

Crystal Cogs



Weekly Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Corning NY

Chartered 1921 District 7120 CorningNYRotary.org

President: Bill Boland
President-Elect: Ted Goldwyn
Vice-President: Brian Klotz
Secretary: Scott Bloor
Treasurer: Wendy Daines
Past-President: Buddy Cutler
District Governor: Tom Rogers

Thursday 12:10 p.m. Radisson Hotel Corning
Vol. 88 No 48 103 Members

NEXT WEEK

Rick Davis June 8, 2017
Certified Business Consultant & Home Inventory Professional

IN THE WINGS

Susan Evans June 15, 2017
Rotarian and Ovarian Cancer Survivor

Lucas and Holly June 22, 2017
Exchange Student Presentations

Changeover Dinner June 29, 2017
Evening event at the Radisson Hotel Corning

THIS WEEK

Rotarians met for lunch and fellowship in the Carder Room of the Radisson Hotel Corning. **Kelly Copp** greeted Rotarians and guests at the door as **Jim Hudson** tickled the ivories. After a patriotic My Country Tis of Thee and Pledge of Allegiance, **Dave Anderson**

offered the prayer. While we wondered where the food was, **Kelly** sold 50/50 chances, and later collected the assigned fines during President's time. **President Bill Boland** has not yet abdicated and so is still presiding over these gatherings. **Paula Smith** and **Dick Perry** captured the whole thing with a tablet and a camera to add to our club's collection of blackmail material.



GUESTS AND VISITING ROTARIANS
Kelly invited Rotarians to introduce their guests. **Dick Pope** introduced the father of today's speaker, Rob Sweet who owns the local State Farm agency, but reserved the right to introduce Brad until the program portion of the meeting. **Bob Cole Esq.** introduced Brandy Graham, a financial analyst.

MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS
President Bill kicked off member announcements by welcoming back **Ted Marks**. He also shared a couple of sad notes – both **Andy Taylor's** and **Captain Wanda Rivera's** mothers passed away. Cards were passed among members to sign and **President Bill** asked we keep these members in our thoughts and prayers as they transition through this difficult time.

Stu Sammis made a couple announcements re: the Community Garden Project. Habitat for Humanity and Corning Rotary will gather 10 AM Saturday, June 3 at 119 Beartown Road, where we will be picking up several hundred pavers and stacking them on pallets. They'll be delivered to the Community Garden at Town Hall. **Ted Marks** interjected, "Why the #e!! would you



pave a garden?" – a remark to which **President Bill** reiterated how good it was to have **Ted** back.

Ignoring the peanut gallery, **Stu** went on to announce the Community Garden would be dedicated to **Kate Danforth** 1:30 PM Saturday, June 10 at the Town Hall, making it the **Kate Danforth** Community Garden. **Pastor Jeff Ugoretz** will be giving the invocation, **Ernie** and **Stu** will make some remarks.

Stu also shared that 11 phenomenal students from C-PP HS came to the Community Garden Wednesday, May 31 and built a huge compost pile container, strawberry bins and a potato bin that will probably produce more than 100 pounds of potatoes!



John Sirianni reported WENY interviewed his son, who brought his dog with him from Rochester, re: one of the important services the Kramer Foundation (an organization which fosters, rehabilitates and rehomes abandoned and uncared-for dogs) provides by taking in Veterans' dogs while their owners receive needed treatments. The interview aired on the evening news Wednesday May 31.

He also reminded Rotarians that he has \$10 raffle tickets for the Kramer Foundation fundraiser coming up on Tuesday, June 13. Prizes include a 52" smart TV, the newest version of the iPad, the newest version of the Apple Watch, a Ft Bit, and \$50 cash. An anonymous donor has also stepped up and pledged a matching gift of up to \$50,000 for the funds raised at the event on June 13!



