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## President's Message



So much to be thankful for!

The month of November brought us Foundation month along with Thanksgiving and a very successful Rotary Auction.

We are fortunate to have a strong club that supports the Rotary Foundation. I know it felt like we went over the top with information throughout the month but this is an important part of who we are as a Rotary Organization. The Foundation provides so much good throughout the world including right here in our community. As we consider where to give our donations there is no better place than the Rotary Foundation. We have been fortunate to see money come back to us in the way of district simplified grants. We have seen how the money that we donate goes to help in the world with water projects, polio eradication, education, and so many other ways serving humanity. I'd like to thank every one of you for your donations and support.

This past month our club had the pleasure of joining the Avon Lions Club for a joint meeting. While I was not able to attend I understand that everyone enjoyed a good presentation from the Avon Free Library. The Library is an important part of the Avon Community and we look forward to our continued support of all the good work they do.

In November of course was Thanksgiving. As a club we have so much to be grateful for.

I had the opportunity to voice some of this at our last meeting of the month. We should all be thankful for family, friends, and health. I'd also like to say how thankful I am for all my fellow Rotarians. All the hard work and dedication that each of you show to help make our community a better place. Our club surely demonstrates the Rotary moto of "service above self" as we continue with so much enthusiasm to "make a difference".

I'd like to give a huge thanks to our auction committee and all Rotarians who helped to make this year's event so successful. Kelly you stepped up and led the charge. I know this is not an easy task but in the end everyone pulled together to get this done. I'd like to also put a special thanks out to Helen and Tim. It was not expected that they would jump back in like they did this year. After many years of service on the auction committee, I for one expected you to sit back and relax a little more this time around, but to both of your credit there you were knee deep at auction time. Thank you for all your help.

So as we draw closer to the end of 2017 lets look forward to holiday celebrations and time with family and friends. I'll look forward to seeing all of you at the Rotary Christmas Party on December 16<sup>th</sup>.

Thanks, President Tom



### Avon Rotary Club meets Tuesdays at 6pm at Avon Commons Clubhouse

#### Board of Directors

Tom Vonglis, President  
Heather Ayers, President Elect  
Dom Lalisce, Senior Director  
Terry Lemen, Director  
Bill Wall, Member at Large  
Scott Holmes, Past President  
Laurie Vonglis, Secretary  
Kelly Cole, Treasurer

## Welcome New Member Kathy Shrestha



On November 7 Avon Rotary inducted Kathy Shrestha into the club.

Kathy writes: "I graduated from Avon Central in 1962 and earned a degree in Physical Education, Health and Recreation from Brockport in 1968. I taught at Fairport until leaving the Rochester area in 1972. I then taught at Frankfurt International School in Germany for three years. From there, after seeing lots of the European continent, I took an overland truck trip with Encounter Overland from London to Kathmandu which lasted two and one half months.

In Nepal, I met Shyam Shrestha, who worked for Air France in their Kathmandu office. We were married in March 1976. It was my good fortune to find a small International School in Kathmandu which was started by the Americans in 1954 when USAID began in Nepal. Lincoln School is where I worked for forty years as a Physical Education teacher, a fourth grade teacher, and finally added Elementary Music. Our two children Robert and Cecile attended Lincoln School for their entire Education. Cecile is now in New York City working for Planned Parenthood. Robert is now in Los Angeles working for Sony Pictures.

Why did I want to join Rotary? I was inspired by my friend Isabella who is a member of the Mid-Town Rotary in Kath-



Pictured: President Tom Vonglis, New Member Kathy Shrestha and her sponsor Julie Welch

mandu. She was in charge, as Secretary, of all the money sent from Rotary Clubs worldwide after the 2015 7.9 Earthquake in Nepal. She suggested that I check out Rotary on return to the States. And so I did.

During my first visit with The Avon Rotary this fall I also realized that the community of Avon, Avon Central School, my friends and family in Livingston County gave me a strong and valuable start in life. It is now time for me to give back to this community via The Avon Rotary."

