



**IMAGINE
ROTARY**

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Club Schedule & Celebrations	2
January Highlights	3
Foundation Moment	3
23-24 Rotary Theme	4
Sweethearts Dinner	4
Linking Hands for Learning	5, 6
Rambling on Rotary	7
Exchange Student Fun	8
Update from Jacob	9
Red Cross Donation Dates	9
Corn Festival Note	9
Polio Update	10
Food Pantry & More	10

President's Message



January went by quickly, spending time in Florida helped and not having to shovel snow the whole month was a bonus. We enjoyed a great program from Beni & Maria about their homes and their life so far in Avon, I personally

am so glad that we are able to host exchange students again. I believe we will be able to host again next year even though the amount of participants is shrinking year over year. Thank you Ed & Karen and all the host families for helping to make this happen.

We had a nice update from DGE Julie at our January 31 meeting along with John & Jericho from Lima. It will be nice to be able to collaborate with their club in the future and we will provide more details when they are available. We ended with Katie's informative program on fraud, with the assistance of my son Stephen. They sure provided us with some good insight on what the scammers are up to and how to recognize a scam. Katie had some nice handouts on the tables, if anyone who couldn't attend would like some please reach out to Katie.

We sadly said goodbye to Rotarian Dr. Bob Hayes and his loving wife Polly who went to be with him again shortly after his passing.

We ask for comfort to the Hayes extended family during this difficult time. Sadly, as I write this I learned that Jerry Dougherty's beloved wife Kim has passed away. Please keep Jerry and his family in your thoughts as they navigate through this difficult time in their lives.

Rotary will celebrate its 118th Anniversary on the 23rd. To sustain Rotary in the future we need to keep growing our clubs to be able to inspire new ideas as to how we can do good in our neighborhood and the world. If you know of anyone interested in becoming a Rotarian, please have them join a meeting to see what we are about.

Our Valentines Sweetheart's Dinner and Interact Dessert Auction will be on February 7th this year due to the Inn not being available to us on the 14th. It is going to be a great event with lots of fellowship and the auction which I look forward to every year. They always have a lot of excellent cakes, cookies, and other desserts. (Please feel free to bring your Sweetheart along to enjoy in the fellowship!). On the 28th we will have a presentation on Climate Solutions accelerator by Brady. If anyone has any ideas for a program please get in touch with Cat.

Yours in Rotary Service,
President, Steve Csapo

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

Board of Directors

Steve Csapo, President
Mike Ford, President Elect
Karen Vanderbilt, Senior Director
Rob Lupisella, Director
Bruce Amey, Member at Large
Jeff Herberger, Member at Large
Tom Vonglis, Past President
Charlene Masten, Secretary
Katie DeGraff, Treasurer



"No act of kindness,
no matter how small
is ever wasted."

—Aesop





Club Schedule

Mon. Feb. 6	Board of Directors Meeting 6:00 @ Avon Circleview Conference Room
Tues. Feb. 7	Sweethearts Dinner Meeting & Interact Dessert Auction 5:00 Cocktail Hour begins
Tues. Feb. 14	NO MEETING—Enjoy Valentine's Day
Tues. Feb. 21	Regular Meeting
Tues. Feb. 28	Regular Meeting Program: Climate Solutions Accelerator

Choose to be positive it feels better



February Celebrations

Birthday

- ⇒ Hans Koomen
- ⇒ Steve Stephenson (H)
- ⇒ Karen Vanderbilt

Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ Julie Carney

Rotary Anniversary

- ⇒ Bill Shaw (H) 1971
- ⇒ Joe Callahan (H) 1987
- ⇒ Barbara Herman 1999
- ⇒ Karl Sawicki 2007
- ⇒ David LeFeber 2019

January Highlights

Foundation Moment



January 10: At tonight's meeting Rotarian Jim Tompsett was presented with his Paul Harris Fellow plus 4 pin for his continued support of the Rotary Foundation. Jim's generosity is helping improve lives all over the world. Congratulations and thank you!

