Clubs—is now a member of Zonta International. Rowley and Denise have retired in Canberra and enjoy fine dining and wine, classical music, jazz, theatre, opera and, most recently, caravanning. Both are also members of Canberra Legacy where Rowley is the Assistant Secretary.

District Calendar

Feb. 8	District Foundation Grant Seminar review
Feb. 15	District Foundation Grant Seminar review @ Clifton Springs Hospital
Mar. 14-15	Multi District PETS in East Syracuse
April 5	District Leadership Assembly @ Geneseo High School
May 2-4	District Conference in Burlington, VT.
June 1-5	Rotary International Convention in Sydney, Australia

Avon Rotary Literacy Projects

By Dan Jones

Exchanging gifts is a time-honored tradition for many of our families during the holidays. Most of the gifts we give or receive are temporary treasures that are quickly forgotten, re-gifted, or exchanged. Occasionally we receive a gift that continues to impact our lives for years to come. These are the types of gifts we treasure and pass on to future generations as keep-sakes and precious memories. This is the type of gifting the Avon Rotary Club has been practicing for years and continued to engage in again this year. Every year at Christmas time (or a little earlier) we give the gift of a dictionary to every third grader in Avon. The children enthusiastically received the dictionaries and en-

joyed looking up words to “stump their teachers.” This year President Marcia joined Rotarian Rob Lupisella and Dan Jones (along with Dan’s wife Karen) in the dictionary distribution.



Avon Rotary continued another tradition of giving by partnering with the Rush-Henrietta and Scottsville Rotary clubs to sponsor the School

33 book distribution. For the past 9 years students at School 33 have been able to read 10 different books together as a class that re-enforce positive character traits and attitudes. On the 19th of December students presented a musical highlighting the various books and the character traits they promoted. The presentation concluded with a dance number to “Rocking around the Christmas Tree”.

Thank you to all of you for working hard at our fund raisers which enables us to give the gift of reading to children in Avon and beyond.

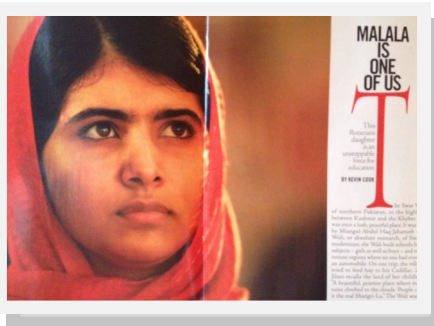
New Years Resolution

By Steve Stephenson

Reward yourself, read the Rotarian magazine!

I must admit when I was much younger I seldom read the Rotarian. Now that I have more time I look forward to the wide variant of articles and the exceptional photography.

The January issue is no exception. Check out the article on Malala, the daughter of a Pakistan Rotarian who defied the Taliban and spoke out in support of education for women and nearly lost her life as a result.



It will be worth your time to read “Why Polio”, “Hero of The Holocaust” and “World Roundup”.

If you find yourself questioning why you spend your valuable time being part of Rotary, you will find the answer in reading the Rotarian!



Another Successful RYE Interview Weekend

By Julie Carney

First seen in the December District Newsletter

As the sun set and the snow began to fall, not only was winter beginning but so too was another annual District 7120 Rotary Youth Exchange interview weekend. The weekend began with all 31 Selection Committee members that included Chairpersons, Country Officers, YEO's and ROTEX joining together for some teambuilding exercises. We were also joined by District Governor Ellen Hughes and her husband Jim, as well as DG Elect Scott MacDonell and our teambuilding leader for the evening was Rotary's very own Bill Gormont! This year's interviews were held at the Rotary Sunshine Camp in Rush, where it was a great time to get to know new members, as well as get motivated for the start of the day on Saturday when the applicants arrived, with our first interview being at 8am.

The process for Interview Weekend starts long before the weekend begins. Applications are due to the Vice Chair of Outbounds by October 15th. Perspective students must go through their club approval process prior to sending their application on to the district. In other words, when the students apply, the club's youth exchange committee will have sat down with the student and interviewed them to make sure that they are the type of student that will be successful as an Outbound Youth Ambassador. Once they have passed the club's approval, they may submit their application to the District Vice-Chair of Outbounds.

That's when the real work begins! Along with the 18 page application, the students also have to fill out a host of other forms. These include an Application Checklist, Geographic Preference Form, 3 Potential Host Family Forms,

all submitted along with a \$200 non-refundable application fee. Once the students have passed the club level interview and have submitted all of the required forms, the students are then accepted to advance on to the Interview Weekend. The students along with both parents, are required to be present at the beginning of the interview. The parents go through three interviews, while the students go through six. The final interview was held at 4:40pm, so needless to say it was a long day for the selection committee. Upon completion of the stressful interview process, the students spend the rest of the day and the overnight with the selection committee and ROTEX.