## Rotary-Lions Meeting

On November 15th we had the pleasure of joining the Avon Lions Club for a joint meeting. The program for the evening was given by Rebecca Budinger-Mulhearn, Director of the Avon Library. Rebecca gave a summary of the renovation project that is set to begin in 2018. Our President Elect Heather Ayers presented Rebecca with a check for \$500 that will go towards the library project. Individual contributions are encouraged as it will benefit the great community we live in. Many thanks to the Lions Club for their hospitality.



Pictured: President Elect Heather Ayers & Rebecca Budinger-Mulhearn



## Auction Results



Thank you to all the great people who supported the Avon Rotary Club by attending the 50th Annual Rotary Auction this past Saturday. And special heartfelt thanks to all the people and businesses who donated goods, services, and gift cards to the event!! It was a great success!

All of the money that we raise at our fundraisers, goes back out into our local community, our country, and the world. Rotary is on a mission to eradicate Polio in the world, but we also help build schools in Nicaragua, provide water to 3rd world countries, donate Shelterboxes to disaster areas, and donate money for the recent hurricane victims. We also support Roches-



ter Honor Flight, Teresa House in Geneseo, the Genesee Valley Rotary Camp, the Avon Library, our food pantry, the local scout troops, and so much more.

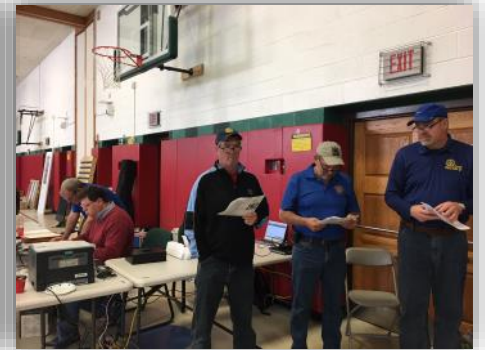
None of this would be possible if it weren't for loyal supporters like you!!

We are truly blessed to live in a community such as ours, and it is never more apparent than when our neighbors turn out to support great causes,....oh yeah, and buy things they may or may not need!

Thanks once again!

Auction Chairman—Kelly

Facebook, 11/13/17



## All About The Auction



By: Janis McMIndes

The 50<sup>th</sup> Rotary Auction was held on Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup> and was a tremendous success. We were able to get into the school to start setting up at 2 pm which gave us a great head start. Many Rotarians were on hand to help numbering the lots and arranging them

along the outside walls. The physical work was pretty much wrapped up by 7:30 leaving the technical part to the experts who finished shortly after 9 pm.

Things were set up and ready to roll early Saturday morning and the Garage Sale items started selling before 8 am. There was a great turn out for the Auction with over 120 registered bidders. Jim Tompsett was the high bidder on the motor home and got a great deal on it. There were quite a few "bidding wars" between fellow Rotarians, but all

were friendly and in good fun. One Rotarian, who shall remain nameless, did quite a bit of jumping up and down and even ventured up front to ensure he would be seen by the Auctioneer. Always nice to have a little live entertainment as a bonus.

Things seemed to start off slowly leaving many to wonder just how long this would run, but quickly picked up steam and the auction concluded about 2pm.

Many thanks to everyone for the help before, during and after the auction. As the saying goes "many hands make light work"!

In closing, I would like to give special thanks to Kelly Cole for a job well done.



## Meeting Highlights....

November 21, 2017

- ⇒ Avon Rotary presented a check to Teresa House for \$1000. Rotarian Kelly Cole, President of the Teresa House Board accepted the contribution.
- ⇒ District Foundation Area Director Mark Evans presented the district simplified grant of \$4000 to our club's Foundation Chairman, Kirk Vanderbilt.
- ⇒ PE Heather Ayers & Rotarian Greg Deragon informed the club of the area organization, Focus on the Children. We are planning a service project with them in December to help local children in need.



