



NEW & LETTER

JAN 2021

Staying safe and healthy is on the minds of everyone during this pandemic. The cold winter months may seem long and isolating this year, but I encourage everyone to stay connected with fellow Rotarians. Attend your Rotary meetings. Offer to set up guest speakers for your club. Virtually, we can have speakers from around the world. Help your club plan future projects and fundraisers right from your own home. Stay connected with family, friends, and neighbors. Make a phone call, mail a note or send an email. Every day, get outside or at least spend some time looking out the window. Read your Rotary magazine. Go onto Rotary.org and explore the website for videos to watch and classes to take in the Learning Center. Being a part of our worldwide Rotary family can provide avenues for staying connected and connection is especially important now for everyone. I also encourage every Rotarian to attend a multi-district event our membership team has planned on January 18 called "Do You See and Hear What I See and Hear?" Details are in this newsletter. After the event was announced, I received a response from Syracuse Sunrise Rotarian, Peter Michel, a sculptor. One of the sculptures he's done is called "Do You See What I See?" It is a great illustration of viewing situations from another's eyes. Enjoy!



**District Governor
Cheryl Matt**

DeWitt Rotary Club
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ATTEND MORE ROTARY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE VIRTUALLY IN 2021

Now that Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) is being offered virtually, you can sign up for any of the upcoming events and log in from the comfort of your home! This is your opportunity to conveniently complete all three levels and even attend a graduate session of this interactive Rotary training. It's also less expensive this way! RLI is the perfect way for a brand new member to get acquainted with our organization, for anyone to brush up on their leadership skills and even for veteran members to get inspired with new ideas for their club. Consider registering for any of these upcoming sessions at www.rlinea.org. Each session offers levels I, II, III and graduate. It is \$25/person to attend.



Jan 23 - Marlborough, MA
Feb 6 - Newburgh, NY
Feb 27 - Schenectady, NY
March 13 - Pottstown, PA

Do You See and Hear What I See and Hear?"

DIVERSITY, INCLUSION & EQUITY

A Panel Discussion

Facilitated by Dr. Sim Covington, Jr.

**6 panelists share their stories -
Participate to help improve your
club experience.**

18 January 2021, 7:00PM

Register Via Zoom
<http://bit.ly/MembershipDEI>



Rotary Opens
Opportunities

JOIN A ROTARY GREAT LAKES WATERSHED CLEANUP

EARTH DAY WEEKEND APRIL 24, 2021

The Rotary Districts that border the Great Lakes have partnered in an international, multi-district service project cleaning up the shores of our waterways. Looking at the watershed maps, the Great Lakes Watershed includes the Finger Lakes, Oneida Lake, the Erie Canal and other streams and rivers that empty into the Great Lakes. Did you know that the Great Lakes account for more than 20% of the world's surface freshwater?

Your club can pick a river, lake or any water source that connects to Lake Ontario and plan your own Earth Day event on Saturday, April 24th. We're also encouraging clubs to collaborate with other local groups in their clean-up efforts. It will also be a public image opportunity and we hope to have t-shirts for purchase to visually show our joint efforts and identify us as Rotarians. The Rotary Clubs of Oswego and Oswego Sunrise, as well as the District ESRAG, are already signed up. Will your club join us? Email cherylmatt7150@gmail.com if you're interested.



SUBMIT YOUR CLUB'S NEWS TO LIZZY AT EMARTIN@ADVANCEMEDIANY.COM

BY THE END OF THE MONTH



VIRTUAL ETIQUETTE REVIEW

Your District Membership Committee has been bringing you helpful tips to keep your club's virtual experience positive. We hope you have enjoyed the ideas and advice! To kick off the new calendar year, let's revisit those basic Zoom etiquette points to keep us sharp. You will find this valuable information in this newsletter, on the [Membership page](#) on the district web site and it will be shared with your club's membership chairs each month.

PLEASE DO

- BE COURTEOUS & SPEAK CLEARLY
- KEEP CAMERA MOVEMENTS MINIMAL
- MOVE AND GESTURE SLOWLY AND NATURALLY
- MAINTAIN EYE CONTACT BY LOOKING INTO THE CAMERA
- DRESS APPROPRIATELY
- PLAN AHEAD TO ASSIGN CO-HOSTS
- MUTE YOURSELF WHEN NOT SPEAKING
- BE YOURSELF AND HAVE FUN!

