



## Season's Greetings from Jim & Nancy

### Heartfelt Wishes for the Holiday Season

As the holiday season approaches, we extend our heartfelt wishes to you and your family for a joyful and Merry Christmas. May this festive time fill your home with happiness, warmth, and peace.

As proud Rotarians, we cherish the spirit of fellowship that brings us together throughout our District. The camaraderie and dedication within your club are truly special. We are grateful for the opportunity to share meaningful moments with each other during this Christmas season.

Whether it's gathering for holiday celebrations or working side by side on service projects, your dedication and enthusiasm make a positive difference in your community.

This time of year, is especially significant as we come together to support those in need through your club's service projects. Your generosity and commitment exemplify the true meaning of giving and uniting for good. Your contributions to the Rotary Foundation help to brighten many lives - at home, in ourselves, and in our communities

Wishing you a season filled with joy, laughter, and the warmth of fellowship. May you enjoy the company of friends and loved ones, and may the spirit of Rotary continue to inspire us all.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Jim & Nancy



## December Area of Focus

Each December, Rotary International highlights its focus on Disease Prevention and Treatment, encouraging clubs to enhance their efforts locally and globally.

Rotary works to improve health care access worldwide by organizing events such as health fairs, vaccination clinics, and supporting initiatives like End Polio Now, which has helped reduce global polio cases by 99.9%.

During Our Foundation Brunch we recognized Clubs for their 2024-20250 End Polio Now Contribution of at least \$1500 to Rotary's eradication efforts:

- Avon Rotary
- Geneva Rotary
- Canandaigua Rotary
- Greece Rotary
- Corning Rotary
- Newark Rotary
- Dundee Rotary
- Pittsford Rotary
- Fairport Rotary
- Waterloo Rotary
- Geneseo Rotary

Clubs are urged to identify local health issues—like diabetes or clean water—and launch targeted projects that collectively make a worldwide difference.

Rotary members support sustainable solutions, from medical outreach in remote villages to health education campaigns, always aiming to strengthen local capacity.

December serves as an important reminder for Rotary clubs to take action. Through collaborative efforts at both the local and international levels, every initiative advances healthier communities and fosters enduring progress.

Unite For Good/End Polio Now

Yours in Rotary.

Jim Crane

District 7120

Governor 2025-2026

UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD



# Unite for Good!

The Power of Human Connection  
Engage and Connect

**District 7120 Conference**  
**May 1-3, 2026**



**Holiday Valley**  
ESTABLISHED 1957

6557 Holiday Valley Rd, Ellicottville, NY 14731



Chamber of Commerce  
**Ellicottville NY**  
*"Doesn't this place  
feel great!"*

Host Club  
Victor-Farmington  
**Rotary**



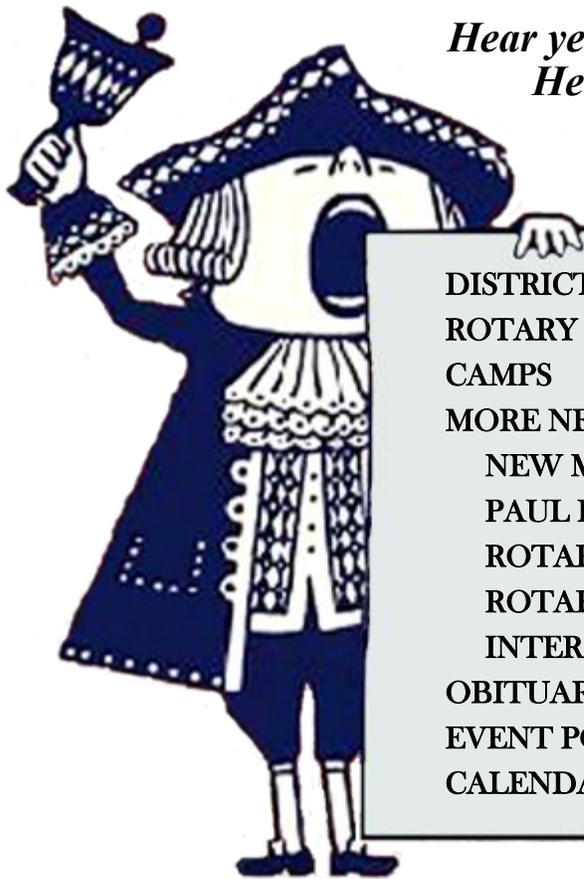
**Rotary**  
District 7120



**UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD**

Jim Crane • District Governor 2025-2026





*Hear ye!*      **TABLE OF**  
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*December*





## Environment Action Group



**District 7120 Environment Action Group invites you to join us for an exciting presentation from Hugo Hinrichsen Founder of Positive Polar and President Jennifer Bonilla PHD. ([positivepolar.com](https://positivepolar.com))**



Hugo is the CEO and Founder of Positive Polar. Leveraging his substantial operational experience as an Ex-Frigate Captain with expertise in personnel command, security, logistics, and executive roles in air and naval divisions. With a proven track record as a Polar Helicopter Pilot and Sailor, Hugo excels in rescue, emergency situations and supporting directly science work on extreme environments.



Jennifer Bonilla, PhD. Jenn is the President of Positive Polar with extensive experience investing, developing and commercializing biotechnology products and services.

**During this presentation, they will share captivating stories from expeditions in polar regions, highlighting the challenges and triumphs of operating in some of the world's most remote environments. Attendees will gain insights into the intersection of science, conservation, and adventure, and learn how Positive Polar's innovative approaches are making a tangible difference in whale restoration and environmental stewardship.**

Now they focus on developing sustainable expedition cruises worldwide, particularly in polar regions, to amplify oceanic food production and implement high-potential strategies for environmental impact mitigation or reversal.

**When: Tuesday January 6 at 7 PM**

**Where: Zoom presentation**

**Register: Please send an email to [rbrandt601@gmail.com](mailto:rbrandt601@gmail.com) to receive a Zoom invite**



# NEW MEMBER

# ORIENTATION

**Tuesday, October 21st 7:30 pm EST**  
**Wednesday, January 21st 7:30 pm EST**  
**Thursday, April 23rd 7:30 pm EST**

Open to all Rotary and Rotaract members — whether you've joined in the past year or just want a refresher!  
Join us for a dynamic session on Rotary's story, values, and impact. Discover the many opportunities to get involved.



Scan to  
join zoom



Rotary   
Zones 28 & 32

**CONNECT, LEARN AND BE INSPIRED!**

Link in caption: [bit.ly/NewMembersZones2832](https://bit.ly/NewMembersZones2832)





## Service-Leadership-FUN

Rotary District 7120 Interact News December 2025

**Wishing you the Happiest Holidays and Happy New Year!**

1. Start thinking about next year's elections for Interact Officers. Please have your next Interact year's team transition with the current team of Officers and Committee Chairs
  2. Consider sending one of your next Interact years Officers to RYLA (Hopefully President-Elect) This will give them a great base to lead your Interact club in the next Rotary/Interact year. Dates are July 12th–16th, 2026. Applications last year were due April 15<sup>th</sup>. Another reason to hold elections early. More information soon at <https://rotary7120.org/sitepage/ryla-1/ryla>
  3. **Rechartering Active, Terminated Interact Clubs with RI / Updating Active Interact Club Advisors with RI and 7120 District Interact:** Thank you for your progress in rechartering Active Interact Clubs that were Terminated by Rotary International for not updating their Interact Advisor yearly.
    - a. If you need to recharter, use this online form for a quicker process. [https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=Q-C0Z\\_0K-0qLIL-WNwyOfwns9ja2i05EuzNcd9-XjG5UM1pXVlo5MktlQIBPODVVUVk3UDg5UUwxNSQIQCN0PWcu&route=shorturl](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=Q-C0Z_0K-0qLIL-WNwyOfwns9ja2i05EuzNcd9-XjG5UM1pXVlo5MktlQIBPODVVUVk3UDg5UUwxNSQIQCN0PWcu&route=shorturl)
    - b. Then current Active Interact Clubs, please update your Interact Advisor **yearly** in July - September using this online form. <https://my.rotary.org/en/report-your-interact-club-advisor> 14 Active Interact Clubs have yet to update their Interact Advisor.
    - c. To check your Interact Clubs status (please check your existing Interact Club shows Active and if an Interact Advisor has been updated), please visit <https://rotary7120.org/sitepage/interact> Scroll down to Files on the left-hand side and select 7120 Interact Club Status (You will need a ClubRunner login to view this page as it has Rotarians contact information).
    - d. Please also send Advisor contact information to District 7120 Interact at [andrew.ashley@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.ashley@gmail.com) This is so we can keep you informed of information about Interact and send updates from Rotary International.
  4. **Interact Student/Advisor Learning Opportunities Rotary Learning Center:** Service- Learning Manuals for Interactors and Advisors are available. This gives Interactors a guide to learning about Service Projects and Service in their Communities and Worldwide. Students 16 and above and Non-Rotary Advisors can sign up for a My Rotary account (Information is not saved by RI after registration if they are under 18). Once signed in, Advisors and Interactors can go to this link for online training and handbooks.
    - a. For Students: <https://learn.rotary.org/members/learn/courses/1306/youth-guide-to-service-learning/lessons>
    - b. Advisors: <https://learn.rotary.org/members/learn/courses/1304/getting-started-service-learning-for-advisers/lessons>
    - c. Advisor Essentials Training Series <https://learn.rotary.org/members/learn/learning-plans/659/interact-adviser-essentials>
    - d. Interactors also have their own version of the Interact Handbook <https://my.rotary.org/en/document/interact-handbook-guide-for-interactors>
    - e. Advisors Handbook <https://my.rotary.org/en/document/interact-handbook-guide-for-sponsor-clubs-and-advisers>
- Need Assistance:** Please contact us with anything Interact: Michelle Bailey [michellebailey110@gmail.com](mailto:michellebailey110@gmail.com) or Drew Ashley [andrew.ashley@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.ashley@gmail.com). Please also see <https://www.rotary.org/en/get-involved/interact-clubs/details>



## APPLICATIONS FOR ROTARY FRIENDSHIP EXCHANGE TO SCOTLAND BEING ACCEPTED

Our District 7120 Rotary Friendship Exchange (RFE) program will be sending a team of up to ten people to District 1010 in Northern Scotland in May of 2026. This district encompasses the highlands of Scotland as well as the cities of Perth, Dundee, Aberdeen, and Inverness. The tentative itinerary will consist of stays in Aboyne (near Balmoral), Angus (which includes Kirriemuir, Montrose, Carnoustie), and Perth. This is a beautiful part of Scotland with mountains, lush farmland, beautiful seacoast, plenty of golf courses, and, of course, countless castles and historical sites.

