



President Lizzy Martin

Wow Rotarians. A lot has changed since our last newsletter! Our world has been turned upside down in an effort to slow the spread of the coronavirus. Many of you are having to find all new ways to do work, school and many of life's basic activities like grocery shopping, while practicing social distancing and trying to prevent bringing home germs. I know that some of us are able to tough through it knowing that it's temporary, but for those that are really hurting financially, really feeling the loneliness of isolation or more directly impacted by the disease, it can get to be unbearable. My almost-daily messages are an effort to remind everyone that your Rotary family is here for you. If you need help getting groceries, picking up a prescription or just sharing your worries, you have friends in Rotary that can be there to support you. Reaching out for the first time is the hardest part, but I can almost guarantee that whoever you call on will

be just as relieved to hear from someone too. I've enjoyed speaking with some members, and Scott and I even spend more time calling our families too. It is also another reason to attend a virtual meeting this month. Hearing cheerful voices, happy to just be "with" one another, and sharing our blessings and challenges in place of "Happy Dollars," is a very uplifting way to spend an hour of your day. Look for more on our virtual meetings and what the future holds in on the last page of this newsletter. I also can't end this note without a special thank you to all the Rotarians who are helping to keep our most vital projects going - the Backpack Program and the bread deliveries. The community has come together to help us, we are getting a lot of visibility and, most importantly, we are making a difference for hundreds of families in our community. You should all be very proud to be a Rotarian right now! Please stay home, seek joy and be well friends!

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CLUB IN A PUB *goes virtual!*

Toast to connecting online
two Tuesdays this month:

APRIL 14 & 28

starting at 7pm



Links to the meeting will be emailed out the day of the meeting. Grab a coffee, cocoa or cocktail and join the meeting to catch up with Rotary friends!

STAYING BUSY IN ISOLATION

We've all been essentially quarantined for a few weeks now, so we asked club members to show us how they are keeping busy. Here are some snaps of what everyone is up to! Send more to Lizzy for the next edition.



Jenny and Paul are keeping busy reading and coloring on their tablets.



Meg is holding down the fort at the library, with a lot of returned books to be put back where they belong!



Lizzy & Scott spent 7 non-stop hours on this 1,000 piece puzzle, finishing around 4am and realizing maybe puzzles are not for them!



Marianne is also working on a puzzle (but taking her time, like you are supposed to!) and knitting something lovely with the help of one of her fur-babies!

TRIVIA WINNERS HONOR LATE ROTARIAN DICK BAKER

Our second Trivia for Charity in conjunction with WT Brews and Syracuse Trivia Company was a HUGE success. During the 10 week contest, 10 or more teams with between 4 and 7 members per team participated on a weekly basis. With the addition of the Rotary Bonus Question, we were able to encourage teams to check out The Rotarian and learn more about our club. Some of the fun team names included "On a Mission to Win" "Absinthe Minded" "We Prefer Second Place" "Ladies Night" "Rancho Bizzaro" and "Orange Mocha Frappuccinos". Our club team "Anonymous Donors" placed second overall with a total of 6029 points. The winning team, Murphy's Law bested us by 201 points. Their charity of choice was The Gary Sinise Foundation that serves and honors veterans and their families. Our club will be donating \$1000 to the foundation on behalf of the winning team. One special surprise was the winning team had a special connection to our own Dick baker and dedicated their donation in his honor.



HUNDREDS OF BACKPACKS NOW GOING OUT WEEKLY

Since schools closed for our stay-at-home orders, the need to help families feed children has increased. Luckily, our club has been able to partner with the school district to expand our existing Backpack Program to serve all children receiving free or reduced lunches. Those families are still getting meals while schools are closed, with pick ups three times per week. At their Friday pick up, they also receive our bag with breakfast and snack items to help them through the weekend. Thanks to donations from the community (financial and food), a spending budget approved by the club board and a handful of hardworking volunteers, this mega expansion of the Backpack Program has been pretty smooth. Local community members and churches have taken up food collections for our program (and others), then Amber and Lizzy make purchases to fill in the gaps. Mary leads the crew that sorts donations and fills the individual bags, as well as delivers hundreds of bags to the two schools where families pick up each Friday. All of our members should be proud that we have found ways to maintain social distancing while serving HUNDREDS of families locally. The hope is that exposure to our program now will mean more students signing up in the next school year as well.

Top photo: President Lizzy's car, full after a recent trip to BJ's to replenish our food stock for the Backpack Program.

Bottom Photo: Volunteers keep their distance while preparing donations to be packed into 200+ bags for local students.



PANTRY PICK-UPS CONTINUE

Please put your hands together to thank Chris Walsh, wife of member Brian Walsh, for stepping up to help with pantry pick-ups during the pandemic. As a cancer survivor, it's important that Brian avoids going out in public, and we had some other volunteers for this project that are also unable to help due to the need to isolate themselves. Brian still does the driving, but Chris is the one who gets decked out in her safety accessories to head into Tops and grab their leftover baked goods to bring back to our Baldwinsville Community Food Pantry. Thanks so much to the Walsh's for keeping up this project during the pandemic!



