

Keepin' Up With The District



A Message From: DISTRICT GOVERNOR Samantha Maruzzelli Happy New Year!



Dear Rotarians,

Happy New Year to you all. I hope your holidays were filled with Friends, Family, and lots of love. I had a wonderful holiday with all three of my children and husband. We visited our families who live here in NEPA and had a wonderful time. I am truly blessed. We also struggled with grief as we are witnessing my cousin who is just one year older than me fighting for his life with stage 4 cancer. Watching my aunt and uncle and other cousins and their families stand by his side knowing this may very well be his last Christmas is heart wrenching. I know so many of us have stories like this. Don't let social media make you think other people's lives are perfect. They are so often just showing us what they want us to see. Which, of course, is their choice, but they may be struggling with something too. We all have hardships and heartaches that are unbearable. This is why we must always be kind and compassionate to all. You have no idea what people are going through. Mental health is so fragile and deserves empathy. To those of you who are fighting, or know someone who is, with grief, anxiety, depression or any other mental health issue I am sending you my support and love. Please reach out for

help from family, friends, fellow Rotarians, and doctors. You are not alone! I would like to share contact information again for the National Alliance on Mental Illness, Northeast Region PA. JoAnna Van Tine, NAMI Community Engagement and Volunteer Coordinator. Phone: (862)-210-0029, email: ioannavt@naminepa.com. Reach out to JoAnna and have her come speak to your club. Mental health is our focus this year. Please support it by raising awareness. Thank you.

January is Vocational Service Month. During this month, Rotary clubs around the world focus on celebrating and promoting the concept of vocational service.

Vocational Service in Rotary is one of the organization's Avenue of Service, emphasizing the importance of high ethical standards in business and professions. During Vocational Service Month, Rotary clubs typically engage in activities that highlight the importance of vocational excellence, professional development, and ethical business practices. This may include vocational awards, seminars, and community outreach programs that showcase the positive impact of vocational service. Share what your club does to highlight and promote various aspects of its service this month.

January 1st is our Rotary year's half way mark. Boy that went by so fast! District Membership Chair, Mary Tempest, and crew (I am on the crew and you could be too) are working on starting a new club in Montrose, PA. Every town needs its own Rotary club! The first informational meeting is January 9th at the Montrose Public Library, 5pm. Please spread the word and collect names and contact information from anyone you know who may be interested. Mary will reach out to them. Marytempest@gmail.com Montrose had a very good club in the past and we are excited to get it up a running again.

We need to grow our District to keep us safe from being broken up and merged into other Districts. Our total membership number today is 1,068. We need to be up over 1,100, and our goal is 1,200. This is a job that each and every one of us needs to work on. We are an amazing group of people. I have traveled all over this District in the last 6 months and I have met with so many great clubs. Who would not want to be a part of us? Please ask someone to join Rotary today. Then follow through with their Rotary journey and make sure they are participating and getting what they want out of their experience. Remember if there is someone you know who would be a great Rotarian but they do not live close enough to your club, find a club that is close to them and contact that club. This is a team effort!

I hope you all have a great January. Enjoy the cold and snow for those of you who like to ski and sleigh ride. Try not to pull any muscles shoveling snow. Be sure to be cautious and take good care of yourselves.

Yours in Rotary,
Sam

JANUARY 2024

DON'T BOTTLE IT UP



**Mental Health
Initiatives**
Rotary Action Group

**“I’m not afraid to speak up –
Neither should you”**

Samantha Maruzzelli
Tunkhannock Rotary Club
District 7410 DG 2023-2024

Approximately 1 in 4 people
officially suffer with some form of
mental illness and due to Covid this
is rising.

In reality, almost everyone will
encounter a mental health issue
either directly or indirectly at some
point in their lives.

Even if you’re not in the 25%
directly affected, help break the
taboo of Mental Health.