Club Assembly

January 17: Many thanks to those in attendance who provided updates on the various roles in the club. To summarize:

- ◆ **Sunshine Committee:** If a Rotarian should need support please contact President Steve and Barbara Herman.
- ◆ **The GVRC Board of Directors positions of Treasurer & Secretary** have been held by Ernie Wiard & David Henehan for many years. Both are wanting to retire and seeking replacements. If you would like more information about these roles, please contact them.
- ◆ **Membership update** from Josh Tonra asks that if you have a friend, colleague or family member that would make a good Rotarian, contact Josh for information on the process. Membership drives are not scheduled as current efforts are focusing on acquiring quality people versus quantity.
- ◆ **International Service & Literacy highlights** were shared by Rob Lupisella, including recent volunteer work completed in Nicaragua. The traditional Dictionary project has been cancelled based on school/student needs. Technology has taken its place for each student. Other needs will be accessed as Rob works with each school. Also, Rob—committee of one, is looking for others to join his efforts.
- ◆ **Bob Mellen** is seeking a volunteer in the club or community to assist with videography of our events for a better publicity tool.

Exchange Student Program



January 24: Both Benni (Italy) and Maria (Brazil) shared information about their homeland, families and life so far in the United States. We also met Isabelle from Brazil who is here for



an internship at Avon Central and staying with Vanderbilt's. This is a fairly new, New Generations Rotary program. We had celebrations from our fellow Rotarians fresh back from the school build in Nicaragua as well as Alex, a native from Nicaragua and former interpreter for the group. It was a meeting filled with international celebrations.

Bank Fraud



January 31: Rotarian Katie DeGraff and Stephen Csapo presented an informative program on common fraud and bank scams for consumers to be aware of. Multiple areas were covered from computer, romance, contractor, imposters and more. They went over red flags and the general phrase of "if something sounds too good to be true, it probably is". And to never allow someone to intimidate or pressure you into a transaction.

Lastly they expressed that if you do fall victim to a scam, how you can work with your financial institution and authorities.

Visitors from Lima Rotary Club joined us to talk about exciting things going on and invited us to collaborate. L-R Jericho Banker, President and John Skiptunas, former President and former AG. DGE Julie was excited to share her experience at PETS training.



2023-2024 Rotary International Theme Announced



**CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD**

Rotary International President-elect R. Gordon R. McNally called for members to capture the world's attention and lead the way toward possibilities far beyond our current expectations.

McNally, a member of the Rotary Club of South Queensferry, West Lothian, Scotland, revealed the 2023-24 presidential theme, Create Hope in the World, during the Rotary International Assembly in Orlando, Florida, USA, on 9 January. He urged members to promote peace in troubled nations, help those affected by conflict, and maintain the momentum of initiatives begun by past leaders.

"The goal is to restore hope — to help the world heal from destructive conflicts and, in turn, to help us achieve lasting change for ourselves," McNally said at Rotary's annual training event for incoming district governors.

By Etelka Lehoczky (excerpt from rotary.org)

Start with Rotary and good things happen.

Avon Rotary Sweethearts Dinner

Please join us at the Avon Inn

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

5:00 Cocktail Hour ~ 6:30 Buffet Dinner

Buffet Dinner—\$25.50 per person

Dinner Salad

Baked Ham with Fresh Pineapple

Chicken French

Vegetable Medley

Rolls and Butter

Au Gratin Potatoes

Rice

Assorted Cookies, Cannolis and Cream Puffs

Interact Dessert Auction at 7:15

Know Your Spouse Game at 7:45

RSVP to Steve Csapo today!

Email scsapo@frontiernet.net

Rotarians Return to Nicaragua to Build School in El Carrizo

After almost five years away, a group of volunteers recently traveled to Central America to once again construct a school in an impoverished, rural community, in the surrounding mountains of El Sauce, Nicaragua. Largely due to the pandemic, but also the result of a period of civil unrest, the non-profit organization Linking Hands for Learning, temporarily halted travel to the country. Earlier this month, among them were - Avon Rotarians Tom Vonglis, Heather and Jake Ayers, Rob and Jeanine Lupisella (HFM Rotary) and a group of nine other volunteers. Throughout the past year, funds had been raised totalling more than \$19,000 which allowed the construction to move forward. The Avon Rotary Club once again supported the project with a \$2,500 donation. In addition, numerous individuals, including Rotarians, from the Avon and the Honeoye Falls Mendon club generously donated to the cause as well.