November 28, 2017

- ⇒ Avon Rotarians contributed toys for the Pirate Toy Drive. Marcie Williams collected items and the Avon Interact Club will deliver.
- ⇒ District Polio representative Laurie Vonglis proudly presented the club with a Certificate of Appreciation from the District for our contributions to the Foundation PolioPlus fund in 2016-17. Under Past President Scott's leadership, we met our goals and those of the district.
- ⇒ Foundation Area Director, Bob Owens (Rush-Henrietta club) payed us a visit and shared some wisdom about the Foundation. He praised our club for our continuous generosity.







## Rambling On Rotary—December 2017



By: Bruce Amey

The days between Thanksgiving and Christmas are frequently viewed as the season of giving (although some look at it as the season of “getting”). We have so much to be thankful for and for me, being an Avon Rotarian is one of them. I like our fellowship, our joking with each other, the mutual

respect we show for each other even when we have differences of opinion, among other things.

When I read the monthly Grapevine (newsletter of District 7120) and see that our membership is higher than 62 out of 70 clubs in our district, I am thankful for our club’s spirit, camaraderie, and service which attract and retain members. As I read the Board of Director Minutes and become aware of our contributions in money and time to other organizations locally and around the world, I am thankful and proud of our group. AND ... I am thankful for our SERVICE!

Our SERVICE this year has been impressive; so many things I dare not start to list as I know I will omit some things. I am thankful for the leadership of our Board who is always looking for ways our club can serve others in our community and our world. Yet none of our activities would

be possible without EVERYONE of us participating as evidenced by the success of this year’s CornFest and recent auction. None of our fundraisers would be possible unless we all participated in some way. November was Foundation month and I am confident that every Avon Rotarian will have made a donation to the Foundation but, if you haven’t yet, December is a great month to make year-end donations.

For Avon Rotarians, I am thankful and proud that we give and serve throughout the year, not just during the season of giving. And the result of our giving is getting the rewards of knowing that Service Above Self creates an inner gift that cannot be purchased. I am thankful and proud to be among you as a friend and fellow Rotarian. My sincerest wish is as we enter the holiday season, we are guided to safe and joyous celebrations with family and friends. I wish you all Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year as friends and Rotarians together. And, as usual, I have rambled on long enough.



*If you have contributed to the Foundation PolioPlus fund this Rotary year, I thank you for helping ensure the health of children around the world. To date, there are 16 cases of polio this year, which is less than half as many in 2016. While each new case is a tragedy, we are making tremendous strides in the eradication efforts. If you are considering a contribution, any time is the perfect time to support the efforts of thousands of volunteers. Your donation will be tripled by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Now that is making your dollar work! Laurie Vonglis, District Polio Rep.*

Update as of December 1, 2017			Wild Polio Case Counts	
<u>Country</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>Date of last case</u>
Pakistan	54	20	5	20 Aug 17
Afghanistan	20	13	11	4 Nov 17
Nigeria	0	4	0	20 Aug 16
<b>Total</b>	74	37	<b>16</b>	



*Wishing you peace and joy this holiday season and throughout the coming year.*

**DECEMBER IS**

**DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT MONTH**

"The prevention of disease today is one of the most important factors in line of human endeavor."  
Charles Mayo

Rotary   [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

AS WE  
LOSE OURSELVES  
IN THE  
*services*  
OF OTHERS  
WE DISCOVER  
*our own lives*  
AND OUR  
OWN  
*happiness*

—Dieter F. Uchtdorf—



**ROTARY:  
MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE**

**December**  
**Meeting Set-Up**

Tues. Dec. 12: Katie DeGraff & Kirk Vanderbilt  
Tues. Dec. 19: Tom & Laurie Vonglis

**Contact the Sunshine Liaison Agent**  
to report any members  
or extended family that may  
need a card or some cheer.  
Barbara Herman—226-6735  
or  
[barbara1901@twc.com](mailto:barbara1901@twc.com)



# Veerle Beckers on her Inbound Exchange



Hi Everybody,

I just came back from New York City, and it was amazing! It was exactly how I imagined it to be, it was even better, while it in my mind already was amazing. It was just like a dream, walking in New York City, seeing all the beautiful places you see in all the movies with all my best friends from Rotary. On day 1 we went to the Statue of Liberty and the World Trade Center. Both two gorgeous places where I made a lot of pictures.

