



DG Dave's Corner for December

It just seemed like the other day when I was writing for the month of November. For many of us this is a very busy time of the year. The result of the work we do for the holiday seasons we receive joy and happiness being with family and friends. For most of us living in the United States, Christmas is the holiday we concentrate on. I did some research and came up with a list of the different holidays celebrated in December.

Here are some notable holidays and observances that occur in December:

1. **Hanukkah** - The Jewish Festival of Lights, which usually falls in December (dates vary each year).
2. **Christmas** - Celebrated on December 25, commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ.
3. **Kwanzaa** - Celebrated from December 26 to January 1, honoring African heritage and culture.
4. **New Year's Eve** - Celebrated on December 31, marking the last day of the year.
5. **Winter Solstice** - Occurs around December 21 or 22, marking the shortest day and longest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere.
6. **Festivus** - A secular holiday celebrated on December 23 as an alternative to Christmas.
7. **Boxing Day** - Celebrated on December 26 in some countries, particularly in the UK and Canada.
8. **St. Nicholas Day** - Celebrated on December 6 in some cultures, honoring St. Nicholas, the patron saint of children.

These holidays may vary in significance and celebration depending on cultural and regional practices.

Ann & I both were brought up Roman Catholic so we celebrate Christmas religiously and secularly. Since in Rotary we are an organization which recognizes all persons no matter what their religious or political beliefs this time of year enjoy the holiday season.

The Rotary theme for the month of December is Disease Prevention and Treatment. Rotary supports activities that reduce the causes and effects of disease. We enable members to prevent and treat disease and support people's health by promoting projects that limit the spread of communicable diseases, reduce the incidence and effect of noncommunicable diseases, and strengthen health care systems.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

We can accomplish our goals in disease prevention and treatment by:

- Improving the capacity of local health care professionals
- Promoting disease prevention and treatment programs that limit the spread of communicable diseases and reduce the incidence and effect of noncommunicable diseases
- Strengthening health care systems
- Providing clinical treatment and rehabilitation for physical disabilities
- Funding graduate scholarships for career-minded professionals related to disease prevention and treatment

As Rotarians we focus our efforts in this area working on the eradication of polio. Yet we must also focus our efforts to ourselves.

We cannot help others if we suffer, so make sure to take time to focus on both your physical and mental health in this stressful holiday season.

On November 12, Ann & I had the pleasure to dedicate a peace pole in the village of Spencerport. As many of you heard from visit to your club, I making peace one of my priorities in my Governor year. Consider planting a peace pole in your community. Peace is not just an international effort, but also within ourselves. Please reach out to a person in your life, who you no longer have a relationship with due to different circumstances, and try to reconnect. Rotarians are **People of Action** and we can make a difference in our world regarding peace.

DG Dave DeMers
Rotary District 7120
District Governor 2024-2025



DISTRICT 7120 CONFERENCE ONLY


**EARLY BIRD
DISCOUNT**

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TO REGISTER



**DISCOVER
THE MAGIC OF
ROTARY**

MAY 2-4, 2025
CORNING, NY

**\$230 EARLY BIRD CONFERENCE
REGISTRATION THRU JAN. 31, 2025**

\$255 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION THEREAFTER
[https://rotary7120.org/sitepage/district-conference-\(DC\)](https://rotary7120.org/sitepage/district-conference-(DC))

HOTEL RATES ONLY

BOOK YOUR RESERVATIONS AT *Radisson*

<https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/G9659370>

**ROOM RATE \$149
GOOD THRU
APRIL 1, 2025**

Block of Rooms Will be Released to
the Public After April 1, 2025

ANY QUESTIONS ?
districtconf2025@gmail.com

Conference Co-Chairs:
Colleen Farley (Spencerport Club)
Bridgette Stewart (Watkins Montour Club)



Help: 800-850-8500
1-800-850-8500
Rotary.org



Assistant Governor's Needed for the Following Areas

Please consider taking on the role as an Assistant Governor starting in the 2025-26 Rotary year. Please contact the AG in your area to learn more.

Area 1 – Chemung Sunrise, Corning, Elmira Heights, Elmira, Horseheads, and Watkins-Montour

Area 4 – Dansville, Geneseo, Mt. Morris, Nunda & Penn Yan

Area 5 – Lima, Bloomfield, Honeoye Falls Mendon & Honeoye Lake

Area 12 – Ontario-Walworth, Wolcott, Webster, Red Creek & Webster

Role and Responsibilities

- Serve as the District Governor's official representative among the designated Rotary clubs.
- Support club effectiveness by assisting the governor with the administration of designated clubs, including the timely submission of semi-annual reports, payment of RI and District dues, and monthly membership and attendance statistics.
- Visit each club regularly, at least quarterly, to meet with the club president and other club leaders to discuss the business of the club and resources available to them.
- Assist club leaders in planning and preparing for the governor's official visit.
- Keep the governor informed about clubs, and suggest ways to enhance Rotary development and resolve difficulties.
- Ensure appropriate financial stewardship of club funds by club leaders.
- Serve as a two-way communication link between clubs and District committees
- Promote the implementation of the Club Leadership Plan, including the Assistant Governor's club.
- Encourage clubs to implement the governor's requests and recommendations
- Share "best practices" from their designated clubs with each other, and with other Rotary clubs.
- Monitor and motivate clubs to achieve club goals relating to membership development and retention, and support for The Rotary Foundation.
- Assist clubs in researching and implementing effective community and international service projects.
- Assist clubs in completing the activities which will lead to the Presidential Citation for the club, and the submission of the certification form to the governor by 1st April each year.
- Identify and develop leaders capable of serving Rotary beyond the club level.
- Promote attendance at the District Conference and the International Convention.



Rotary
District 7120



OPPORTUNITY

To lead the Vocal Music Competition
In 2025-26!

Learn from Jack Best as he leads this
year's Competition through competitive
auditions on February 9 and 23.

Full details about the Competition on the
District website:

[https://www.rotary7120.org/50098/Page/ShowSitePage?
ClassCode=SitePage&Slug=vocal-music-competition](https://www.rotary7120.org/50098/Page/ShowSitePage?ClassCode=SitePage&Slug=vocal-music-competition)

Vocal Music Competition 2024-2025

*In concert with Eastman School of Music, Alfred University,
Roberts Wesleyan University and SUNY/Geneseo*

Interested?

Contact: Jack Best, Vocal Competition Chair

jackbest@rochester.rr.com

c/t: 585-261-0073

Dave DeMers, District Governor

demers@gmail.com

c/t: 585-764-6648

Create Your Peace Pole Project

Become a Peace Builder and plant a Peace Pole to inspire peace within and between all people

1. **Link** with a group of people in your community.
2. **Find a location** to put a Peace Pole.
3. **Get permission** to plant a Peace pole on the site.
4. **Decide what to write** on each side of the peace pole.

We strongly suggest one side say "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in English. The other three sides may say the same in other languages or be variations on the theme such as "May Peace Prevail in Our Community"

Be sure to include your Rotary Club logo on the Peace Pole.

5. **Order your Peace Pole** – see the district website for ordering options

Get the QR Code Decal to put on your Peace Pole **to link to the [world map](#).**

6. **Enjoy creating a community ceremony** to plant your Peace Pole.
7. **Invite** children, teens, adults, seniors, Rotary members, other civic groups, schools, and clergy to your Peace Pole dedication ceremony to celebrate peace with you.
8. **Invite the media** to attend to tell the story and take photos.

Peace Pole Ordering

Peace Poles can be a variety of sizes and materials. Below are a few options for obtaining a Peace Pole for your community.

A standard peace pole will have graphics on each of the four sides of an 8-foot post. The post and sleeve will be buried in the ground ~ 2 ½ ft. of post and six inches of sleeve will then be secured with concrete. Another option instead of using cement is to dig a two foot hole and put gravel in the bottom and pack the dirt back in and around it.

Option One: Order from the Local Community using a vinyl sleeve over a pressure treated wooden post
(Estimated cost: \$110)

Order a white composite vinyl post sleeve from **Lowe's (Item #1)** and have it sent to **Fuse Graphics in Spencerport** (191 S Union St. Spencerport, NY 14559, Attn: Harry Sotomayor).

Contact fusecreative@gmail.com or phone 585-509-0954 to make arrangements (provide expected delivery date, design and graphics for each side). Estimated cost for printing - \$10/side plus \$10 for the Rotary logo - \$50.

Full Materials List:

1. **Vinyl Post Sleeve (\$26.98):** <https://www.lowes.com/pd/Freedom-4-in-x-4-in-x-8-ft-White-Composite-Deck-Post-Sleeve/5015285283>
2. **Post Cap (\$4.48):** <https://www.lowes.com/pd/Freedom-Fits-Common-Post-Measurement-4-in-Actual-4-125-in-x-4-125-in-White-Vinyl-Post-Cap/4008751>
3. **Fence Post (\$16.88):** <https://www.lowes.com/pd/Severe-Weather-Common-4-in-x-4-in-x-10-ft-Actual-3-5-in-x-3-5-in-x-10-ft-2-Treated-Lumber/4222509->
4. **Bag of Concrete (\$4.46):** <https://www.lowes.com/pd/Sakrete-High-Strength-60-lb-High-Strength-Concrete-Mix/5015648043>
5. **Peace Pole QR Code (\$10):** Contact Larry Strober at lsstrober@gmail.com. Provide the physical location of the pole to be added to the map.

