



Rotary Opens Opportunities



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**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

## President's Message



Happy February everyone! We are only 90 days away from Spring and I for one am looking forward to warmer weather, being outside and hopefully on the way to being on the right side of COVID.

This last year has been a true testament to our resiliency and adaptation. I for one, have learned a lot about what is important in life. My 88-year-old father-in-law lives with us and we spend many an evening reminiscing about the past and everything that has happened during his lifetime. When I listen to him talk about his childhood and all the hardships that he went through, it really puts this time of COVID and lockdown into perspective. His father passed away when he was 11 years old. He had to walk home from school at lunchtime to restock the coal in the furnace so that the heat would stay on for his 80-year-old grandfather who lived with him. Now, looking back, he knows how hard he had it, but at the time it was just a way of life. I look at my grandson, who is 4 years old, and he

goes about his day of mask wearing, temperature checking, not playing with friends and not being able to be with extended family and he is OK. I am sure that when he is older and looks back at this time, he will comment about the hard times. But right now? Now this is just his life, he is aware of the virus, knows he can't be with others because of it, but this is his life right now and he's okay. Hopefully, 84 years from now, he will look back and know that it was a difficult time but the times since were better.

I am trying to treat each day and each experience as a learning moment. It is a time to reflect about what we, as a society, knowing what is important and what we are truly blessed to have.

So, my final thoughts are this, stay positive, stay proactive and stay engaged in all that Rotary offers!

Yours In Rotary Service,

Julie Carney, President 2020-2021



Just be a good person.  
Love who you can,  
help where you can,  
give what you can.



Rotary

# January Highlights

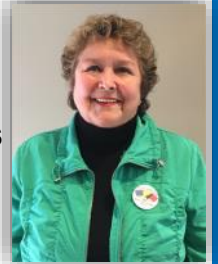


**At our January 5** meeting we were joined via Zoom by Lynn Malooly, the Executive Director of Water for South Sudan, Inc. Water for South Sudan delivers sustainable quality-of-life services to and with the people of South Sudan by efficiently providing access to clean, safe water, and improving hygiene and sanitation practices in areas of great need. By providing new wells, they not only improve one's physical quality-of-life, but they open up economic and educational opportunities, especially for women and girls, that no longer have to trek for miles to transport clean water. *By: Mike Ford*



**At our January 12** meeting we we're joined via Zoom by Darlene O'Brien Resource Coordinator for Livingston County Treatment Court and Avon Rotarian and Livingston County Assistant District Attorney Josh Tonra. They gave a presentation informing us about how treatment court works and the changes being made to it with the new year. Treatment courts use a collaborative approach to drug and alcohol treatment involving judges, defense attorneys, prosecutors, public defenders, treatment and education providers, mental and physical health providers, probation, and law enforcement officials. Non-violent offenders voluntarily enter the program in which rules are clearly defined and a contract between the offender, attorneys, the District Attorney and the court is signed. Their ultimate goal is to eliminate substance abuse and addiction by the offender and the crimes associated with that abuse and addiction. *By: Mike Ford*

**On January 19th** our Club enjoyed a presentation from, PDG Melody Shock St. John from the Hollywood Rotary Club in District 5280. Every year, the current District Governor in 5280 gets to work with a team and select a location for a Humanitarian Trip of Service! In 2020, Melody chose Oaxaca Mexico. During the weeklong trip 14 projects were identified and fulfilled by over 120 Rotarians from Rotary Clubs within the District. This process of organization and coordination between her District and the District that is receiving the benefits takes a lot of coordination, however, they have a system in place that guides the process to be smooth and efficient every year. Melody's District was able to help repair a school, bring water into communities, bring solar power to the most distant villages, give school supplies to students, provide mattresses and linens to a Nursing Home and so much more.



The link for the video is included to get a sense of the impact that Rotary has around the world! *By: Julie Carney*

[https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fvimeo.com%2F429481917%3Ffbclid%3DlWAr1DSxjRIDlxHmUgZqbCOT84X8T7F3HMd-flBhmGti337UNxU\\_RrHikiAHo&h=AT0RKDKOZezcrgH1t0fVIHxVQD9uQQQLZmcRy3kJs8g9uZ3IGZU9QXXoiuDnRFMd8cb69ES8SZTb50Bu4-GGiYF7bkiBbJl3i5f68c-XOrlcRFL27p7XHUrEITLdb9nxTAVyJz4ke-pkv1TZapM](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fvimeo.com%2F429481917%3Ffbclid%3DlWAr1DSxjRIDlxHmUgZqbCOT84X8T7F3HMd-flBhmGti337UNxU_RrHikiAHo&h=AT0RKDKOZezcrgH1t0fVIHxVQD9uQQQLZmcRy3kJs8g9uZ3IGZU9QXXoiuDnRFMd8cb69ES8SZTb50Bu4-GGiYF7bkiBbJl3i5f68c-XOrlcRFL27p7XHUrEITLdb9nxTAVyJz4ke-pkv1TZapM)