Don't suffer in silence.
#dontbottleitup



Upcoming Events

Calendar

January 2024

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
SHINE Volunteer At South Elementary (Newfoundland)						
		Bingo Night January 3rd (Newfoundland)				
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
SHINE Volunteer At South Elementary (Newfoundland)						
	Meet and Greet for NEW Montrose Rotary Club					2024 Chili Cook Off (Hamlin Lake Ariel)
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
SHINE Volunteer At South Elementary (Newfoundland)						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
SHINE Volunteer At South Elementary (Newfoundland)						
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
SHINE Volunteer At South Elementary (Newfoundland)						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
SHINE Volunteer At South Elementary (Newfoundland)						
		Bingo Night February 7th (Newfoundland)				

- Committee Meeting - Deadline - District Event - Fundraiser - General
 - Official DG Visit - Club Event

[Newfoundland- Bingo Night](#)

[Montrose- Meet and Greet](#)

[Hamlin- Chili Cook-off](#)

See You There!

Don't see your event on the calendar?
Email jpoperotary@gmail.com for instructions on how to add it!

Submit to the Newsletter!

**Thank you to everyone who contributes to the
monthly Newsletter!**

Instructions to submit your articles and photos to the newsletter:

Please send submissions to the email box:

RotaryDistrict7410Newsletter@gmail.com

Please remember to keep your content:

- Simple & Brief, Limiting all articles to a total of 2 pages.
- Connecting to trending topics or events if possible

Also, please submit your newsletter articles in **one Word Document with photos attached separately, not in the body of separate emails or in the document.** This helps assure that all of your articles are included in the newsletter and nothing gets lost.

Member Spotlight

Congratulations to the Hazleton Rotary Club for receiving the District 7410 Rotary Traveling Membership Award . They earned this award by ending the July 1, 2023- Dec. 31, 2023 timeframe with a net gain of 23 new Rotarians. This is amazing accomplishments for this club. They call these new Rotarians the young Rotarians. It was the idea of Mary Pat Stroia their President elect.

Pictured below from right to left are Samantha Maruzzeli - DG , Mary Tempest - District Membership Chair , Michele - President, Mary Pat Stroia President Elect and Tim Gennetti - District Governor Nominee.



Rotary Convention



**SHARING
HOPE
WITH THE
WORLD**

SINGAPORE | 25-29 MAY 2024

#Rotary24



SHARING HOPE WITH THE WORLD SINGAPORE | 25-29 MAY 2024



REGISTRATION CATEGORY	27-31 MAY 2023	1 JUNE 2023 TO 15 DECEMBER 2023	16 DECEMBER 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2024	1 APRIL 2024 TO 29 MAY 2024
Club member, nonmember, or guest, age 31 or over	\$450	\$500	\$595	\$695
Club member, nonmember, or guest, age 30 or under	\$150	\$175	\$225	\$275
Guest age 5-18	\$20	\$20	\$30	\$40
Guest under age 5	Free	Free	Free	Free
Saturday, House of Friendship only	\$60	\$60	\$60	\$100

All amounts are in U.S. dollars.



Register today at convention.rotary.org
#Rotary24

Essay Contest

Theme for 2024

“Create Hope in the World: How Can Schools, Communities, Families, and or Friends support mental health with caring, giving, and compassion?”

Deadlines

Club deadline - February 2nd, 2024

District deadline - March 1, 2024

Essay Length

1,000 words

Other Student Guidelines

Student name should only be printed on a title page which should include parent name(s), email and phone number.

The essay must be word processed, double spaced, saved as a PDF, and attached to an email to the Rotary Club Chairperson.

Google Docs may not be used.

Club submissions

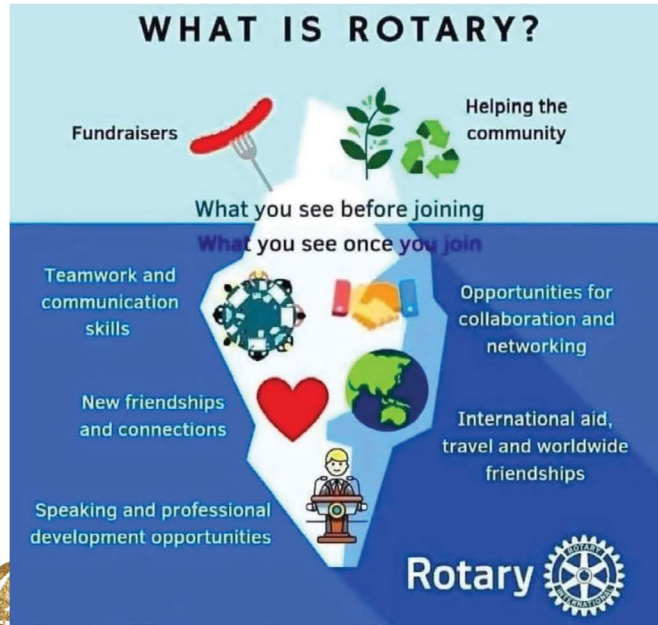
Each participating club may submit one top essay from each school district it represents.

