If you are reading this magnificent missive, you will become aware March is “Literacy Month” in the Rotary calendar. My experience tells me literacy is, perhaps, the biggest problem we have in the District—and it looms large elsewhere. While we are aware of much, we seem to know of very little. Some of us do not read and others of us read and do not comprehend. Couple all of this with the advances in technology and we have an interesting dilemma.

I can not tell you how often I hear things like “I sent it… I read it…” or the like. The reply of “Did you understand it?” is not meant to be mean, rather, it is for clarification---otherwise, we are wasting time and adding to the confusion. We have so many sources of information, we may not know where to start. When in doubt, start with facts, and facts you understand.

My own particular failing is with the computer, and my lack of literacy. To be truthful, I was very happy in the 20th century. For more than 50 years I have utilized the output from the large computers or my own smaller/laptop computer. To me it is a tool or, maybe, an entire toolbox. I pick and choose---just like the people with whom I associate or the businesses I patronize. It is not religion to me---and now some despise me for not worshipping their god. (Note the lower case “g”. Again, literacy.) Enough, Hurley!

One of the great things we do in this district is our participation in The Dictionary Project. It is low cost, and far-reaching for the club, school, teacher and student. With that little book we enter homes and reach families not otherwise available to us. We encourage students to read, write, understand, and be creative. We support teachers and education in general. We do good in our communities. We really enjoy our involvement and appreciate the responses we receive. All of this is part of our Literacy program/projects and vocational service.

Those of you who are attending the District Conference at Lake Placid, May 3-5, are in for a number of special treats and Number One may be Mary French. Her title is Director of The Dictionary Project. Talk about understatement! Mary has a great story to tell about an idea and a small project expanding beyond belief. (For our district, there is a Rotary and literacy connection as well. A Rotarian from my former District 7470 made up at a meeting in South Carolina, heard Mary French speak and brought the idea to NJ. I read about it in the district’s newsletter and said “Why not here? That’s the short version.) Mary French will be presenting at two break-out sessions, as this is of great interest to both Rotarians and non-Rotarians.

Literacy has been very important in my own life. I was not an early reader nor a very good reader in the First Grade. I was encouraged and supported by teachers and my parents. The public library was a source of wonderment. Today I buy books all the time, obtaining what I did not possess on my own early in life. I am still a slow reader yet comprehend quite well. Some of you will disagree. What I am trying to say is: Your encouragement of a child to read and write may go much farther than you might ever realize. Do the same for an adult and you have a multiplier effect. Support and reinforce a teacher---you are a good citizen and more. Be an active Rotarian and you are changing the world by doing good in it.

Peace Through Service --- and thanks for all you do.

Gaven

Correction for Submission of Foundation Memorandum of Understanding

The Club Foundation Policy Template originally placed on the district website erroneously indicated that the Club must submit the Memorandum of Understanding and the District Addendum to the Memorandum of Understanding to the District Rotary Foundation Committee Chair each year. Those documents need to be sent to the:

Chuck Turner
District Foundation Committee Grants Chair
60 Danforth Crescent
Rochester, NY 14618

Please note this change.
Third Grader Receives Braille Dictionary

Bob Jamieson

When Gaetono Williams got bored with his weekly spelling words this year, his mother asked teachers to add more challenging ones. It might be time to turn up the difficulty level. The Watkins Glen Elementary School third-grader received a 14-volume braille dictionary set from the Watkins-Montour Rotary and Lions clubs.

Gaetono has a genetic disorder. He started losing his eyesight at age 6 months and had lost all vision by age 2 1/2, said his mother, Genevieve Williams of Watkins Glen. He has a growing collection of braille books at home, mostly donated, she said. “He loves to read, especially mysteries and Junie B. Jones books,” Williams said.

The Rotary Club donates dictionaries each fall to third-graders in Watkins Glen and Odessa-Montour schools. “This year, the Watkins Glen principal, Rod Weeden, called and said, ‘We have a blind student. What do you think about donating a braille dictionary.’ We were very on board with that,” said Rotary President Michelle Benjamin.