The RFE will begin on May 5 and conclude on, or about, May 15. Exact details are still being worked out.

If you would like to submit an application to become a member of the team please visit the Friendship Exchange page on our district website at:

<https://www.rotary7120.org/sitepage/rotary-friendship-exchange>.

Simply complete the application and submit it to RFE Chair Cat Jensen at: [catwomyn19@gmail.com](mailto:catwomyn19@gmail.com) before the **deadline of February 1, 2026**.

RFE outbound team participation is open to all D7120 Rotarians and their spouse/partners who have previously hosted during an inbound exchange **OR pledge to do so in the near future**.

Couples AND singles are encouraged to apply.

If you have questions or would like further information contact team leader Mark Clement of the Pal-Mac Rotary at: [sparkplug1666@yahoo.com](mailto:sparkplug1666@yahoo.com)



## Literacy Corner

Rotary clubs showcase literacy at Christmas by distributing books to children, often as part of holiday events like "Children's Christmas Parties" or "Santa Clara Rotary's Christmas 4 Kids". These initiatives provide new books as gifts, stock community "Christmas Stores" with books, or fund school-based literacy programs to promote reading during the holidays.

### Ways Rotary supports literacy at Christmas

- **Gift Distribution:** Rotary clubs often partner with local organizations or schools to give books directly to children during holiday events, such as a "Children's Christmas Party" where each child receives a book.
- **Community Events:** Many clubs organize or participate in community-wide events that include a focus on literacy. For example, some clubs provide books for a "Christmas Store" that offers discounted toys and necessities.
- **School and Program Support:** Clubs may also donate books to local schools or fund literacy materials for specific school programs during the Christmas season.
- **Seasonal Literacy Initiatives:** Some clubs have specific Christmas-themed literacy projects. One example is the "Rotary Loves Readers!" program, which provides books for various holiday-related activities.
- **Partnering for Projects:** Rotary clubs frequently collaborate with libraries, local businesses, and other community groups to acquire and distribute books for Christmas literacy projects.

**May you have joyous Holidays and Happy New Year 2026  
from all of us on the District Literacy Committee.**

Submitted by Mary Merritt





*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

## 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

# new generations service exchange

## Exciting News for Our District!

Let's Talk About the Future of Rotary — and How We Can Bridge the Gap.

I'm thrilled to share a powerful initiative that's close to my heart:

**New Generations Service Exchange (NGSE)** — a dynamic Rotary program that creates global opportunities for young adults ages 18–30 through cultural exchange, professional development, and service.

As the district liaison for NGSE — and now the newly elected Director of North America (covering the USA, Canada, and Mexico) — I've seen firsthand how this program transforms lives and strengthens Rotary's impact around the world

NGSE isn't a standalone program. It's a natural bridge between the youth services we already offer — Interact, RYLA, Youth Exchange — and long-term engagement in Rotary.

Too often, we lose touch with young people after high school. NGSE is our chance to keep them connected, engaged, and inspired during that critical 18–30 age window.

I've created a presentation that explains NGSE, shows how it connects to existing youth programs in our District, and outlines real ways it can grow both connections and membership.

I'd be honored to present this at your club — to start the conversation, inspire new energy, and create opportunities for young leaders who are eager to serve.

Let's invest in the future of Rotary by nurturing those who already know our values and just need the right door to walk through.

Julie Carney

[juliecarney7120@gmail.com](mailto:juliecarney7120@gmail.com)

<https://www.ngse.net/>

**Rotary**  
District 7120



As this final month of 2025 is in full swing, it is time to begin thinking about 2026 and who your club will sponsor to attend the Rotary Youth Leadership Award camp, which is an intensive leadership experience. Students will develop skills as leaders while having fun and making connections. If your Rotary Club sponsors an Interact Club, reach out to the advisor to see who they might recommend. If your club does not sponsor an Interact Club, reach out to someone at the local high school to inquire about who they might recommend. We welcome any students currently in their sophomore or junior year.

We are looking for students who would benefit from building communication and problem solving skills, discovering strategies for becoming a dynamic leader in their school or community, learning from community leaders, inspirational speakers and peer mentors, unlocking their potential to turn motivation into action and forming lasting friendships with other like-minded youth. Students will stay at the Finger Lakes Community College campus in Canandaigua, New York for the entire time (July 12th-16th, 2026). Students will be housed in individual rooms and fed three meals a day. The cost is covered by the sponsoring Rotary Club, which is \$750. Updated information is on our district website.

<https://rotary7120.org/sitepage/ryla-1>

[Click for Application](#)

Application and check should be sent from the sponsoring Rotary Club to me no later than May 15th. My information is located on the application and below. Please contact me with any questions that you have.

Thank you!  
Carrie Grove  
District 7120 RYLA Chair  
585-721-9950  
[grovecar75@gmail.com](mailto:grovecar75@gmail.com)



## District 7120 Club Bulletin/Newsletter Contest

### Club Bulletin Award Evaluation Criteria

For the current Rotary year, clubs will select three (3) bulletins/newsletters, published in the **time frame July 1 to January 31 of Rotary year**. The reason that the whole Rotary year isn't judged is to allow time for the submissions to be received by the judges, judged, and for the results to be sent to the Awards Committee for the awards to be made in time for the awards presentations at the District Conference.

Entries are due on or before **April 1, 2026**. To: Marilyn Lyon, [7120news@rochester.rr.com](mailto:7120news@rochester.rr.com)

Each of the following categories will be rated on a 0 to 5 point basis unless otherwise noted.

1. **Writing Style:** creative, witty, informative, to and for the members.
2. **Layout and Presentation:** attractive, eye-catching openings, neat, easy to read format, and reader-friendly.
3. **Graphics, photos, and color:** use of these items to enhance the story or to illustrate.
4. **Program Report:** Does your club have a weekly program/guest speaker? A report with or without a picture will be a bonus to your overall score for the competition.
5. **Club News:** Upcoming events, fundraisers, projects, results of events, attendance, make-ups, trips, special recognition's, etc.
6. **Member Recognition:** new member biography, accomplishments, fines.
7. **District Information:** Meetings, dinners, training sessions, visitations, programs, projects, accomplishments, and requests.
8. **RI Information:** Extracts from articles in the Rotarian magazine, ABC's of Rotary, and similar sources.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE UPDATE:  
COVID-19, INFLUENZA, RSV, and POLIO  
September 10, 2025  
PDG DAVID HANNAN

**IT'S TIME TO GET YOUR UPDATED 2025-2026 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.**

**INFLUENZA:** The New York State Department of Health recommends that everyone aged 6 months or older get a seasonal flu vaccine. (The seasonal influenza virus is not approved for use in children younger than 6 months old, but their risk of flu complications is higher than for any other child age group. The best way to protect children younger than 6 months against seasonal influenza is to make sure members of their household and their caregivers are vaccinated. The same can be said for households in which anyone has a chronic disease, especially lung disease such as asthma or emphysema. Get vaccinated to protect yourself and your loved ones! See [Flu \(Influenza\)](#) for more information.

**COVID-19:** COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. The governor has issued an executive order to assure the vaccine is available. Everyone over age 65 and anyone else who has chronic disease should get this vaccine. Others may benefit as well by reducing their risk of illness during the winter months. See [Governor Hochul Signs Executive Order Expanding Access to Vaccines Amid Uncertainty in Washington | Governor Kathy Hochul](#) for more information.

**RSV (RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL VIRUS):** RSV is a highly contagious virus that usually causes mild, cold-like symptoms but can be serious, especially in infants and older adults. In adults it can cause pneumonia, infections of the bronchioles (bronchiolitis), and can exacerbate underlying chronic lung disease. RSV Vaccination is recommended for adults age 60 and older and for pregnant women. Each year in the U.S., RSV leads to approximately 60,000-120,000 hospitalizations and 6,000-10,000 deaths among adults 65 years of age and older. The governor's executive order also applies to the RSV Vaccine. RSV does NOT need a second vaccine. See [Respiratory Syncytial Virus \(RSV\) Infection](#) for more information.

**To protect against respiratory viruses, the Department of Health recommends commonsense precautions, including:**

- Staying up to date on all vaccines, including the RSV vaccine (if eligible).
- Washing hands often with soap and hot water for least 20 seconds.
- Not coughing or sneezing into hands.
- Staying home when sick or symptomatic.
- Those wishing to further protect themselves from respiratory viruses such as RSV disease may consider wearing a well-fitting, high-quality mask when in public indoor spaces.

