



144th Edition



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## President's Message



I hope this message finds you all in much better health and higher spirits than I am. As I write this I'm fighting an absolutely brutal COVID infection. As we (and I) navigate the ongoing challenges

posed by COVID-19, I am reminded not only the amazing progress we have made in four short years with COVID detection and treatments, but of Rotary's longstanding commitment to Disease Prevention and Treatment, encompassing efforts to eradicate diseases such as polio, HIV, and others.

Rotary's relentless pursuit of a polio-free world has been a beacon of hope for decades. Through the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, our organization has played a pivotal role in reducing polio cases by over 99%, bringing us closer than ever to achieving a polio-free world. The lessons learned from this endeavor have paved the way for our collective response to other health crises, including the current battle against COVID-19.

In tandem with our fight against polio, Rotary has been actively engaged in addressing the global HIV/AIDS pandemic. Our commitment to education, prevention, and treatment programs has made a tangible impact on communities affected by this devastating disease. By fostering awareness and providing support, we contribute to breaking the cycle of transmission and promoting healthier fu-

tures.

Beyond polio and HIV, Rotary continues to champion initiatives aimed at eradicating various diseases. By leveraging our network of dedicated members and strategic partnerships, we work tirelessly to enhance access to healthcare, support medical research, and implement sustainable solutions for disease prevention.

The progress we witness in the fight against COVID-19 serves as a testament to the power of collective action and Rotary's enduring commitment to Disease Prevention and Treatment. As we reflect on our achievements, let us draw inspiration from our successes in polio eradication, HIV prevention, and other health initiatives. Together, we can make a lasting impact on the health and well-being of communities around the world.

Thank you for your unwavering support and dedication to Rotary's mission.

Yours in service, President Mike



### Board of Directors

- Mike Ford, President
- Karen Vanderbilt, President Elect
- Rob Lupisella, Senior Director
- Katie DeGraff, Director
- Rodney George, Member at Large
- Cat Jensen, Member at Large
- Nick Lovullo, Member at Large
- Steve Csapo, Past President
- Jaime Lovullo, Secretary
- Hans Koomen, Treasurer

*Choose to be positive it feels better*

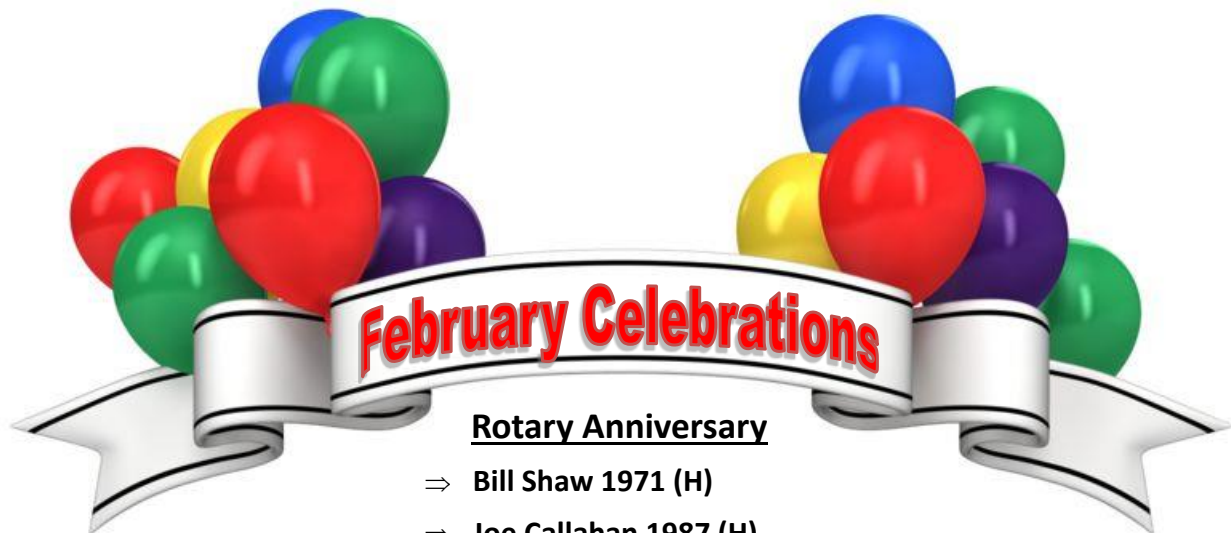
Avon Rotary Club meets Tuesdays at 6:30 pm



