



Rotary Opens Opportunities



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President's Message



What an amazing month we have had as a Club! The new Virtual Auction was a HUGE success! I would like to say "Thank You" to Tom Honan and Janis McMIndes for their work to make this new vi-

sion a reality! This is what Rotary is all about, thinking outside of the box and looking for ways to adapt. It was only 55 years ago that Dr. Jonas Salk developed the Polio vaccine that changed the world! During these times of COVID, I am constantly reminded about the Spanish Flu and what was experienced by it and its devastation. Polio was, and still is, a reality in some parts of the world and COVID, today also shows no discrimination.

So, it is during these times that I ask all of you to look into what we, as a Rotary Club, can do for others. We are currently "locked down" to some extent and are limited in what we are physically able to do. I feel that all of us are able to still make a difference. Mike Ford and his family have agreed to Chair the Salvation Army Kettle Campaign this year in Avon. This is a huge win for our community as all of the money raised in Avon stays in Avon for the first year and then the remainder is distributed to the local areas and the next year it goes National. As someone who has

witnessed the distribution of funds over the past 15 years, a difference is certainly being made.

This brings me to the Foundation Event that I was able to be a part of with some fellow Rotarians. Jennifer Jones, our Rotary International President Elect, shared inspiring words from her brother. "In order to live in the kind of society you want, you have to build it." This is what I encourage all of us to do over the next few months. Be the change in the community, be the change in your family, just be the change!

The future, like Rotary, is always going open opportunities, but is also going to give us challenges. Ask yourself why did you join Rotary? For me, it was to make a difference around me, whether it was at home or with students/Rotarians around the world. As we head into the holiday season of December, I wish for all of you a blessed and joyous time with family and friends. Always remember what is important.

Yours In Rotary Service,

Julie Carney, President 2020-2021

**Avon Rotary Club meets
Tuesdays at 6:30 pm**

Board of Directors

Julie Carney, President
Tom Vonglis, President Elect
Steve Csapo, Senior Director
Mike Ford, Director
Bruce Amey, Member at Large
Marcia Cameron, Past President
Leann Hill, Secretary
Katie DeGraff, Treasurer



November Highlights

2-8 NOVEMBER 2020

WORLD INTERACT WEEK

#WorldInteractWeek

November 3: As part of our club's annual celebration of World Interact Week, Avon High School's Interact Club took over our club meeting. Interact is Rotary International's service club for young people. Interact clubs are sponsored by individual Rotary clubs, which provide support and guidance, but they are self-governing and self-supporting. Current Avon Interact President, Ella Vanderbilt did an excellent job running our meeting and kept us updated on Interact's current projects including putting together 200 care kits for the Avon Food Pantry. *By: Mike Ford*



November 7: On this morning Avon Rotarians joined Teresa House Director, Leah Fletcher to help with a little fall clean up and winterizing. Teresa House is a two resident bedroom home that offers a comfort care ministry to residents who are nearing the end of a terminal illness, and to their families, by providing a home environment of love, dignity, and support. A volunteer/staff extended family cares for the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of the resident and their family during the last precious days of life which extends into the bereavement process. And during the current pandemic they are one of the only private, nonprofit organizations in the area that provides hospice care outside the hospital environment. *By: Mike Ford*



November 10: Avon Rotary was surprised with some big news at tonight's meeting. District Governor Linda Kohl from Penfield Rotary, District Governor Elect Janet Tenreiro from Canandaigua Rotary, and District Governor Nominee Ralph Brandt from Bloomfield Rotary announced that our President Julie Carney, was selected to be District 7120's District Governor Nominee-Designate and will be District Governor for the 2023-2024 Rotary year.



This is the first time an Avon Rotary member will serve in this position. Congratulations Julie and we look forward to your leadership! *By: Mike Ford*

November 17: At Tuesday night's meeting Avon Rotarians Leann Hill and Barbara Herman were joined by fellow Livingston County Habitat For Humanity (LCHFH) board member Chuck Puls. LCHFH is a nonprofit, nondenominational housing organization that seeks to eradicate poverty housing from the world and make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. They bring together qualifying families and community members to build homes so those families benefit from the dignity of home ownership. They gave us an update on their current projects and their current and future needs. Are you someone looking to help fellow community members, are you a skilled worker looking to give some of your time to help others, are you a young person looking to learn trade skills to help you later in life? If you answered yes to any of these questions, visit LCHFH's website to learn how you can help. <http://www.livingstoncountyhabitat.org/> *By: Mike Ford*



Welcome New Members

Avon Rotary grew by three on November 17th! Please join us in welcoming our three newest Rotarians: Joe Yantachka, Marcea Tetamore, and Dr. Ryan Pacatte.

