



## President's Message

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A September for the Books!!!

The weather is still blessing us with some sunshine and our Club also had some great heartwarming events in September!

In September, we launched the Adult Migrant Literacy Program in collaboration with the Avon Free Library, the Avon School District and the Interact Club. The project has been enabled through a District 7120 Grant we received at the last District Conference. The project is very dear to my heart as it resonates with my personal experience as a migrant coming to America about 25 years ago.

How did our project get initiated? Last Spring, as we were working on selecting our project for the year 2019-2020, we surveyed our local partners to understand the literacy needs in our neighborhoods. Through that process, I had the opportunity to meet the team of teachers in the Avon School District who support the needs of our students from Migrant families. They run a program called ELL (English Language Learners). The program is specially designed to support the 20 or so children in the District who are from Migrant parents. Through our interactions with them, I could sense the passion and motivation they have for the success of their students and we promised ourselves to build a program which would make a difference for them.

As we started to explore through the reading of multiple studies around the education success of migrant students, we discovered that one of the key success factors of the students was the ability for parents to support the edu-

cation needs of their children at home. Many students have parents at home with very limited ability to help them with school work due to language barriers. Attempts have been made at offering programs for the parents, but 2 major barriers have existed for parents to improve their English skills: Child-care for the children during English class and transportation to and from the classes.

As Rotarians, we do not give up! We promised ourselves to design, fund and launch a Program which would eliminate these barriers and build on the existing strengths of our Community and our Club. The MLP (Migrant Literacy Program) was born! For one Semester, we will offer the opportunity for the parents of migrant children to take free English classes at the Avon Free Library while we are watching their children. We even offer transportation if needed.

The Program was launched on September 10<sup>th</sup>. The parents are very excited, and we cannot thank enough Rotarians and Interact members for their support of the Program. I had the opportunity to drive one of the parents home last week and I can tell you that that they are very appreciative of our Program. THANK YOU!!!

Our Exchange student, Julia, shared with us a nice presentation about Brazil. Julia is such a pleasure to have in our Club meetings. Her energy and passion invigorate me at every occasion I meet her.

October is promising to be an exciting month with great meeting presentations. We hope to see most of you at meetings enjoying our activities and social time.

**Avon Rotary Club meets  
Tuesdays 6 pm at Avon Inn**

### Board of Directors

Dom Lalisse, President  
Julie Carney, President Elect  
Janis McMIndes, Sr. Director  
Steve Csapo, Director  
David Kilgore, Member at Large  
Heather Ayers, Past President  
Shannon DiFranco, Secretary  
Kelly Cole, Treasurer



# September Highlights

## September 3:

This year's exchange student, Julia, provided a program full of information about her home country, Brazil, her family and her devotion to her Interact club. She did a wonderful job and was clearly comfortable talking to a room full of Rotarians. She was also presented with her official Avon Rotary badge which I'm confident will be worn very proudly!

It's going to be a great year with this young lady!

So says the host mom :) - Laurie Vonglis



## September 6:

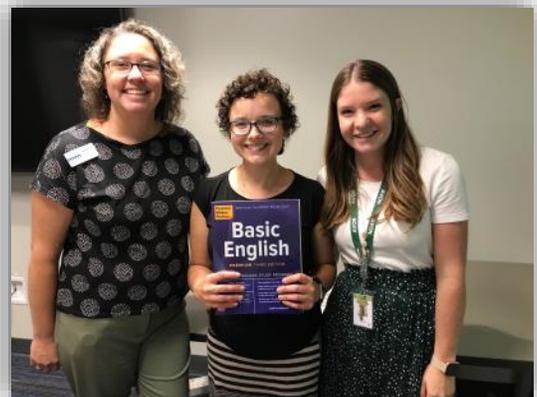
Those that love to golf and can take the time off enjoyed a fun round of golf at Lima Country Club, supporting the District's annual golf tournament. This year's proceeds will benefit DG Dave Hannan's efforts to support childhood literacy in the area.