**At our January 26** meeting we were joined via Zoom by Mary Jane Milano from Finger Lakes Donor Recovery Network. FLDRN connects people in Rochester, the Finger Lakes, and Syracuse in need of life saving organ donations with those who have unfortunately passed, but selflessly registered to give the gift of life after their death. They also provide resources to families to deal with bereavement, recovery, and a possible connection between families after the donation process. In NY alone, nearly 9,500 people are awaiting life saving donations. To register to be a donor, visit [donatelife.ny.gov](http://donatelife.ny.gov) or fill out a paper registration the next time you visit the DMV, Board of Elections, or a NY State Health Office. *By: Mike Ford*

# ROTARY OPENS OPPORTUNITIES



Submitted by: Jim Tompsett

About 10 years ago there was national recognition of the "Lost Boys of Sudan". These young people forced from their homes due to extreme violence had migrated on their own eastward and then spent years in refugee camps. Eventually, some of these young folks were moved to the United States. One of them, Salva Dut, was brought to Rochester and through community help including Rotary he was welcomed and helped to settle, finish school and then graduate from Monroe Community College. His story was written in a great book, "A Long Walk to Water." Salva was motivated to raise money to help his home country, South Sudan, to get more potable water. He, with the help of Rotarians and others, started a fund raiser to help drill wells in Sudan for water. This "Water for South Sudan" is an NGO and has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars to get wells drilled in the remote villages there.

Our recent club program was presented by the executive director of "Water for South Sudan" Lynn Malooly, who resides in Penfield. It was very inspiring. After the program I called my neighbor, Tim Lynch who owns a large company in California that manufactures water well casings and other water well materials and sells them all over the world, to people, companies and governments. He was very interested in helping Water for South Sudan. I had Lynn Malooly contact him and now they are working together to enhance this huge international project. Due to violence in the Tigray region it is difficult to get supplies into South Sudan. Tim has a close business friend in Ethiopia that has many contacts in South Sudan.

ROTARY OPENS DOORS is my version of ROTARY OPENS OPPORTUNITES.  
What door may you open next?



## Who Doesn't Need a Laugh?

What are your Valentine's Weekend plans? Laugh your socks off with a fun virtual visit from two fantastic comedians right in your own living room.

\*\*\* This is a Valentine's Eve Comedy Night! So Save the Date - - Friday, Feb 12, 2021 & get the weekend started with some laughs \*\*\*

The Avon Rotary Club invites the entire Avon community and beyond to a fun, virtual, LIVE night of laughter with Comedians Moody McCarthy & Sam Morril! Suitable for date night, family, and friends!

Tickets are \$20 at <http://bit.ly/Avon-Comedy> and proceeds and donations benefit Avon Rotary's various community service projects, charitable donations, and scholarships. You may purchase your ticket at the link here, and a Zoom invite will follow, closer to the event. We are limiting tickets so buy early.

Make sure you tune in for a fabulous night of comedy live on a screen near you!

By: Mike Ford





## Rambling On Rotary—February



By: Bruce Amey

February is Rotary Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution Month. On February 23 we also celebrate the 116th anniversary of the founding of Rotary. In the February issue of Rotary Magazine, RI President Knaack commented, “Rotary Opens Opportunities to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace, ... our ultimate mission.” And I would add implied within his message, we are called to advance understanding, goodwill and peace within our community and our country.

At the inauguration of President Joseph Biden on January 20th of this year, Amanda Gorman, the nation's first-ever youth poet laureate recited her poem, "The Hill We Climb". I was inspired by her words and her passionate delivery.

The new dawn blooms as we free it

For there is always light,

If only we're brave enough to see it

If only we're brave enough to be it

I believe Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution and “The Hill We Climb” are in concert with each other, especially for us as Rotarians.

There has been a lot of turmoil in our country and our world, especially these past 12 months. COVID-19 has raised the stress level in our homes, community, country and world.

But, as we have previously recognized, it has also resulted in opening some doors of opportunity. We have learned how to communicate differently in our quarantined world and this has opened opportunities to share in different ways. We have had guest presentations at some our meetings zooming in from Brazil, California and Canada ... opportunities we never have really experienced in the past.

Unfortunately, some of the new means of communicating have nurtured misinformation and mistrust. It is incumbent upon all of us, especially as Rotarians, to recognize truth and participate in respectful discourse with others and not fuel the embers of anger. We grow when we engage in respectful conversation from differing perspectives which can resolve conflicts and result in broader peace. We need to look beyond the sound bites and seek the truth before we engage in and further misinformation. By proactively engaging in truth-telling rather than rumor-spreading we can prevent conflict and promote peace. “In all we think, say or do, is it the truth, is it fair to all concerned, will it build good will and better friendships, and will it be beneficial to all concerned?” When we can say “yes” to this, we will truly be advancing “understanding, goodwill and peace” in our community, our country, and our world.