The essay may not be embedded in an email, but should be attached to an email to

*kfarrellkurosky@gmail.com with the subject line
student essay/club name/chairperson name/student name*

Interested in Rotary?

Subs &
Drinks
will be
Served!



RSVP to
Mary Tempest
maryptempest@gmail.com

Let's Meet & Greet!

PLEASE JOIN

Rotary



District 7410

JANUARY 9TH, 2024

5PM - 6PM

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY LIBRARY

458 HIGH SCHOOL ROAD

MONTROSE, PA 18801

Area 7 News

District 7410, The Magnificent Cluster 7
Kingston, Pittston, Plains, Plymouth, Wilkes-Barre,
Wyoming + Mountain Top
Weinberg Food Bank Volunteer
Thursday January 18th
5:00 - 7:00
185 Research Drive, Pittston, PA 18640

- Cocktails and Buffet Dinner and Cash Bar afterwards at:

Bettelli's Villa
560 Kidder Street, Wilkes-Barre PA
20.00 per person

Each club will be responsible for their own headcount and check made payable to Plymouth Rotary

RSVP Deadline Thursday January 11th, Headcount Per Club To:

ADG Brian Vnuk 570-760-4865 or
brian@brandgraphicsolutions.com

CLUBS IN ACTION

Rotary
Club of The Abingtons



Winter Weather Prep

Last week Rotarian Rich Suraci of Kost Tire prepared fellow Rotarians for the onset of winter with an informative presentation on tires.



New Member Installation

Abington Past District Governor Roger Mattes installed new member Corey Melisky at the weekly meeting. Seen (L to R): Leah Rudolph (new member sponsor), Corey, Roger and Virginia Johnson, club president.



Countryside Conservancy

Speaking to the Rotary Club of the Abingtons was Bill Kern, Executive Director Countryside Conservancy. The non-profit organization is dedicated to protecting lands and waters in Lackawanna, Susquehanna and Wyoming Counties. For further information contact them at www.countrysideconservancy.org



Holiday Party Photos







SUPER BOWL RAFFLE FUNDRAISER



Proceeds benefit DOGGIEPADDLE.ORG with their mission to raise funds and awareness for veterans in need of service dogs in addition to our club projects & scholarships.

\$25 / SQUARE
OR
3 FOR \$70

PAYPAL:
paypal.me/RotaryEClubofII
"super bowl box"

VENMO:
@E-Clubof-InternationalInnovato

Please add a note with:
Your Name- Email - cell number



venmo

Each purchase will get you 1 square on the board. Squares will be assigned at random. Prizes will be drawn after each quarter for the winning scores.

PRIZES

ENDING SCORE Q1: \$125
ENDING SCORE HALFTIME: \$250
ENDING SCORE Q3: \$125
FINAL SCORE: \$750



**REACH OUT TO KAREN OR A CLUB
MEMBER FOR MORE INFO & TO ENTER!**

KARENANDROTARY@GMAIL.COM

****MUST BE 18 OR OLDER TO PARTICIPATE****

LIMITED ENTRIES AVAILABLE! YOUR ENTRY IS NOT
CONFIRMED UNTIL PAYMENT IS RECEIVED. LAST DAY TO
ENTER IS FEBRUARY 5TH!

Hello from the E-Club!

We recently hosted a speaker, PDG Craig Wilson, from the Phoenix 100 Rotary Club to hear about a WASH project in Zambia. DRFC Mary Ellen Bentler was in attendance and she has approved our district commitment to this Global Grant project with DDF. Our district is committing \$6,000 in DDF. This project has a total of \$400k in DDF, being matched by Golf Fore Africa and World Vision for a total of \$1.2 million! We are very excited to be a part of this project. Please reach out if you would like more information: intlinnovatorseclub@gmail.com. We will keep the district updated as the project progresses.