**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 99 cases of Wild Polio Virus Type 1 worldwide in 2024, 25 in Afghanistan and 74 in Pakistan. To date, there have been 28 cases of WPV1 in 2025, 4 in Afghanistan and 24 in Pakistan.
4. There were 463 cases in 21 countries of circulating Vaccine Derived Polio Viruses (cVDPV) worldwide in 2024. To date in 2025, there have been 142 cases in 16 countries of cVDPV.
- 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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.**



# The Polio Plus Society

As a Rotarian and supporter of Polio Eradication, **Rotary's Number One Priority**, I wish to participate in the Countdown to History as a member of the **PolioPlus Society of District 7120**



I hereby commit to making an annual donation to the PolioPlus Fund of The Rotary Foundation as follows (select one):

- \$100 USD per year (minimum amount to become a society member)
- A contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ per year to PolioPlus (more than \$100)

I pledge to help Rotary make history by continuing to contribute the above amount each year until the World Health Organization certifies that polio has been fully eradicated because ...

***Until the world is polio-free, every child is at risk.***

Society members will receive a PolioPlus Society membership pin. Your contribution qualifies for Paul Harris Recognition and Major Donor credit. **PLEASE DO NOT MAIL YOUR CHECK TO ME. SEE BELOW!**

To make your tax-deductible donation go to [my.rotary.org/donate](https://my.rotary.org/donate) and click on "Polio Fund". You can choose a one-time donation of \$100 or more, or a recurring donation in the amount and frequency of your choice (We suggest \$10/month as the "easy way" to become a PolioPlus Society member.) **OR, you can mail your check to: The Rotary Foundation, 14280 Collections Center Drive, Chicago, IL 60693, USA along with the Contribution form that you can download here: [https://rotary7750.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Rotary\\_Foundation\\_contribution\\_form.pdf](https://rotary7750.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Rotary_Foundation_contribution_form.pdf) (YOU WILL NEED YOUR ROTARY ID NUMBER.)**

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Club Name \_\_\_\_\_ District # \_\_\_\_\_

Please email **just this form (not your check)** to [janettenreiro@gmail.com](mailto:janettenreiro@gmail.com) or mail to **Janet Tenreiro, 4069 Whitetail Drive, Canandaigua, NY 14424**. Your PolioPlus Society pin will be presented at a club meeting to make sure you are recognized for your commitment to polio eradication.

**Sign up today!**



**SAVE THE DATE**



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# 100th Annual Eastern Cities Fellowship Event

## Francesco Arezzo

2025-2026 RI President



**APRIL 17<sup>TH</sup>  
2026**

**Registration opens  
January 2026**

*Space is limited*



Rotary Rose Parade  
Float Committee

January 1, 2026

Rotary 



Presenting The 2026 Float Unite For Good  
Rotary Presidential Message ‘Unite for Good’  
Tournament of Roses Theme “The Magic in Teamwork”

Our 2026 Rose Parade float bursts with color and energy, celebrating the beauty of teamwork in nature — and in service to others. Set in a lush, dreamlike landscape, the Float showcases a diverse gathering of iconic wildlife working in harmony, just as Rotarians unite for good across borders and around the world to create lasting change.

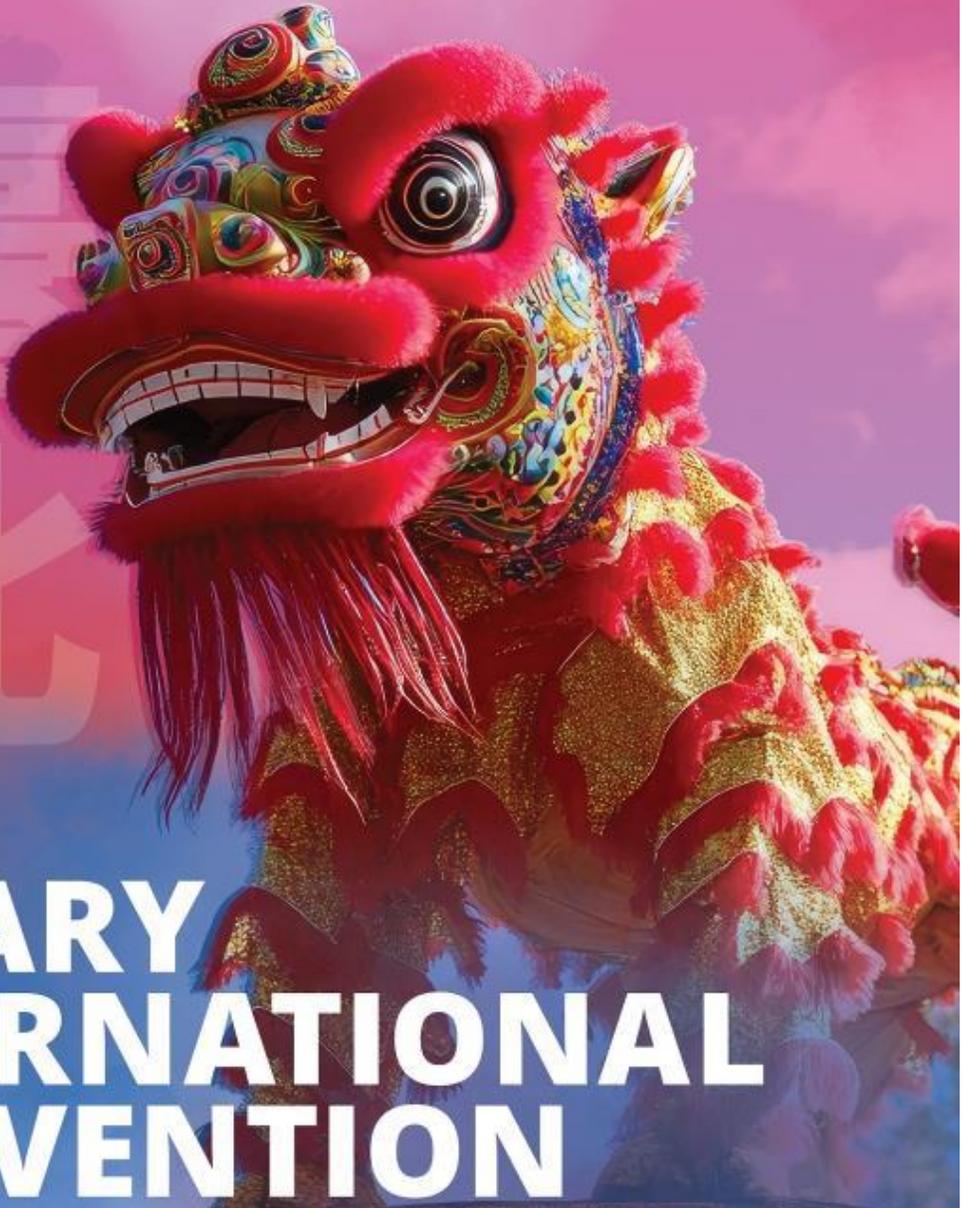
Towering giraffes, playful zebras, and a curious hippo gather beneath blooming trees of brilliant pink and orange. A vibrant toucan peeks from the treetops, while a green snake winds gently along a branch. Nearby, a flamingo surveys the scene, adding elegance and balance to the habitat. Toward the front, a proud tiger watches over her two cubs — a reminder of both strength and nurturing.

Every element, from the cascading floral canopies to the dynamic animal poses, represents the strength found in community, diversity, and collective purpose.

This year’s float reminds us that when we come together, whether in the wild or the world of service, there is Magic in Teamwork.

**Dedicate a Rose - Honor your loved ones with a rose on the float!**

<https://www.rotaryfloat.org/>



# ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

TAIPEI, TAIWAN | 13-17 JUNE 2026

Rotary 

 TAIPEI  
2026

#Rotary26

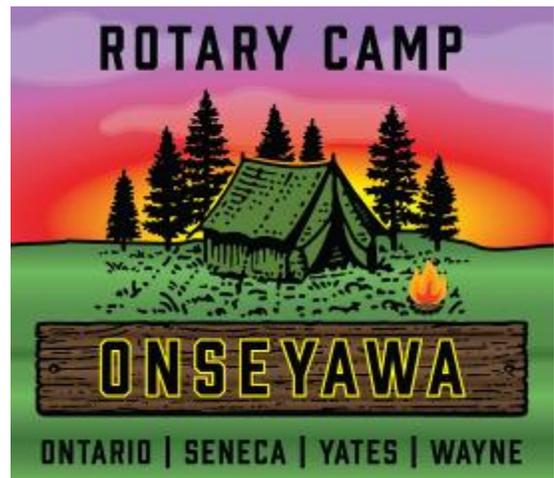
15 December 2025: Last day for early-registration discount  
31 March 2026: Last day for preregistration discount



**August 10-15th 2025  
Ages 6-12**



**August 10th - 16th  
2025  
Ages 8-21**



**August 11-15 and 17-22  
2025.  
Ages 8-16**



**Session 1 (Ages 7-15)  
July 6th – 11th  
Session 2 (Ages 16-21)  
July 13th – 18th**

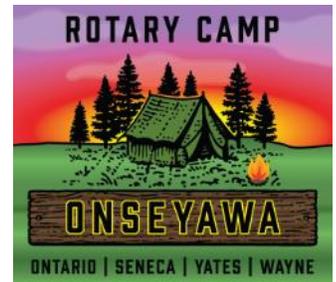


**July 28 - Aug 1: Youth Week  
Ages 7 to 18 years old  
August 4 - 8: Adult Week  
Ages 19 to 30 years old**

**A SPECIAL TIME OF THE YEAR for ROTARY CAMP ONSEYAWA!**

This time of the year is when we can look back to review our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges while deeply appreciating our successes.