Option Two: Order a Custom Pole from www.peacepoles.com or rotarypeacepoles.world (Estimated cost: \$300 - \$1500)

Submitted by Ann DeMers



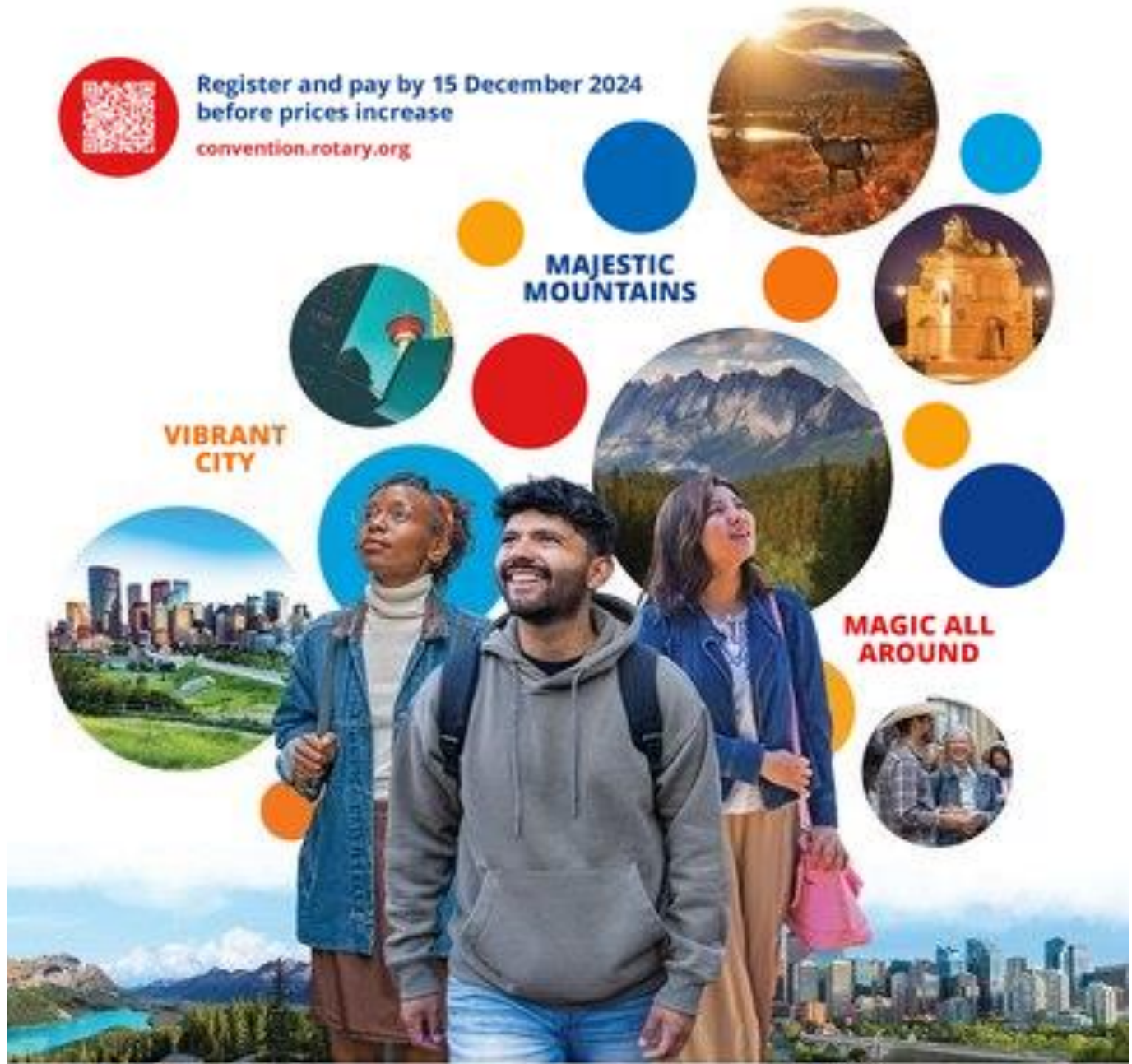
Register and pay by 15 December 2024
before prices increase

convention.rotary.org

MAJESTIC
MOUNTAINS

VIBRANT
CITY

MAGIC ALL
AROUND



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

21-25 JUNE 2025 • CALGARY, CANADA



Rotary
District 7120



HELP SHAPE OUR FUTURE!

District 7120 is on a mission to grow, evolve, and make an even greater impact—and we need your input!

Take our online survey to help us assess how well our district's offerings and services align with the Rotary Action Plan's Four Priorities:

- ✓ Increase Our Impact
- ✓ Expand Our Reach
- ✓ Enhance Participant Engagement
- ✓ Increase Our Ability to Adapt

It takes just 10-12 minutes and will make a **BIG** difference!

<https://forms.gle/PTdDdygc2s7nPUDD6>

DEADLINE: DECEMBER 30, 2024

TOGETHER, WE CAN DO MORE!





WEBINAR: Get the Most Out of Rotary's Learning Center Wednesday, January 22, 2025, 7:00 pm

Join us virtually to explore Rotary's Learning Center. The Learning Center is a member benefit and your source for learning, whether you're a new member seeking to explore what Rotary offers, a Rotary leader completing essential courses for your role, or a participant seeking to enhance your leadership skills. The Learning Center is customized for you according to your membership status, your language, and your role in Rotary. Access it by signing in to My Rotary. The courses and learning plans in the Learning Center provide the most up-to-date information about current Rotary policies and practices. Anyone who wants to learn more about the courses, how they are organized, and how to use the Learning Center may join the webinar.

Register at https://rotary-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MYNfUA1yTjSJgqQ-iAYSrg#/registration

Submitted by Lisa Norwood



Mental Health Wellness for the Holidays:

- 1) Plan Ahead: Keep a calendar of events and things needed to bring, Make "to do" lists and shopping lists – Pace yourself!!
- 2) Create a calming atmosphere – Listen to music, light candles, relax
- 3) Share your feelings with others. Holidays are full of joyful times but also some sad memories due to losses.
- 4) Say NO to some holiday requests and NO to some spending.
- 5) Have fun – play games, watch old family videos, sing or do Karaoke together.
- 6) Things do not have to be perfect – lessen stress and laugh about something you forgot.
- 7) Keep up your regular exercise and routines, try to eat healthy
- 8) Focus on gratitude and appreciate your blessings.

Happy Holidays !!

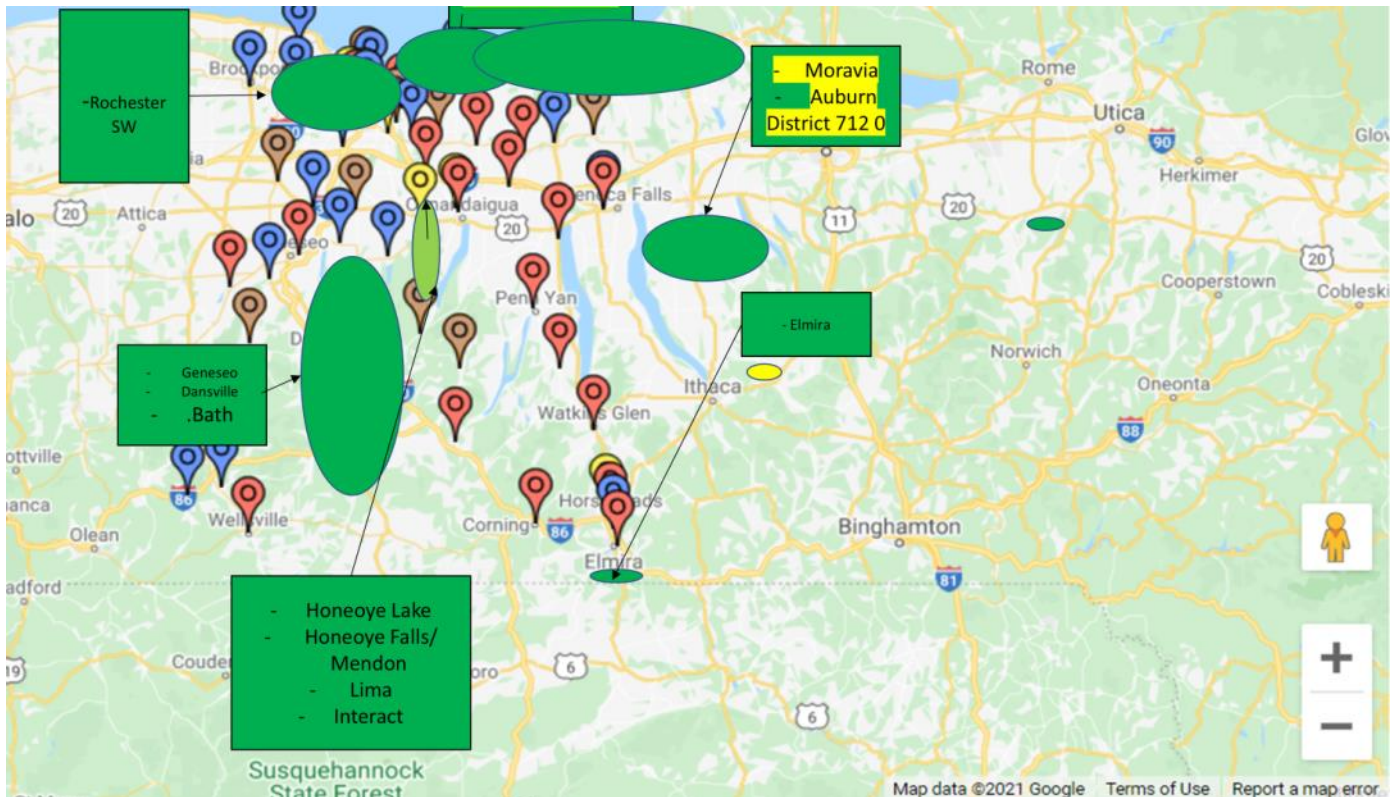
FROM THE MENTAL HEALTH WELLNESS COMMITTEE
Christine Casaceli – District 7120 Mental Health Chair
christinecasaceli@hotmail.com

DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION COMMITTEE SEEKING CLUB REPRESENTATIVES



The District Environmental Action committee's fall project goal was to conduct a variety of environmental projects in the area. The district tracked approximately 20 projects ranging from Can and Bottle Drives, Battery Recycling, and Roadside Cleanup. Thanks to the clubs who participated in this project.

Below is a graphic representation:



The EAC's goal is to have a representative from every club in the district. To find out about membership, we are available to give a brief presentation at your meetings. For more information contact Gary Anderson (571) 212-04830 or gwa1948@aol.com.

Strategic Planning Workshop

The Rotary District 7120 Strategic Direction/Planning Committee assists and guides the development and updating of the strategic direction of the district and its Rotary clubs.

Do you dream of your Rotary Club being known as the premier service organization in your community? Would you like to retain and attract more members to your Rotary club? You can achieve all this and more when you discover the value and importance of an effective Strategic Plan. These concepts have helped many clubs grow membership and become a sought-after leader in their community.

Making a commitment to keep or regain vibrancy within your Rotary Club is the beginning of an attitude mind-shift that will allow your club to transform the results of its efforts from average to EXTRAORDINARY.

A well-designed strategic plan allows the club to more effectively use its budget dollars, member's skills and community resources to make a positive difference locally and internationally. The process sets the stage for continued strategic visioning and organizational growth development.

For more information or to schedule a workshop for your Rotary Club, contact ...

PDG Bill Gormont or PDG Scott MacDonell



Literacy Corner



BASIC EDUCATION
AND LITERACY

Give the Gift of Literacy



As another year draws to a close and the holidays approach, consider the gift of reading and make a difference in a child's life. We know that basic education and literacy are essential for reducing poverty, improving health, encouraging community and economic development and promoting peace.



Opportunities for gifting include:

- Donating books and magazines to your local clothing/food closet/laundromat for distribution
- Purchasing books to distribute to elementary school students
- Promoting an at risk student reading club in school and provide prizes for improvements
- Organizing a reading or writing contest in elementary school and reward with books as prizes.
- Providing magazines or books to "English Speakers of Other Languages"

We may have shared some of these ideas in the past but what is important is that we must remain diligent and do what Rotarians always do best, improve the lives of others particularly those of our children both here and around the world. Make the holidays and their future a little brighter.

Submitted by Tracy Wooden



DID YOU KNOW...