We are a virtual club in the district! We meet on Zoom, Thursdays at 6pm EST. All are welcome! Our current link is:

Topic: E Club of International Innovators Weekly Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83696438529?pwd=Q2E5aDRTUkxrYXo0bzloakl6VCtiQT09>

Meeting ID: 836 9643 8529

Passcode: 370798

[Our speakers are listed on our website: https://rotaryclubofintlinnovators.com/speakers](https://rotaryclubofintlinnovators.com/speakers)



Chili

COOK OFF



To Benefit Rotary's Scholarship Fund

4PM Sunday

January 14, 2024

RPLACE ON 590

482 HAMLIN HIGHWAY

HAMLIN PA 18427

**\$5 TO ENTER
\$10 TO TASTE**

**The best chili
wins \$100 CASH!**

Scan Code Below for
More Information:



venmo



EverGreen Elementary Visit

The Hamlin Lake Ariel Rotary Club visited the local second-grade classes at EverGreen Elementary and read “Andy and Elmer’s Apple Dumpling Adventure,” a heartwarming tale introducing children to the principles of Rotary’s Four-Way Test. Seeing the bright, eager faces of these young readers was such a joy, and it reminded them of the immense importance of nurturing a love for books at a young age. Education is the foundation for a brighter future, and Rotary’s commitment to promoting literacy is truly inspiring.

Introducing 2nd grade students at EverGreen Elementary School to Rotary's Four-Way Test with the story "Andy & Elmer's Apple Dumpling Adventure".



Holiday Social

A fantastic time was had at the Holiday Social hosted by the Hamlin Lake Ariel Rotary Club at the wonderful Julia Ribaudó's. This festive gathering brought everyone together for an afternoon filled with laughter, joy, and the spirit of giving. The highlight of the afternoon was the thrilling game of BINGO that had everyone on the edge of their seats! From the excitement of shouting "BINGO!" to the friendly competition, it was an unforgettable experience that brought smiles to everyone's faces.



Holiday Social at Julia Ribaudó's

Hamlin Lake Ariel

Rotary
Club



Celebrations and Congratulations

What an incredible celebration for the Hamlin Lake Ariel Rotary Club!

Jacky Gillette was honored with her FIRST Paul Harris Award! This recognition is a testament to her unwavering commitment to making a positive impact in our community and beyond.

Marisa Romano was recognized for achieving her Paul Harris +1! Her continuous efforts and contributions truly exemplify the Rotary ideals.

Lastly, heartfelt congratulations to Terri Ditty on receiving her Paul Harris +3! Your steadfast commitment to the Rotary mission is truly commendable. Your journey reflects the profound impact that one person can have on the world when driven by the principles of Rotary.

Together, Jacky, Marisa, and Terri represent the heart and soul of Rotary, and their achievements remind us all of the positive change that is possible when individuals come together for a common purpose. The Hamlin Lake Ariel Rotary Club is proud to have them!

Hamlin Lake Ariel
Rotary
Club



Jacky Gillette: PHF

Celebrating
Paul Harris Fellows



Marisa Romano: PHF +1



Terri Ditty: PHF +3

VIP Christmas

This festive season, the Hamlin Lake Ariel Rotary Club is delighted to share the joy of giving by extending a helping hand to a wonderful family through the Victim's Intervention Program. In the spirit of love, compassion, and community, they've come together to purchase heartfelt Christmas gifts for this special family consisting of three young children and two adults. Their aim is to make their holiday season brighter and let this family know that they are not alone.





Hazleton Rotary Club Continues it's Christmas Community Service Activities

Hazleton Rotary manned the kettles at Walmart's on Saturday, December 16th. The club has actively participated in this community service since 1956 and neither rain nor sleet nor snow has stopped their participation!