69 years ago, Rotarians gathered to create a mission to help families with youth with disabilities by giving them a memorable summer camp experience. That mission has not changed and lives on. We thank the 19 Rotary Clubs, their Camp Onseyawa Directors and their members for continued support by prioritizing this special camp. This unique team effort represents over 750 Rotarians who carry the torch to keep this camp alive.



We thank all supporters and community givers. Support comes in many forms: financial donations, service projects, volunteering at camp during sessions or volunteer weekends, donations of program needs from our wish list, donations of food items, volunteering at the Rotary Carnival, sponsoring improvement projects just to name a few ..... We appreciate each and every “gift” as we appreciate each and every one of you. We’ve waited all year to say thanks, now the Holiday Cheer is here.

This is a special 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 such as golf carts, or the Endowment fund where your gift is always there to support the camp.

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

Please contact Board Chairman Robin Mark 585-370-2389 or your local club director with any questions. Join us as we prepare to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary summer camp season.

By Victor Arsenault



## Webster Rotary Club

On Thursday, November 6th, the Webster club welcomed District Governor Jim Crane and his partner Nancy to their club meeting. In addition to sharing a wonderful Rotary message for the 2025-2026 year, Jim helped induct three new members to the Webster club. Welcome to Rotary Alex and Alexandra Scialdone and Garrett Wagner! We also inducted an honorary member in Addison Wagner. We look forward to the many great works they will bring to the club, the Webster community and Rotary.

Submitted by Joe Corona



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

## Dansville Rotary Club

Ryan Corbett was inducted into Dansville Rotary at the Club's December 2nd meeting. Ryan recently was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship Award in recognition of his grueling experience as a prisoner of the Taliban for 894 days until his release early in 2025. Prior to his imprisonment, Ryan was an entrepreneur assisting businesses in Afghanistan who were endeavoring to boost the economy in that country.



Pictured left to right are Past President Barb Frazer, Ryan Corbett, Amy Pollard, Eric Thompson, Peter Vogt, Jenni Leuzzi, Steve Lehman, and Kelly Hoag.

Submitted by Teresa Dearing

## Rochester Deaf Rotary

DG Jim Crane's Visit to RDR

DG Jim Crane and AG Pat Stack visited Rochester Deaf Rotary on Tuesday, November 25, outlining his plan for the year, and giving his great advice to all of us. He also celebrated with us all, as he "pinned" our new member, Bob Marcus! Welcome Bob!

Article & Photos submitted by Michele Randall



## Corning Rotary Club

Corning Rotary welcomed Tom Samuels into our club on November 13, 2025.

Tom Samuels is the rabbi at the Congregation Kol Ami synagogue in Elmira, NY. He recently relocated to Elmira from British Columbia, Canada, and before that from Chicago, IL where he served as the rabbi for a variety of communities. Being a rabbi is a relatively new path for Tom in his pursuit of a life of service, meaning, and purpose.

Prior to attending and graduating from rabbinical seminary, Tom worked as an urban designer for the City of Chicago organizing local communities to take ownership of the design of their built environment. Ultimately, whether designing roadway intersections or leading a prayer service, Tom's mission, his calling, is to build holiness with others in our everyday lives.



President Jennifer Batzing, sponsor Gil Sweet  
Welcome new member Tom Samuels.



President Jennifer Batzing and sponsor Gretta Tomb welcome  
Pam Walker and Bob Walker

Corning Rotary also welcomed Pam Walker and Bob Walker into our club on November 13, 2025. Bob was born in Toronto and grew up in Tucson, Arizona and Cocoa Beach, Florida. He went to college in Atlanta, earning a B.A. in math at Emory University and a master's in electrical engineering at Georgia Tech. Bob began his engineering career at Motorola in Phoenix. Pam grew up in Pittsburgh and northern New Jersey. She attended Yale University and met Bob in Phoenix while working for the summer at Motorola. She earned a master's in Public Administration from Columbia University and then returned to Phoenix where Bob and Pam got married in Phoenix in 1986. They moved to southern California, where Bob worked for American Fiber Optics and Pam was a planner for the City of Seal Beach. A subsequent move took them

to Cocoa Beach, Florida, where Bob worked in the space program and Pam was Chief Senior Planner for Brevard County.

The Walkers moved to Corning in 1992. Bob has held multiple positions with Corning Incorporated, spanning every division. Pam was Executive Director of Literacy Volunteers of the Central Southern Tier for several years, during which time she was a Rotarian. Bob retired from Corning Inc. in 2019. Pam retired from teaching English at the Alternative School for Math and Science in late 2020. Pam and Bob both held many volunteer positions in the community with the Five Rivers Council of the Boy Scouts of America, in their churches, and in the schools.

Currently, Pam is Mayor-elect of the City of Corning, a member of the Planning Commission, and Chair of the Steering Committee for the Corning Comprehensive Plan Update and is past-president of the Twin Tiers Five Rivers Chapter of Fly Fishers International. Bob currently volunteers at their church, for Meals on Wheels, and for the Bath VA, and serves as quartermaster for the fly-fishing club.

In their free time, Bob enjoys motorcycles and boats, Pam fishes with a statewide group of women anglers, and they enjoy bicycling together.

Submitted by Jan Harvey

Welcome

## Newark Rotary Club

Last week we had the privilege of welcoming a new corporate member into our club. Emma Mason from Citizens Bank was officially inducted, with Kristen Stephens joining as the alternate member. We're proud to have both Emma and Kristen on board and look forward to the contributions they'll bring to our Rotary community.

Submitted by Marc Kreuser



## Waterloo Rotary Club

Waterloo Rotary Club recently held their 8th Annual Service Above Self Dinner honoring Mr. Mike Soler for his service to the Waterloo community volunteering with many organizations. He was presented with a Village Proclamation by Trustee Andrew Trahms & Rotarian Gina Suffredini, as well as a Paul Harris Fellow by Waterloo President Renee Dombek, Foundation Chair Jeff Casim, Assistant District Governor Stacy Wyant and District Governor Jim Crane.



The Service Above Self recognition is given to a non-Rotarian who gives of their time to their community to make it a better place without regard for personal gain or recognition emulating the Rotary values.

Submitted by Jane Shaffer



## Canandaigua Rotary Club

The Canandaigua Rotary Club recently recognized Scott Kesel for his Paul Harris Plus 4 Fellowship. A Paul Harris Fellowship is awarded to a living individual who exemplifies a community inspiration and who has brought leadership and service to our community. Recipients are Rotarians or community professionals in recognition of their outstanding contributions, exemplifying the highest ideal in Rotary by placing Service Above Self. Recognition of a Paul Harris Fellow is an opportunity to show appreciation for a person, either Rotarian or non-Rotarian, who share these values.



Pictured are Scott Kesel and Club President Kent Gilges:

Information and photos by: Jack Kellogg



## Belmont Rotary Club

Foundation Dinner

Belmont Rotary was honored to have PDG Dr. David Hannan as our guest speaker for our Foundation dinner. We learned a lot about Polio and opportunities to help in the fight to eliminate this virus. PDG Dave also assisted Foundation chair Mary Fuller in presenting a Paul Harris award to Pat Schmelzer in appreciation of her commitment to Rotary. Our thanks to all who donated to this event and to Past President Dana Ross for organizing a great evening.

Submitted by Mary Fuller



## Corning Rotary Club

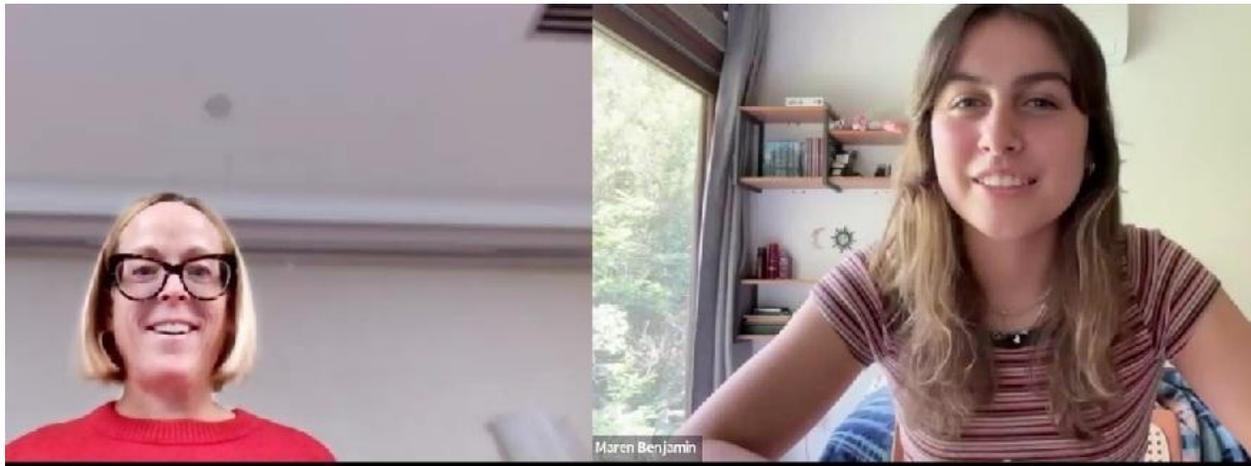
The Corning Club recently had the opportunity via Zoom to talk with our exchange student Maren Benjamin, currently in Brazil.