## Club Schedule

Mon. Feb. 5	Board of Directors Meeting, 6:00 @ Avon Circleview Conference Room
Tues. Feb. 6	Regular Meeting, 6:00
Tues. Feb. 13	Sweethearts Dinner Dessert Auction 5:00 Cocktail Hour, 6:30 Dinner, 7:15 Auction
Tues. Feb. 20	Regular Meeting, 6:00
Tues. Feb. 27	Regular Meeting, 6:00

*For more meeting details, go to [avonrotary.org](http://avonrotary.org)*



### Birthday

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

### Rotary Anniversary

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

### Wedding Anniversary

- ⇒ Julie Carney

**KINDNESS NEVER GOES OUT OF**



*style*

## TREATS 4 TROOPS

**January 9:** We had the pleasure of hosting Howie Sexton, a Livonia teen that shared his incredible journey with his "Treats 4 Troops" program. Howie began his charity at just 6 years old, when he asked for candy to send to troops for his upcoming birthday instead of presents. Howie's dedication to sending treats and support to service members is truly commendable. Not only has he collected hundreds of pounds of candy, organized chicken BBQs, and more, but at such a young age, Howie has also garnered awards for his outstanding community service.

Several generous club members rallied behind Howie, making both goods and monetary donations to further his award-winning mission. It's heartwarming to witness the community coming together to support such a meaningful cause.

When not working on his charitable mission, Howie is also a youth cadet, Boy Scout, part of the Livonia trap shooting team, and he also excels as a student.

We also welcomed Lucy, Howie's older sister, who will be a Rotary Youth Exchange student in Japan next school year. It's heartening to see young leaders like Howie and Lucy shaping a brighter future.

To learn more about Howie's upcoming projects, visit his Facebook page Treats 4 Troops.

*Submitted by: Mike Ford via social media*



## AVON ROTARY VOCAL COMPETITION



**Our competitors: Emma Davies, Hannah Cousins, and Olivia Newman**

*Submitted by: Mike Ford via social media*

**January 16:** Avon Rotary's first-ever Vocal Music Competition was a hit! Avon juniors Hannah Cousins, Emma Davies, and Olivia Newman each wowed us with two incredible songs. The competition required one upbeat and one ballad performance with one song from pre-1970 and one contemporary/pop song. After a close battle, Emma Davies emerged victorious! She's now on to the regional District 7120 competition with the chance to win scholarships and cash prizes. Thank you to Rotarian Karen Vanderbilt for organizing tonight's competition which was a rousing success. Let's also congratulate all three competitors and wish Emma the best of luck as she represents Avon Rotary in future competitions!

To see a recording of tonight's competition, check out our previous post that includes a Facebook live from tonight's meeting.

**Competition organizer: Karen Vanderbilt with our winner, Emma Davies.**



## A NOTE FROM OUR BLOOD DRIVE CHAMPION

Hello,

A number of Rotarians have asked me about the results of our blood drive on December 5th. I finally received results on Friday. Although it was not our best, it was still very worthwhile.

We had 20 appointments but 5 were no shows and a few collections were rejected. So, with the help of 5 double-reds, 17 units of blood were collected.

**Our next drive, number 18, is scheduled for March 26 from 12:30 until 5:30 at the Inn.**

Many thanks, Rotarian Karl



**American  
Red Cross**

## GLOBAL GRANT PROGRAMS



**January 23:**

Rich D'Asis, Rochester Rotary

Launching Global grant "WASH"

At two of our recent meetings, members in attendance enjoyed very informative programs about global grant projects occurring in our district. Rotarians Rich and Ray explained the power of the foundation and the impact these projects will have on the lives of people in African communities.



**January 30:**

Corning Rotarian Ray Defendorf

SOYODI Global Grant

## T'S ON GENESEE

**January 27:** A Note of thanks.

We had an amazing visit tonight from the Rotary International Youth Exchange! After providing them with a couple sub trays for lunch they came back for those amazing desserts.

Rotary International helps facilitate year-long exchange programs for students in New York State, and all throughout the world. Today their group was composed of roughly 10 inbound students (students coming into the U.S. for the school year from all over the world, Sweden, Denmark, Mexico, Japan etc. and then roughly 15 outbound students, students from upstate New York who will soon leave to go live an entire year abroad. Ed Kime is a Rotarian who tirelessly helps the exchange students every single year!!