Hazleton Rotary and City of Hazleton Police Department Work Together for Christmas

“This year we decided to change the annual shopping spree to work on the Blue Santa project.” explained Rotarian Kathie Oh. “When the police take children out of dangerous situations/homes the children have anything other than the clothes on their backs. This year we were able to help 30 children by gifts including, but not limited to, toys, clothes, jackets, diapers, highchairs and walkers. The Rotarians bought gift cards and went shopping at their convenience.”

The gifts were delivered to the Hazleton Police Station on Wednesday, December 13th by Toni and Rob Christman. Lani Drobnick, Tim and Michele Genetti, Barb Cassise, Michele Holzman and Kathie Oh were the shoppers.



Hazleton Rotary is proud to help the City of Hazleton Police Department with their Blue Santa project. These beautiful gifts were just waiting for some area youngsters to enjoy for the holidays.



Honesdale Rotary Donates Holiday Gifts to VIP

The Honesdale Rotary presented gifts for three families served by the Victim's Intervention Program (VIP) to a VIP representative on Friday, December 15th. VIP, which provides services for victims of domestic abuse, many of whom flee their homes in the middle of the night with few possessions, asks the community each year to help make the holidays a little brighter for their clients. Rotary members, who live by the club motto "service above self," stepped up immediately. Altogether, they bought and donated gifts for four adults and seven children. Requests ranged from basics like pots and pans to games, clothes and gift cards. The gifts were collected from club members during their holiday party December 13th, which also included the induction of two new members, Sue Mele and Sally Rothacker-Peyton. Happy holidays all! Photo, left to right: Rotarian Michelle Gilder, VIP's Lindsay Haight, Rotarians Lynne Goodwin/club secretary, Dana Scott/club president and Kathi McKenna.



Pinning

Rothacker-Peyton being hugged by her sponsor, Betty deMaye-Caruth and Sue Mele being pinned by her sponsor, Michelle Gilder.





Proceeds go to Food Bank

Each Summer & Fall, our Rotary Club sponsors a Farmer's Market in the Crestwood High School parking lot. Proceeds go to the local Food Bank. The Market is coordinated by member John Kanyuck. Vendors from the area participate! Photo shows a check presented to the Mountain Top Food Bank for \$1,100.00



Interact Club Conducts Jared Box Fundraiser

On December 15, 2023, the Crestwood High School Interact Club conducted a Jared Box Fundraiser. Students donated toys and packaged 24 boxes of goodies to be donated to children in the Geisinger South Pediatric Facility. Helping that day were two exchange students who arrived in the USA through the Rotary Exchange Program. The Exchange Students are based through the Tunkhannock Rotary. Tanguy from France and Boti from Hungary. Photo is of the students in their cafeteria.



Wreaths Across America 2023

This annual nationwide event “Wreaths Across America”, was held at the Albert Cemetery in Nuangola on December 16, 2023.. Wreaths, sponsored by the Rotary Club, were placed at the graves of veterans. In the photo at the Albert Cemetery are Roarians and event volunteers.



Purse Bingo

The Rotary Club will sponsor our 3rd Annual Purse Bingo on February 25, 2024. It will benefit purchasing essential supplies for the students of the Crestwood School District. Please see flyer for more information!

Rotary
Club of Mountain Top



Designer Purse Bingo

To Benefit:

Purchasing supplies to meet the essential needs of the students in the Crestwood School District.



Crestwood High School Cafeteria

Sunday, February 25, 2024
1 PM -> Doors open at 12 noon

Featured Prizes Include:

**Michael Kors, Coach, Vera Bradley,
Kate Spade and More!**

Raffles, 50/50

Food & Drinks for Sale



\$30.00 at the door

For more information or to purchase tickets please contact Joanne Joseph 570.262.0548
Tickets are also available from any Rotary member



The New Milford Area Rotary Club & Endless Mountains Health Systems



Welcomes you to a Public Presentation on:

Rural Health Care Delivery in Susquehanna County

Wednesday, January 17th @ 6:00 ~ 7:00pm

EMHS Facility Montrose
100 Hospital Drive
Montrose, PA 18801

Food will be provided.

Please RSVP Andrew Kelemen by January 10, 2024
570-533-7786, apkelemen@gmail.com

Come learn about Rotary & EMHS Services.