Maren presented a PowerPoint with pictures of places and people she has met. She described her school, families and friends as well as the opportunities and challenges she has experienced while there.

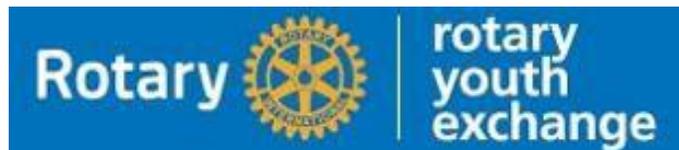
Maren thanked Rotary for this learning experience, especially to learn another language as well as seeing how people's lives in other countries are similar and different to hers in Corning. Club members were able to ask her questions in real time instead of waiting until she returned home in six months.

Zooming to the other side of the plant was an easy way to keep the club and the exchange student connected. It was very beneficial to club members to see the impact of this program.

Submitted by Jan Harvey



*President Jen Batzing zooming with exchange student Maren Benjamin*



## Rotaract Club at SUNY Geneseo

During the Fall 2025 semester, Rotaract members participated in a diverse range of service opportunities both on campus and throughout the community. These projects allowed volunteers to support local organizations, assist community members, and engage in meaningful hands-on service.

# Rotaract

PEOPLE OF ACTION



To start the semester, members walked in the *Teresa House Comfort Care Walk*, helping to raise funds for free hospice services. Volunteers participated in the *Geneseo Cat Tour*, an event benefiting *Hearthside Cats Inc.*, which combined a walking tour of local cats with adoption opportunities. At the *National Warplane Museum*, Rotaract members assisted visitors at the *Moving Wall Exhibit* by helping them locate names on the *Vietnam Veterans Memorial*.

In October, the club returned to *Tree Creations*, a unique treehouse village maintained through community volunteers, where members helped with upkeep to ensure the space remains a fun, free experience for families and children. Volunteers also helped a retired teacher, *Phyllis*, by spending the afternoon raking leaves at her home. Rotaract members also participated in the *Quiz Bowl* as Moderators and Scorekeepers, ensuring matches ran smoothly. In collaboration with the *Genesee Valley Conservancy*, volunteers helped plant trees at the *Indian Fort Nature Preserve*. And during the *Geneseo Rotary Halloween Parade*, members held signs, handed out cider and donuts, and

*helped support a festive community tradition.*

In November, members assisted at the *Geneseo Parish Outreach Center's Wellness Fair*, with event setup and cleanup, preparing fruit cups and cooking chili for attendees. Rotaract also hosted a *Tech Help Hour* at the *Mount Morris Library*, where volunteers set up equipment, became familiar with the library's computers, and assisted community members with basic technology questions.

In addition to hands-on service, Rotaract leadership engaged with community partners. Members of the Rotaract Executive Board met and spoke at the Geneseo Rotary meeting for updates on events. Finally, it is important to address the discontinuation of the volunteer center on the SUNY Geneseo campus and note the impact this change has on students and the club. Concerns include fewer resources, the loss of the volunteer fair, and reduced advocacy for student volunteerism.

Submitted by Luca Ramet Secretary of Rotaract Club



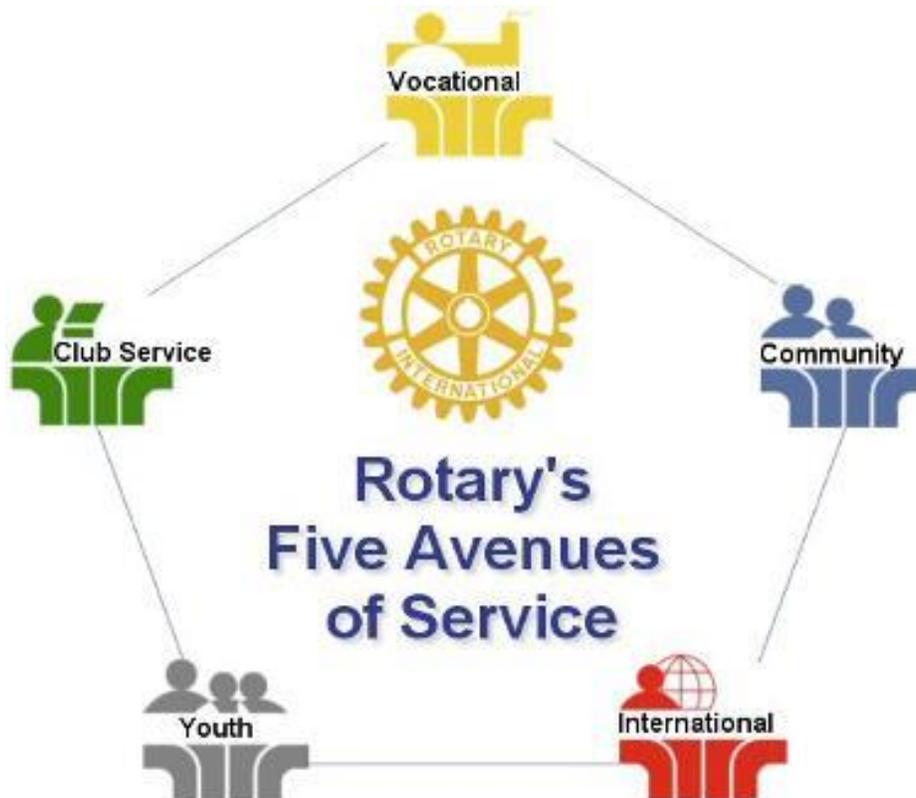
## CHURCHVILLE-CHILI INTERACT CLUB

A 2nd Interact Club, from Churchville-Chili is now being sponsored by the Spencerport Rotary Club. The club facilitator is Anne Winslow, who “Grew up in Rotary” as her father is a Rotarian in Fairport. Her experience and volunteering with Rotary was what led her to become a Social Worker, now at Churchville-Chili school. Katie Chesher, Club Secretary and Lydia Roeser, Club Vice President joined Ms. Winslow at a recent Rotary Club meeting, to introduce themselves. The CC Interact Club has 15 members and is looking to grow. They are planning service projects such as a food drive, sending medical supplies through Intervol, holding a clothing drive and volunteering at Ronald McDonald House. They are looking forward to partnering with Spencerport Rotary and Spencerport Interact Club to work on joint service projects and fundraisers.



Pictured L-R: Spencerport Rotary Club President Kathy Magin, Katie Chesher, Anne Winslow, Lydia Roeser.

Submitted by Colleen Farley



### Waterloo Rotary Club

Waterloo Rotary was pleased to announce the recipients of this years Community Service Donations and to present a \$1,000 check each to the House of Concern, Cayuga Seneca Action Program and Harmony Food Pantry. In addition to President Renee Dombek presenting the checks.

Submitted by Jane Shaffer



### Waterloo Rotary Club

Rotarians and Interactors packed 60 Turkey Dinners in a Bag, Thanksgiving meals, for the organizations to provide to their families.

Submitted by Jane Shaffer



## Bath Rotary Club

On Sunday, October 5, members of the Bath Rotary Club again set up leg one and two of the annual



Very early (about 5:00 a.m.) on Sunday, October 5, Bath Rotarians Lillian Fazi, Brandi Graham, Jay Maslyn, and Cheryl Muller and Muller's sister, Linda Loveland, and Graham's son, Brandon, set up the cones, poles, flags, etc. needed for the 2025 Wineglass Marathon. In this picture setting up leg one are Brandi Graham and Jay Maslyn.

Wineglass Marathon, a qualifier for the Boston Marathon, from Bath to Painted Post. The members of the two teams had to be on the course by 5:00 a.m. in order to place the cones, poles, flags, etc. at the designated spots on the course. The race itself started in Bath at 8:15 a.m. After the runners had passed through leg one and two, the two teams had to go back out on the course, remove the items, and return them to the storage facility in Painted Post. The members of the two teams were Lillian Fazi, Brandi Graham, Jay Maslyn, Cheryl Muller, Muller's sister, Linda Loveland, and Graham's son, Brandon. Prior to the race itself Bath Rotarians traveled to the storage facility in order to count the number of cones, poles, flags, etc. needed for each leg of the race as well as assemble the poles and arrange the flags in the order needed.

The Wineglass Marathon Committee donates funds to the local club for all of its time, work, and

support. The club uses these funds to support several local projects.

Written by Elaine Tears  
Picture by Brandi Graham

## Bath Rotary Club

On October 9, Rotary District 7120 Governor, Jim Crane, a member of the Victor-Farmington Rotary Club, made his official visit to the Bath Rotary Club and presented an official 2025 - 2026 Rotary International banner (Unite for Good) to the local club as well as handing out 2025 - 2026 Rotary International pins to Bath Rotarians present. Standing left to right are Nancy Latour, Bath Rotary Club Secretary and Rotary District 7120 Assistant Governor, Area 3; Jim Crane, Rotary District 7120 Governor; Eddie VanStine, Bath Rotary Club President.

Submitted by Elaine Tears



## Dundee Rotary Club

Honors November Student of the Month

Madalynn Knapp was presented with the Student of the Month award for November at the Dundee Rotary's November 12th regular meeting. Madalyn was accompanied by her parents, Danny and Heather Knapp as well as Jr/Sr High Principal Chad Johnson.

Mr. Johnson explained that Madalyn was selected because of her many accomplishments and activities as a member of the Senior Class and throughout her high school career. Madalyn serves as the President of the Senior Class and of Student Government, Co-President of the Honor Society, and participates in three sports. She hopes to attend Syracuse University, ultimately becoming an orthodontist. Rotary President Lynda Kimball presented Madalyn with a certificate and a \$25.00 check.