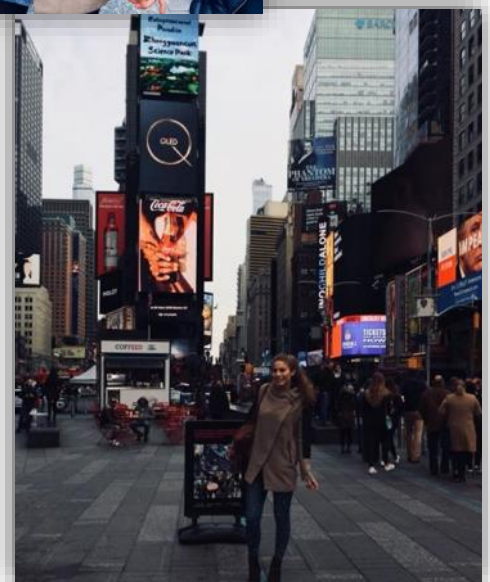
On day 2 we went to the Rockefeller Center with the most famous Christmas tree ever. Then we went to Fifth Avenue, we walked through the Trump Tower and we went to Central Park. I love Central Park so much! It is absolutely beautiful and so big! We walked through, took pictures and saw some awesome street performers. After that we went to Chelsea Market where I had never heard of before, but I was super excited, because I was going to meet Portia again! Portia was last year an outbound of this district in the Netherlands so we became friends and now she is studying in NYC. It was so nice to see her again and we will meet again during the winter break in Watkins Glen! Chelsea Market was really cute and we walked on the high line, so again we had a very pretty view.

On day 3 we went to Times Square. As some of you might know, it was my plan to wear my heels in New York City, because, of course, I need to look fashionable. Day 1 and 2 were very long days, so I decided to wear them on day 3. We had about two hours to walk around, so first we went to a couple of shops, but then one of my friends wanted to go to Macy's to take a picture with Santa Claus. So we walked for twenty minutes to Macy's and spend there almost an hour on the stairways to go to the highest floor: "Santa Claus, only for reservations." Oops. So we went all the way back, and we were running late, so I had to run all through Times Square to get to the dinner, on my heels, but I survived. :)

The diner was very cool, because the people who were serving there were also singing and entertaining us, because their dream is Broadway. Oh and the off-Broadway show Stomp was also super great! I had an amazing time and I became friends with even more people

from the other districts. And I want to thank Julie Carney, because she was the best chaperone ever. Thank you Rotary!

PS: I will post on my blog also about the trip with more pictures => [liefsveeer.com](http://liefsveeer.com)



# Sarah Carney on her Outbound Exchange



At the beginning of this month I went to Berlin with my host family which was so much fun! We went for three days and we visited so many places. It was so nice to see another city and experience it with my host family. My Rotary club that is hosting me here had this giant fundraiser

party called the Genker Folies. There were 4 different party rooms; different areas of the hotel with different music. I went with my friend, Martina, who is an exchange student from Ecuador. I also went to another event with Martina that same weekend, to a party put on by the scouts group in her town. This month we also had the Rotary Exotic Dinner with all of the Rotary districts from Belgium. Each made different foods from their home country and then the host parents were invited to come and try food from all around the world.

It was weird missing Thanksgiving but my mom has a picture of me on a popsicle stick and brought "Flat Sarah" to Thanksgiving dinner so I was still able to be there. Flat Sarah also made it to Jello Bowl! Since I was missing Thanksgiving, I decided to make my host family a pumpkin pie but it didn't turn out that great, but it's the thought that counts, right?

It's crazy that it's already been 3 months and I'm slowly approaching 4 months! My Exchange is starting to fly by and I wish I could slow down time just for a little bit.