It's never been easier to create a flyer or social media graphic to help promote your club's events?? **Six new customizable templates** for Rotary, Rotaract, and Interact events have been added to the [Rotary Brand Center](https://brandcenter.rotary.org/en-us/templates). These templates can be formatted with your club or district's text, photos, logo, as well as sponsor or partner logos. Find them on the Brand Center and use them to promote service projects, guest speakers, meetings, and more.

Visit <https://brandcenter.rotary.org/en-us/templates> to learn more about customizable event templates!

Submitted by Lisa Norwood



ROTARY 201: DECEMBER 19, 2024
ZOOM Link: [Rotary 201](#)

Sign in 7:50, Start 8:00 PM EST

MONTHLY THEME: Disease Prevention/Treatment

- **David Hannan, MD, PDG**
 - D-7120's Response to the Covid pandemic
- **Wade Norwood: CEO Common Ground Health**
 - Health disparities regionally

ROTARY 201 EXTRA: Youth Exchange

Benefits of Hosting an Exchange Student

- **DJ Tuttle (Pittsford RC/Australia, 2010-11)**
- **Emily Carli (Livonia RC/Slovakia, 2015-16)**

FACULTY: members of any age or district experience who have a special interest in discussing an article in that month's **ROTARY magazine or Rotary's monthly theme.**

Have an idea or suggestion:
Jack Best, Dean Rotary 201
Phone/text: 585-261-0073
Email: jackbest@rochester.rr.com

ROTARY 201: A monthly information program that's designed, like College 201 courses, to update or provide new information to Rotarians of any age and any length of membership. An ideal complement to Club mentorship programs.



Rotary
District 7120



• **NEED TO KNOW BY 12.24***

**Does your Club plan to participate?
Vocal Music Competition 2024-2025
Reply: jackbest@rochester.rr.com**

*In concert with Eastman School of Music, Alfred University,
Roberts Wesleyan University and SUNY/Geneseo*

Featuring classical music and musical theatre/production

- Open to all high school juniors in public, private or home schools in D-7120
- \$10,000 Scholarships and cash awards
- Application and Club Entry fee \$200 for each candidate, due by January 24, 2025

Competitions on February 9*, February 23*

*Sites, Dates based on December 24 replies

More Information, applications at www.Rotary7120.org

Jack Best, PRID
Vocal Competition Chair
jackbest@rochester.rr.com
c/t: 585-261-0073

As the chair of Rotary New Generations Service Exchange (NGSE), here's an overview of the program and the various ways to participate:

Overview of NGSE Program

The Rotary New Generations Service Exchange (NGSE) program offers young adults between the ages of 19 and 30 the opportunity to engage in international cultural and professional exchanges. Each applicant is usually available for 2-3 months. The program fosters international understanding, professional development, and cultural immersion.

new generations
service
exchange



Ways to Participate

1. Be a Host

- **Hosting a Participant:** Open your home to an NGSE participant, providing them with room and board during their exchange. Hosts play a crucial role in helping participants adapt to the local culture and community.
- **Cultural Exposure:** Introduce participants to local traditions, cuisine, and social activities, ensuring a rich and immersive cultural experience.

2. Offer an Unpaid Internship or Mentoring Opportunity

- **Professional Development:** Provide NGSE participants with unpaid internships or shadowing opportunities in your organization. This allows them to gain valuable professional skills and experience in a different cultural context.
- **Mentoring:** Serve as a mentor to guide and support participants in their career development, offering insights and advice from your professional background.

3. Be an Applicant from District 7120

- **Explore the World:** If you are from District 7120, you can apply to participate in the NGSE program and travel to various parts of the world. This opportunity allows you to experience new cultures, enhance your professional skills, and contribute to international understanding.
- **Application Process:** The application process involves completing forms, providing recommendations, and participating in interviews to ensure a good match between participants and hosts. email: juliecarney7120@gmail.com if interested.

Benefits of Participation

- **For Hosts and Mentors:**
 - Enrich your life by connecting with young people from different cultural backgrounds.
 - Contribute to the professional and personal growth of future leaders.
 - Enhance your understanding of other cultures and create lifelong international friendships.
- **For Participants:**
 - Gain international experience and develop professional skills.
 - Immerse yourself in a new culture, expanding your worldview and understanding.
 - Build a global network of contacts and friends through Rotary's extensive network.

Contact and More Information

If you are interested in participating in any capacity, please reach out to me at juliecarney7120@gmail.com for more information. Your involvement can make a significant impact on fostering global understanding and professional development.

Currently, I have applications from a young man from Germany who is in law school and would like to learn more about the laws of our country. He would be available from mid-August through October for an 8 week placement. I also have a young woman from Italy who would like to shadow in an American primary school setting. She is looking to be here from mid-October through mid-December. I also have a young woman from India interested in learning more about marketing who will be shadowing Paul Guiglielmo and helping to build a web presence. I am still in need of housing for her. If anyone in the Brighton/Penfield area is interested please let me know.

The District has already completed two exchanges through New Generations. I would like to thank Geneva Rotary/ David Cook for housing and Brian Nault/Professor and Program Leader from the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University for hosting Hugo Yamada from Brazil for three months in 2023. Hugo worked in the entomology department investigating sustainable practices for agriculture.

I would also like to thank Avon Rotary/Kirk and Karen Vanderbilt for housing and the Avon Central School District for hosting Isabelle Bonafe from Brazil who shadowed the Counseling and Mental Health teams to learn more about the benefits of preventative care. She was here from January-April 2023.

By mentoring an NGSE participant, you will have the opportunity to benefit from their enthusiasm and fresh ideas while contributing to their professional development and cultural understanding.

Thank you for considering this request. Your support will make a significant difference in the lives of young professionals and help foster international understanding and cooperation.

Julie Carney
NGSE Program Chair

INFECTIOUS DISEASE UPDATE: September 10, 2024
COVID-19, INFLUENZA, RSV, and POLIO by PDG DAVID HANNAN



IT'S TIME TO GET YOUR UPDATED 2024-2025 COVID-19 and INFLUENZA VACCINES, EVEN IF YOU WERE PREVIOUSLY VACCINATED and EVEN IF YOU WERE PREVIOUSLY SICK WITH THESE VIRUSES! THEY CAN BE GIVEN SIMULTANEOUSLY.

RSV does NOT need a second vaccine.

Core Prevention Strategies

[CDC recommends](#) that all people use core prevention strategies to protect themselves and others from **COVID-19:**

- Stay up to date with [COVID-19 vaccines](#).
- Although vaccinated people sometimes get infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, staying up to date on COVID-19 vaccines significantly lowers the risk of getting very sick, being hospitalized, or dying from COVID-19.
- Practice good [hygiene](#) (practices that improve cleanliness)
- Take [steps for cleaner air](#)

When you are sick:

- Use [precautions to prevent spread](#), including staying home and away from others (including people you live with who are not sick) if you have respiratory symptoms.
- Learn when you can [go back to your normal activities](#).

Seek health care promptly for [testing](#) and/or [treatment](#) if you have [risk factors for severe illness](#). Treatment may help lower your risk of severe illness, but it needs to be started within a few days of when your symptoms begin.

Order your free COVID-19 tests at the end of September.

U.S. households will be eligible to order 4 free COVID-19 tests at [COVIDTests.gov](#). The COVID-19 tests will detect current COVID-19 variants and can be used through the end of the year. [Visit COVIDTests.gov](#)

Additional Prevention Strategies

In addition, there are other prevention strategies that you can choose to further protect yourself and others.

[Wearing a mask](#) and [putting distance between yourself and others](#) can help lower the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

[Testing for COVID-19](#) can help you decide what to do next, like getting [treatment](#) to reduce your risk of severe illness and [taking steps](#) to lower your chances of spreading COVID-19 to others.

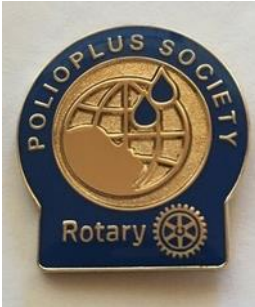
What to watch out for

Using these prevention strategies can be especially helpful when:

- Respiratory viruses, such as COVID-19, flu, and RSV, are causing a lot of [illness in your community](#)
- You or those around you have [risk factors](#) for severe illness
- You or those around you were recently exposed to a respiratory virus, are sick, or are recovering

POLIO:

1. A resident of Rockland County, who had not traveled overseas, contracted Polio in 2022 and the Polio Virus has been detected in sewage samples in Rockland, Orange, Sullivan, and Nassau Counties, and in New York City. Fortunately, there have been no other cases in the US.
2. Polio is a paralyzing and potentially deadly disease. The IPV (Salk) Polio Vaccine is safe and effective. It has been used for decades, is required for school entry in NY, and is available to anyone over 2 months old. Protect yourselves and your family. If you had the full Polio Vaccine series as a child, you do not need a booster at this time.
3. There were 12 cases of Wild Polio Virus Type 1 worldwide in 2023, 6 in Afghanistan and 6 in Pakistan. To date, there have been 34 cases of WPV1 in 2024, 18 in Afghanistan and 16 in Pakistan.
4. There were 517 cases in 26 countries of circulating Vaccine Derived Polio Viruses (cVDPV) worldwide in 2023. To date in 2024, there have been 122 cases in 17 countries of cVDPV. This includes 1 case in the occupied Palestinian territory (Gaza) on July 25, 2024.
5. I am available to provide club programs on Rotary's PolioPlus Campaign, as well as other programs on The Rotary Foundation.



Our wish is to have at least one member of the PolioPlus Society from every club.

Rotary has been working to eradicate polio for more than 35 years. Our goal of ridding the world of this disease is closer than ever.

As a founding partner of the [Global Polio Eradication Initiative](#), we've reduced polio cases by 99.9 percent since our first project to vaccinate children in the Philippines in 1979.

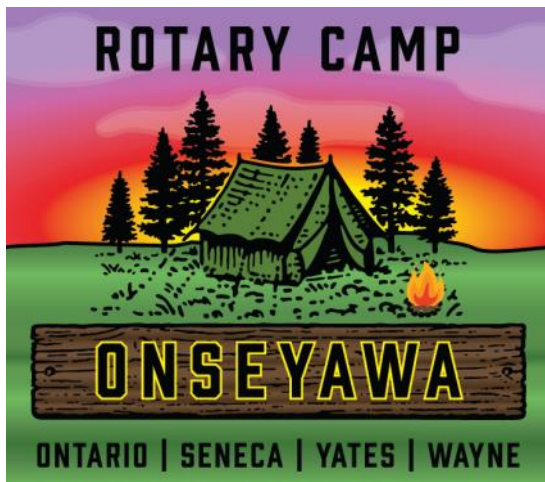
Rotary members have contributed more than \$2.1 billion and countless volunteer hours to protect nearly 3 billion children in 122 countries from this paralyzing disease. Rotary's advocacy efforts have played a role in decisions by governments to contribute more than \$10 billion to the effort.