Dick Pope updated Rotarians on the Scripps National Spelling Bee. The 4th round aired on ESPN this morning. The final round will air tonight (June 1) at 8:30 on ESPN. The Bee started out with 11 million students, 291 made it to the finals, the semi-finals reduced that number to about 40, and tonight there will be about 12. **Dick** encouraged Rotarians to tune in for the exciting conclusion!

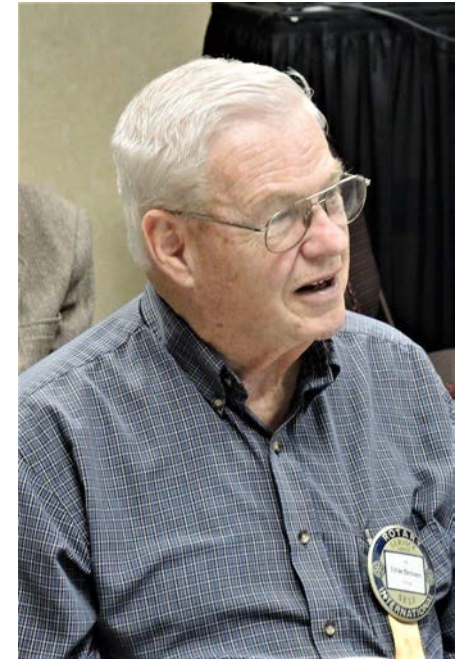
John Brown announced each year the United Church of Christ on Pulteney offers a free concert to the public. This year will be 4 PM Sunday, June 11. The Women's Chorale of Corning will be performing.

PRESIDENT'S TIME

President Bill kicked off his time by fining himself \$5 for forgetting to honor the Birthday Table and asked **Jim** to play the Happy Birthday Song. After regaling June-birthday Rotarians with the birthday song, **Bill** asked how many people at the table actually have a birthday in June? Two Rotarians at the table were there for the right reason – **Jim Hudson** and **Mayor Rich Negri**. The others were fined \$2.

President Bill caught **Rick Davis** in an act of treachery! **Rick** had been sitting at the birthday table and had moved to escape being fined! **Rick** was fined \$2 for his deceit and **President Bill** demanded an additional \$3 for not having paid his fine last week! In his own defense, **Rick** explained he wasn't here in April and so was celebrating his birthday now. **President Bill** wasn't buying it, but welcomed **Rick** back regardless.

Ray Defendorf noted another point of celebration: Fr. Lew Brown would be celebrating his 50th anniversary of ordination this weekend! Congratulations Fr. Lew!



Today's meeting was another "Know Your Rotarian" day, answering the question, "If money were no object, what would you do with the rest of your days?" **President Bill's** first victim was **Bob Cole Esq.**, noting we haven't seen him in some time.

Bob explained he and Marie moved to Sarasota, Fla., where he said they spend most of their time, if Andrew Cuomo is listening, for tax purposes. They are planning to join a Rotary Club there, and are currently searching from among four options. They plan to return to visit in the summer, and invited any Rotarians traveling to Sarasota to stop on by.

Bob was sitting next to **Dick Puccio**. **Dick** purportedly told **Bob**, since about half of the children in our school districts are on partial pay or free lunch programs and there is this thing now called lunch shaming, he would spend his time collecting funds, perhaps through the Rotary Club, to help kids who can't pay for their lunch avoid being shamed. Bob's fine was \$2 for the story and an extra \$3 just for being here.

Dick Puccio then felt the need to be honest and explain that this noble cause was in fact **Bob's**, not his. In an attempt to clarify what had happened, President **Bill** asked **Dick** whether he had told Bob anything? **Dick** said that he had, and left it at that. **President Bill** dictated someone has to pay here so to get the story straight. To avoid answering the question, **Dick** offered to pay for his friend **Bob**, and **Bob** offered to pay for his friend **Dick**, so it was \$5 all around.

Gail Hostuttler was **Bill's** next victim. **Gail** sat next to **Ted Goldwyn**, who would like a home on the Mediterranean with beautiful views. Since it wasn't very noble, Gail had to pay \$2.