Fall Clothing Drive

The Rotary Club of Pittston ran a Fall Clothing Item Drive which benefited the Keystone Mission at their Wilkes-Barre location. The club was able to donate 16 boxes and 30 bags full of men and women's clothing to help the homeless. Thank you to Pastor Scott, Keystone Mission Program Director, for helping coordinate the donation drop-off at the Wilkes-Barre location.



Food Pantry Donation

Thank you to Exeter Cub Scout Pack 310, Troop 311 Exeter, PA, and Troop 311G Exeter PA for donating 500+ items to replenish the My Little Pantry at The Greater Pittston YMCA. The Exeter Scouts did their Scouting For Food Drive and collected 2,400+ items from the Exeter Community.

The My Little Pantry was a project started in November 2021 where you can take from it when you are in need or leave things when you can. The pantry has provided 1500+ food and drink items for those in need and we appreciate the continued support from the community.



Special Guest Visit

The Pittston Club had the pleasure to have Amanda Cromer, Manager of Corporate Partnership Client Services at Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins, attend their last meeting on 2023! Amanda was able to give some very interesting knowledge on their Community Outreach, GOALS Foundation, and a special Pittston themed hockey game on February 17th! More information on the game, coming soon!





Santa Comes to Town

The Rotary Club of Plymouth recently conducted it's annual Santa Comes to Town Project on December 7th on Carolina Street, Plymouth.



Mrs. Claus, Rotary President Shelly Karavis, Santa and Rudolph



Santa's elf, Rudolph, Santa and Mrs Claus



Suzanne and Tom Hogan pose for a holiday photo

Annual Christmas Party

The Rotary Club of Plymouth recently conducted their annual Christmas Party at Keeley's Ale House, Pringle. Pictured are Rotarians Pat Hogan(owner of Keeley's) and Rotarian Janet Franchella.



Salvation Army Bell Ringing

The Rotary Club of Plymouth recently participated in the Salvation Army Ringing the Bell at Plymouth Hometown Market. Rotarians manned the kettle all day on December 2nd and made a nice donation to the Salvation Army.

Pictured below is Rotarian Tom Hogan.



Holiday Traditional Dinner

The Rotary Club of Plymouth conducted their holiday tradition of dinner for the residents of Dan Flood Towers, Plymouth. The Hogan family sponsors this annual event with dinners for residents that included ham, turkey and all the trimmings.





Red Cross Blood Drive

On December 29, Stroudsburgs Rotary had their end of the year Red Cross Blood Drive in honor of Bob Wehe. It was very successful with all spots being filled. Pints collected will be communicated with us soon.



Donate Blood
In Memory Of
Bob Wehe

The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.

Support our Veterans

Throughout the year, Stroudsburgs Rotary bands together in support of our Veterans who have proudly and courageously served our country. This winter, the Rotary Club of the Stroudsburgs donated 3 bushels of apples for Thanksgiving and 4 bushels of apples and 400lbs of potatoes for this upcoming Holiday to the [Valor Clinic Foundation](#) which were then used for Valor Holiday meals.

The Valor Clinic Foundation helps Veterans with access to benefits, shelter, and support who otherwise have limited or no access to care. And this Holiday season with the generous donations of fellow Rotations and local farms, the Valor Clinic Foundation prepared 500 boxes of meals for our local Veterans this Holiday season. valorclinic.org [Click here to donate to Valor.](#)

It takes commitment and strength of the community to come together in support of each other, and so a very special thank you again to our local farms for their generous donations - [Kenro Farm Market in Brodheadsville, PA](#) and [Heckman Orchards in Effort, PA](#) and a special thank you to our Rotarians who donated funds to support with the purchase of apples and potatoes for Valor meals, and to Leslie Underhill who also donated her time to transport goods between farms and the Valor Clinic Foundation



New Member

Stroudsburgs Rotary welcomes our newest member Danica Hartenfels. Inducted in December 2023.



Holiday Party

Holiday fellowship at The WillowTree in Stroudsburg.