Today, polio remains endemic only in Afghanistan and Pakistan. But it's crucial to continue working to keep other countries polio-free. If all eradication efforts stopped today, within 10 years, polio could paralyze as many as 200,000 children each year.

By the numbers:

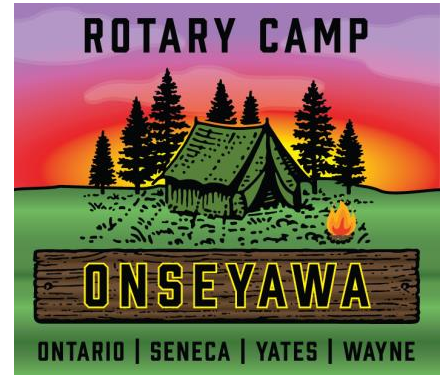
- \$3 average cost to fully protect a child against polio
- 430 million children in total vaccinated in 39 countries in 2017
- \$100 million cost to conduct polio surveillance worldwide

District 7120 now has a PolioPlus Society recognized by Rotary International. To become a member, you pledge to donate \$100.00 or more per year until Polio is eradicated in the world. October 24th is World Polio Day – please consider participating by making this pledge. The commitment form is below! Remember that every dollar is matched 2 to 1 by the Gates Foundation.





At the most recent Camp Onseyawa Annual Dinner, held in November, the audience was inspired by the heartfelt story of one of our longtime campers told by his Father. Carl Schwartz, with his wife seated among the guests, shared the challenges presented by his teen aged son both in school and with his family. The tale of this child depicted the struggles of a child with Autism and the impact upon his family. Carl shared that one saving grace for his son was Camp Onseyawa. Each summer for several years his child has participated in Camp for two weeks having the time of his life. According to to his Dad, Camp Onseyawa is where his son thrived and Carl expressed his deep gratitude to the staff for making his stay such a success.



Additionally Carl's family was able to receive a much needed respite which is true for the many families who send their children to Camp Onseyawa. Often this is the only respite that the families experience. Camp Onseyawa serves both children and the families as a whole. Carl serves on the Board of Camp Onseyawa, works tirelessly on all of Camp's projects and gives generously toward sustaining Camp's ongoing financial well being. Submitted by Kate Ring

THE "CAMP ONSEYAWA ADVENTURE" CONTINUES !

The Board of Directors recently met to plan for the 2025 season. The 2024 camping year brought many successes, especially for the 71 children who attended. One special program brings out many Rotary Clubs who run the Sunday afternoon camp-wide Carnival. Their enthusiasm always brings lots of fun and smiles. Rotary is proud to play a special role in the lives of these special needs kids. 2024 saw the completion of many more improvement projects: fire rings, medical carts, picnic tables, folding wagons, folding chairs, tents, stone for pavilions, program canopies, arts/craft cabinets, and two new safety golf carts. In an effort to serve more kids next summer, 4 abandoned cabins were recently moved to expand unit campsites. Onseyawa funded the move, and Whitman is now renovating them. The year ended with the recent Annual Onseyawa Dinner with Board President, Robin Mark, leading the way. We saw many camp pictures, the recognition of several camp staff who have been in camp for over 40 years, the presentation of grant gifts, and the announcement of another balanced budget. The Director of Camp Whitman, Bryan Mueckie, was also in attendance and briefly spoke about the overwhelming success of this partnership. The highlight of the evening was the keynote speaker, Carl Schwartz Jr., Esq. PC., who gave a very moving message on "A Parent's Perspective" of Camp Onseyawa. The following are project goals that need sponsor funding for 2025: ceramic program shed, 5 campsite unit area sinks, and electricity to the new pavilions. In the near future, our 8 passenger golf cart will need replacing. For more details, please contact Robin Mark 585-370-2389 or your local club director. It is our hope that clubs take full advantage of sponsoring a project while partnering with the Rotary International Foundation.



This is an exciting time of the year for other reasons. Camp Onseyawa receives many gifts as people plan for the end of the tax year. Donations are accepted and can be sent to PO Box 723, Canandaigua, NY 14424. Since the establishment of the Finger Lakes Community Endowment Account at CNB, you can now donate online by going to the FLACE web page. A donation can support the annual budget, capital projects, or the Endowment fund.



For the Board and dedicated camp staff, the mission continues with planning, hard work, and sacrifice behind the scenes. For the kids, may their exciting journey continue with a life full of inclusion, compassion, adventure, and opportunity.

By Victor Arsenault



Touched by Camp Haccamo: Your Stories Make a Difference

This holiday season, we at Camp Haccamo are reflecting on the many ways our community has touched our lives. From the dedicated volunteers who give their time and talents to the generous donors who make our program possible, we are constantly inspired by your support.

Recently, we had the privilege of sharing the Camp Haccamo story with the Brighton Rotary Club at their annual pancake event. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow Rotarians.

But it's not just Rotarians who are making a difference. We've been touched by countless individuals who have reached out to share their own Camp Haccamo stories like the following:

Pete and his holidays lights! Peter Dailey, inspired by his grandmother Dolly Kujawa, created an amazing holiday light display to benefit Camp Haccamo. Visitors can enjoy the festive show and donate to support the camp's mission. Learn more here <https://www.facebook.com/BirchcrestLights/>. There is a donation box onsite or you can also donate directly online at <https://bit.ly/46442xB>. Be sure to mention Pete's holiday lights in the memo section.

- Longtime volunteer Chuck Krause who organizes the annual Camp Haccamo Car, Truck, and Cycle Show to give back to the camp that has benefited his son with Down Syndrome. The show is a major fundraiser for Camp Haccamo, which provides valuable experiences and respite care for families. Mark your calendars for the next show on June 7. More here <https://bit.ly/44m7MKm>.
- The Post family who found a vital resource in Camp Haccamo, which provides their children with autism and ADHD a safe and engaging summer camp experience. Please read more about the Post family here: <https://bit.ly/3Zw9FIT>.

These stories remind us of the profound impact Camp Haccamo has on individuals and families throughout our community. They fuel our passion and motivate us to continue providing exceptional services.



Now, we want to hear from you! How has Camp Haccamo touched your life? Please share your stories with us! We are collecting anecdotes, testimonials, and reflections to share in future newsletters and on our website.

Email your story: Send your Camp Haccamo story to nealgorman@nrgGOpr.com.

- **Share on social media:** Use the hashtag #CampHaccamo.
- **Contact us to share more:** We'd love to hear from you in person, please call 212-203-3889!

In the spirit of the season, we thank you for being a part of the Camp Haccamo family.
Your support makes all the difference.

Submitted by Neal Gorman

ROCHESTER ROTARY

CHARITABLE TIMES NEWSLETTER



THE SUNSHINE CAMP EXPERIENCE COMES FULL CIRCLE

I began working at Sunshine Camp as a counselor about 23 years ago. I was 20 yrs old at the time and thought it sounded like a fun summer job. I couldn't have anticipated the impact that those two weeks would have on my life. I immediately fell in love with camp. I loved my fellow counselors, I loved the kids, but most of all I loved the atmosphere of inclusion and joy I felt and witnessed in others.

I continued working at Sunshine Camp for the next seven summers. I looked forward to it all year and missed it when it was over. It was an exhausting job (keeping a camp full of kids entertained from sunrise to sunset is a big task!) but it was also so fulfilling. I loved seeing so many of the same campers come back year after year and knowing how excited they were to be returning to a place they felt completely accepted. I remember how often I would witness parents picking up their camper at the end of the week and being amazed to hear the new things their child had tried.

Often parents of children with special needs feel isolated and unsupported in so many environments. I know this because I am now a parent of a child with special needs. My oldest son, Freddie, was diagnosed with Autism at three years old. He's a smart, talkative, and loving kid. He makes us laugh everyday.

HIGHLIGHTS

A Message from Rochester
Rotary President Paul
Guglielmo

Meet me at the Bright Spot

What an amazing community!

International Service Update

Upcoming events

**[CLICK to read
the full article
and
Newsletter](#)**

A newsletter from Rochester Rotary
Charitable Trusts, Inc.

November 2024

Gananda Rotary Club

On Veterans Day, Gananda Rotary Club honored its four members who served our County in the military by sending a donation in their name to the Veterans Outreach Center.



Pictured are: Chip Rieck (US Army), Ron Trippodo (Air Force), and Steve Arnold (US Army). Not in the photo, but also honored was member Michele Villani (US Navy).



Submitted by: Patti Holdraker

Dundee Rotary Honors Jr/Sr Student of the Month for November

At its regular November 13, 2024, meeting, Dundee Rotary Honored the Jr/Sr High Student of the Month from Dundee Central School. Grady Cole, who is the son of Brad and Lauren Cole, was accompanied to the meeting by Superintendent and Rotarian Chris Wood. Mr. Wood introduced Grady to the Club members and explained that Grady was chosen because he shows such strong leadership skills.

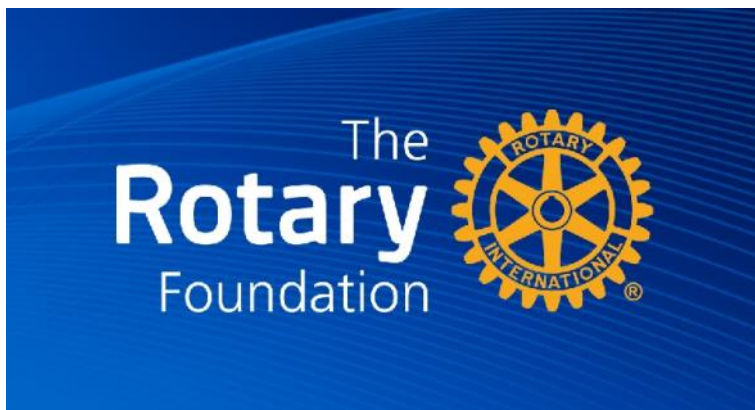


Pictured are President Giles (L), Grady (C), and Superintendent Wood (R).

Grady is the President of Student Government, VP of National Honor Society, President of Band and Chorus, and is a member of Natural Helpers.

Grady is also a 3-sport athlete, participating in Indoor and Outdoor Track as well as Basketball. Co-President Alan Giles presented Grady with a certificate and a check for \$25.00.

Submitted by Lauren Snyder



Webster Rotary Club



At a recent Thursday evening meeting, the Webster club got to work packing care packages for their Adopt a Platoon. Having been a part of the Adopt a Platoon program for 20 years, the club has shipped out over 1,000 care packages to our men and women serving overseas!

Submitted by Joseph Corona

The Greece Rotary Early Learning Packing Party

The Greece is working hard on the Early Language Development kits for 250 Greece Central School District Pre-K and Kindergarten students identified as needing extra help with language and communication skills. This is our 2024-25 District Grant Project.

The kits include two books, a journal, a pencil and pencil sharpener, jumbo crayons, and alphabet flashcards. Also in the bags are a letter acknowledging the Rotary Club of Greece, and instructions for parents. These children will use the kits in small group sessions and will be able to take them home for "keeps."