Thank you Ed for thinking of us for your lunch and bringing this wonderful group of kids in tonight!

Katie Moran & Josh Trubia, Owners of T's on Genesee



## FOUNDATION MOMENT



At our January 23 meeting several Rotarians were presented with their Paul Harris Fellow plus pins for their continued giving to the Rotary Foundation. Congratulations to each of them for their achievements!

Julie Carney +5

Paul Warren +1

Tom Vonglis +5

David Henehan +4

Rob Lupislla +1

## An article in honor of Black History Month *Submitted by Cat Jensen*

### A Brief Reflection of A Gutsy Woman & Civil Rights Activist: Claudette Colvin

Civil Rights in Montgomery, Alabama took a giant leap forward in 1955. Fifteen-year old Claudette Colvin refused to give up her bus seat to a white woman. Breaking the law of the time Colvin was arrested, handcuffed, and forcibly removed from the city bus. These series of events took place at least nine months before the famous Rosa Parks incident sparking the Montgomery bus boycott.

This gutsy young lady paid her bus fare and sat in the prescribed "colored only" section of the Montgomery City bus. The bus was crowded that day when Colvin was told to vacate her seat for a young white woman who just got on. Colvin, apparently exasperated with the unfair order refused to move. She shouted repeatedly that her constitutional rights had been violated. The bus was stopped until the police arrived, taking the fifteen-year old off to jail. Ms. Colvin said she was very lucky not to be brutalized on her way to jail that day.

Some sixty-six years later, Claudette petitioned the District Court to expunge her juvenile arrest record. Now in her 80's, Claudette received the news of her request being approved by a young black man who happened to be the sitting judge for her case. Claudette was vindicated at last.

Claudette recalled, " History kept me stuck in my seat. I felt the hand of Harriet Tubman pushing down on one shoulder and the hand of Sojourner Truth pushing down on the other."

References: [Hoose, Phillip](#). 2009. Claudette Colvin: Twice Toward Justice.

## Rambling On Rotary—February



By: Bruce Amey

On January 15th we recognized Martin Luther King Jr. Day; he was born on that date in 1929. February is Rotary's Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution Month. As I was reflecting on Dr. King and being a Rotarian, I realized I too Have a Dream. It is likely not as profound as Dr. King's "dream", but I dream of a world free of

polio in large part due to the work of Rotarians. Given the wars in Ukraine and Israel (and I am certain many other conflicts around the world), I dream of a world and our country that are at peace and able to resolve conflicts.

Within our country and the politics of today, we are a country divided. From Dr. King's speech of August 1963 on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial before thousands of citizens, he said, "In a sense we have come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. ... Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check, a check which has come back marked "insufficient funds." But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. So we have come to cash this check -- a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice." Whereas Dr. King was speaking mainly to African Americans, I suggest the same check is due to ALL citizens, regardless of their color, religion, or nationality and, as Rotarians, we should be actively striving for peace in all things and working for conflict prevention and resolution.

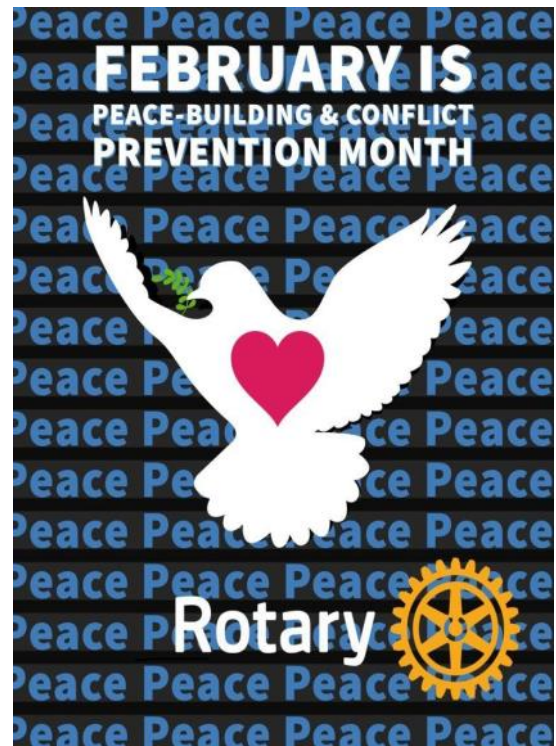
My dream is not only for an end to polio, but for water, sanitation and hygiene for all. From the RI's Areas of Focus Policy statement, "Rotary supports activities that encourage the management and protection of freshwater resources and provide universal and equitable access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene. The Rotary Foundation seeks to empower governments, institutions, and communities to manage their water, sanitation, and hygiene services through environmentally sound, measurable, and sustainable interventions." I have a dream.