In typical Avon Rotary fashion we had a good showing with 4 teams, 1 of which had the lowest score in the mixed team category—3 Men & a Katie all received nifty little trophies. :) The V x2 team won the 'best dressed team' in Hawaiian themed garb and each won a bottle of wine and chocolates. We were all winners on this beautiful day enjoying fellowship, fun and supporting the District. Oh and did I mention one of us won the 50/50 and donated some funds back... Janis McMIndes. Luck and generosity at once. - Laurie Vonglis

## September 10:

Our first English class tonight was well attended and a very successful kick-off to the program. Our teachers Karenina Quintero and Kaitlyn Altamura were so pleased with how the students did. This was a proud Avon Rotarian moment for Julie Welch and me. Thank you to President Dom for launching this literacy initiative! - Rob Lupisella

Tonight's regular meeting had Past President Tom Vonglis at the podium. Highlights included a Foundation moment by special guest, Past District Governor & Foundation Chairman—Tom Rogers. He reminded us of how important our giving is and the impact that it has in the world. And in traditional Tom Vonglis fashion he provided a motivating video giving a visual glimpse of Rotary projects around the world. - Laurie Vonglis



# More September Highlights

## September 17:

On Tuesday we had the pleasure of hearing from Steve French about his month-long journey in Mongolia. Along with his brother, a local guide, and a few other friends, they spent the month traveling the countryside by horseback and by personal pack rafts. His stories of adventure were fascinating, but his experience with the people, the culture, and their selflessness and their giving spirit were truly inspiring. As Rotarians, it is refreshing to hear stories of the power of the human spirit, bridging cultures language, borders and religion. Thanks to Steve for the reminder of what Rotary is all about. - Kirk Vanderbilt



## September 17:

**Adult English Classes:**  
We have just as much fun as the kids! Please consider signing-up for a night to supervise our child care. The kids are very well behaved and fun to be with.



## September 24:

At tonight's meeting our guest speaker was the extremely charismatic ten year old Avon Elementary student Kolton Montague. Kolton has been diagnosed with several visual impairments that have left him legally blind. However, he doesn't let that impairment stop him and he is truly gifted in every other aspect of his life. Tonight, Kolton showed us a variety of equipment and tools that he uses at both school and home that allow him to overcome his vision problems. Thank you to our service partners the Avon Lions Club and other organizations that allow Kolton to not only overcome his visual impairment, but let him thrive. - Mike Ford



## WHY ROTARY?

"Service is what Rotarians do.  
We change the lives of others in  
need.

Membership in Rotary gives you  
the opportunity, structure,  
know-how, and resources to pro-  
vide service to others.

The benefit a Rotarian receives  
by helping someone else is ex-  
traordinary and life-affecting."

-Rotary District 7070



# Eastern Cities Dinner



On Monday, September 23, Rochester Rotary hosted its 94th annual Eastern Cities Fellowship Dinner at the Joseph A. Floreano Riverside Convention Center. It was attended by hundreds of Rotarians, Rotaractors, Interactors, and youth exchange students from across our district and beyond. This was my first time attending the dinner and all I can say was I was thoroughly impressed and inspired by the work done not only in our district, but the work Rotary does at the International level as well.

The evening began with a cocktail hour which gave all who attended a chance to partake in a cornerstone Rotary tradition...fellowship. For newer Rotarians like myself, it was great to see all these vastly different people, yet with so many common goals, brought together for the evening.

After cocktail hour, we were brought into the Lilac Ballroom for the night's dinner and to hear speakers from our district give updates on the Foundation, our work with polio, and other districtwide projects. The highlight though was Keynote speaker Rotary International President Elect Holger Knaack. PE Knaack spoke about Rotary's commitment to service above self: promoting peace, fighting disease, and supporting education, among other endeavors. The main focus of his speech, however, was how Rotary needs to promote new ways to not only make Rotary grow, but also retain our members. Knaack wants to make Rotary more attractive to younger generations by having clubs that may not have a traditional format (like our own District's Roc City Rotary), different meeting times/places, and even multiple clubs in towns so those looking to become Rotarians have several opportunities to join. As a younger Rotarian (and father of a future Rotarian), it was inspiring to hear one in a leadership position at the International level recognize the fact that Rotary needs to adapt to not only grow, but to thrive and survive.

Again I cannot express how inspirational this evening was. So to those who have never been to an Eastern Cities Dinner, or those who haven't been in a long time, I encourage you to attend next year.



## Rambling On Rotary—October



By: Bruce Amey

One Day. One Focus: Ending Polio. October 24. On World Polio Day, thousands of Rotary clubs around the world will hold events and fundraisers to recognize Rotary's progress in the global fight to end polio.