Submitted by Chuck Gannon



Rotary Club of Elmira

Our Club “adopted” Diven School in 2007 and has supported its students in numerous ways over the years. Some of our contributions include providing new swings and a “buddy bench” for the playground, planting trees, supporting the school nurse with funding for student clothing, participating in the school’s annual community service project, and planting flowers at the school’s entrance each spring. However, one initiative stands out among all the others.



Tim's wife Marie Von Neida

Our late member, Tim Von Neida, was a dedicated, hands-on volunteer from the very beginning. Tim worked in two different classrooms—one kindergarten and one first grade—where he read to students and assisted with classroom tasks. His patience, kindness, and unwavering commitment made him a beloved presence among both teachers and students. Tim’s weekly visits were constant, and even during the challenges of Covid, he continued to read to students via Zoom.

Following Tim’s untimely passing in 2023, the Rotary Club of Elmira received many generous donations in his memory. As a tribute to Tim and to benefit the school and the students he cared so deeply for, we collaborated with the school principal and district administration to create a lasting legacy. Together, we decided to install a book vending machine, something that would reflect Tim's passion for reading and his commitment to the students of Diven School.

On November 15, we held the formal dedication and unveiling of the vending machine. Principal Jo Legare led the event, sharing stories about Tim and explaining how the machine will be used. Initially, every student at Diven School will have the opportunity to select a book from the vending machine. Afterward, students will earn additional opportunities to receive books by meeting academic or behavioral goals.

This book vending machine stands as a testament to Tim’s lasting impact on the school and its students, and we hope it will inspire a love of reading for years to come.

Submitted by Laurie Lliberatore



Principal Jo Legare



First student getting a book

BATH ROTARIANS MAKE FLOOD RELIEF DONATION

On Friday, August 9, the remnants of Tropical Storm Debby dumped several inches of rain and severely impacted many areas in Southern Steuben and Allegany Counties, including Canisteo, Woodhull, and Hornell. Major flash flooding rushed over roads and devastated much of the area, including Canisteo Rotary Park.



At a recent weekly meeting of the Bath Rotary Club, John Gould, Bath Rotary Club President, standing on the left, presented a \$500.00 check for flood relief to Tom Crook, Canisteo-Greenwood Central School Superintendent and Canisteo Rotary Club President, standing on the right.

On Thursday, November 14, a check for flood relief was presented by John Gould, Bath Rotary Club President, to Tom Crook, Canisteo-Greenwood Central School Superintendent and Canisteo Rotary Club President.

"I am proud to call the Village of Bath my home now, but I am equally proud to be from the resilient Canisteo Valley. Time and time again this valley has shown its strength and its heart. We do not shrink in the face of adversity. We rise above it," remarked Eddie VanStine, Bath Rotary Club President-Elect and a former resident of Canisteo. "This small token of support from the Bath Rotary Club is far more than a monetary gesture – it is a symbol. A symbol of unity, compassion, and the unwavering belief that we stand strongest when we stand together. Supporting

our neighbors is not just an act of kindness; it is our way of life. Together we will rebuild, heal, and show the world the true meaning of community. I personally am pleased that I have been able to help Canisteo residents with cleanup and have been directing them to the resources they need for certain situations. Anyone interested in information about Rotary, including membership in the Bath Rotary Club, should contact John Gould at: gouldjc1949@gmail.com.

Written by Elaine Tears
Pictures by Gary Drum, Neal
Simon, & Brandi Graham



Gary Drum of the Evening Tribune captured this picture of the remnants of Tropical Storm Debby causing major flooding on August 9th in Southern Steuben County, including the Village of Canisteo.



Neal Simon of The Spectator shot this picture at the Canisteo Rotary Park which was inundated by flood waters due to the remnants of Tropical Storm Debby.



The Greece Rotary Trunk or Treat at Homesteads for Hope

The Greece Rotary participated in the Homesteads For Hope "Trunk or Treat" event on Oct. 26. We handed out "treats" to over 750 children and young adults.
Submitted by Chuck Gannon



Canandaigua Rotary Members Make Pledge to Help Eradicate Polio



Pictured are Club President Kim Tenreiro, Janet Tenreiro, Rick Hawks, and Rick Lessard

Individuals that pledge \$100 per year until polio is eradicated world wide are recognized by Rotary Clubs. Rotary International has been working to eradicate polio for more than 35 years. As a founding partner of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, polio cases have been reduced by 99.9 percent since our first project to vaccinate children in the Philippines in 1979. Our goal of ridding the world of this disease is closer than ever. Rotary members have contributed more than \$2.1 billion and countless volunteer hours to protect nearly 3 billion children in 122 countries from this paralyzing disease. Rotary's advocacy efforts have played a role in decisions by governments to contribute more than \$10

billion to the effort. Today, polio remains endemic only in Afghanistan and Pakistan. But it's crucial to continue working to keep other countries polio-free. If all eradication efforts stopped today, within 10 years, polio could paralyze as many as 200,000 children each year. By the numbers:

- \$3 average cost to fully protect a child against polio
- 430 million children in total vaccinated in 39 countries in 2017

Rotary's wish is to have at least one member of the Polio Plus Society from every club. District 7120 now has a Polio Plus Society recognized by Rotary International. To become a member one makes the pledge until Polio is eradicated in the world. October 24th was World Polio Day. Rick Lessard and Rick Hawks have both joined the other 100 folks in Rotary District 7120 to become members of the Polio Plus Society.

Information and photos by: Jack Kellogg

V-F ROTARY – AWARDS LUNCH

In mid-November, the V-F Rotary Club held its annual “Service Above Self” award lunch at the Ravenwood Golf Club in Victor.



Thomas Pappas was presented the “Jordan Pappas Vocational Service Award” in recognition of his distinguished twenty-eight-year career as a teacher/ administrator in the Rochester City School District. The award is named in honor of his late father, Jordan, who was a founding member of the V-F club. The award recognizes an individual who exemplifies service to the community in both their personal and professional career.

Barbara Years, a Farmington resident and current president of the Farmington – Victor Kiwanis Club, was awarded the “Betty Powers Community Service Award” in recognition of her long involvement in a myriad of service projects in different venues in the local community.



The large group in attendance included town supervisors Jack Marren (Victor) and Peter Ingalsbe (Farmington), as well as Victor Mayor Gary Hadden. Each made brief comments of congratulations to the recipients.

Both recipients were presented with PHF awards. District Governor Dave DeMers participated in the

bestowment of the PHF recognition and made brief comments concerning their service to their communities.

Submitted by Dave Luitweiler



VICTOR – FARMINGTON ROTARY CLUB

Recently, Erika Boccalon, a participant in the Rotary international New Generations Program, spoke to the Victor – Farmington Rotary Club on her two-month experience as an intern teacher at the Victor Central Primary School. Erika is from Italy and sponsored by the Rotary Club of Rovigo, District 6020, Italy. Erika is pursuing a career as a primary teacher. The experience will be a part of her university degree program at home.



Younger professionals can work with Rotary members to have unique vocational or community service experience through a New Generations Service Exchange.

PDG Julie Carney accompanied Erika and provided information on the New Generations Program.

Erika is being home-hosted by Past President Sara Visingard during her internship.

Submitted by Dave Luitweiler



new generations
service
exchange



Belmont Rotary Club

The Belmont Rotary Club presented the Belmont Senior Citizens site with a couple early Christmas gifts at their Tuesday Luncheon. The seniors received a set of Mexican Train dominoes with accessories and a puzzle board to keep and store jigsaw puzzles in progress. Representing Belmont Rotary were Mary Fuller and Dana Ross. Accepting on behalf of the seniors was site manager, Carol Barrett. Belmont Rotary sponsors a monthly meal for the group.



Submitted by Mary Fuller

Canandaigua Rotary Inducts New Member

The Canandaigua Rotary Club recently inducted new member Jared Simpson, who was sponsored by Adeline Rudolph. Jared is the son of former Rotarians Bob and Ann Simpson, and has retired from teaching after 27 years at Canandaigua Academy. He is currently the town Supervisor for the town of Canandaigua. Jared is married to Kelli Simpson and they have four children.



Pictured are Club President Kim Tenreiro, Janet Tenreiro, Adeline Rudolph, Jared, and Mark Sheppard:

Information and photos by: Jack Kellogg

Bloomfield Rotary Club

The Bloomfield Rotary is thrilled to welcome our newest member, Jeff Cook! Jeff has been actively involved in many of our events and has now officially joined the club.

Submitted by Marce Chavez



BATH ROTARY CLUB RAISES FUNDS FOR FLOWERS ON LIBERTY STREET

The Bath Rotary Club raised funds for the hanging flower baskets on Liberty Street in downtown Bath by participating in the twenty-four hour FLX Gives 2024 campaign. Community members, Rotarians themselves, and relatives and/or friends of Rotarians pledged online donations for the cause from 6:00 p.m. on November 14th to 6:00 p.m. on November 15th.

The fundraiser, sponsored by the Community Foundation of Corning and the Southern Finger Lakes, provides critical funds to the nonprofit sector of the area, allowing it to respond to the needs of the community.

Through various fundraisers the Bath Rotary Club has been paying for the hanging baskets and flowers on Liberty Street for over ten years. This year it decided to participate in the FLX Gives 2024 campaign in order to gain community support for this project. It set as its goal \$2000.00 and was pleased to raise \$2,251.00 from thirty-eight donors who pledged a total of ninety-one gifts.

In addition to providing twenty-five hanging baskets and eight barrels of flowers in the downtown area of Bath, the local club has also been in charge of watering the flowers in the past. However, this year the Village of Bath Street Department has been gracious enough to water the flowers Monday through Friday while Bath Rotarians do the watering on Saturday and Sunday. The street department crew also helps the local Rotarians put up and take down the baskets. The club is most appreciative of the crew's assistance.

"The flower baskets and barrels really help to make the Village of Bath look nice. They indeed beautify our village as we try to attract more businesses and tourism to our community," stated Tess McKinley, Bath Rotarian in charge of the club's participation in the FLX Gives 2024 campaign. "We thank all who made donations; your gifts will indeed make a difference."

Written by Elaine Tears
Pictures by Tess McKinley



Nancy Latour, Bath Rotarian, waters the barrels of flowers, provided by the Bath Rotary Club, in one of the parks on Liberty Street in Bath.



The Bath Rotary Club raised funds via the FLX Gives 2024 campaign in order to provide beautiful hanging flower baskets and barrels along Liberty Street in downtown Bath.



Jay Maslyn and Jane Russell Bath Rotarians, assisted the Village of Bath Street Department in hanging flower baskets on Liberty Street in Bath.



Gananda Rotary News



Gananda Rotarian Bridget Meredith shopped for and delivered Rotary’s contribution to the “Back Pack” program at the Richard Mann Elementary School. Bridget (right) is met by Heather Keenan from the Gananda School District. The Gananda Rotary Club regularly offers food and snacks for about 70 students dealing with food insecurity during holidays vacations from school.