Photo Right: Volunteer Elise Lupisella with a few of the students who will be attending the new school in El Carrizo.



Photo: At the celebration, five hardworking Vonglis volunteers, stand in front of a wall which they helped to build.

In addition to the Rotarians, the volunteer group from the Rochester area included a large contingent of the Vonglis family. Tom's niece Jackie, daughter Ashley, sister Deb, and Paul Harris Fellow recipient, brother Peter were among the working crew. Rob and Jeanine's daughters, Elise and Caroline (This year's HF-L Rotary Interact President) along with area college students Jason Hofmann, Sawyer Tehan, and Paige Smith, were excited to join the crew as well. Each traveling volunteer was asked to raise at least \$300 towards construction costs and to personally pay for their own travel expenses, which included room and board, as host families in El Sauce take the group in during the trip. Volunteers typically raise far more for construction than the minimum required. When all expenses are accounted for, a trip typically costs each volunteer, with airfare included, approximately \$2,000.

The teams' collective enthusiasm resonated throughout the construction process even with an arduous hour and a half drive to El Carrizo. The first day was climactic as the truck arrived at the site, where a large number of community members were awaiting the teams' arrival. Men, women, and most importantly the young children who will be attending the new school clapped and waved as the team entered the area. After a few words together with the community, and a welcoming by their leader named Bernardo, the challenging task of digging the foundation began in earnest. The volunteers and community members quickly found themselves working hand-in-hand together in the hot sun. When it became apparent that a large tree root needed removal from the foundation path, it didn't take community members long to realize that in addition to the need for a pick ax, their favorite tool of choice - the machete, was also necessary. The tree root was eliminated and the workers were well on their way to completing the difficult task of digging the foundation.

Photo Right: Leader Bernardo shares his thoughts with the community and the volunteers.



Rotarians Return to Nicaragua *continued*



Collaborating with the community volunteers is always special. The resourcefulness, grit and perseverance of the Nicaraguan people is admirable. Digging holes and trenches, bending rebar, cutting wire, sifting sand, moving blocks, shoveling and hauling the sand and stone are just a few of the many tasks needing completion. The level of involvement from the inhabitants of El Carrizo was exceptional, as each day numerous volunteers came to work alongside the visiting volunteers. Hauling water from a well, a good distance from the site, was one challenging task that the community fully embraced on their own, making sure there was always enough water to make concrete and mortar, as well as to moisten the block which had already been set. On numerous occasions, community members would bring oranges to the site, which resulted in a short break to consume the refreshing fruit.

Photo Left: Heather Ayers shovels stone from the truck under the watchful eye of her fellow Rotarians.

Several days into the construction, due to the difficult road conditions, numerous volunteers would embark on a thirty-minute hike to and from the site, rather than take the bumpy ride in the back of the truck. As we walked along the narrow path we were often greeted by community members, who were heading to or from work in their fields. At times, children were just off the trail spying our approach. On one occasion, a woman graciously presented us with a sack of oranges, a gift from the community, and a token of appreciation for a hard days' work. Their level of gratitude for what we were doing, and how we were doing it, not for them, but with them, was greatly appreciated.

Photo Right: Jake Ayers carries the gift of oranges down the path towards the truck.



On the last day, as is the tradition, a celebration was held with the community, which included food, drink, and a pinata. One by one, the children took swings at a chance to crack the pinata and spill the candy for all. Bernardo thanked the visiting volunteers for coming to their community, and for the gift of a sturdy school, where students can learn in a safe environment. Linking Hands for Learning Co-Directors Rob and Jeanine Lupisella, with the assistance of interpreter Enrique Corrales, shared a few thoughts emphasizing the collaborative efforts from the people who were present, in addition to many others at home who are responsible for this school becoming a reality. Rob closed by saying, "Lastly, we thank God for bringing us to this community and for giving us the opportunity to work with you and get to know you. Thank you El Carrizo!"