"Poliomyelitis, or polio, is a paralyzing and potentially fatal disease that still threatens children in some parts of the world. Poliovirus invades the nervous system and can cause total paralysis in hours. It can strike people of any age but mainly affects children under five. Polio can be prevented by vaccines, but it is not curable. Unlike most diseases, polio can be eradicated." (from the RI World Polio Day Toolkit) Rotarians have been working to eradicate the world of polio for more than 30 years. "With our partners, we have reduced polio cases by 99.9 percent, from 350,000 cases in 125 countries in 1988 to just 33 cases caused by the wild virus in 2018. Only two countries continue to report cases of wild poliovirus: Afghanistan and Pakistan."

"Afghanistan and Pakistan face unique challenges, including political insecurity, highly mobile populations, difficult terrain, and, in some instances, logistical barriers. With sufficient resources, the commitment of national governments, and innovations that improve access to remote areas, we are optimistic that we can eliminate polio." However, given the ease of mobility around the world, any disease can be transmitted very easily to those who have not been vaccinated. It is essential to continue the vaccination efforts for all children every year to ensure that the world is safe from transmitting this disease and others.

World Polio Day is October 24. Rotary's Foundation Month is officially November. However, I would like you to commit yourself to making a donation to the Rotary Foundation on or before October 24 to the Polio Fund to help eradicate this disease. As DG Dave Hannan said to our club when he attended our meeting on August 27, working with the political structures in Afghanistan and Pakistan, Rotary is continuing to make progress towards our goal. Remember for the disease to be considered eradicated, there must be no new cases reported for three consecutive years so this task will be on-going for at least two more years. Also, remember when you make your Foundation donation to the Polio Plus fund, its value is tripled as every donation is doubled by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; that is, your \$100 donation becomes \$300 contributed toward the eradication of polio. Our club's goal is to have every member become a Rotary Foundation Sustaining Member which would mean donating \$100 annually; however, it is more



important for EVERY club member to commit to donating some amount to the Rotary Foundation ... to have some skin in the game. Donations may be made on a monthly basis; a \$9/month donation would make every club member a Sustaining Member of the Rotary Foundation. Donations can be set up using your My Rotary account on the Rotary International webpage, or contact our club's Foundation Committee Chairperson Kirk Vanderbilt.

Service Above Self requires we get our hands and feet dirty by participating in various projects and fund raising activities. But our service also needs to support global activities which the Foundation is helping address around the world every day. Remember Rotary's World Polio Day on October 24. We are so close but the work requires all of us for support. Let's close this out this year. And once again, I have rambled on long enough.

### Rotary Halloween Party

**Saturday, October 26th**

**6:00 — 11:00 pm**

**Oak Knolls Manor**

**3956 Caledonia-Avon Road**

**Sign Up Today!**

- Hot Dog Bar provided
- Bring a dish to pass and BYOB
- Music, dancing & games
- Prizes for best costume
- Bonfire weather permitting

**END  
POLIO  
NOW**



**WHAT  
WILL  
YOU DO  
TO  
HELP  
THE  
FIGHT  
FOR**

**WORLD  
POLIO  
DAY**

**OCTOBER 24TH**



*"Rotary in particular has inspired my own personal commitment to get deeply involved in achieving eradication." Bill Gates*

**ERADICATION?**

To Contribute - [www.endpolio.org](http://www.endpolio.org)

In Afghanistan, 5.1 million children were able to receive the polio vaccine in August 2019 thanks to the work of the GPEI. Afghanistan is one of only two countries that continue to report cases of wild poliovirus.



UNICEF World Health Organization (WHO) #endpolio

**2019 Wild Polio Case Counts as of Sept. 25, 2019**

<u>Country</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Date of last case</u>
Afghanistan	14	21	16	Aug 2, 2019
Nigeria	0	0	0	Aug 20, 2016
Pakistan	8	8	66	Aug 28, 2019
<b>Total</b>	22	29	<b>82</b>	

Funding is as important as ever so consider making a donation to the Polio-Plus fund and the Gates Foundation will match 2:1. The children of the world thank you!





## She Just Wants to Make a Difference

By Robert Mellen

Avon Rotary's new exchange student, Julia Pinheiro Leandro, says she came here for that simple reason. But when she says she would

"really like to know new places and meet new people, and then know more, do things that I have never done," it's apparent she is not talking about something simple.