Membership Chairman, Josh Tonra conducted the induction ceremony alongside sponsors Katie DeGraff and Rodney George.



I've always felt a strong need to give back to the local communities that have supported me over the past 20 years in business. I truly feel blessed to have had the success I have, and attribute that to the great people around me. I joined Rotary because I see it as a fantastic group of like minded people and an organization that

can help facilitate giving back on a much greater scale than what one can do alone. I look forward to utilizing my resources, abilities and knowledge to help those in need and less fortunate. - **Joe Yantachka**

Marcea Clark Tetamore grew up in Coral Gables, Florida but came to Geneseo every summer to visit relatives in the area. She fell in love with the Genesee Valley and moved to Geneseo permanently in 1993. She and her husband, Larry, bought land in Avon in 2015, built a house in 2017 and began calling Avon home.



She has been an attorney for 29 years and has her own law office. She is also working as an Associate Broker with AB Cole Real Estate helping customers buy and sell their homes. She looks forward to transitioning from law to real estate as she gets closer to retirement.

Marcea was previously a member of the Geneseo Kiwanis Club and enjoyed being a part of a service club for both the ability to give back to the community and the social aspect of the club itself. She looks forward to being involved with the Avon Rotary Club for the same reasons. - **Marcea Tetamore**



"Service above self" is just a terrific motto. Life is bigger than each of us. This motto, and the 4 Way Test, remind us that we are all a part of something. As it relates to Avon, it is clear that Rotary is very active in the community. I look forward to serving the community in ways that are not simply through the school. - **Ryan Pacatte**





Rambling On Rotary—December

By: Bruce Amey

"In order to live in the kind of society you want, you have to help build it." Inspiring words from David Jones, shared by his sister Rotary International President-Elect Designee Jennifer Jones.

Several of our club members had the opportunity to join more than 200 participants in a 4-District zoom meeting on Tuesday, November 24, 2020 to listen to Jennifer and then have a break-out with close to 60 other Rotarians from across District 7120. The evening generated approximately \$4,350 just from our district for the Rotary Foundation. Ms. Jones focused on the work of the Foundation, where she has served as a Trustee of the Foundation for a number of years, and on RI's focus on Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) where we need to welcome diverse perspectives. She also implored clubs to focus on Rotary's public image; "We've done things in the shadows for too long." What echoed for me in those words was how they are a goal of our club president Julie wanting to make Rotary more visible in our community.

The Foundation is an important part of how Rotary does good in the world. Rochester Rotarian Don Alhart answered the question asked by many of, "Why should I give to the Foundation which funds projects around the world when there are needs at home?" His reminder is that one-third of our donations are returned to our District and thus to our communities through district grants. Last year, past-president Dom wrote a district grant for funds to provide literacy education for migrant parents in our community. This year president Julie wrote a district grant for funds to purchase new bleachers for the Little League fields at the Downs. Our donations to the Foundation not only serve needs around the world, they come back to help us serve needs within our own community.

The December issue of the Rotary Magazine had a great article, "Good, and Good For You", which connects with David Jones quote, as well. "When we do good, it doesn't only benefit other people. It helps us, too. Studies show that helping others boosts oxytocin, serotonin, and dopamine, neurotransmitters that make us feel satisfied." We just inducted three new members into our club and when asked, "Why did you want to join Rotary?" each of them (just like most of us) responded, to the effect, they wanted to give back to their community, to do good in our world, to serve others. And what is the net result of that? In essence, they wanted the good feelings that serving others brings. "In a 2016 study, researchers asked participants about scenarios in which they either gave or received support...MRI tests showed that only the instances of giving [emphasis added] correlated to reduced stress and enhanced activity in the brain's reward centers – which suggests that giving support ultimately brought greater mental benefits than receiving it." In other words, GIVING is good for our health. How often have we heard that giving a gift is better than getting a gift?