Submitted by Lauren Snyder

Pictured (L to R) President Kimball, Danny Knapp, Madalyn, Heather Knapp, and Principal Johnson.



### Newark Rotary Club



The Newark Rotary Club members once again volunteered to "Ring The Bell" at the Newark Walmart store for the benefit of the Salvation Army. The club manned the bell ringing site starting on Black Friday and Saturday, meeting many happy and generous shoppers.

Photo: Longtime Newark Rotarians Ken George and Jean Bendix oversee the Red Kettle..

Submitted by John Zornow

### Gananda Rotary Club

- Gananda Rotary Club prepares Thanksgiving Baskets of food for 7 families. Gananda Rotarians pictured sorting the meals are: Jerry Tavormina, Terri Nichols, Jess Nichols, Don Reeners, Kristy Airy, Theresa Downham, Juan Alfaro and Chip Rieck.

Submitted by Patti Holdraker.



### Gananda Rotary Club



- In November, the Gananda Rotary Club again delivery food and snacks for the Backpack Program at Gananda Central School. Bridget Meredith and Wanda Arnold delivered to Heather Keenan from the school.

Submitted by Patti Holdraker.

### Watkins-Montour Rotary

The 'Rotary Elves' held their annual shopping trip for our Club-sponsored Christmas families through Catholic Charities of Chemung/Schuyler Counties' Schuyler Outreach program. It is a joy to provide Christmas cheer to our local families in need, and also to have our own family members join us for the event!

Submitted by Emily Peckham



### Fairport Rotary Club

Fairport Rotarians, enjoyed the 7120 District Foundation Brunch. Representing the Fairport club are Linda Kohl, Ken Kohl, Mark Fink, John Hall and Maureen Hall, they accepted a certificate for significant donations from the club to the foundation.

Submitted by Marybeth Christiansen



## Greece Rotary Club

Greece Rotary Literacy Early Learning - 600 Distribution Kits



The Greece Rotary assembled together 600 kits that will be distributed to Greece Central School District- Pre-K and Kindergarten students to help with their literacy and communication skills.

Each kit contains 2 books, a journal for writing and drawing, alphabet cards, crayons, a pencil and a pencil sharpener. Senator Jeremy Cooney was responsible for helping the club secure a \$10,000 grant from New York State for the supplies.

Submitted by Chuck Gannon



## Geneseo Rotary Club

**Geneseo Stove Team Challenge Buys Six Cook Stoves**

Six families in Central America will have safe and environment friendly Cook stoves next year due to the generosity of local Rotarians. Geneseo contributed two stoves with money raised in can and bottle drives, and the Greece club donated \$500.00 to buy two more. Individual donations accounted for the final two.

Cook Stove International provides stoves to families at no charge Aside from the health dangers of cooking over open fires. Such fires contribute to pollution and contribute to to destruction of environmentally necessary rain forests in Central America.

The Geneseo Rotary club thanks all who contributed.

Submitted by Gary Anderson <gwa1948@aol.com>

## Pal-Mac Rotary

On a Saturday morning in November an amazing group of Pal-Mac Rotarians and community members prepped and assembled 26 lasagnas in about 2 hours! Eighteen of them were delivered to families in Wayne County, helping families with food insecurity, and eliminating a backlog of requests. Thanks to Paul Guglielmo, Barilla Pasta, Jensen's Farm, and Wegmans for donating ingredients for our Lasagna Prep Party! We will definitely do this again!

This service project is called Lasagnalove, and has been spearheaded by club member, Lissa Mills.

Submitted by Jeff Crawford



Ray, Keisha, and Maurina doing prep work.



Dianne and Lissa having wayyy too much fun.



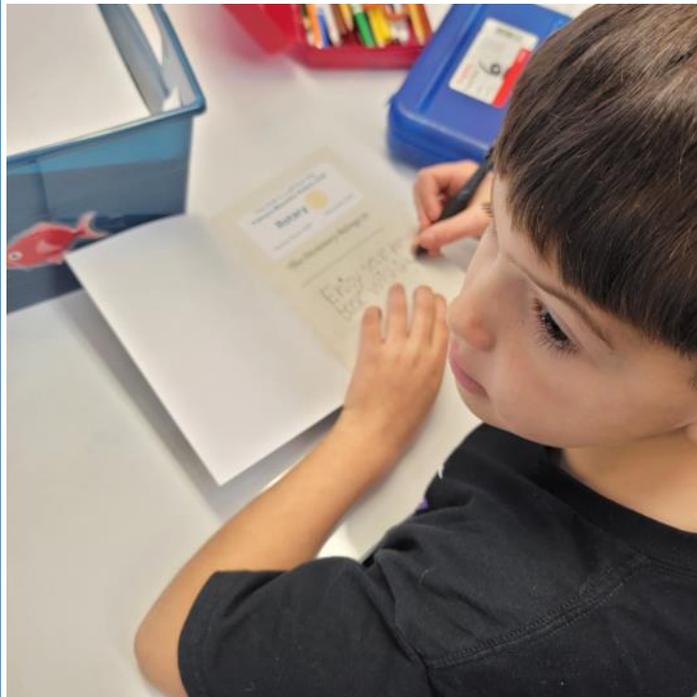
The gang!

## Pal-Mac Rotary

Our club took a different approach to the Dictionary/Thesaurus Project in November. Instead of giving a dictionary or thesaurus to each student in the third and fourth grades at the elementary school, we had them inscribe the books with a special message. We encouraged the students to hug the books for a personal vibe. Then we collected them back so Bob and Cindy Hunt could use them for their "Books for the World" project.

The result was that the students ended up participating in an international project. Here are some photos.

Submitted by Jeff Crawford



## Rochester Rotary Club

### Celebrating Foundation Month

Rochester Rotary recently achieved a truly historic milestone, overflowing with energy, gratitude, and Rotary pride: in a single celebration, 31 Rotarians were recognized as new and multiple Paul Harris Fellows—an all-time record for our club and a powerful testament to our shared commitment to The Rotary Foundation and Service Above Self.

### Foundation Month spotlight

November is Rotary Foundation Month, a time when clubs around the world lift up the life-changing work of The Rotary Foundation, which transforms gifts into projects that fight disease, provide clean water, support education, grow local economies, and promote peace. Rochester Rotary's extraordinary outpouring of generosity this year reflects the very heart of that mission, showing how one club's dedication can ripple out to change lives in our community and across the globe.

### A record-setting celebration

At this single meeting, 31 Paul Harris Fellows were honored—an unprecedented first for Rochester Rotary and a benchmark very few clubs ever reach in one event. Each recognition represents at least 1,000 dollars given or entrusted in a member's name to The Rotary Foundation, directly fueling grants and programs that advance Rotary's seven areas of focus and long-term humanitarian impact.

### Inspiration meets action

A special round of applause goes to Paul DeCarolis, whose Foundation Challenge inspired 23 of these recognitions and sparked a wave of generosity, fellowship, and joyful giving across our membership. Heartfelt thanks also go to Past President Don Alhart, whose award-winning storytelling helped capture the spirit of the day and brought this milestone to life for members and friends alike.

### Relive the moment

Those who missed the event—or who simply want to feel that magic again—are invited to watch Don Alhart's broadcast-quality recap video, created just for Rochester Rotary, to see the smiles, hear the story behind the challenge, and experience a Foundation Month program that will be remembered for years. In just a few minutes, viewers can witness how generosity, camaraderie, and a bold idea came together to create a moment worthy of Rotary's proud tradition of Service Above Self. <https://youtu.be/VmgqEoTc5zw>

### Pride in Rotary service

Congratulations to each of our new and multiple Paul Harris Fellows; your vision and generosity are changing lives, strengthening our club, and demonstrating the extraordinary good that happens when Rotarians unite around The Rotary Foundation. As Rochester Rotary celebrates this remarkable Foundation Month milestone, the club looks ahead with renewed purpose, determined to keep shining the light of hope, fellowship, and service in our community and around the world.

Submitted by  
Richard de Asis



### Fairport Rotary Club

Fairport Rotary Club is hosting a Winter Coat Drive to help individuals and families in need at our 508-unit low-income multifamily community. All items will be sorted and distributed directly to residents who need winter gear. This is just the first collection of outerwear, with more to come.

Submitted by Marybeth Christiansen



### Spencerport Rotary Club

Spencerport Rotary was honored to work alongside the Kiwanis Club of Spencerport and two dedicated Churchville-Chili Interact Club members - Robert Hoose and Owen Underwood for the annual Shoebox Project.

By working together several shoeboxes were successfully filled with toys, school supplies and personal care items which will be sent to children in need. The Shoebox Project is an inspiring real-life example of our community uniting together for the greater good. A heartfelt thank you to all the helpers for their incredible effort and commitment in making this initiative a reality! This generosity is making a difference in the lives of children around the world.

Submitted by Colleen Farley



### Dansville Rotary Club

Dansville Rotary Club is grateful to "Chef" Kent Rounsville and the army of volunteers who helped prepare and deliver the Rotary's annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner on November 27<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers delivered over 700 complimentary meals on Thanksgiving Day. This free meal is available to any Dansville area residents who fill out an application prior to Thanksgiving week. The event continues to grow, demonstrating the community's spirit of giving.

Submitted by Teresa Dearing



### Rotary Club on International Service: Impacting Women & Children

On Saturday members of the Rotary Club on International Service: Impacting Women & Children worked with other Rotarians and Interactors at Inspired Hearts and Hands to wrap gifts for Christmas in our community. It was a great morning of fellowship and an opportunity to make a brighter Christmas for many!