PLEASE DO NOT

- MAKE DISTRACTING SOUNDS
- SHOUT
- MAKE DISTRACTING MOVEMENTS
- INTERRUPT OTHER SPEAKERS
- CARRY ON SIDE CONVERSATIONS
- WEAR "NOISY" JEWELRY
- COVER THE MICROPHONE
- EAT WITH YOUR VIDEO TURNED ON (JUST TURN IT OFF)

AND DON'T FORGET

- START EARLY IF YOU NEED TO REMEMBER HOW TO MUTE, CHAT, ETC.
- IF LOGGING ON LATE, MUTE RIGHT AWAY
- TO USE CHAT TO CONNECT WITHOUT INTERRUPTING
- TO USE CHAT IF YOU WANT TO SAY GOODBYE EARLY
- TO SHOW YOU ARE ENGAGED WITH BODY LANGUAGE

JOIN PRESIDENT HOLGER FOR VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

Learn how to better connect Rotary and Rotaract at the "Collaboration through Relationship Building" Presidential Conference, May 14-16, 2021. Registration opens January 15, 2021. [Click here](#) to learn more and sign up when available. You can also sign up to get a sneak peek!

YOUR DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

Any questions relative to membership may be forwarded to District 7150 **Membership Chair - Janet Joslyn** at jmjoslyn83@hotmail.com

She is being assisted by a new membership committee, including:

Bernie Bregman, Eastwood
bernardbregman@gmail.com

Joe Caruso, Utica
jpcaruso12@gmail.com

Sheree D'Agostino, Liverpool
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Lizzy Martin, Baldwinsville
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Patricia Talaba, Little Falls
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Jonathan Yost, Eastwood
jonathanm.yost@yahoo.com

Alicia Zaret, Eastwood
alicia.zaret@yahoo.com

Never hesitate to reach out for membership assistance - whether it's to have membership as a program for a meeting or to get help for your leadership team!

130% INCREASE
in food insecurity in households with
children under 18 from 2018 to April 2020

[Click here](#) for six steps to setting up your own community food drive.

OSWEGO KEEPS BUSY ALL DECEMBER

The Oswego Rotary Club had a very busy holiday season! They sent Christmas cards to the troops, a community service project of Senator Patty Ritchie. They also did a food drive for the Oswego Human Concerns Food Pantry. Pictured: Members Steve and Sabine Ingerson dropping off boxes and bags of food collected. They partnered with their Interact Club to send cards to one of the local health care systems, St. Luke's which has 3 facilities in Oswego. 300+ cards were signed by members and Interact students to be distributed throughout the St. Luke buildings. Photos: cards being dropped off at St. Luke's and students signing cards. And, finally the club again partnered with the Interact Club to collect cans and bottles raising money for the students to purchase fabric to make baby blankets for the Oswego Health hospital maternity ward. This is a project that has been ongoing for about 10 years. Happy New Year from the Oswego Rotary Club!



B'VILLE WPD EVENT NETS NEW MEMBER

When Baldwinsville Rotary posted details on Facebook for their 2020 World Polio Day event, they received a message from a member of the community who was a polio survivor, interested in learning more about this event. That's how they met John LaCasse. John agreed to sit for a video to share his story of contracting polio at age 5, his stay in the Syracuse City polio hospital and how he is doing today (which is great!). His interviewer, the club's public image chair Lizzy Martin, invited John to visit an upcoming Rotary meeting. He's not shy. He's been in dozens of local theater productions and has a million stories to tell. He'll fit right in!

After visiting the World Polio Day event, a happy hour (before COVID flared up again) and many virtual meetings this fall, John was ready to join. He asked a lot of great questions about what Rotary expects from members and what he would be committing to, which is wise! John was inducted to the Baldwinsville Rotary Club on Tuesday, January 5th and it was a fantastic way to kick off the new year. He is married (celebrating 50 years this past year), with three children and seven grandchildren. He works in insurance, has a dog, likes to golf and will be a great new addition to the club. You never know where your next new member will come from or how you club's community projects will create new connections!

SKANEATELES CELEBRATES MORE VIRTUAL FUNDRAISING SUCCESS

For years, Skaneateles Rotary has raised up to \$13,000 per year during the Holiday seasons for the Skaneateles & Spafford food pantries and the Skaneateles Outreach Committee so that our neighbors in need may enjoy the Holidays. This has been traditionally accomplished in early December with a turkey dinner dinner affair at the Skaneateles Country Club with up to 200 attending and donating. This year the club had to come up with an alternative solution due to COVID as the need has increased. Skantarians again turned to a virtual on-line format and the response was overwhelming with in excess of \$20,000 raised by Rotarians, their families, friends & community members pulling together to help our neighbors in their time of need. Ain't it Great to be a Rotarian!