So because she always wanted to live in another country she "thought Rotary Exchange was perfect." The U.S. became her target "because I always wanted to have the American way of life, like go to the high school, because we have a lot of movies in Brazil that show this scenario. And I always dreamed about that. And because of the language—I would like to improve my English—and because it's a beautiful country, and here you can live well. It's a developed country."

She knows what she is talking about, having been in the U.S. before in surprisingly many places: New York City, Pennsylvania, Nevada, California, Florida, Arizona, Los Angeles, Las Vegas.

Clearly a well traveled 17-year-old, Julia comes from Guarulhos, a city of more than one million near São Paulo in southeastern Brazil. But "it's ugly," she says. "It's not beautiful at all. The houses are too close. And there wasn't a plan to do that so people just came in. And then it's like, ugly and big and a lot of people."

Comparing it to Avon she said, "the most different thing is like everything is so close. Like the school is right there. The stores are right here. You don't have to take a bus to go to a place where I need to go.

"It's like, 'Oh, let's go to lunch.' Then you go and you meet everyone there. You'll see the Rotarians. You see your father, your mother, everyone there. And I was like, 'Oh my god, that's so little that everyone goes to the same place to have lunch.' And that's the most different thing. It's really beautiful here, and safe."

But then her thoughts took a darker turn. "You can use the phone to walk in the street" in Avon, she said. "I can't do that at all (at home because it) can be stolen. You need to always put your cell phone in your pocket. And always pay attention of the person who is next to you to see if he does something that can



be suspicious. And then you have to take care. So it's always be prepared for the worst. I have never seen anybody not worried walking on the street.

"So here you can have a little relax. You can use the phone, you can show the phone. Nobody's going to take it from you. So it's quite a difference. It's good. I like that.

As bleak as the picture she paints of her home town, she already misses some of her life there, such as the food, Latin music and especially her friends. In trying to make friends in Avon, "I see that it's different (from) doing friends in Brazil. So I'm trying to understand how that works. But yeah, I (made) some friends in volleyball. They are great. And I have my next host family with a kid with my age."

It's harder here, she says, because teens are "totally different. If you want to make friends in Brazil, you just talk two minutes with someone and you're friends. Here you take a while to get to know. It's not as fast and it's not that easy. You need to go slow. And Brazil, you just do it. Two minutes conversation, you are best friends. So that's the difference. It's not good or bad. It's just different."

She is looking forward to attending school here, and not just because it's a great place to make friends. "They have some different things that I don't have (in Guarulhos), like French classes that I'm taking. And I'm excited because I really want to try that. Computer graphics. There is something about the yearbook so I'm doing a class for that. Psychology, I have never had that before. Gym, it's quite different. So it's like the new experience. I don't have anything here that I had there. So I'm looking for new things.

Already Julia is involved in volleyball at Avon High, something she started in Brazil, but "just for fun," she said, "because we don't have competitive sports there. If you want to play in a competitive you need to go out of school and find other places who give classes for this."

But what she really likes is not sports but theater and acting. "I saw that in here in the school, you can do whatever you want. Because they take seriously, you can be a sport player, or you can be an actress or an actor," she said. "They take this very seriously. We don't have that in Brazil. You just need to study and go to college and do something that is



## She Just Wants to Make a Difference, continued

going to pay well.

“So to be an actress in Brazil, it's hard. Because there's no expectations for that. You have to know a lot of people and do whatever you had to do to be there and not like just because you are good.”

Among the things Julia said she might like to try here has its origin in Guarulhos, where “Interact and Rotary together every year, we collect food and then we go to a school. And in this school, we take three or four professionals to do a presentation about business or Rotary, or drugs, suicide. And then poor people in Brazil, there's a lot who come to this public school for three presentations. We note when you see three presentations, and then you can get the food.”

Because of the coming year, Julia said she expects to become more independent and active. “I think I just stay there and do nothing and people do for me back home,” she said. “And here I need to do what I want. So I need to get up and do what I need to do to have what I want. And there I don't need to do that. So definitely be more active. Exchange helps you in a lot of things, but I think I'm going to come back a completely different person than I am now.”

But in the meantime while living in Avon and working toward that point, she says, “I'm just here to help Rotary and everything. So I'm here to make the difference. Yeah.”