Benjamin said it’s the first time recently that the two clubs have collaborated. Weeden, a Lions Club member, called it a good match: Rotary has its dictionary project and the Lions’ cause is eyesight. The two clubs split the $600 cost of the American Heritage Children's Dictionary.

“I think it is wonderful and I am greatly appreciative,” Williams said, adding that she could not afford it as a single mother of three with a home-based business.

Gaetono is the school’s only blind student, has an aide and uses a cane, Weeden said. The school orders braille textbooks for him and has a machine that converts daily worksheets for students into braille.

Webster Police Officer Mark Reed presented with a Paul Harris Fellow

In the early morning hours of Dec. 24th, Webster Police Officer Mark Reed was dispatched to a fire call in Webster. He arrived at the scene to find West Webster volunteer firefighters preparing to douse a structure and an automobile engulfed in flames.

Reed heard what was either tires popping from the heat — or gunshots. He saw firemen down. Someone was shooting at them. Reed retrieved his patrol rifle and began returning fire in the gunman’s direction. Two firefighters, Michael J. Chiapperini and Tomasz Kaczowka, were fatally shot, and firefighters Theodore Scardino and Joseph Hofstetter were badly wounded. Reed’s actions diverted the gunman, later identified as William Spengler Jr. He stopped shooting at the unarmed firefighters and started firing at Reed. Spengler later turned a gun on himself.

For his actions, Reed was named a Paul Harris Fellow by the Webster Rotary Club and given honorary membership.

More than 100 people attended the ceremony at Webster’s Knights of Columbus Hall, and after receiving awards and accolades from several Rotary officials — and thunderous applause — Reed spoke humbly. He thanked the community, members of the Webster Police Department and the Webster Rotary Club and Rotary International.

“Thank you all for being here tonight,” Reed said. “I have a hard time being recognized for doing my job. … It’s humbling.”

During the benediction, retired pastor the Rev. Michael H. Lubas put Reed’s actions into historical perspective. “Officer Reed,” Lubas said, “you just said you have a hard time being recognized for just doing your job. Over 500 years ago, there was this good Catholic boy who was a monk and a priest. His name was Martin Luther. He didn’t just talk about theological or church things; he talked about what people ought to be doing in community, in their job. “One of the things that he stressed always is: Don’t run away from the job that you are given. Do your job. Because no matter what it is, there is something special about doing your job, sticking to it for the sake of the greater whole, the greater community.”
Greece Rotary Welcomes New Members

Greece Rotary has welcomed three new members to their club. The induction was a significant milestone in the club's history, adding 3 women to the ranks, for a total of 25. It was just 24 years ago that Rotary International voted to allow females to join! Lady Rotarians currently represent 25% of the Greece Rotary total membership. Pictured above, left to right: Ashley Steeves, her sponsor Mike Sofia, Pattie Anthony who sponsored Brenda Herman, Laura Jachimiak, her sponsor Don Riley and Club President Rick Antelli.

New Members at Rush-Henrietta

Rush-Henrietta recently inducted 2 new members. Pictured above are, left to right - Kevin Rockell, club president Peg Steffan and Brandon Katz.

Canandaigua Rotary Inducts 2

At a recent Canandaigua Rotary Club meeting two new members were inducted into the Club. New member Kim Sorel works for the Canandaigua National Bank, Lakeshore Branch and was sponsored by Gehrig Lohrmann. New member Jim Rayburn is a sales rep and was sponsored by Taryn Windheim.

Pictured above is Jim Rayburn being congratulated by President Greg Gullo (center), and Kim Sorel.

Seneca Fall Inducts New Member

Seneca Fall Rotary welcomes new member Molly Mahoney-Thurston (center) by ADG Jerry Macaluso left) and Molly’s sponsor Jolene Lanphear-Murmer on the right.
Fairport Rotary Inducts New Member

Fairport Rotary welcomed new member Brett Havens (center) with sponsor Ron Roberts (left) and President Enzo Scollo at their February 25th meeting.

Robes for Veterans Presentation

Nancy Apeldoorn from the American Sewing Guild presented the Robes for Veterans program at a recent Canandaigua Rotary Club meeting. The American Sewing Guild is a national group, where in Rochester they have also started a Lap Robes for Veterans program. Each veteran who returns from the Washington DC Honor Flight receives a free robe from the sewers, as well as any other veteran. The sewing kits cost $30 each to any sewer who has a desire for sewing. The program has been so successful that sewers from Buffalo and Syracuse have shown a big interest too.