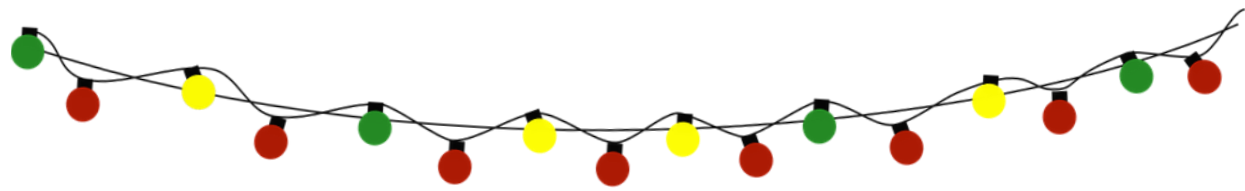
Sarah Carney



We have been busy the month of November with activities like running the concessions at the auction, baking goods for Rotary, selling coupon books, making gift bags for Breakfast with Santa and ringing the bell for the Salvation Army. With so many kids in Interact this year, we snatched two Sundays of ringing the bell instead of squeezing everyone into one day. The Pirate Toy Drive is under way! We are collecting new toys at the Rotary meetings until December 12th. These kids have very busy schedules and have been great about volunteering their time to help the community! Shannon DiFranco







## December Member Celebrations

### Birthdays

- ⇒ Jake Ayers
- ⇒ Colin Bruckel
- ⇒ Bob French
- ⇒ Margo Harper
- ⇒ Chris Masten
- ⇒ Shawn Rice
- ⇒ Julie Welch
- ⇒ Ernie Wiard



### Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ David Kilegore
- ⇒ Bill Wall
- ⇒ Julie Welch

### Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ Greg Antkowiak 2016
- ⇒ Jean Antkowiak 2016
- ⇒ Marcia Cameron 2005
- ⇒ Rodney George 2010
- ⇒ Bob House 1987
- ⇒ Dom Lalisie 2014
- ⇒ Terry Lemen 2012
- ⇒ Cathy Jo Murphy 2011
- ⇒ Jim Varner 2014
- ⇒ Julie Welch 2015

## Tis The Season Of Giving....

Please sign up to ring the bell & assist the Salvation Army to help those in need in Livingston County.

Contact Joanne Leone at 226-8179 for more information



### Reminder...

Food Pantry Collections  
3rd Tuesday Of The  
Month... 12/19



### Supplies Needed...

Canned Fruit  
Juice—especially apple

### Who Have We Provided Financial Support Too Lately?

- ⇒ Avon Library—\$500.
- ⇒ Rotary Foundation Annual Fund—\$3000
- ⇒ 2 Shelter Box—\$2000
- ⇒ Senior Bash—\$50 & Drama Club—\$50
- ⇒ Teresa House—\$1000





## *December Club Schedule*

Tues. Dec. 5	NO MEETING
Wed. Dec. 6	Eastern Cities Dinner 5 pm, Roc. Conv. Ctr.
Mon. Dec. 11	Board of Directors Mtg. 7 pm @ Avon Library
Tues. Dec. 12	Regular Mtg.— Focus On The Children Project
Sat. Dec. 16	Rotary Christmas Party 6 pm @ Avon Commons
Tues. Dec. 19	Regular Mtg.—Guest Vocalist, 1st Grader-National Anthem
Tues. Dec. 26	NO MEETING—Merry Christmas



# *Save The Date*

## **2017-2018 Rotary Calendar of Special Events**

Wednesday, December 6, 2017:	Eastern Cities Dinner—5:00
Saturday, December 16, 2017:	Christmas Party—6:00
Tuesday, January 2, 2018:	Happy New Year Party—6:00
Tuesday, February 13, 2018:	Sweethearts Dinner—6:00
Tuesday, March 13, 2018:	St. Patrick's Dinner—6:00
Friday, May 4– May 6, 2018	District Conference—Saratoga, NY
Tuesday, May 29, 2018	Quad Cities Golf—Mt. Morris
Saturday, June 2, 2018	Blue Jean Ball
Tuesday, June 19, 2018	Change of Officers
Sun.-Wed., June 24-27, 2018	International Convention, Toronto, Canada