Photo Left: This student eyes his target, and is ready to lower the boom on the pinata.

Submitted by: Rob Lupisella, Linking Hands for Learning

Rambling On Rotary— February



By: Bruce Amey

Given the situation in Europe right now, as we enter February, it's a perfect time to focus on Rotary Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution Month.

The February Rotary magazine had numerous articles which I felt addressed this theme. The roll of Rotary

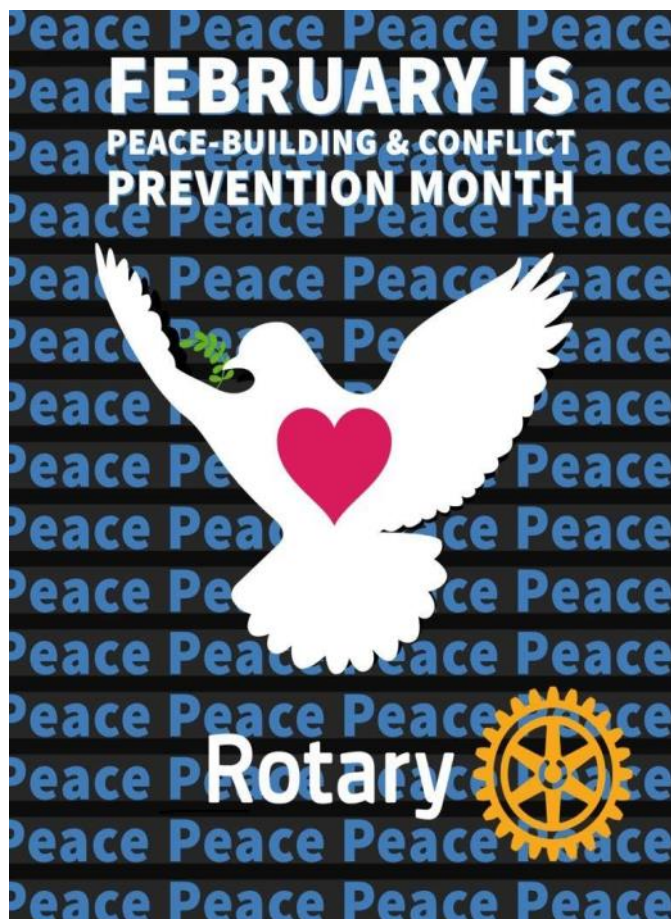
for Ukrainians during this year old conflict causes me to ponder, what can WE do to support LOCAL agencies to support veterans and homeless persons. There was a full page devoted to "How Can I Become A Peacebuilder?" How can each of us become peacebuilders?

This theme does not just refer to international conflicts; what about conflicts we each may have in our daily lives among our neighbors or family members. In the magazine, there was an article asking, "Can money buy happiness?" It answers "Yes". "But we need to stop thinking about the amount we accumulate, and instead start thinking about what we're doing with the money that truly makes us happy." As Rotarians, using our time and "talents" to serve others bring happiness. As we heard Tom and Heather comment on the recent Nicaragua school build and the emotional impact it had on those who participated, Yes, the project requires financing and the builders to pay their own transportation, which bodes the question, "Does money buy happiness?" Having the money to go on the trip has a bearing, but participating in the experience is the real wealth of the experience. As we all know, serving others offers huge payback, from my perspective, serving others always brings me more happiness than receiving gifts. HOW we use what we have is most gratifying and that does not mean just financial support or aid.