Our Service Above Self motto requires us to work for peace and integrity. The Rotarian Code of Conduct states that (in part) “as Rotarians, we will act with integrity and high ethical standards, that we will deal fairly with others and treat them with respect, and that we will maintain a harassment-free environment.” When we live and act in this way, we will build peace that will lead to resolving conflicts. We will joyously greet each new dawn for its new light that we know it will always bring. As Rotarians, I am convinced that we are brave enough to see that light AND that we are brave enough to BE that light for our community and our world. And, as usual, I have rambled on long enough.



**FEBRUARY IS**

**PEACE AND CONFLICT PREVENTION/RESOLUTION MONTH**

“Imagine all the people living life in peace...”  
John Lennon

Rotary  

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



# Literacy Committee Update



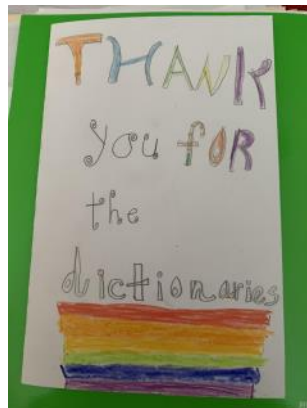
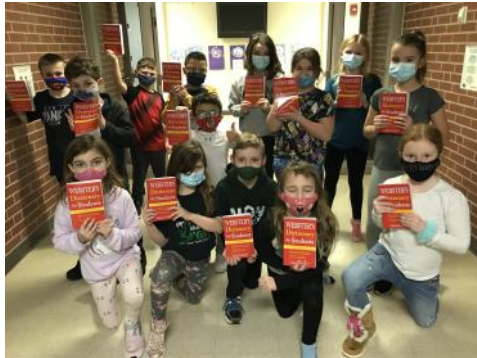
Read all about it! The Literacy Committee has been busy. We continue to provide students in our community with literacy opportunities. We usually give dictionaries to 3rd graders but because of the pandemic, we were not able to disperse dictionaries during Spring 2020 at the Avon Elementary School. Luckily arrangements were made at the end of February to provide the St. Agnes 3rd graders with their dictionaries before schools were closed. At St. Agnes, Jean presented a slideshow about Rotary describing Rotary's mission, how we plan events and activities to raise money for our charities and how students can be involved when they are older.

In December 2020, we were able to give last year's 3rd graders at Avon Elementary their dictionaries. Rob presented the slideshow on a Google Meet while Jean narrated the presentation. The 4th graders and teachers were able to see the "show" from their classrooms. The 4th graders were happy to finally receive the dictionaries.

On January 28, Rob and Jean presented to the Avon Elementary 3rd graders, again on a Google Meet. Students heard about all the activities we have planned, how Rotary helps communities here and all over the world and Rob discussed the possibility of students participating in Interact when they are older. Jean dropped off dictionaries and a letter to the 3rd graders at St. Agnes School. They sent back a Thank You card seen below.

By: Jean Antkowiak

## Avon Elementary 3rd Graders





## Club Schedule

Tues. Feb. 2	Regular Meeting—Program: - The Boeing 737 Max Story - Rajeev Wjesinghe District 7080
Mon. Feb. 8	Board of Directors Meeting 6:00 pm via Zoom
Tues. Feb. 9	Regular Meeting—Program- Engaging Young Families in our Rotary - DGND WhitneyPangburn District 7190
Tues. Feb. 16	Regular Meeting
Tues. Feb 23	Regular Meeting

*Kindness is like snow, it beautifies everything it covers.*

*- Kahlil Gibran*



## February Celebrations



### Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ *Bill Shaw 1971 (H)*
- ⇒ *Jim Tompsett 1979 (H)*
- ⇒ *Joe Callahan 1987 (H)*
- ⇒ *Barb Herman 1999*
- ⇒ *Margo Harper 1999 (H)*
- ⇒ *Karl Sawicki 2007*
- ⇒ *Paul Phillips 2019*
- ⇒ *David LeFeber 2019*



### Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ *Julie Carney*
- ⇒ *Mark Evans*


### Birthday

- ⇒ *Hans Koomen*
- ⇒ *Steve Stephenson (H)*
- ⇒ *Brock Thrasher*
- ⇒ *Karen Vanderbilt*



**END  
POLIO  
NOW**

### 2021 Wild Polio Case Counts as of January 27, 2021

Country	2019	2020	2021	Date of last case
Afghanistan	29	56	0	Nov, 2020
Pakistan	147	84	0	Dec, 2020
<b>Total</b>	176	140	0	



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

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




CHARITY NAVIGATOR  
RECOGNIZES  
**THE ROTARY FOUNDATION**  
AS A 4-STAR RATED CHARITY



The  
**Rotary**  
Foundation 



## Avon Food Pantry

Pantry critical needs in February are:

Salad Dressings, Crackers, Rice and  
Strawberry Jam

Please drop off at the food pantry. Questions—ask Rhonda.  
Thank you!



## 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