To allow the Gananda Rotary Club to keep their 15-year annual Haunted Hayride event a viable fundraiser, these volunteer tractor drivers are so necessary and appreciated. The Club donated \$2,000 to charities of their choice, as a thank you for their service. Pictured are: Charlie Holvey, Timmy Holvey and Zack Smith; Ben Airy was not present for the photo.

Submitted by: Patti Holdraker



Gananda Rotary heard about a woman who had no refrigerator and could not afford a new one. She was living out of insulated food bags. The Club purchased a refrigerator and delivered it to the resident. Delivering the refrigerator are: Gananda Rotarians: Don Reeners, Gabe Parulski, Ron Trippodo, and Steve Arnold.

Bloomfield Rotary Club

Bloomfield Rotary Club hosted our first Euchre Tournament, which was a resounding success! The participants had such a great time that even our organizers are eager to join in. Don’t miss the fun — our next tournament is set for March 22, 2025 Submitted by Marce Chavez

First Place Winner
Jim



2024 BLOOMFIELD EUCHRE TOURNAMENT

NOVEMBER 9
11AM-3PM
CHEAP CHARLIE'S

PRIZES
1ST \$250
2ND \$125
3RD \$50

REGISTRATION \$25.00
PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT CAMP CHISTYANA

18:30-REGISTRATION
18:00-PLAYING BEGINS
1:00-LUNCH
CASH BAR AND LUNCH
OPTIONS AVAILABLE

Second Place Winner
Pat



50/50 Winners Kelly & Kelli!



Third Place Winner
John



Last Place
Kim



Pittsford Rotary Making Holidays Brighter for Willow Center Residents

Pittsford Rotarians packed holiday gift bags at a recent meeting for residents of the Willow Domestic Violence Center of Greater Rochester with hopes of making their holidays a little brighter.



Our members prepared 35 bags: 20 for residents and 15 for teenage daughters staying with them. The Willow Center has been serving clients in Rochester for some 40 years.

Submitted by David Irwin



Geneseo Rotary Club

At our November 25th meeting, Sara Batzing and Martha Wadsworth from the Genesee Valley Hunt presented Geneseo Rotary with a \$4,000 check. They were very appreciative of the manpower support Geneseo Rotary provides at the Genesee Valley Hunt meet on Columbus Day weekend. Also pictured are President Don Livingston and Darcy Dewar Lynch. This is our second largest fund raiser for the year. The first, of course, being the Geneseo Rotary Summer Festival.

Submitted by Bonnie Swanson



Chemung Sunrise Rotary

Our club kept up our community involvement in November. On November 2nd, several club members participated in highway cleanup of the exit by Arnot Mall in Horseheads. We had a planned activity that was cancelled, so in keeping with our pledge to support local businesses several members had dinner at the Erin Tavern on burger night.



Melissa Morse, President, Kevin Sullivan, Patrick Crouse, Kristie Crossley, Jodi Crouse, Jackie Stevens, Al Preucil, Barb Preucil, Brian McGinley



Kevin Sullivan, Karen Charnetsky, Jackie Stevens, Melissa Morse, Brian McGinley



Grace Episcopal Church, Elmira NY , third from left Jackie Stevens, Karen Charnetsky

The horseheads club prepares a community every month and this month they had to prepare a Thanksgiving dinner so they reached out to our club for assistance. Several club members helped in the days leading up to Wednesday. Sandy Jessup and her husband helped on Monday with preparing several turkeys for roasting and cooking huge pots of cranberry sauce. On Tuesday Al and Barb Preucil spent the morning peeling potatoes for the dinner, and on Wednesday Jackie Stevens, Beth Stranges, Kelly Comfort and others from the community helped with serving the dinner and cleanup. It was definitely a community effort to prepare and serve over 130 meals!

Submitted by Sandra Jessup

Happy Holidays!



Ontario-Walworth Rotary

The Ontario-Walworth Rotary had a wonderful time last night at the Town of Ontario Tree Lighting. The smiles on the children's faces warmed their hearts- which was good as it was cold outside. The Rotary gave away over 200 books to the children. Rotary International is a huge supporter of Literacy and our children. Thank you to those who stopped by their table. Hats off to everyone who helped make this event so special.

Submitted by Christine LoDestro



Victor - Farmington Rotary Club

V-F PP Bruce Chapman receives PHF+8 recognition.



L-to R - Club President John Summers - Club Secretary Karen Parkhurst - Bruce - DGE Jim Crane

Submitted by Dave Luitweiler

Seneca Falls Rotary

The Seneca Falls Rotary's Interact Club from Mynderse Academy



In December, the Interact Club was very active in Seneca Falls Rotary's free Breakfast with Santa. They handed out presents to all of the children who attended, helped in the dining area, gave the children golden tickets which were punched by the Conductor before visiting Santa, and took family pictures with Mr. and Mrs. Claus.

Submitted by Liz Becht

Rochester Deaf Rotary and Southwest Club Dingo Fundraiser Feed Those In Need!

Rochester Deaf Rotary Club, collaborating with Rochester Southwest Rotary Club, raised \$700 in one night to donate to Rochester Deaf Kitchen. It was a great night of Dingo, with winners bringing home prize money just in time for the holidays! It was a team effort, with both clubs coming together to support the Rochester Deaf Kitchen Food Pantry. Members from Southwest and Rochester Deaf Rotary worked together selling tickets, cleaning up, and attending this great event! Southwest Club eagerly learned how to play Dingo, and enjoyed it! Watch for our future Dingo events - easy to learn, and fun to play! Waving hands!

Article written by Michele Randall (RDR Club President)



Rochester Deaf Rotary Club and Southwest Rotary Club members at the Dingo Fundraiser Night
- Photo provided by Lisa Norwood (SW Club)



Left: Karen Emerson (SW Club), Linzie Fuechtmann (RDK), Michele Randall (RDR Club), Zach Ennis (RDK), & John Haynes (RDR Club) -- Photo provided by Bob Green (RDR Club)

Webster Rotary Club

We recently presented to Nick Semeraro, proprietor of Salvatore's Donuts Delite, a "Service Above Self" award for his exemplary cooperation in working with the Webster Rotary club in our monthly project of delivering a warm breakfast to the Samaritan House homeless "guests."

Samaritan House is part of the Open Door Mission and provides temporary overnight housing to homeless "guests" who otherwise would have to seek other shelter.

Webster Rotary adopted the project of providing a warm breakfast to those guests about five years ago. We enlisted Nick Semeraro's cooperation in preparing 32-piece warm sheet breakfast pizzas. We supplemented that with orange juice, milk, bananas, and fruit grain bars.

Per ODM's requirements, we have to deliver the pizzas no later than 6:20 A.M. when we make the delivery on the second Friday of each month. They have to vacate Samaritan House by 8:00 A.M. to perform housekeeping and prepare for the next night's guests.

From Day One to present Nick and his staff have extended outstanding cooperation in making sure the pizzas are ready for pickup by Joe Corona and I at 6:00 A.M. when they open.

When we began this project five years ago we were feeding 30-35 homeless people (two sheet pizzas); today we are feeding 85-90 homeless people (six sheet pizzas) and the number is growing.

The Webster Rotary Club is committed to this project for the long term, however, we could not accomplish it without Nick Semeraro's dedication to making certain that the pizzas are ready for pickup when Joe and I arrive at his door at 6:00 A.M.

The "Service Above Self" award is a token of our appreciation.

We look forward to our continuing humanitarian relationship with Nick well into the future.
Submitted by Dennis Zink and Joe Corona



Newark Rotary Club Rings in the Season for Salvation Army

The Newark Rotary Club once again demonstrated its commitment to community service this holiday season, coming together to raise money for the local Salvation Army. Rotarians donned their warmest smiles and holiday cheer as they took shifts ringing the iconic red kettle bell. Their efforts raised an impressive \$1,500, which will directly support the Salvation Army's mission to assist families and individuals in need.

The funds raised will help the Salvation Army provide critical support, including food, clothing, and shelter, to local families facing difficult circumstances. The Newark Rotary Club's involvement is part of their broader commitment to strengthening the community through volunteerism, fundraising, and goodwill.

In true Rotary spirit, members went beyond simply ringing the bell—they brought, smiles, and warm greetings to everyone who passed by. Their enthusiasm not only encouraged donations but also spread the holiday spirit across Newark.

Submitted by Charles L. Waterman



Seneca Falls Rotary



Submitted by Liz Becht

The Seneca Falls Rotary's Interact Club from Mynderse Academy has been very active in the past few months.

On World Polio Day in October, they collected Pennies for Polio at school from their classmates and school personnel, spreading the mission of Rotary to eradicate polio.



In October, Interactors helped with the Seneca Falls Community Center's Halloween event. Dressed in costume, they handed out candy to over 300 children and ran two craft areas including rock painting and pumpkin painting.



Geneseo Rotary ChristmaSing 2024

On Friday (12/6/24) Geneseo Rotary provided an evening of caroling and Christmas fun. The public gathered at the Geneseo Village Park for the Christmas Tree Lighting and caroling down Main Street. Everyone was invited to "Meet Santa" and join the club members for hot chocolate and cookies afterward.

Here's Geneseo Rotary president Don Livingston telling Santa what he wants for Christmas!

Submitted by Debby Emerson



Local Collection Hosted by Rotaract Club at SUNY Geneseo: A Success

For the past week, I've been pondering how to begin this article... So let's break it down: 1 week, 3 drop-offs, 5 on-campus collaborators, 11 donation locations, dozens of volunteers, 70+ boxes and bags of donations, 700 flyers, and thousands of dollars worth of items. That's a snapshot of the incredible donation drive hosted by Rotaract at SUNY Geneseo this November.

This event was a Livingston County-wide collection of donations for Chances & Changes, a local program providing confidential assistance and emergency shelter to women and their children who have been affected by domestic violence. Beyond gathering much-needed items, our goal was to raise awareness of these victims and ensure people know this program is just a call away. With this in mind, each of the 700 flyers distributed and posted across Livingston County prominently featured the program's hotline number. The drive was a testament to the power of community. This event united our college community with the broader local community, which has been a long-standing goal of our Rotaract Club. This teamwork was instrumental in spreading the word and coordinating logistics for such a large-scale effort.



The Geneseo Rotary also played a crucial role, contributing a significant donation and assisting with transportation of the donations to their final destination.

This event was an outstanding success, thanks to the generosity of our communities, local businesses, and our dedicated collaborators. Together, we made a real difference for those in need, and we couldn't be more grateful for everyone's support!

Submitted by Jillian Mitchell
President of Rotaract Club at SUNY Geneseo
Club Advisors: Kurt Fletcher and Michael Mills

Newark Rotary Club Hosts Annual Jack Blodgett Memorial Blood Drive



The Newark Rotary Club proudly hosted its annual Jack Blodgett Memorial Blood Drive, honoring the memory of a beloved Rotarian whose legacy of service continues to inspire the Newark community. Held in partnership with the American Red Cross, the event celebrated Jack Blodgett's lifelong dedication to improving the lives of others through volunteerism.