My dream includes participating with other Rotarians in "activities and training to improve maternal health and reduce mortality for children under five. Projects strengthen the health care system by improving access to and expanding medical services, providing medical equipment, and training health care personnel." I have a dream that there will be preventions and cures for all diseases ravaging peoples of the world.

Given my background in public education, I am sure it is no surprise to any of you, that I support Rotary's area of focus in basic education and literacy, "Rotary supports activities and training to improve education for all children, and literacy for children and adults" which is one reason why I applaud the work being done by Linking Hands For Learning, especially with their upcoming mission trips. I also applaud the work done every day in our own community by the teachers, administrators, and volunteer support personnel in our school systems. I have a dream when all children will be able learn and pursue their life's ambitions. Education is the real equalizer in opportunity within our society; I have a dream.

Dr. King continued, "From every mountainside, let freedom ring. And when this happens, when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last! free at last! thank God Almighty, we are free at last!" Let us strive to support this mission within our community, within our country, and within this world.

I have a dream! I encourage each of you to dream with me. And, as usual, I have rambled on long enough.



## ROTARY INTERNATIONAL THEME 24-25



**Stephanie A. Urchick, a member of the #Rotary Club of McMurray, Pennsylvania, USA, will be our Rotary International President for 2024-25 and the new theme is “The Magic of Rotary”.**

RI President-elect Stephanie Urchick celebrates the magic of Rotary. She says members create that magic with every project completed, every dollar donated, and every new member of Rotary.

Every club is different. There’s not a cookbook that we can give to clubs and say, “Do this and you’re going to be fine.” Every club develops its own culture. Country to country, Rotary is done differently. You can have Rotary clubs in the same district that are very different. We need every club to take a moment, do an assessment, and look at

the four priorities of the Action Plan. Then they must ask themselves, Is there something we can do a little differently, or are we already doing the best we can in this or that category? If you’re already irresistible, then stay that way. But we have to attract people to our existing clubs, and we have to start new clubs. That’s the way to grow Rotary and to have a future.

It’s simply The Magic of Rotary. People can put any verb they want in front of it. Believe in the magic of Rotary. Spread the magic of Rotary. Build on the magic of Rotary. Celebrate the magic of Rotary. There are all kinds of words that we can use. How much magic will you be creating in the next Rotary year?



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

*—Aesop*



**READY FOR A CHANGE?  
ATTEND A MEETING,  
COLLABORATE AND  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

# In the Spotlight

Cheers to our very own Ed Kime for once again facilitating the 'annual' Youth Exchange overnight. The inbound and outbound exchange students enjoyed a variety of fun activities, such as ice skating and laser tag, and an overnight at the Village Hall.

Many thanks to Ed and those that volunteered to help! Your passion and dedication to the youth is admirable.

Want to help? Join the crew for the March 2 Casino Night at the Village Hall where Rotaract, Exchange & Interact members will get together for a fun evening of entertainment. Contact Ed Kime for more information.



## *Avon Rotary Sweethearts Dinner*

***Please join us at the Avon Inn***

***~Sweethearts Welcome~***

***Tuesday, February 13, 2024***

***5:00 Cocktail Hour: Cash Bar ~ 6:30 Buffet Dinner: \$27 pp***

***7:15 Interact Dessert Auction ~ 7:45 Know Your Spouse Game***

### **Menu Includes:**

Fresh Dinner Salad      Rolls and Butter  
Chicken Cacciatore      Roast Pork & Gravy  
Roasted Garlic Mashed Potatoes      Roasted Carrots  
Pasta with House Tomato Sauce  
Assorted Cookies, Cannoli's and Cream Puffs