Submitted by Michelle Bailey



## Wellsville Rotary Club

Wellsville Rotary ribbon cutting ceremony for the new pavilion located in the Tops plaza which overlooks the Genesee River. The pavilion can be used by Riverwalk hikers, kayakers, for picnics or someone wanting to relax and take in the wildlife on the Genesee river.

Submitted by Steve Ackley



## Victor - Farmington Rotary Club



Rob Merkle, Director of Training for the Victor Farmington Ambulance Corps, recently spoke to the V-F Rotary club on the five decades of service they have provided to the community since they were founded in 1970.

The V-F Ambulance Corps has had an evolving and dramatic impact on providing medical services for the community that has required additional resources, implementation for adapting to rapidly changing technology and increased professionalization and training for their personnel.

The towns of Victor and Farmington are the two largest townships in Ontario county and continue to grow at a rapid pace. Rob discussed the rapidly expanding population growth of the V-F community, including the approval of an additional 3,000 residential units in Farmington over the next few years, and how this will create more demands on their services.

These adjustments include expanding their ambulance bases to three full-time bases and a fourth part-time base at the Victor Fire Department; a fleet of six fully equipped ambulances and three first responder vehicles; expanding their professional staff to 18 full-time paramedics and nine full-time EMTs; a comprehensive educational

program involving internships, AED locations, CPR training, health classes with Victor school district, and a loan program for medical devices.

The V-F ambulance Corps has come a long way from 1970 when they started with a single ambulance to cover the two townships and basically were trained to deliver first aid services while transporting patients to local hospitals.

Submitted by Dave Luitweiler

## Naples Rotary Club

The fall in Naples brings our biggest event to the forefront – The Naples Grape Festival happened at the end of September. The famous community-wide weekend is a fundraiser, with proceeds shared by the Rotary Club and Naples Historical Society. Featuring the World’s Greatest Grape Pie contest, arts, crafts, music, food trucks and a beverage garden with sampling of wines, beers, ciders and spirits, the Festival will enable us to sponsor many local, regional and international charitable projects this coming year. And it is a fun way for Rotarians to work together in Service Above Self!



After the Grape Fest was behind us, our next event is Light Up Naples. On December 13<sup>th</sup>, we sponsor a walk down Main Street, starting with chili at the firehall, past brightly lit businesses, singing carolers, a gingerbread display, a jazz band, handbell ringers and a live nativity to the Memorial Town Hall. There a bonfire keeps us warm, the Scouts share cocoa and cookies and Santa greets the children of Naples and beyond. It’s a wonderful way to share the

spirit of the Holidays!

Submitted by Cindy Scoda

## Rochester Deaf Rotary

### RDR Dingo Night

DG Jim learns how to play Dingo with Rochester Deaf Rotary Club! November 15 was a fun afternoon playing Dingo at the Moose Family Center in Henrietta. It was a benefit for Rochester School for the Deaf Travel Abroad Program. They will visit Italy. There was fun and laughter, raffles, and cash prizes! Some were new to the game, and some were skilled, but all enjoyed themselves. It was a great time! Waving hands!!



Article and photos from Michele Randall



## Corning Rotary Club

Keeping the tradition alive, the Corning Club hosted the Thanksgiving Joint Service Club Luncheon held annually on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Members from the Rotary Club, the Kiwanis and the Lions Club came together in a spirit of camaraderie as we all focus on serving the community.

This tradition started decades ago. Other than the “COVID years” it has continued uninterrupted and is highly anticipated. The three service clubs rotate hosting the luncheon. It serves as a time when the clubs can catch up on each other’s activities, possibly finding ways to do joint service projects. Almost sixty people attended.

The Chorus of the Southern Finger Lakes performed a mini-concert and holiday song sing-along.

Submitted by Jan Harvey



## Dansville Rotary Club

As part of the annual Winter in the Village celebration on December 6<sup>th</sup>, Past President Peter Vogt unveiled a Peace Pole monument that displays the message, “May peace prevail on Earth.” As stated by Rotary International, the monument serves as an affirmation of peace, furthering Rotary’s goal of building a culture of peace in the world. A Peace Pole is intended to inspire unity among people of all cultures, ethnicities, and backgrounds. The message “May Peace Prevail on Earth” was authored by the late Masahisa Goi of Japan after the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Submitted by Teresa Dearing



### Honeoye Lake Rotary Club

On November 30th, three members from the Honeoye Lake Rotary Club took the opportunity to raise some funds for our club. These brave souls took a dunk in Honeoye Lake along with other residents of the Honeoye community. Gary Hubble, Linda Evenski and Jerry Passer dressed well for the occasion and strolled eagerly into the chilly water on a cold wintry day. There were still smiles on their faces when they strolled back to shore. We thank them and others who graciously donated to our treasury by braving the cold and enjoying the polar plunge.



Submitted by  
Jeanne Hamele

### Geneva Rotary Club

District Governor Jim Crane presented Geneva Rotary President Kerry Lippincott with a certificate of appreciation at the club's Nov. 5 meeting. The certificate is for the club's financial support of Rotary International's End Polio Now Countdown to History campaign to eradicate polio around the world.



Mike Rusinko and Carol Chester shared at a recent Geneva Rotary Club meeting how they got started making hard cider. Seven years ago Carol went to Cider Creek in Rochester and really enjoyed the experience so they decided to start making their own. Mike shared a bit of history about Johnny Appleseed. They shared briefly the process for primary fermentation (1 week), secondary fermentation (over winter) and they bottle in the spring. They add a bit of yeast and sugar to make the bubbles. They find apples from a particular tree and add other crabapples from friends' trees. Geneva Rotarians enjoyed a delicious sampling of the "fruits of their labor."

Philip G. Beckley



## Avon Rotary Club

At our Avon Rotary Club meeting on December 2, we celebrated a truly remarkable and historic milestone: the 50th anniversary of Ernie Wiard joining our club. Since December 1975, Ernie has demonstrated an unparalleled commitment to service, dedication, and the ideals of Rotary.

"Next year Avon Rotary will be celebrating our 100th anniversary," said Club President Rob Lupisella. "Ernie Wiard has been a member of the club for over half of that time, a testament to his dedication and devotion to the ideals of Rotary. The hours he has given to serving others during that span is truly incredible."

Ernie's commitment and the impact of his service extends far beyond our Club and community. He has been a champion for the Genesee Valley Rotary Camp, serving on its Board for over 40 years. Through this long tenure, his efforts have helped to improve the lives of countless young people with special needs.

"Ernie's service to Rotary as a board member and officer for the Genesee Valley Rotary Camp is unparalleled," remarked GVRC Director Brian Bartalo. "Many dedicated individuals have served on the GVRC Board since our incorporation in 1963, but none longer than Ernie. Ernie's work on the board, especially as its treasurer for many decades, has been incredibly appreciated. Ernie has demonstrated the Rotary International motto of Service Above Self through his work on the board, and has shown his commitment to helping young people with special needs grow and thrive at GVRC. On behalf of the GVRC staff and especially the campers, thank you Ernie!"

Please join us in congratulating Ernie on this tremendous 50-year milestone. His dedication is an inspiration to us all!

Submitted by CT Hayes



## Honeoye Lake Rotary Club

The Honeoye Lake Rotary Club once again showed its dedication to the Honeoye community by participating in most of the activities planned by Honeoye Community Players. Club members had fun planning for these special events and had even more fun during the actual events. Our tree was well decorated and the Polar Plunge earned us some funds for our treasury. The Flamingo Scavenger Hunt allowed community members a special event and had three successful winners. It was a cold night for a parade but club members were able to show off our flamingo float and share some candy with the spectators. The HLRC is proud to have been able to share so much fun and excitement with our community members.

Submitted by Jeanne Hamele



## Geneseo Rotary Club

Our Good Neighbor Community provides cocoa, homemade cookies, candy canes and free books for each child and the Highlands coordinated with Toys for Tots to provide new gifts for all the children in that complex.

We served about 35 families between the Highlands and April Meadows. These photos are from the Highlands.

Submitted by Paul Kreher



### Rotary E-Club of District 7120

Uniting to Serve: A Citywide Rotary Thanksgiving Project

Event Details:

Date: Monday, November 24

Dinner Time: 5–7 p.m.

Location: Heart & Soul Community Church, 1185 N. Clinton Ave., Rochester, NY 14621

The Rochester Rotary Club extended an invitation to Citywide Rotary Clubs, including the e-club of District 7120 to participate in the 3rd “Unite to Serve” project. We joined the “Rochester Latino Rotary Club to share the spirit of Thanksgiving by serving a traditional holiday meal to our neighbors in need”. We were also joined by DG Jim Crane, Pat Stack and Family. (District 7120)

Submitted by Ebo Ocran & Tassie Demps



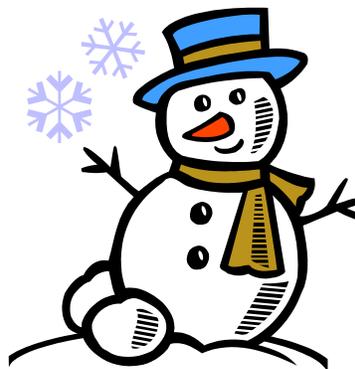
Left to Right: Rotarians Tom Mitchell, Sally DeCarolis, President Richard de Asis, (Rochester Rotary Club); AG (Area 14) Kimberly Miranda (Irondequoit Rotary Club; Service Chair Martina Ocran & Secretary Maame Esi Ocran (e-club of District 7120)



Past President Julio Vazquez (Latino Rotary Club); Co-president Ebo Ocran & Secretary Maame Esi Ocran (Rotary e-club of District 7120)



District 7120 Governor Jim Crane, Latino Rotary Club, Volunteers and Neighbors



## Rotary E-Club of District 7120

BRICK & MORTAR- Rotary District 7120 Foundation Brunch with District Governor Jim Crane; Rotarian Johrita Solari; Chair of the U.S. Polio Eradication Advocacy Task Force- Guest Speaker; Rotary e-club of District 7120  
Submitted by Ebo Ocran and Tassie Demps



District Guest Speaker



District 7120 Foundation Brunch



# Obituary

Karen Parkhurst, RIP - December



The Victor-Farmington Rotary Club was deeply saddened on December 4th by the sudden passing of Club Secretary Karen Parkhurst, a club member since 2004. Karen was a long-time club secretary and a former District 7120 District Secretary. At the time of her passing she was serving as the D-7120 Rotary Foundation Chair. Karen was a native of Chicago, attended Loyola University, and a graduate of Roberts Wesleyan College (MBA).