Jack Blodgett was a pillar of the Newark community. He served as a past president of the Newark Rotary Club and held leadership roles with the Newark-Wayne Community Hospital Board, the Finger Lakes Hospital Board, the Newark-Wayne Community Hospital Foundation, and the Wayne County United Way. Jack was also an avid blood donor and a steadfast supporter of the Red Cross, embodying Rotary's motto, Service Above Self.

Through this blood drive, we honor his legacy by continuing the work he cared about—helping others and giving back.”

Jack's contributions to Newark and beyond are a shining example of how one person can profoundly impact a community. The Newark Rotary Club is proud to carry forward his legacy through events like this blood drive, ensuring his spirit of service continues to make a difference.

The Newark Rotary Club encourages everyone to consider donating blood and joining efforts that support those in need. Together, they are building a stronger, more compassionate community—just as Jack would have wanted.

Submitted by Charles L. Waterman



Cal-Mum Rotary Club

Cal-Mum Rotary put up 2 new signs around the community this fall. It has been exciting to see the signs promoting Rotary awareness.

November 18th we hosted the Chris Beach Memorial Blood Drive. Chris was a Greece Police officer, Caledonia firefighter and active community member who lost a hard fought battle with leukemia. During his illness, he often received blood products. In his honor, we had 47 donors and collected 39 units of blood. These units will benefit 117 patients in the Northeast.

Submitted by Vicky Vorhauer

Penfield Rotary: A November to Remember!

November was a whirlwind of activity for the Penfield Rotary Club, showcasing the diverse ways our members are making a difference in our community and beyond.

Our month kicked off with a visit from District Governor Dave DeMers, who inspired us with his passion for Rotary's mission. We also celebrated the success of our Fall Euchre Tournament, a testament to the dedication of organizers like Dennis Shew. Thanks to everyone who participated, we were able to present the Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf with a check for \$2,500 – a contribution that will help provide essential food assistance to those in need. And we also heard from Chris Bull, a previous Rotary youth exchange student, who visited our group and discussed how powerful the experience was for him. Go Rotary!!

But the giving didn't stop there! Our members embodied the spirit of Thanksgiving by collecting and delivering items for Thanksgiving meals to the Penfield Ecumenical Food Shelf, ensuring that everyone in our community had a holiday meal to enjoy. We also continued our tradition of sharing a Thanksgiving meal with veterans at the Nucor House, strengthening bonds and expressing our gratitude for their service.

November also saw the launch of a brand-new initiative: the first-ever Penfield Rotary Foundation Walk! It was a beautiful day for a stroll along the pathway in Penfield's Rothfuss Park, and the event was a wonderful success in supporting Rotary's areas of focus.

And just when you thought we couldn't squeeze in anything else, our members lent a hand at Wickham Farms, picking end-of-season apples to be donated to local charities.



From supporting our local food shelf to sharing a meal with veterans, from hosting a district governor to launching a new fundraising walk, November was a true reflection of Penfield Rotary's commitment to service above self.

Let's Work Together!

Inspired by what you see? Join us! We're always looking for new members who are passionate about making a difference. Message us to learn more about becoming a Penfield Rotarian. If you would like to join us in these efforts, or learn more about our other projects, please visit our website <https://penfieldrotary.org/> or Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/PenfieldRotary>. We welcome new members and supporters who share our vision of service above self. Together, we can make the world a better place!

Submitted by Neal Gorman



Obituary Gene Bassage



SODUS POINT/PALMYRA: Bassage, Gene R.; died on Saturday, November 2, 2024 at the age of 97. Private memorial services will be held at the convenience of the family. Please consider donations to The Humane Society of Wayne County, 1475 County House Rd, Lyons, NY 14489 or Silver Waters Community Ambulance, PO Box 159, Sodus Point, NY 14555.

Gene grew up in Palmyra and on Sodus Bay, weekends and summers on South Shore Rd until 1995 when he and Shirley moved there, spending winters in Pompano Beach FL. His first job was delivering newspapers on his bike in Palmyra, later working as an “office boy” at Garlock. He was drafted into the Navy late in WWII, leaving for boot camp the day after high school graduation. The funeral home proudly flies the Navy flag in honor of Gene’s service to our country. When he was discharged after the war, he went to SU for a year, then convinced his parents that being married would make him a better student. He and Shirley,

always introduced at Rotary as his “best girl”, were married June 14, 1947. He graduated from SU in 1950 and returned to work at UW Sherburne in Palmyra with his Dad, Homer. He often said they never had an argument in the 30 years they worked together. They expanded and opened the Macedon branch of the dealership in the 1960’s. When he had a decision to make, he always said he asked himself “what would Homer do?”. His dad was Gene’s moral compass and it served him well.

Gene was a Horizons member of the Western Presbyterian Church in Palmyra. He had been a longtime member of the Palmyra-Macedon Rotary Club and was the club’s oldest living member. For more than 50 years Gene had maintained perfect attendance at the club’s weekly meetings. When he could no longer make the trip from Sodus Point to Palmyra, he continued his service to the club by maintaining the club’s attendance records, hand crafting the club’s banners and sending congratulations, birthday or condolence cards on behalf of the club. Gene’s benevolence was also reflected in his service on the Newark Wayne Community Hospital Board of Directors where he had served as president of the board. His love of cars extended into restoring antique and classic Fords. Gene loved his annual trips to Hershey PA for antique car flea markets. He at various times owned cars from 1916 through 1991. He met one of his best friends through the car business, a dealer from Maine. They took several boat trips along the intercoastal waterway over the years and sailed the coast of Maine. He loved his family, boating, cars, and keeping busy. His hobbies included building wooden clocks, model airplanes, boats and ships. He donated dozens of his clocks to local nonprofits whenever there was a fundraising event, attended every local event and donated time and treasure wherever he could. He was a Yankee fan all his life and converted Shirley from the Cleveland Indians to the Yankees. He loved Syracuse basketball and followed the team closely.

He once took a pony in trade on a pickup truck so his girls would stop begging for a horse. He bought a Kallusch built sailboat for them when their interests changed. He fished with them, took them for boat rides, played in the snow, taught them to drive, made sure their boyfriends had safe cars, and walked them down the aisle. Then he did it all over again with his grandkids.

Gene was predeceased by his beloved wife of over 70 years, Shirley, and parents Homer A. and Josephine Sherburne Bassage. He is survived by his daughters Sue Bassage and Jill Bassage; grandchildren Christine (Paul) Seymour and Lisa (Anthony) Hollebrandt; great-grandchildren Ian Lewis, Jillian, Addison and Levi Hollebrandt, very special friend Jacqui DeBrine, his cat Lizzie, and many nieces, nephews and friends.

To send flowers to the family or plant a tree in memory of Gene R. Bassage, please visit our floral store.

Submitted by Bob Yost, Pal-Mac Rotary

Obituary

Charles Hallagan

October 10, 1926 - November 9, 2024



It is with heavy hearts that we remember Charlie, who passed away on November 9, 2024. Charlie's life was one of service, generosity, and unwavering commitment to the betterment of his community. His legacy is one that will endure for many years to come.

Charlie joined the Newark Rotary Club in 1955, sponsored by Roy Wemett. He embraced the ideals of "Service Above Self" and dedicated himself to making a difference in the lives of others. Charlie was honored as a Multiple Paul Harris Fellow and Major Donor, a reflection of his immense contributions to the Rotary Foundation and his commitment to Rotary's Mission both locally and internationally. Charlie is one of Newark Rotary Club's finest!

Charlie was so impressed with the quality of The Rotary Foundation operation and the work it does locally and globally that led him to his generous contributions to The Rotary Foundation. He once spoke at the club a couple years ago and impromptu said something like the "world is a mess and the only hope is organizations like the Rotary.

But it wasn't just through his financial contributions that Charlie made an impact. He had a remarkable ability to bring joy and lightness to every meeting with his quick wit, and his thoughtful comments were always delivered with a smile. He could always be counted on for a laugh.

Beyond his work with Rotary, Charlie was deeply involved in the Newark community. He was a steadfast supporter of many local organizations, with a special place in his heart for the Alex Eligh Community Center, where his contributions helped improve the lives of countless individuals and families. In addition, Charlie is a great supporter of the Rotary Camp Onseyawa. The camp that responds to the camping needs of children with special needs.

His spirit of giving, his kindness, and his dedication to making the world a better place will never be forgotten. Our thoughts and deepest sympathies are with his family, friends, and the countless people whose lives were enriched by Charlie's presence.

Submitted by Norma Madayag-Reilly

Obituary

DEBORAH LEE TALLY 1/13/1951 – 11/27/2024



Deborah Tally, age 73, of Bath, New York passed away on November 27, 2024. Debbi was inducted into the Bath Rotary Club in 2013 and received a Paul Harris Fellow Award in 2016. For personal reasons, she later resigned her active membership and was given Honorary Membership status in the local club. Her daughter, Stacy Phillips, received posthumously a Paul Harris Fellow Award in 2022. She is survived by her husband, John Gould, 2024 – 2025 Bath Rotary Club President, as well as her mother, a stepbrother, several grandchildren, and a great granddaughter.

Debbi graduated from Hammondsport Central School in 1968. She took cosmetology courses and worked for a time as a hairdresser. Then she took some criminology courses at Corning Community College and worked for the Hammondsport Police Department. She finished her professional career as a security officer at Corning, Inc.

Debbi was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at age eight. As an adult, she ran diabetes support groups in two different communities for twenty-five years and conducted over ten diabetes information health fairs in this area of the state. In addition, she was an active member of the Centenary United Methodist Church in Bath, treasured innumerable road trips with her husband on which she enjoyed counting all the deer they saw, and collected over fifty stuffed koala bears.

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be sent to the American Diabetes Association.

Written by Elaine Tears
Picture from Corning Leader

Obituary

In Memory of Bill Lindner

Past Clifton Springs Rotary Club president Bill Lindner, passed away on Saturday, November 30, 2024, at his residence in Seven Lakes, N.C. surrounded by family.

He was born on September 20, 1944, in Baton Rouge, La., to the late William E. Lindner Sr. and the late Carolyn Evans Lindner.

He studied mechanical engineering at George Washington University.

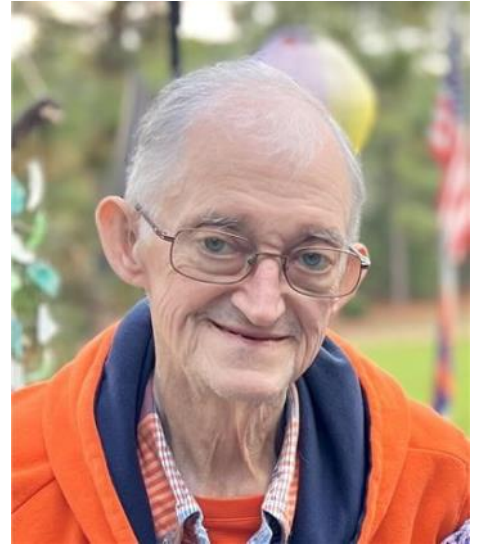
He worked at Lisk/Cliftronics in Clifton Springs, N.Y., for 40 years, retiring as General Manager.