Fairport Rotarians Receive New PHF Pins

Pictured above are Fairport Rotarians displaying their new Paul Harris pins. From left to right: John Fisher - PHF +4, Bob Hartnett - PHF +1, PDG John Hall - PHF +5. Also pictured at right is Fairport club president Exzo Scollo.

Rush-Henrietta Rotary

Pictured above is Rush-Henrietta Rotarians Gene Gillian and Ken Nelson who were in charge of salads at their club’s 18th annual pasta dinner. They were assisted by Interact members (shown below) from the Rush-Henrietta High School helping with the serving.

Is it the Truth?
Is it Fair to all concerned?
Will it build Goodwill and Better Friendships?
Will it be Beneficial to all concerned?
Gold Plated Sneaker Awarded to Jim Holden

A special Gold Plated Sneaker Award was presented by the Canandaigua Rotary Club to Past District Governor Jim Holden for his dedication and persistence to the project for nearly ten years. The project was an effort to recycle used sneakers to less fortunate people of the world to help curb disease.

Many Rotarians plus many young Rotaract & Interact Clubs collected the sneakers. Various club members helped build a Sneaker Mobile, shown in the picture below, which was used for collections in different locations. Many people have seen the Sneaker Mobile parked near the Lake Shore Drive Activity Center across from FLCC.

The sneakers were distributed all over the world, using various connections and spaces on international containers. Just some of the places these sneakers were sent to were Africa, South America, Malawi Children’s Village. Domestically, wayward kids in the sheriff department’s Star Program lent a hand disinfecting, sorting and pairing, which helped these kids find a positive direction. 1100 Pair of sneakers were distributed in three hours following a Florida hurricane. 5,000 Pair of sneakers were given to the Rochester Salvation Army, which uses around 800 pair per day. One form of transportation that was used was a refrigerated truck. Not all the sneakers donated were used; some were new with their original tags and untied laces.

Recently, the Sneaker Mobile Program was transferred to the Rochester Deaf Rotary Club for a new lease on life.

Greece Rotary Presents Community Service Award

The Greece Rotary Club today honored Officer John Ritter of the Greece Police Department with its Community Service Person of the Year Award, recognizing him for his heroic efforts in connection with the Webster Christmas Eve ambush. He was named a Paul Harris Fellow, one of the highest honors Rotary can bestow upon a community member.

The Paul Harris Community Service Award recognizes the virtues of leadership, humanitarianism and citizenship to the community by an individual or group. Officer Ritter’s actions on that fateful morning not only showed his “living” these attributes daily, but were credited with preventing any further injury or loss of life thanks to his quick and selfless action.

On the morning of December 24, Officer Ritter, a 19 year member of the Greece Police Department, was on his way to work when he encountered Emergency Response Vehicles responding to a fire on Lake Road in Webster. As he approached the scene, Officer Ritter’s car came under gunfire and was subsequently struck, causing glass fragments to hit him. Officer Ritter reacted immediately, finding cover by reversing his car to the nearest intersection so that he could notify law enforcement personnel and prevent anyone else from entering the scene. These actions saved further loss of lives.

“John Ritter’s courage and bravery are an inspiration to us all”, said Rotarian Mike Sofia.
The Projects are Coming!!!
By Paul Minor, Chair
District Water Sanitation and Hygiene Committee

Joyce writes from Nicaragua “I am currently in Granada; the Rotary Club is 75 years old, the oldest club in the country. Nicaragua is almost the poorest country in Latin America second only to Haiti. My husband and I have been attending the Granada Club’s meetings and as is the Rotary way, we have been making friends in the community.”