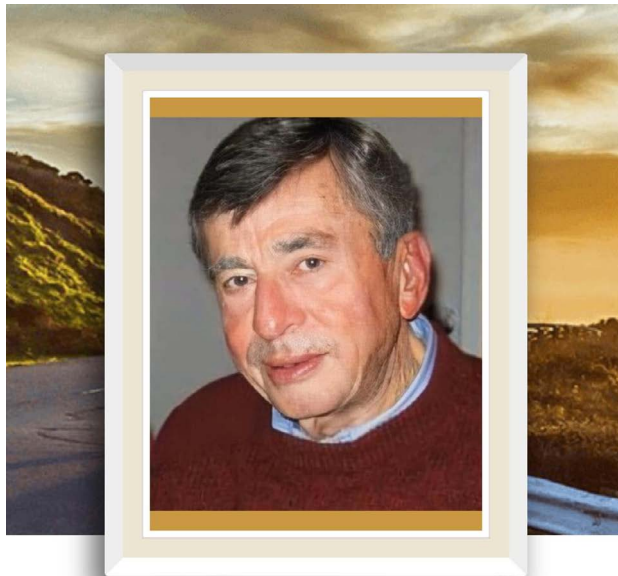
Balloon Twisting Lessons

Can't forget to add some balloon twisting fun at our lunch meeting at the end of the year. Participants were able to brag to their grandkids that they know how to balloon twist.



In Memory

We are saddened by the recent loss of our long time friend and Rotarian Angelo Ortenzi. He was in the club for over 50 years and had 100% attendance up until Covid stopped our in person meetings.



Official Obituary of

Angelo Ortenzi

May 4, 1932 ~ December 3, 2023

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

There was a lot of competition during our December Salvation Army Bell Ringing, however, we were able to collect \$400.00 for them.

Stroudsburgs Rotary



Salvation Army Bell Ringing 2023



Christmas Cash Raffle Fundraiser

Our Christmas Cash Raffle Fundraiser was a success and on Nov 30, 2023 our guest speaker pulled the winning tickets for the Christmas Cash Raffle Fundraiser.

- 1st place winner \$1,000 - Rotarian Gail Kulick
- 2nd place winner \$500 - Turey Rodriguez - Stacy Rodriguez's son
- 3rd place winner \$250 - Ralph R. - John Dennis' son in law

Upcoming Events

Upcoming - May 9, 2024 Stroudsburgs Rotary Golf Tournament Fundraiser. Details to follow.
Teams are welcome to sign up. Contact Don Hannig. SPONSORSHIPS and ADVERTISING AVAILABLE..

\$40
per person



MAKE A CANDLE

- ✦ FRI FEB 9th FROM 6-8PM
- ✦ SILVERBACK DISTILLERY
132 Airstrip Road
E. Stroudsburg PA 18301

Make and take your very own premium 9oz soy wax candle
Enjoy time with friends, play candle trivia for door prizes
Choose from various scents or create your own
Enjoy Cocktails (not included in price) from Silverback Distillery

**SEATING IS LIMITED - please scan
QR Code to reserve your spot in
advance!**



wickcandlebar

**A portion of the proceeds will benefit*





Tunkhannock Rotary Supports Gifts for Kids for Christmas

On Black Friday, Nov 24, members of Rotary, the High School Interact Club, family and friends collected money from shoppers at 4 shopping areas in Tunkhannock. In exchange for a donation to help provide Christmas gifts to children in need in Wyoming County, shoppers were offered a candy cane, hence the name Candy Cane Day. Due to the generosity of the shoppers and Rotarians, a total of \$4,000 was collected, which was designated to be split equally between Interfaith and Wyoming County Children and Youth. The check presentations took place at the Rotary meeting on Dec 7.

Meagan Janiszewski thanked Rotary and accepted the donation on behalf of their clients at Children & Youth. They support children who are in foster care or who are in abusive situations in Wyoming County. Carissa Harvey, Executive Director of Interfaith Friends, accepted the \$2,000 check on behalf of the 581 children they are helping with gifts this Christmas. She mentioned that over 180 families have signed up and qualified for the gift giveaway this Christmas.



Candy Cane Chair Mike Markovitz (left) & Rotary Vice President Mary Tempest (right) presented \$2,000 checks each to (left photo) Meagan Janiszewski (Children & Youth) and Carissa Harvey (Interfaith).