Upon completion of the stressful interview process the students spend the rest of the weekend, playing a lot of games and getting to know each other. All activities are specifically designed to place the students under a certain amount of stress and push them out of their comfort zone. They were also given a lot of information on all of the potential countries all the while the ROTEX students were gathering invaluable information for the committee members of their observations of the applicants throughout the evening. Lights went out at 2am for most everyone (Mark Wyse stayed up later updating the information gathered throughout the evening).

Sunday morning began with a 7am

breakfast, followed by more activities and conversations regarding country choices. The students had until 11am to update their top 5 geographic choices. It should be noted that the selection committee, not the students, decide which student will be going to which country. It is not at all uncommon for a student to be assigned to a country that was not even on their list, but history has shown us that the selection committee is very successful in their placement process. At 11am, the parents arrived to pick up their exhausted students and they were presented with a very original song written by the students. It was so good, don't be the least bit surprised to hear it at the District Conference in Burlington! The selection committee, after a much needed and well deserved nice lunch, then began the selection process. It is kind of like being at an NFL draft pick. First, we decide if the applicant would make an excellent youth ambassador for Rotary District 7120 and then we decide what country would be the best fit for a successful year. It is with great pleasure that we can announce that this year we had 23 applicants for RYE and with great pride we announce that all 23 were accepted into the 2014-15 exchange program. We are looking forward to a great year preparing these youth ambassadors for their year abroad, while we continue to support our current Outbound students along with enjoying our wonderful group of Inbound students currently living within our district.

Please remember that we also have a great Short Term Exchange program that occurs during the summer months. Please contact John Connolly at jconnel3@rochester.rr.com if you are interested.



Rotary Helps Close Out The Year With Gains Against Polio



When Julia Yank and a team of Rotary members and health workers entered Kanuna, Nigeria, to immunize children against polio they expected to encounter some tough situations. They found one in a mother of three who stubbornly refused to have her children vaccinated.

bornly refused to have her children vaccinated.

“She argued with us for over 15 minutes,” says Yank, a member of the Rotary Club of St. Clair County Sunset in O’Fallon, Illinois, USA. After the team explained to her the

importance of what they were doing, she finally agreed to allow her children to be immunized.

“We were told later that she only consented because of the presence of the Rotarians. That moment, I realized the

impact we can make,” says Yank.

This type of persistence by Rotary and its partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) has helped reduce the number of polio cases in Nigeria by half, as compared to this time last year. Nigeria, Pakistan, and Afghanistan are the only countries in the world where the transmission of polio has never been stopped. Overall, polio cases in the three countries have decreased by 35 percent — thanks in part to Rotary’s advocacy with government and business leaders, PolioPlus grants, and mobilizing support on the ground.

From Rotary.Org



Thank you so very much Bill & Jill Wall for hosting a lovely, lively Christmas party for the Avon Rotary Club.



“When you share your passion for Rotary, you have the power to change a stranger into a volunteer, a colleague into a donor, and a family member into a Rotarian.”

From Rotary.Org

Pirate Toy Fund Update

December 3, 2013 Avon Rotarians and Interact journeyed to East View Mall to deliver a truck load of new toys as well as a donation of \$400. Avon Interact collected toys from Avon Central School and Avon Rotarians. These toys were delivered to Gary the Happy Pirate, live on WHEC10 news cast. Rebecca LeClair interviewed Emily and Pam Hayes while all the toys and monetary donation was presented. The funds will help purchase special toys for children with special needs.



A Visit With Bruna



December 26, 2013 Avon Rotarians enjoyed a visit from former exchange student, Bruna Joaquim No-vaes. It was a delight to see her and catch up on her life journey. She mentioned how appreciative she is for her time in Avon as well as her internship at Channel 13.

She lives in the city of San Paulo, Brazil with her sister and works at a local TV station. Bruna is enjoying her young career as a roving reporter for a cable talk show. Her visit included a stop to see Rotarian Charlie Pease.

JANUARY CLUB SCHEDULE

Sun. Jan. 5	Reception for Milt Matthews Guests 5:00—8:00
Tues. Jan 7	No Meeting
Mon. Jan. 13	Board of Directors Mtg. 7 pm
Tues. Jan 14	Reg. Mtg, Corn Fest Steering Mtg Following
Tues. Jan. 21	Reg. Mtg, Club Assembly
Tues. Jan. 28	Reg. Mtg, Martina Re: Switzerland