For me, this is what being a member of our club, being a Rotarian is all about. Rotarians all over the world are building the

kinds of societies we all want to live in. I've said before, when our club supports Rob and Jeanine's project of building schools in Nicaragua through Linking Hands For Learning gives the gift of education to others. In most of those villages, the schools become the community centers because all parents want better lives for their children and they know education is a key to that start. When I see the water projects that Rotary helps fund throughout the world, it is incredible. Where would we be without clean, safe water. Yet Rotary clubs along the southern shores of Lake Erie are also engaging in projects to clean the water there. Rotary is not just helping in third world countries; it is in our own back yards.

During the zoom meeting, PDG Dave Hannan reported that there have been 133 new cases of polio in the world this year, down from 176 last year. Those cases are in Pakistan and Afghanistan. But, as was reported earlier this year, the entire continent of Africa has now been declared polio-free. The good news is we are almost to the finish line but the better good news is the infrastructure that Rotary has built to get the polio vaccine around the world can also be used to help distribute the COVID vaccines once they are widely available. Rotary is serving the world. As Rotarians we are serving our neighbors wherever they might live and, in so doing, we are helping to build the kind of society, the kind of world, in which we want to live. And that giving helps improve our health, well-being, and happiness.

During this season of giving, I regularly see our hearts open with gifts, our homes open for food and warmth for others...and it makes me feel good. I love this time of year. One of my favorite Christmas songs that I like to play on my guitar is "The Secret of Christmas". The closing line is, "So may I suggest that the Secret of Christmas is not the things you do at Christmastime, but the Christmas things you do all year through." Regardless of your faith, I think we all understand that those "Christmas things" are the acts of giving, of service to others. And those selfless acts oftentimes become very self-ish because we know that giving to others makes us feel better than getting from others. During this season of giving, I give thanks to be able to be a member of a great club and a phenomenal organization like Rotary. I give thanks for the where-withal to give. I give thanks for each of you. I make a pledge to do my best to do "Christmas things the whole year through". And, as usual, I have rambled on long enough.



Literacy Committee Update

Can you imagine what it is like learning to read and write nowadays? Some students have the benefit of going to school everyday, so maybe for them it is not so different then when we were in school. However, many elementary students are going two days a week while some are completely virtual learners. Teachers are being creative with their lessons, but there is reason to worry about the capability of younger students learning literacy skills in our “new normal.” Therefore, our literacy goal for the year to provide reading opportunities for students whether they are in school or not, takes on unprecedented importance.

Greg and I both work in schools and have collected books from teachers over the past year. Greg’s mother donated several books for adults including cooking, gardening, and crafting books. We put those books on the shelves at the laundromat in August.

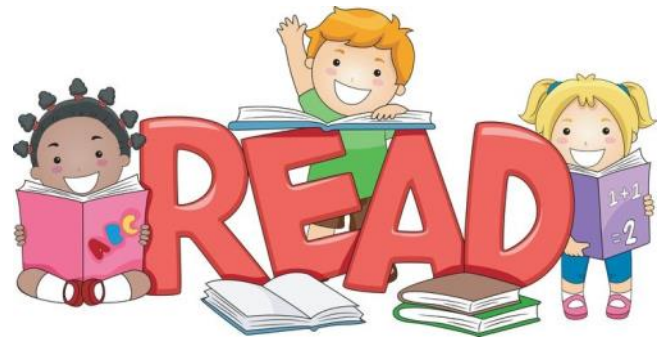
The challenges faced by the Rochester City School District are well documented in our local media. Avon Rotary took action with the Rush-Henrietta and Brighton Rotary Clubs by donating funds to John James Audubon School #33 for their Principal’s Book of the Month Club in September. The school’s librarian uses the money to buy several copies of popular books so students have access to engaging literature. Students read the books and talk about what they enjoyed about the story. Each December, School #33 invites us in to show their appreciation for the donations. Not sure what that will look like this year, but we will let you know if there is going to be a presentation. It is usually very entertaining, with a skit, songs, pictures, gifts and refreshments.

Thanks to Dave Hannan, we just completed our third activity. Dave was so impressed with our club’s ESL migrant literacy program last year that he donated money for our literacy program this year. The Children’s Librarian at the Avon Free Library recommended popular books to buy for infants to teens. We purchased these books and library staff will encourage parents and children to take the books home to keep.

We are always looking for new ways to improve literacy in our community. If you have ideas, let us know.