**RSVP to [lvonglis@hurritech.com](mailto:lvonglis@hurritech.com)**

**Deadline is 2/7**



# LINKING HANDS FOR LEARNING

**January 29, 2024**

In the early hours of Monday, January 29th, 16 Rotarians, Friends & Family members began their quest to the country of Nicaragua to begin another school build, making it the 13th (I think), in the remote communities near El Sauce, Nicaragua. Led by Rob & Jeanine Lupisella, these volunteers will spend 12 days living with local host families, emersed in the culture and traveling 45 minutes to and from the work site each day in the back of a large pick up truck. There will be a couple of days set aside to explore the village of El Sauce, visit the remote village of Ocotal high up in the mountains outside of El Sauce and unwind on the last day at a beautiful lagoon.

This year, the community of El Borbollon will be the site of the new school building. Last week, workers broke ground in anticipation of the Linking Hands for Learning group's arrival.

The experience is a mixture of very rewarding hard labor, and beautiful moments working side by side with local school children and families. This mission is a hand up, not a hand out. The communities are all in, helping our volunteers each day. It's hard to explain but the satisfaction at the end of the day is life changing.

I look forward to hearing all about this adventure when everyone returns home.

Yours In Rotary Service,

Laurie Vonglis, wife, mother and sister of 5 of these volunteers.



Pictured Standing Left to Right: Peter Vonglis, Diane Vonglis-Parnell, TJ Vonglis, Jeanine & Rob Lupisella, Helen Zamboni, Jack Zamboni, Terri & Vicki James, Rich deAsis, Charlene Masten, Heather Ayers, Adam Aloï, Jake Ayers, Kneeling: Tom Vonglis, Ashley Vonglis



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**HELP WANTED**

ARE YOU interested in helping the club raise funds?  
 ARE YOU ready to become a leader?  
 WE HAVE a position for you...

- ⇒ Corn Fest Chair
- ⇒ Corn Fest Guide Book Chair
- ⇒ Red Wings Games Co-Chair

Take your pick!  
 CONTACT Mike Ford  
 For more information

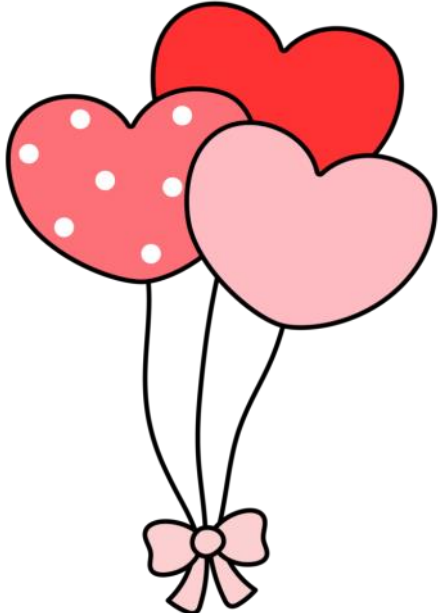
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GET YOUR VOLUNTEER ON...CORN  
 FESTIVAL WORK BEGINS SOON.  
 JOIN THE COMMITTEE!



**KINDNESS IS FREE  
 SPRINKLE THAT STUFF  
 EVERYWHERE**

Rotary 

*ADVANCE*



**END  
POLIO  
NOW**

### 2023 Wild Polio Case Counts as of January 31, 2024

<u>Country</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>Date of last case</u>
Afghanistan	4	2	6	Sept 2023
Malawi	1	0	0	Nov 2021
Mozambique	0	8	0	November 2022
Pakistan	1	20	6	Oct 2023
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>12</b>	



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

**THERE IS  
NO CHANGE  
WHERE THERE  
IS NO ACTION**

**Rotary**



©ROTARYINTERNATIONAL

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES...**

- ◆ Assist at a weekly meeting as a greeter or 50/50 sales.
- ◆ Look for community service projects and join a team to help.
- ◆ Join a club committee
- ◆ Organize an in-meeting service project
- ◆ Plan a meeting program

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

Please contact the club  
Sunshine Liaison

***Barbara Herman***  
**226-6735**



### **Avon Food Pantry**

⇒ Grocery items needed in February:

**Cereal, Oatmeal, Syrup,  
Cake Mix, Brownie Mix,  
Spaghetti Sauce**

⇒ Collection will be February 20.

⇒ Place in the bin at our meeting.