ANOTHER LETTER WRITING PROJECT FOR YOU

Looking for another way to send some cheer while following stay-at-home guidelines? Here's how you can send a note that will get shared with the medical staff at St. Joe's, brought to us by hospital volunteer and member Marcia Benson. All volunteers are off-duty right now, making even more work for hospital staff. A thank you note might brighten their day and, if you want to do a little extra, add a joke, a special saying, a gift card, a lottery ticket, origami, anything that will fit into the envelope. Then send your envelopes to:

Mary Hagen
Volunteer Services
St. Joseph's Health
301 Prospect Avenue
Syracuse, NY 13203

Please get in the mail in time for Mary to receive them by April 14th!

TRACKING OUR GIVING

- \$500 for a Community Calendar
- \$1,100 pre-approved for Charity of Choice
- \$100 to RI Foundation in honor of DG Randy, presented at his visit
- \$500 to Baker Model UN Club
- Approx. \$1,000 to Senior Picnic
- \$240 to sponsor shipping a pallet for Books for the World
- Approx \$1,100 towards Pride of Workmanship program
- \$500 Volunteer Center Christmas Bureau
- VFW Food Pantry amount TBD
- \$100 Rose Bowl Parade Float
- \$500 to YMCA Youth & Gov't Club
- \$500 to Vera House
- \$1,000 to Trivia for Charity
- up to \$3,000 approved for Backpack Program
- up to \$500 for Liverpool Satellite Rotary Club start up funds
- \$3,500 Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build
- \$500 The MOST's Sensory Friendly Days
- \$2,000 for four scholarships
- \$250 for Colonial Days
- \$150 for brick at Shacksboro Museum
- \$1,500 for Maureen's Hope
- \$500 to Keep The Ball Rolling After Prom Party
- \$300 for three students - Syr Sunrise Music Fest
- \$1,000 for Erin's Angels

Check here each month for an update and running tally of charitable donations and community spending that the board has recently approved!

MICHELLE MARTIN 4/1
HEIDI KORTRIGHT 4/14
SEAN BECKER 4/17
JENNIFER JOSLYN 4/22
TORI SHIRES 4/30

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

BETH & PAT CHETNEY 4/19
BARB & DEITER HUNT 4/19



STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

In one of our last few in-person meetings we were lucky enough to get to meet our March Students of the Month - Alexandra Pelletier and Nicholas Bausch. It was a great night at The Wood, with their families in attendance as well. "Alex" plays soccer, wants to study biology to get on a pre-med track and become an orthopedic doctor (photo left). "Nick" plays basketball, even starting a local team with his dad, wants to get into politics and plans to attend the University of Buffalo to study political science (photo right). All the parents were very proud and great to chat with - congrats to them all! This program is going to be on hold while we wait to see how long our isolation will last, but we will definitely honor the rest of the students that were planned for this year in some way!



HAPPY MEMBER NEWS

Congratulations to Dean and Betsy Johnson on the birth of their first grandchild, a little girl!

Aoife Claire Camardo
Born 7:34 pm on 4/2/2020
in Baltimore, MD
Weighing an even 7 pounds,
19 inches long
(It's pronounced EE-fa
and it's Gaelic!)



APRIL

Meeting Schedule

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1 - THE GOOD LIFE CNY WITH SPEAKER ANNETTE PETERS

TUESDAY, APRIL 7 AT 7PM - THINK TANK - EXODUS

Learn more about the millions who have fled Venezuela through the personal stories of three individuals. [Click here](#) to read "Exodus," from the March issue of The Rotarian Magazine.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8 AT NOON - SPEAKER TBD

TUESDAY, APRIL 14 - BOARD MEETING AT 5:30, CLUB IN PUB VIRTUAL AT 7PM

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15 AT NOON - SPEAKER CHUCK TOMASELLI WITH ESRAG

TUESDAY, APRIL 21 AT 7PM - ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22 AT NOON - ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, APRIL 28 AT 7PM - CLUB IN A PUB VIRTUAL

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29 AT NOON - SPEAKER TBD

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT VIRTUAL MEETINGS

Starting April 7, we will be switching to Zoom so everyone can see each other during the meetings.

You will receive a unique link for each meeting, emailed the day of that meeting.

Please be aware of background noise and mute your audio when you are not speaking. The only exception would be during Club in a Pub, when the meeting is strictly social and we want everyone to participate freely. Buttons for muting your audio and video are in the bottom left of the screen on Zoom.

"Happy Dollars" are now our virtual opportunity to share our blessings and challenges. It's a time to let each other know what we need, how we are finding joy and if we are struggling. Sometimes just letting it out makes you feel better, and many of us are experiencing the same feelings. Please set aside your dollars for when we come back together again!

You are welcome to invite guests, potential members, family and friends to join us in these online meetings. Many are looking for ways to connect during this time and our virtual environment is a very kind and caring place to be!

THE FUTURE OF OUR CLUB'S EVENTS

Just a few weeks ago, we had several service projects lined up and, of course, we have our biggest fundraiser coming up in June. Please read your Rotary emails for the latest news and decisions on these events as information becomes available. We will still build some beds, clean our community and race some ducks when the time is right!