He was dedicated to community service. He served in ROTC in Washington, D.C., and was a longtime member and treasurer of St. John's Episcopal Church, Jaycees, and a dedicated Rotarian in Clifton Springs since 1985 and was an honorary member at the time of his passing. He served as a District 7120 Governor's Aide in the 1990's and treasurer for the 2015 district conference in Buffalo. He was a Paul Harris plus two. He was an active member of St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church in West End, N.C.

He enjoyed golf and traveling to visit family. Family was always his priority. He chaperoned (with Linda) high school student trips to Washington D.C. (27 trips) and Montreal, Quebec, and France. He was a fan of all sports, especially if it included a family member, or he could coach youth. He was a super sports fan of Syracuse University and the Buffalo Bills.

He is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Linda Compson Lindner; children, Jennifer Lindner Smithey (David) of Benson, N.C., and Patrick Edward Lindner (Tina) of St. Petersburg, Fla.; grandchildren, Erik Deckman, Lindsay Deckman, Zachary Lindner, Christina Lindner, Natalie Lindner and Richard Smithey; siblings, Sharon (Sherry) LeClair (Ronald, deceased) of Leland, N.C., Stephen Lindner of Clifton Springs, N.Y., and Deborah (Debbie) Cavuto (Bill) of Syracuse, N.Y.; half-sister, Kathleen Lindner Norris of Ridgely, Md.; niece, Mary Fitzpatrick; and nephew, Corey Fitzpatrick.

A memorial service will be held Sunday, January 19, 2025, at 2 p.m. at St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, 1145 Seven Lakes Drive, Seven Lakes, NC 27376. A memorial service is also planned in Clifton Springs, N.Y., in the summer of 2025.



Submitted by PDG Scott MacDonell

DISTRICT CALENDAR CLUB EVENT SUBMISSION FORM

There are two ways to get your club event onto the District Calendar.

1) If your club **does not use** Club Runner, go to the **District Calendar Submission Page:**
<https://rotary7120.org/sitepage/club-calendar-submission-form>
Complete the Club Calendar Submission Form and click the submit button.

If there are Registration Forms, Image Files, Graphics, or any Other File you wish to make accessible to Rotarians for this event, send them as attachments to: Jim Kozlowski, District Calendar Coordinator at jim.koz65@gmail.com and mention the name and date of your event.

2)) If your club **does use** Club Runner, go to :
<https://www.clubrunnersupport.com/kb/articles/how-do-i-create-an-event-in-event-planner>
And the article will help you create an event.



THE FOUR-WAY TEST

Of the things we think, say or do:

first

Is it the **TRUTH**?

second

Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?

third

Will it build **GOODWILL** and
BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

fourth

Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to
all concerned?

2025 Rochester SaveAround Coupon Book, for only \$25!

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for Sale by the
Rochester Deaf
Rotary
Club



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Please help us continue to support the Rochester Deaf Community, and many other worldwide projects, by purchasing the **2025 Rochester SaveAround Coupon Book, for only \$25!** There are many excellent coupons inside featuring restaurants, entertainment, services, recreation, and more!

You can purchase online at <https://www.SAPayNow.com/17252> - Books can be shipped directly to you with no shipping cost (processing fee of 99 cents per book will be charged for online payment). Or hand delivered by RDR members.

Contact: deafrotary@gmail.com

to order your books!

You can begin to use your book(s) right away!

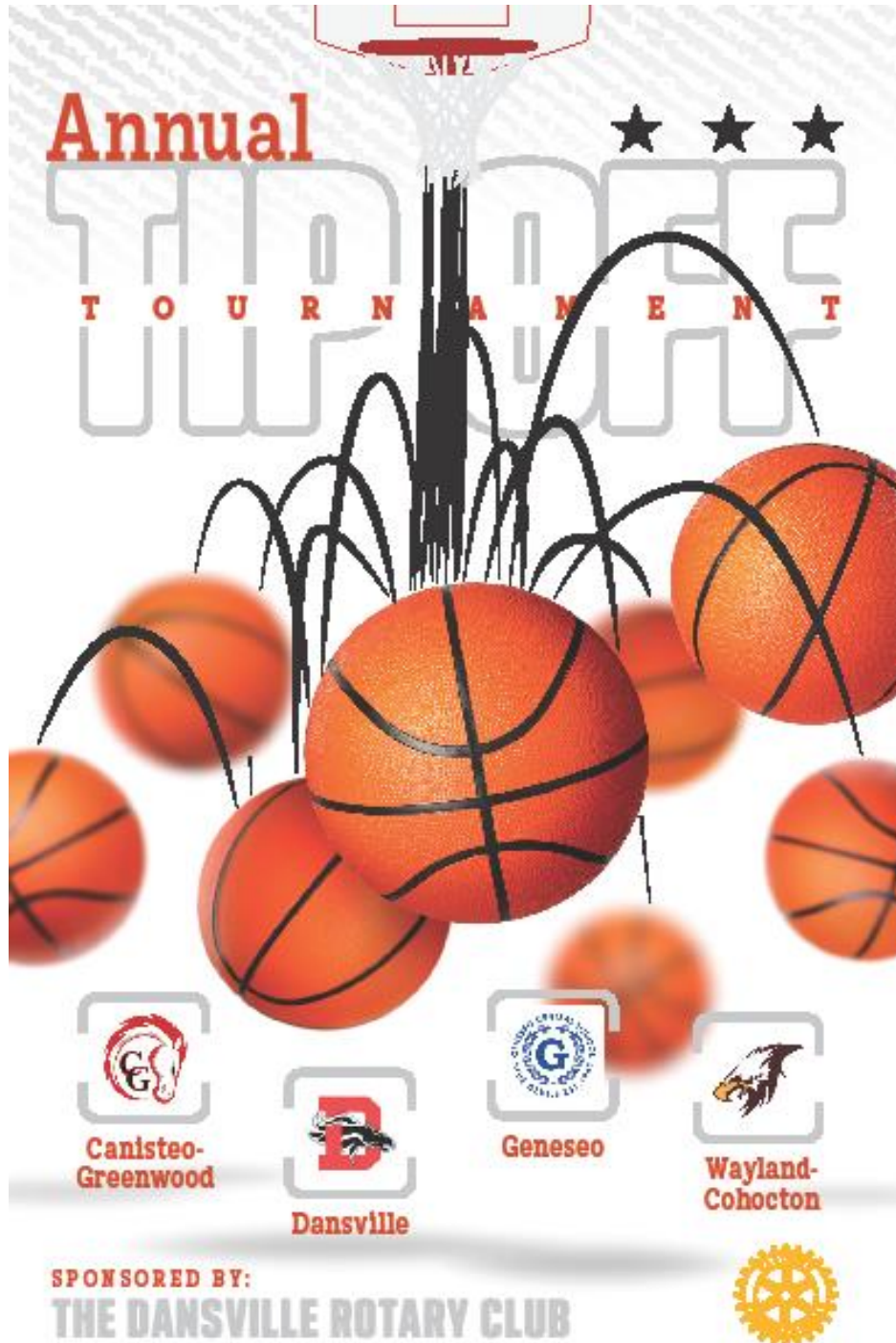
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT! WAVING HANDS!
Rochester Deaf Rotary Club



DANSVILLE ROTARY CLUB'S ANNUAL TIP OFF TOURNAMENT

Dansville Rotary Club's 2024 Annual Tip Off Tournament will be held December 12, 13, and 14 at the Dansville Central School Auditorium. Teams competing this year, in addition to Dansville, are from Canisteo-Greenwood, Geneseo, and Wayland-Cohocton.

The Club's first Basketball Tournament was held November/December 1995 and featured teams from Dansville, Newark, Wayland-Cohocton, and Wayne districts. The three-day event begins with competition at the Junior Varsity level. Varsity teams play later with a final champion declared for both Junior Varsity and Varsity levels. The Tournament has been held 29 years except 2020 due to the pandemic.





BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

**DECEMBER 14TH, 2024
9:30 AM & 11:30 AM
ROCHESTER ROTARY SUNSHINE CAMP**

809 Five Points Road, Rush NY 14543

**Take your picture with Santa and go
home with a craft!**

We will be serving eggs, pancakes, bacon, sausage,
Danishes, coffee, hot cocoa, and juice!
Gluten-free options available.

**\$10 PER CHILD
\$15 PER ADULT
CHILDREN UNDER 3 ARE FREE!**

Scan the QR code or visit Sunshinecamp.org
to register.





Rochester Deaf
Rotary
Club



announces a

DEDICATION CEREMONY
in honor of
SARA GAINER HAIMOWITZ,
past member of Rochester Deaf Rotary Club

We will honor her memory by presenting
a special bench during our ceremony:

Tuesday, January 14, 2025
6:00 p.m.

Rochester View Apartments
4365 W. Henrietta Rd., Henrietta, NY 14467

You are invited to attend,
as we remember Sara.





TIME TO PLAY AND WIN



Rochester Deaf
Rotary
Club



DINGO

NIGHT



* Tickets:

\$20
ENTRY

After 1/11:
\$25

Saturday **January 18, 2025**

Doors Open 2:30 pm • Dingo Game 3:00 pm
Henrietta Moose Family Center
5375 W. Henrietta Rd., W. Henrietta, NY 14586

MORE PRIZES
& MORE FUN FOR ALL!

Proceeds will go to RDR
Community Projects



TO BUY* TICKETS
Please Contact:
Deafrotary@gmail.com
CASH APP- \$deafrotary2004
PAY PAL- DeafRotary@gmail.com



Food Available for Purchase -
Snacks Provided
Cash Prizes! 50/50 Raffles!
Wine Raffles!



* Check (made payable to Rochester Deaf Rotary) postmarked by January 11.
Mail to: Rochester Deaf Rotary, Dingo, P.O. Box 18465, Rochester, NY 14618



Check the District Calendar
for additions and changes

“Click” on the calendar



Upcoming CLUB Events

December 12,13,14th Dansville Rotary Club
ANNUAL TIP OFF TOURNAMENT

December 14th Rochester Rotary Breakfast
with Santa

January 14th Rochester Deaf Rotary Club
Dedication in memory of Sara Gainer
Haimowitz

January 18th Rochester Deaf Rotary Club
DING Night

Upcoming DISTRICT Events

District Learning Assembly

Sat April 05, 2025

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m..

Midlakes High School

1554 NY-488

Clifton Springs, NY 14432

District 7120 Conference

May 2-4, 2025

Corning, NY



Marilyn Lyon - Newsletter Editor
Geneseo, NY 14454

Email - 7120news@rochester.rr.com

**The Grapevine deadline is the 10th of
every month**