A sampling of September moments with Julia



## Nico Returns



I wanted to share that our former exchange student Nico, from Italy, is in America and attending Princeton University. We will be traveling down to see him this fall and he hopes to come here and visit over Christmas break. Hopefully he can make a meeting. He is loving college and the whole vibe of Princeton. - Shannon DiFranco

## Interact Corn Festival Update

The bounce house was a success at this years Corn Festival. We earned \$762.00! Everything went smoothly. I am proud of the responsibility the students take on. Sounds like an easy job but high school students dealing with the general public is not always easy. I let them take the lead and they handled things fantastically. The biggest reward for me was having our past president, Maggie Dempsey, come back and help. She knew this was a big day for us and volunteered five hours before she had to go to work that day. We talked a lot about Rotary and I was able to answer many of her questions. I know she will be around to help and donate her time...very gratifying. Sadly I forgot to take pictures.—Shannon DiFranco



October 20



Julia

Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ Ted Coyne
- ⇒ Rodney George
- ⇒ Rob Lupisella
- ⇒ Jim Varner

Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ Kelly Cole 2002
- ⇒ Tom Honan 2018
- ⇒ Hans Koomen 2002
- ⇒ Nick Lovullo 2018
- ⇒ TJ Vonglis 2018
- ⇒ Tom Vonglis 2002

*October Celebrations*

Birthday

- ⇒ Chris Ferra
- ⇒ Terry Lemen
- ⇒ Janis McMIndes
- ⇒ Carmine Simone
- ⇒ Josh Tonra
- ⇒ Steve Vanderbilt
- ⇒ Laurie Vonglis
- ⇒ Helen Zamboni



*Club Schedule*

<b>Tues. Oct. 1</b>	Regular Mtg—Program: Avon Library, Rebecca, Strategic Planning Mtg following
<b>Tues. Oct. 8</b>	Regular Mtg—Program: NY Criminal Justice Reform, Josh Tonra
<b>Sat. Oct. 12</b>	Roadside Cleanup 8:00—9:00 am, Meet at Storage Building
<b>Mon. Oct. 14</b>	Board of Directors Mtg—7:00 pm at Hurricane
<b>Tues. Oct. 15</b>	Regular Mtg—Program: Foster Care, Joanna, Bylaws Committee Mtg following
<b>Tues. Oct. 22</b>	Regular Mtg
<b>Sat. Oct. 26</b>	Halloween Party—6:00 pm at Oak Knolls Manor
<b>Tues. Oct. 29</b>	Regular Mtg



## Avon Rotary Auction

Mark your calendar: November 9  
Start collecting items to donate  
Volunteer to help on the committee  
Sign up to help that day!

**Contact Tom Honan or Janis McMIndes for more information**

## Avon Food Pantry

*Collections are the 3rd Tuesday  
of the Month*

Pantry needs in October are:

- canned fruits & vegetables
- apple sauce
- pasta sauce

Thank you,  
Jennifer



Jennifer Palmer (Avon Food Pantry Director)  
AVON INTERFAITH COUNCIL MEETING *September 2019*

Statistics for the months of:

	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUNE</u>	<u>JULY</u>	<u>AUGUST</u>
Households	86	73	101	101
Served # of Adults	113	101	129	128
# of Children	55	43	72	63
# of Seniors	35	22	36	39

Our monthly donations help make a difference!

*Thank you!* Steve Vanderbilt



***Is a fellow Rotarian ill or in need?***

**Please let the club President know  
and  
Sunshine Liaison Agent—Barbara Herman**





# Save The Date



## 2019-2020 Avon Rotary Calendar of Special Events

Saturday, October 26 , 2019	Halloween Party—6:00 @ Oak Knolls Manor
Tuesday, November 26, 2019	Rotary/Lions Thanksgiving Dinner Mtg—6:00
Saturday, December 14, 2019:	Christmas Party—6:00 @ The Masten Home
Tuesday, February 11, 2020:	Sweethearts Dinner—6:00
Tuesday, March 17, 2020:	St. Patrick’s Dinner—6:00
Friday, May 1– May 3, 2020	District Conference—Niagara Falls, NY
Saturday, May 16, 2020	Blue Jean Ball—6:00 @ Oak Knolls Manor
Tuesday, June 2, 2020	Quad Cities Golf—Caledonia
Tuesday, June 30, 2020	Change of Officers Banquet—5:30



*Make a Difference!*

# JOIN OUR BOARD

Together we can do amazing things

**CALL FOR BOARD NOMINATIONS**