The next victim was **Ross Perry**. **Ross** sat next to **Jeff Ugoretz**, who would like to travel to Israel to enrich his ministry. \$2

Sam Sanfrantello was sitting next to **Paul Tick**, who would like to write a famous novel. He has almost completed one entitled *Letters* and would like to see it published. \$2



Phylis Jensen, self-proclaimed club target, was next. **Buddy Cutler** would love to spend time on the lake and teach young children to water ski.

John Sirianni learned **Wendy Daines** would like to live someplace where the weather is far nicer than it is here all the time, so she's thinking of moving in with **Ted Goldwyn** in his Mediterranean house!

Ernie Danforth shared if money were no object, his tablemate Lucas Vasconcellos would spend the rest of his life travelling with **President Bill** in a car cross country!

LUCAS' TIME

Monday was a special day for everybody because it was Lucas' birthday. He and his host family went to the cottage at Keuka Lake Friday night. Saturday he went sailing and swimming with his host brothers.

Sunday, a lot of people came to the cottage, including his 2nd host family and a lot of friends, in order to celebrate Lucas' birthday. Lucas shared with us that he ate a lot of cakes – there was more than one cake and he ate 5 pieces.

Wednesday he ate with his 1st host family at Tanino's, an Italian restaurant, because he's Brazilian, which made perfect sense. Lucas had with him a thick book we learned was his yearbook, which he got today.



Tomorrow he's not going to school because he'll be attending a reunion with Rotary Youth Exchange students. They'll be meeting at Watkins Glen, and they'll be walking Market Street, visiting CMOG, the Rockwell Museum, and Seneca Lake, and basically doing things Lucas hasn't done a hundred times already.

THE PROGRAM

Dick Pope introduced our speaker, Brad Sweet. Many Rotarians know Brad since, as an Interact student, he often attends our meetings.



What you may not know about Brad is that he is spending his senior year as a full-time student at Corning Community College, where he'll continue on for another year before transferring to a four-year school.

He has won the Everyday Hero Award through the First Heritage Federal Credit Union. He just completed his Eagle Scout at Spencer Crest. He's gone to RYLA and RIT. He's applied for a Rotary scholarship. He is president of his Boy Scout Troop Venture Crew and Vice President of Interact.

Brad works as the manager at the Glass Menagerie. He also details cars, does landscaping, sells electronics, collects coins, and plays hockey and rugby.

Brad talked to us about the Sister Cities program, which every year takes group of students to San Giovanni Valdarno, Italy.

You really had to pay attention to Brad's presentation this week if you wanted to see it! Our typical AV problems plagued poor Brad even worse than usual. The slide show flashed on and off during the whole presentation despite several Rotarian and Radisson staff attempts to rectify the situation.



One Rotarian, who shall remain nameless, commented that it made it more fun – kind of like a peep show!

What this humble writer was able to gather in between flashing screens was a trip of a lifetime!

From San Giovanni Valdarno, he travelled to Bucine, which is 15 minutes from Florence by train. He elaborated on Market Day, when you go to an open air market, where you can get food, clothes, and basically everything you need to live.

Next he travelled to Arezzo. There he saw a castle tower built in 1479. In Medieval times the aforementioned towns warred for power, destroying the castle in the process, but the towers are still standing.

Then he traversed to Cortona, of *Under the Tuscan Sun* movie fame. He saw San Francesco Celletta, which is the prison cell where St. Francis of Assisi spent his last days.



He also journeyed to the sinking city of Venice, where he rode in a gondola and saw the archway from *The Italian Job* movie where they scuba dove underneath the buildings.

Next it was off to the Tuscany region.

During his travels he met the Mayor of Florence and the Mayor of San Giovanni. He said he would definitely like to go back.



50/50: The sure prize was \$11 and the Gand Prize remains safe at \$183!