New Paul Harris Fellow

At the Dec 7 Rotary meeting, Samantha Maruzzelli (left) bestowed a member designated Paul Harris Fellow on Katelynn Nichols for her contributions to Tunkhannock Rotary, particularly during the recent Harvest & Wine Festival.



High School Chorus Sings Christmas Carols

At the Dec 21 Rotary Meeting, 15 members of the 70-member strong Tunkhannock Area High School Chorus serenaded the Club with a selection of Christmas Carols. The songs included ones they had performed at their recent Christmas Concert, as well as, songs that the Rotarians joined in on for a sing-a-long. The chorus is under the direction of Tara Kasperowski, who provided the piano accompaniment.



Tunkhannock Interact Club

Officers of the Tunkhannock Area High School Interact Club and their faculty advisor, Tommasina Fiorillo, provided an update at the Dec 21 Rotary Meeting on their activities and fundraising efforts so far this academic year. They sold mini pies at the bonfire for a profit of \$150, sold Pulsera bracelets and purses for a profit of \$427 (funds sent to Pulsera Project to benefit artisans in Central America), participated in Trunk or Treat at the High School (which benefits PA Special Olympics), donated items for Samaritan's Purse toys for kids around the world, helped CEO Weinberg pass out Thanksgiving meal bags from the high school campus, helped Rotary with Candy Cane Day collections, sold candy grams and helped Herbener Chiropractic gather new toys for Interfaith's Christmas toy distribution.



(L to R) Tommasina Fiorillo and Interact Officers

Rotary Holiday Spirit Abounds in Wyalusing

Christmas spirit was turned up a notch by the Wyalusing Area Rotary Club during the month of December. The club reached out for new members in what we expect will be an annual holiday event. The club also made a lot of headway on a book project that will be distributing an impressive number of children's books in early January.

On the fourteenth of December, club members sponsored "Jingle Mingle" at the Grovedale Winery where members invited non-Rotarian guests — and potential new members—for some holiday goodies and refreshments. The program was an entertaining overview of why we are proud to be Rotarians and our many international and local projects and fund-raisers that help make the world a better place.

Aside from Wyalusing members and guests, we were joined by Tunkhannock Rotarian and Assistant District Governor Mary Tempest, and Laurie Charles, Tunkhannock Treasurer. Wyalusing President Wendy Gaustad was so pleased with the laid-back outing that she implored members at a subsequent meeting to agree to make it an annual event.

"It was a wonderful way to reach out to the public and present them with all the essentials of Rotary membership in a casual, relaxed forum," Wendy exclaimed.

Rotary Members in attendance were Gaustad; Michèle Naugle, Secretary; Jon Naugle, President-Elect; Mary and Wes Skillings, Carol Goodman, and Gabe Sheldon.

Among our guests were Rita and Tony Carey, Asantha and Adam Barborich, John Harrison and Courtney Salsman.

Since then, we have added two new members and welcomed Asantha Barborich and Phil Swank to the Wyalusing Area Rotary Club on January 2, our first meeting of 2024.

Something for the Children

The year 2023 concluded with another impressive project: Children's Books Promoting Rotary Ideals for Our Community. With a total budget of \$3,000 that included the purchase of an estimated 220 books, as well as ink for printing and labels in each book, it was essentially a Christmas present for the New Year.

The books have arrived and were scheduled to be distributed to the Wyalusing and Laceyville Public Libraries and two local child daycare centers just a matter days into 2024.

As a final note on the last busy month of 2023, Michèle and Jon Naugle have made the rounds picking up ground venison from three regional meat processors— a total of 1,206 pounds at last report. This meat is delivered to the Helping Hands Food Pantry in Wyalusing to help nourish families in need. It is part of the Hunters Share the Harvest program in which successful hunters donate their deer to combat hunger.

Special acknowledgement goes to Wyalusing Rotarians Ann and Donnie Burgess for bringing our club into this program several years ago. More on this continuing success story in the near future.



Wyalusing Rotarians pasting labels in books that will be donated to area libraries and children's daycare centers as part of our District Grant include (counterclockwise from left) Christine Heyman, Michèle Naugle, Mary Skillings and Asantha Barborich. Others busily pasting nearby were Wendy Gaustad and Carol Goodman.