

# Crystal Cogs



Weekly Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Corning NY

Chartered 1921 District 7120 CorningNYRotary.org

President: Ted Goldwyn  
President-Elect: Wendy Winnett  
Secretary: Scott Bloor  
Treasurer: Wendy Daines  
Past-President: Bill Boland  
District Governor: Don Milton

**Thursday 12:10 p.m.**  
**Vol. 89 No 29**

**Radisson**  
**103 Members**

## NEXT WEEK

**Jan 25, 2018** **Juli Lathrop**  
Executive Director, The Kramer Foundation--  
Introduced by John Sirianni

## IN THE WINGS

**Feb 1, 2018** **Ground Hog Day**  
**Pancake Supper**  
The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Pancake Supper will take place at the American Legion Hall in South Corning from 4 to 7 pm. This is our singular club fundraiser. Please buy and sell tickets.

**Feb 8, 2018** **Doug Cornfield,**  
**The Dave Clark Foundation**  
New Children's Book: "A Pound of Kindness"  
- Introduced by Ted Goldwyn

**Feb 15, 2018** **Mayor Bill Boland**  
Space Program

## THIS WEEK

The Club met for lunch in the Keuka/Seneca Room at the Corning Radisson. President **Ted Goldwyn** presided, with the help of **Scott Bloor**. **Jim Hudson** was in his usual place at the piano; **David Kartzman** was the greeter; and the meeting opened with a chorus of "My Country, 'Tis of Thee." The Invocation was given by **John Sands**.

## MEMBERS AND GUESTS

After lunch, which was served with its usual efficiency and good humor by the Radisson staff, **Ted** called on **David** to introduce our guests and visiting Rotarians.



**John Sands** introduced his bride Eileen and **David Rowe** introduced his guest Joe Pavlik.

## MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

The first announcement was given by **Paul Tick** who encouraged everyone to participate in the Super Bowl Challenge. The cost is \$10 per entry. The winner will receive an Amazon Echo. At this point **Paula Smith's** phone went off and it cost her a \$2 fine. After recovering from the

fine, **Paula** did her best Vanna White impersonation displaying the Echo.



**Pauline Emery** used her time to once again plug the International Dinner which will take place at the Radisson on Saturday evening March 3<sup>rd</sup>. She announced that she has raffle tickets to sell and then turned her portion of the meeting over to **David Rowe**.



**David** encouraged everyone to participate in donating auction items for the dinner. Although he will not be here, his friend Joe Pavlik will be here every week as his guest and will collect the auction items. **President Ted** then asked **David** to tell us how things were progressing with his wife's

cancer. **David** related that it was wonderful to be here and that his wife, Joan, still has a long ways to go, but is so much better. He thanked everyone for their thoughts and concern these past months.



The final announcement was given by **Buddy Cutler** who once again encouraged everyone to get involved with the Groundhog Day Pancake Supper scheduled for Thursday, Feb 1<sup>st</sup> from 4-7 pm at the American Legion Hall in South Corning. He even brought along the Groundhog costume the head of which was modeled by **Scott Bloor**.



**Buddy** encouraged people to sell extra tickets and participate in the 50/50 drawing. Once again, he reminded us that this is the only general Club fundraiser of the year.

### Yuka's TIME

Yuka spent a good deal of her time discussing the cold weather, but that is what most of us have been doing. She has moved in with her second host family, and although she was sad to leave her first family she is looking forward to new experiences with her new host family.



Yuka was supposed to go skiing last Friday, but the weather was too warm; hopefully this week will be better. She also commented on going to the movies and seeing *The Greatest Showman*, which she thoroughly enjoyed.

### PRESIDENT'S TIME

**President Ted** had two announcements from District Governor Don Milton. The first was a welcome to the 71<sup>st</sup> Rotary Club in our district. The Rotary Club of Rochester Southwest was recently chartered. **President Ted** also noted that the District Governor was encouraging everyone to make plans to attend the district conference, to be held May 4-6 in Saratoga Springs. For more information check out the District website

For his final act of the day, **President Ted** fined everyone not sitting at the front two tables \$1, because the front tables were empty.

### PROGRAM

**President Ted** then turned over the meeting to **Wendy Winnett** to introduce our speaker, Karen Epstein. Karen has been Executive Director of Watson Homestead since July 7<sup>th</sup> of 2014. She was an educator in her previous life, spending over 30 years in various positions at Georgetown Day High School in Washington D.C. Among her goals at Watson Homestead she hopes to maintain the high morale of the staff and widen the revenue stream for the conference center.

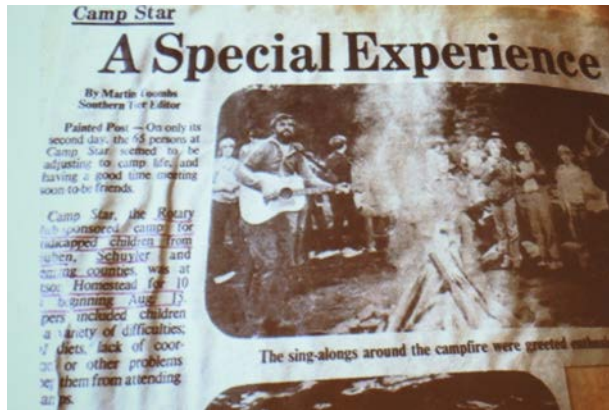


Karen explained that the center was the boyhood home of Thomas Watson, the founder of IBM and that it opened originally as a retreat center run by the Methodist Church. She noted that the center can house over 300 people in the cabins, the retreat center and the dorm rooms.

The Center has 4 hiking trails, including one that actually links to the Finger Lakes trail system.



Two of the major efforts every year at the center are Camp Courage and Camp STAR. Camp Courage is a four day adventure camp for young burn victims. Camp STAR is the Rotary-sponsored camp for children with disabilities. The slide Karen showed of the first year of Camp STAR at Watson Homestead included our own **Ray Defendorf**.



But since the photo showed **Ray** with dark hair no one recognized him except **Ray**!

Karen also showed photos of the pool area and the chair lift that was purchased by funds provided by Rotary. She also showed pictures of the climbing wall which has been scaled by climbers as young as 3 years old and as old as 86, as well as a climber who was virtually blind.

The dining hall is capable of serving large and small groups as well as wedding receptions. The food service is run by Corning Catering.

Among the groups that use the facility are a New York State quilters group, a Native American group, the Finger Lakes Farmer's Market, which features 60-80 vendors, as

well as the YMCA which brings campers to the center daily during the summer.

Karen also highlighted the Red Schoolhouse, a one-room school house that Thomas Watson attended as a boy. It is now on the National Register of Historic Places.

Among her goals for the future, Karen listed:

- Making the center environmentally friendly
- Refresh the Retreat Center
- Add new event space
- Remodel the cabin area
- Modernize the heating system
- Rehab the pool and the pool house

Karen finished her presentation with a photo of the **Mike Platt** Water Towers. The old tower was outside and could be a problem in cold weather. Due to Mike's work there are now three enclosed tanks. They can work together or separately, if necessary.



A lively Q&A period concluded the presentation.

**50/50: Sam Sanfratello's** table won the \$9 weekly prize.

**Photos: Dick Perry**

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