

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, March 8, 2018 12:10 p.m.
Radisson Keuka/Seneca Room
Vol. 89 No 36 104 Members

NEXT WEEK

March 15, 2018 Garrett Hoover
Corning Hospital, Past and Present

IN THE WINGS

March 22, 2018
St. Patrick's Day Program

THIS WEEK

Greeter for the day was **Samantha Roman**.
Music was supplied by **Jim Hudson** on piano. The meeting opened with members singing *My Country 'tis of Thee* and then giving the Pledge of Allegiance.



Kelly Copp gave an inspiring invocation.



Gil Sweet was the day's photographer. Members then enjoyed a tasty meal of ham and potatoes or quinoa and chicken salad.

OUTREACH

Cards were sent around for members to sign to the family of Don Avery, former member, offering condolences on Don's passing. Also cards were being sent to Cynthia Long, Stu Sammis and John Pignatore. Get well soon!



President Ted Goldwyn welcomed **Elijah Baity** back to the fold after his long absence.



Our greeter, **Samantha**, then had **Sam Sanfratello** introduce his guest, **Audrey**.

YUKA TIME

This week **Yuka** enjoyed an overload of international experiences. During the day on Saturday a World Expo was held at the high school. Yuka represented Japan by sitting at an information table. While there, she saw Irish Dancers for the first time and also, a piñata. Then in the evening, Yuka attended the Rotary International Dinner with her host family. She loved the different food and the Indian dancers that were part of the entertainment.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pauline Emery thanked everyone who had anything at all to do with the International Dinner: donors, attendees and especially the committee volunteers who put so much time and effort into making this



year's event so successful. Totals of the proceeds will be announced in the next few weeks.

Dick Perry asked that anyone who took pictures during the International Dinner to please send him copies at rperry2669@gmail.com



Paul Tick promoted the upcoming March Madness fundraiser. Proceeds will benefit the Rotary Foundation. Info will be coming soon, most likely by email.



FINE TIME

First victim of the day was **Ted Marks**. Crowing about his establishment being named the Best Winery Restaurant in New York State, Ted was slammed with a \$5 fine.



Next target? **Al Lewis**. Even though Al thought he could flatter his way out of the fine, it was not to be. Ted fined Al \$11 but Al offered \$20. Now that's a good sport!



Ted then called on **Mary Hickey**, demanding to know where she has been, letting her know that it was good to see her again and thanking her for her help with the International Dinner. Throwing out the bait, Ted asked her what was happening at Watson Homestead these days. And Mary bit, describing various upcoming events and activities. Ted reeled her in, fining her a \$5 paid announcement fee!



SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Sam and **Audrey Sanfratello** made a special presentation to **Dave Anderson** to recognize his great banjo playing skills. Said Dave at some prior time, "Anyone can learn to play the banjo!"



Really, Dave? Well, this certainly proves it!



Ernie Danforth reported that there are 62 spellers for the March 17th Spelling Bee. He could use a couple more volunteers to pitch in that day, starting at 8:30 AM at the Corning Middle School.

If interested, let Ernie know by emailing him at danforth_e@corning-cc.edu.



Ted promoted the 7120 District Conference coming up in May, drumming up attendees. Several of our club will be going but everyone should experience district conference. Look for registration materials in your email.

The Program

Dick Pope introduced our speaker for the day, **Keith Shugerts**, Director of Hotel Development for Essex Hotel Management. He updated the club on the progress of the Hilton Garden Inn.



The Fitzpatrick family are the actual developers of this project. In the planning stages since 2012 to meet the Hilton version 8 standards, actual construction began in 2014. With long delays due to state investigations into the property, plans were updated and changed to reflect the Hilton version 9 standards.

The new building is located on Riverside Drive in Corning, within walking distance to the Corning Museum of Glass.

The first step was to demolish the old Days Inn. This was warranted due to the Days Inn being outdated and in serious need of overhaul to bring it up to today's standards. In the long run, it was cheaper to tear the old motel down and rebuild as opposed to refurbishing the old building.

The new Hilton Garden Inn will feature 125 guest rooms, a full service kitchen and restaurant, a bar, swimming pool, exercise room, a large meeting room to hold 125-150 people and a

board room that will serve up to 30 people. Parking can be had in a lot behind the building as well as across the street.

Initially occupancy is expected to be in the 60-70% range. Various special events in the area will increase that rate, such as the races at Watkins Glen and Glass Fest.

Questions were asked about how the construction that had been completed has survived the delays caused by the state investigations. Keith explained how the foundation was backfilled to prevent damage to the concrete. He also mentioned the building used insulated core foam as one of the building materials, ensuring an energy efficiency.

It is anticipated that the Hilton Garden Inn will open in mid-June of this year.



50/50 was won by Ernie's table for \$11. Grand prize now stands at \$502 and is still out there waiting for someone to pull that lucky card!

JLH