I also believe our community is not familiar with the many ways we serve and the good that Rotary does. As a club, we need to promote our projects and what we are doing to serve our community and our world; we need to be more visible. As members of Rotary, we need to ask and determine the real needs of our community. Our guests from the Lima Club at our January 31 meeting talking about human trafficking and what things our two clubs could do together. The February Rotary magazine also

had an excellent article discussing signs of hope amid Lebanon's water crisis and the power of Rotary clubs working together to make change. Let's think of how we might enhance our commitment to Linking Hands for Learning projects in Nicaragua. Would some of those ideas make us better peacebuilders? I believe our support of the Nicaragua project; how linking our hands with other Rotarians and clubs can make an even larger impact and help us focus on being peacebuilders. Education builds peace within and among communities.

I believe our Four-Way Test provides all the guidance we need. Of the things we think, say or do: IS IT THE TRUTH? IS IT FAIR TO ALL CONCERNED? WILL IT BUILD GOOD WILL AND BETTER FRIENDSHIPS? WILL IT BE BENEFICIAL TO ALL CONCERNED? How can we as peacebuilders do anything less than this everyday? And, as usual, I have rambled on long enough.



Exchange Student Fun



Saturday, January 28, Ed Kime hosted a fun Exchange Student get together held at the Avon Village Hall. Fourteen in-bound and three outbound students gathered together for a day and overnight full of fun activities. Throughout the day, the students went ice skating at the Bill Grays Ice plex then enjoyed a competitive battle at Lasertron and dinner, followed by ice cream at Tom Wahls. While back at the Village Hall, the fire chief had the students over to try on equipment and have a photo shoot on the trucks. Throughout the evening the kids played games and bonded, all while camped out in the sleeping bags. Sunday, the students, host families and district officials were invited to attend a brunch at Ravenwood Country Club, hosted by the Victor Rotary Club. It was a good time!

Many thanks to all the In-Charge Volunteers for the countless hours ensuring a good experience for the Exchange Students.

Submitted by: Laurie Vonglis



News From Jacob in Austria



On January 6th I switched to my second host family. I moved from one suburb of Bregenz to another and was able to stay in the same school. The life I lead with my new family is much more in line with how I imagined my exchange year. I'm much more active now, going to the gym 3-4 nights a week. I also ran 8 kilometers with my host parents two weeks ago, and last weekend, I even tried swimming in Lake Constance, as my host father does almost every day. The water was freezing! Barely 40 degrees Fahrenheit, but I managed it anyway and felt great afterward. I've also spent a lot of time playing various board games, and even learning how to cook and help out in the kitchen.

When I'm not doing any of that, I'm often spending time with friends or at my host family's new apartment building, helping to assemble and carry Ikea furniture into their new Airbnb rooms for the renters we are expecting early February. Overall, I would say this month has been everything I expected out of exchange and more, and the realization that I'm already half-way done with my exchange is a bit of a shock. Part of me wishes I could stay here forever! *Submitted by: Jacob Davis*



**American
Red Cross**

Together, we can save a life

Blood Drive times are currently set at

12:30 to 5:30pm.

April 4, 2023

August 15, 2023

December 12, 2023

All dates allow double red donations.

Plan ahead and thank you in advance.

KEEP CALM

⇒ **TIME TO START PLANNING CORN FESTIVAL 2023**

⇒ **JOIN THE COMMITTEE AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE**



**END
POLIO
NOW**

2023 Wild Polio Case Counts as of January 31, 2023

<u>Country</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>Date of last case</u>
Afghanistan	4	2	0	August 2022
Malawi	1	0	0	Nov 2021
Mozambique	0	8	0	November 2022
Pakistan	1	20	0	September 2022
Total	5	30	0	



For more information go to: <https://polioeradication.org/>

TEAM • WORK: *(noun)*

Cooperative or combined effort of a group of persons working together as a team for a common cause.

Avon Food Pantry

Grocery Items Needed in February are:

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| Cereal | Pasta Sauce |
| Canned Tuna | Condiments |
| Peanut Butter | Jelly |
| Cake Mix | Crackers |



Collection is the 3rd Tuesday each month. Place in bin at our meeting.
For questions contact Cat Jenson or David Kilgore.

Is a fellow Rotarian ill or in need?

Please contact the club Sunshine Liaison

Barbara Herman 245-2637

*Please keep Jerry Dougherty
in your thoughts & prayers*