TULLY ROTARY IN REVIEW

The members of the Tully Rotary Club welcome the new year with wishes for prosperity and health for all. We achieved many goals in 2020 despite the pandemic and we look forward to continuing to make our community better in 2021. Like many civic organizations, the past year has changed the way we conducted business. For health and safety reasons, we stopped in-person meetings and began virtual meetings. We continued to have outstanding guest speakers and learned more about local businesses. Our Rotarians took initiative to begin working with other organizations to distribute food and milk to needy local families. Our Tully Rotary Interact teenagers raised money to help end the scourge of polio which is still a threat in many countries. The Tully Rotarians raised money and secured a grant to purchase workbooks for school children in Bungoma, Kenya. In December, Rotarians and Interact teens helped prepare Christmas boxes of food, clothing and blankets for local families in need. If you are interested in helping us with our work as Rotarians, contact the Tully Rotary Club at by email at: tully.rotary@gmail.com.

SPECIAL FEATURE: AULD LANG SYNE, ARGENTINE-STYLE

A Fond Farewell in the Year of Two Springs

By Joseph P. Caruso©

It was November, the fall of 1986 – well, actually, the spring of 1986, because we were south of the equator, in Argentina. I was a member of a Rotary International Group Study Exchange (GSE) team from central New York State spending a month traveling throughout the Argentine province of Buenos Aires, hosted by Rotary clubs in communities ranging from Tigre in the metropolitan Buenos Aires delta, to Pergamino, a farming community in the agriculturally rich “pampas” region. We were five young non-Rotarian men (Steve, Casey, Joe, Patrick, and John) under 35, and our Rotary leader, Austin, from the DeWitt Rotary Club outside Syracuse.

It was our last evening in Pergamino, at the end of an enjoyable three-day stay, and we were treated to a delightful farewell fiesta, featuring the signature asado, or barbecue, which is a staple of the meat-rich Argentine diet.

Our hosts also arranged for a duo to entertain us. With their guitars and voice, and dressed in the traditional garb of gauchos, or Argentine cowboys, the two musicians performed songs of the Pampas which all in attendance seemed to know.

Upon expressing our gratitude for their hospitality, we were asked by our hosts to entertain them with our traditional songs – something we were totally unprepared for! We had spent six months leading up to our trip meeting each month to prepare for our ambassadorial duties, creating a slide show of what our central New York region had to offer, boning up on Spanish, and getting to know each other. But we had not prepared to be a boy band.



Of course, we had to oblige, so I asked our hosts for a few minutes' time to organize ourselves, and then set about assuring my teammates that we had no choice but to find what we could possibly sing together, and to do it, a capella, as it were.

In minutes, we compiled a short list of childhood folk songs; it didn't take long because we didn't know much, and we were reaching way, way back. We decided that we were prepared to sing The Erie Canal Song, Oh Susanna, and She'll Be Comin' Around the Mountain, and one or two others, and then took our place aside the Gauchos, who helped keep the tempo.

We were five American guys, dressed in our uniform blue blazers, white shirts and ties that we were instructed to wear on all occasions, looking more like the Beatles might have looked two decades earlier, only more clean-cut, singing off-key in English to a Spanish speaking crowd, but they seemed to

appreciate it, anyway. It took years before I would understand how five young guys singing anything are likely to be appreciated by a group of post-middle age adults, but I didn't understand that then.

Anyway, even a cute quintet can be wearing, especially after we ran out of folk songs and started throwing in Beatles songs. I realized we had to do something to salvage the evening, and our reputation, and fast, and in a moment of serendipity, I had the idea to invite our hosts to join us in a chorus of Auld Lang Syne. Yes, Auld Lang Syne, the traditional Scottish ode, most popular in the US on New Year's Eve, thanks to decades of Canadian bandleader Guy Lombardo ringing in the New Year to that tune on television via New York's Waldorf Astoria.

I had no assurance that they would know this tune, in this heavily Italian, Spanish-speaking country more than 5,000 miles from New York, but inexplicably, I had a hunch. Perhaps it was their age; many of them, like my parents, the children of World War II, grew up on radio, when England's BBC likely played the tune regularly. But I couldn't have known that, and certainly didn't have time to think about. And this was the pre-Internet world. But for one brief, shining moment, a bit of divine inspiration popped up, I made the request, and they obliged. Before you could say, “Robbie Burns”, the outdoor dining deck was alive with a chorus of the Scottish favorite. Quite honestly, I couldn't tell if the words sung by them before and after the eponymous “Auld Lang Syne” were in English or Spanish, but it doesn't matter; we were in unison for Auld Lang Syne, and it was glorious.

Afterwards, the room was filled with seniors' (to our young minds) eyes filled with happy tears. Perhaps they were reminiscing; perhaps they were going to miss us. In any case, Auld Lang Syne allowed us to take our leave on a high note, and to express our thanks in a medium beyond words, understood by all.

And so, the memory of this unexpected, unplanned moment remains, in my memory and perhaps in theirs, for auld lang syne.