Submitted by,

Jean Antkowiak, Co-Chair Avon Literacy Committee



2020 Focus on the Children Annual Christmas Program

It has been a recent tradition that our club does a giving tree in support of the local organization, “Focus on the Children”. Each year we’ve done this, our club members have been very generous, providing many gifts for local children’s wish lists. This is all organized through FOTC and our own school district. This year, with our Board of Director’s blessing, we will once again take the opportunity to support FOTC’s mission to help local families at Christmas time. Due to COVID, the giving model is different this year. If you are able to help, visit their website: <http://www.focuschild.org/christmas-sponsors> You can mail a contribution to them OR donate right online. PO Box 31, Caledonia, NY 14423

2020 Wild Polio Case Counts as of November 25, 2020

<u>Country</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>Date of last case</u>
Afghanistan	21	28	56	Nov, 2020
Pakistan	8	135	81	Nov, 2020
Total	29	163	137	



DECEMBER

Club Schedule

Tues. Dec. 1	Regular Mtg. 6:30 @ Avon Inn DG Linda Kohl visits. Program: Trees for Troops
Tues. Dec. 8	Eastern Cities Fellowship "Dinner" 12-1pm Virtual Mtg—Register in advance Red Cross Blood Drive 2-6 pm @ Avon Inn
Mon. Dec. 14	Board of Directors Mtg. 6 pm @ Hurricane
Tues. Dec. 15	Regular Mtg 6:30 TBD
Tues. Dec. 22	Regular Mtg 6:30 TBD
Tues. Dec. 29	Regular Mtg 6:30 TBD

Birthday

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

December Celebrations

Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ David Kilgore
- ⇒ Marcea Tetamore
- ⇒ Bill Wall
- ⇒ Julie Welch
- ⇒ Joe Yantachka

Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ Ernie Wiard 1975 (H)
- ⇒ Bob House 1987
- ⇒ Marcia Cameron 2005
- ⇒ Rodney George 2010
- ⇒ Cathy Jo Murphy 2011
- ⇒ Terry Hayes 2012
- ⇒ Dominique Lalisie 2014
- ⇒ Jim Varner 2014
- ⇒ Julie Welch 2015
- ⇒ Jean Antkowiak 2016
- ⇒ Greg Antkowiak 2016
- ⇒ Karen Vanderbilt 2018



Rotary's Seven Areas of Focus

- Peace & Conflict Resolution
- Disease Prevention & Treatment
- Water & Sanitation
- Maternal & Child Health
- Basic Education & Literacy
- Economic & Community Development
- Supporting the Environment





SAVE THE DATE

SAVE A LIFE

Our next blood drive is
December 8th from 2 pm to 6 pm
At the Avon Inn

Rotary's Week to Ring

December 7-11

To schedule: call or text Mike Ford
@ 585-447-1511 or email
bellringersavon@gmail.com



**MAKE
CHANGE
HAPPEN.**

95th ANNUAL EASTERN CITIES FELLOWSHIP "DINNER"

Rotary

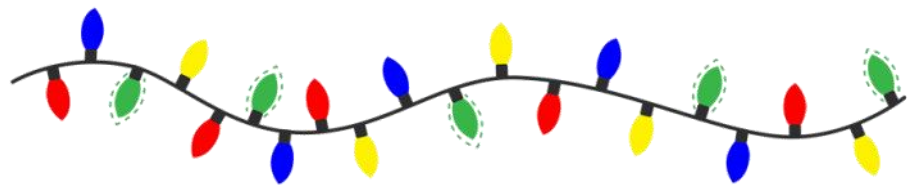


Tuesday, December 8th from 12-1 pm

Rotary International 2020-21 President Elect,
Shekhar Mehta will be joining us for a Live Broadcast



Register online to participate: <https://www.rochesterrotary.org/event/tuesday-meeting-ecfd/>



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

Please contact the club
Sunshine Liaison
Agent—
Barbara Herman
226-6735



Avon Food Pantry

Pantry critical needs in December are:

Boxed cereal, condiments, mayonnaise, canned goods,
peanut butter, jam, pancake syrup, macaroni and cheese,
paper towel, soap, shampoo and toothpaste

Please bring to a Rotary meeting OR drop off at food pantry.
Questions—ask Rhonda.

Thank you!