Karen previously served as the V-F Rotary Club President. In 2015 Karen retired as the Chief Financial Officer for New Energy Works in Farmington. She was a resident of Canandaigua.

Karen went far and beyond the average Rotarian in pursuing the goals and objectives of Rotary. There was no club project or activity that did not involve Karen's involvement. Early on in her Rotary career she became involved in supporting the Rotary Foundation and would eventually graduate to the Major Donor level. Karen was active in supporting many of the grant programs under

Foundation auspices. Karen not only made a commitment to financially support the Foundation, but she also continuously urged club members to "get involved."

Karen's dedication to promoting Rotary's goal of serving others can best be described as "ACTA NON VERBA." She not only donated financial support for the many projects she promoted, but Karen also took direct action. When the V-F Rotary club became involved in Foundation projects in Nicaragua, Argentina, Paraguay, etc., Karen would often travel to these projects to make certain the objectives were being met. On a local basis, the many club service projects that benefitted from Karen's involvement are too many to list. She strongly supported educational projects with both the Victor Central School District and the inner-city schools in Rochester, particularly the Franklin Campus. At the time of her passing she was involved with the club's Christmas project (Giving Tree) to provide gifts to seniors, shut-ins, low-income families, and those in need, as well as the club's annual partnership with the Victor-Farmington Community Library's "Day of Giving" for children.

Karen would often describe how in 2004 she was made aware of Rotary, and all that Rotary does around the world, when she joined the club. Being a Rotarian opened new horizons for her to serve others. For over two decades she truly made an impact and Rotarians in the Victor-Farmington Rotary Club, District 7120, and around the world, are better because of it.

Submitted by Dave Luitweiler

## KAREN OVER THE YEARS



L to R Karen's daughter Donna Groff-McNulty - Karen - Melinda Caparco - faculty Franklin Campus - Rochester City SD



Karen's last club event - hosting Rotary Foundation Lunch at Ravenwood Golf club last month



Karen always led adult dancers at YEX Christmas brunch

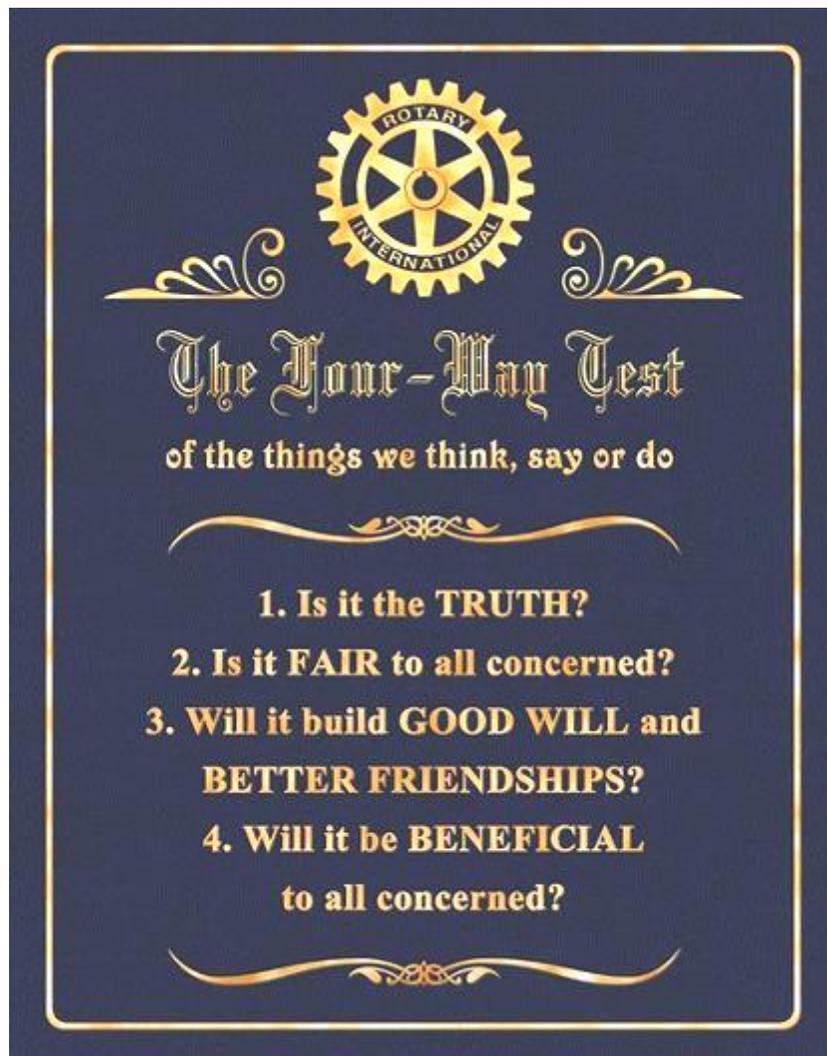
## DISTRICT CALENDAR CLUB EVENT SUBMISSION FORM

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](mailto: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.



# 2026 Rochester SaveAround Coupon Book, for only \$25!

for Sale by the Rochester Deaf Rotary Club



**COUPON BOOK**  
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(99 cents processing fee)

## Great Gift Idea!



## Order Yours Today!

Please help us continue to support the Rochester Deaf Community, and many other worldwide projects, by purchasing the **2026 Rochester SaveAround Coupon Book, for only \$25!** There are many excellent coupons inside featuring restaurants, entertainment, services, recreation, and more!

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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**





## Bike Rack Fundraiser

The Ultimate  
Bike Rack

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- Stylish
- Sturdy



Measures:  
48 x 48  
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Holds:  
6-12 Bikes

- Promote with your club name at each end
- Fits all types of bikes including e-bikes
  - Heavy-duty steel construction
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GREAT FOR: SCHOOLS — COMMUNITY CENTERS— ALONG WATERWAYS — PARKS

**Cost is: \$580 + Shipping**  
**Add \$17 for each Rotary wheel**



Use the QR form to submit your request.  
Questions can be directed to:  
Theresa Downham 585-797-9321 or,  
mtdownham@gmail.com

Orders are placed in lots of 10 units...

Tanzania  
BUILD-A-CHAIR

Give the Gift of Mobility  
This Holiday Season

Since 2020, the Build-A-Chair Initiative has transformed the lives of more than **200 children and adults in Tanzania**, and their communities, by providing them with locally-made, custom wheelchairs. Join us to help meet our goal of changing the lives of **10 children by New Years!**



Please consider the following opportunities to help us build wheelchairs for 10 children waiting for one: Erick, Norbert, Patrick, Jackson, Zawadi, Helena, Alda, Amwel, Priscus, and Yohana.

**Comfort Sponsor: \$45** provides cushions and padding for one wheelchair.

**Strength Sponsor: \$75** provides a frame for one wheelchair.

**Mobility Sponsor: \$120** provides wheels and hardware for one wheelchair.

**Community Sponsor: \$260** provides a complete wheelchair, providing the user with the opportunity to engage in their community again.



venmo

To donate via Venmo, please scan the QR code or search for Rotarian John Bailey at @RotaryClubofIntiService.

To donate via check, please contact Build-A-Chair Founder Michelle Bailey at michellebailey110@gmail.com.

For more information on the Build-A-Chair Initiative, please visit [Build-A-Chair.org](http://Build-A-Chair.org).



Saturday  
December 13, 2025

*Light Up  
Naples*

*Light Up Naples*  
is sponsored by

Naples NY  
**Rotary**  
Club

The True Spirit of  
the Holidays



Christmas is holly With berries  
of red & the heavenly fragrance  
Of warm gingerbread.



Check the District Calendar  
for additions and changes

“Click” on the calendar



## Upcoming CLUB Events

Rochester Deaf Rotary Club  
Coupon Book Sale

Rotary Club of International Service  
Build-A-Chair Project

Gananda Rotary Club  
Bike Rack Fundraiser

**December 13** Naples Rotary Club  
Light up Naples

## Upcoming DISTRICT Events

### 7120 Environment Action Group Presentation

Jan. 06, 2026

7:00 p.m.

**ON ZOOM**

Contact: Ralph Brandt  
rbrandt601@gmail.com  
for ZOOM Invite

### District 7120 Conference

May 1 - 3, 2026

Holiday Valley  
Ellicottville, NY 14731



Marilyn Lyon - Newsletter Editor  
Geneseo, NY 14454

Email - [7120news@rochester.rr.com](mailto:7120news@rochester.rr.com)

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