“Of course we have also been learning about their projects. Their current project, which has a two year plan, is to construct a school in one of the poor communities. The first week we were here we where shown the health clinic and several schools. The Rotary club has built bathrooms, a kitchen and library in each of the schools. The schools received food for the children but there was no way to cook it, thus the need for the kitchens. Providing food to school children is one way to help both child health and attendance in school. The original “bathroom” was the field nearby. The club also built classrooms in some or all of the schools, each school painted in Rotary blue and gold. We were also taken to a Rotary supported health clinic in an area just outside Granada. The young doctor appealed to us for a wide variety of things including medicines to treat water born diseases. The doctor also talked about improvements needed to the water supply for the clinic. I am not sure what the club has planned for this.”

This is typical of the stories that come from Rotarians visiting and working in countries around the world, especially at this time of year when Districts and local Rotary Clubs are holding “Project Fairs”, seeking partners in US Rotary Clubs to help fund incredibly important projects in their country.

The District 7120 WASH Committee is just starting to get reports back from a recent Fair in the Dominican Republic; we’ll hear from two of our members who are at the Project Fair in Veracruz, plus reports and requests from the Fair in El Salvador which covers two Districts in seven Central American countries. With a recently adopted scoring system to evaluate many of these projects, the committee will soon begin to select projects to recommend to the 68 clubs in our District as opportunities for International Projects, and help clubs make the connections. Some projects are small and only require a few hundred dollars, others are of a magnitude to become eligible for the new Global Grants effective this year ($30,000 or greater). Many of these projects will be water and sanitation, but we will consider all worthwhile projects that can make a difference in the lives of the people in these countries. Areas of possible focus include Burmese refugee camps in Thailand, and the inhabitants of the Anatolian Plateau of Turkey.

We expect to resume our presentations to clubs in District 7120 by mid-March, just in time for ‘International World Water Day’ March 22 with a concrete list of worthwhile projects which individual clubs, or several clubs together, could take on and help fund. Look for us coming!

Gorham-Honeoye Valentine Dinner

Over the past several years, with many ‘Snow-birds’ gone for the winter, the Gorham and Honeoye Clubs have co-sponsored a joint Valentine’s “Dinner Meeting”. This year, the members and their guests met and dined at Schooners Restaurant, in Canandaigua.
66 Years a Rotarian

Bill Kelly celebrated 66 years as a member of the Dansville Rotary Club. The club had a ceremony to celebrate his service to Rotary and encouraged Bill to share with them some stories from the time that he joined. Bill is still active and attends pretty much 100% of their meetings as well as many of the club’s activities.

Dansville Rotary honored Earl Veley with a Paul Harris Fellow. Earl is the owner of Whiteman's Meat Market. Dansville’s fundraisers usually provide food which includes hot dogs, hamburgers and sausage. Earl works with the club in ordering and stores the food in his coolers at no cost. He then comes in on Saturdays and Sundays on his own time even when he's closed. Earl and his staff keep detailed records on file so when the time comes to order supplies for another event he knows what to order and how much extra we had. Earl is a remarkable inspiration. Whatever he does he does with a smile and a helpful hand - not only for Rotary but for the whole village. If there was a person who embodied Service Above Self ... its Earl!

Peace Symposium

Pictured above are, left to right: Raseema Alam, Linda Bradley, PDG 7070, Carolyn Ferguson, Major Gifts officer in Zone 24 Canada, and Jack Best, RI Director. This picture was taken at the Peace Symposium in Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

Raseema Alam (MA, International Relations and Rotary World Peace Fellow) is a former diplomat with the Government of Canada. Her most recent assignment was as the First Secretary for Development for the Canadian International Development Agency in Afghanistan. She has worked in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Timor Leste. Her current assignment is with the World Bank as an advisor to develop the health system in Afghanistan. With more than 15 years of experience in developing countries, she is a specialist in providing development assistance in conflict states.

In Ottawa, her assignments have included work on developing Canada’s corporate social responsibility policy, Stabilization and Reconstruction Task Force, Evaluation and Audit, Canada’s engagement with the World Bank and the Afghanistan-Pakistan Task Force.

Rotarians joined Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and other supporters of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative on the steps of the U.S. Capitol 14 March to encourage continued support for the campaign to end polio.
Wayland Rotary Celebrates 90th Anniversary
Chartered March 8, 1923

On Saturday, March 9th, 2013, Wayland Rotarians, visiting Rotarians and guests were invited to attend a time of celebration of Wayland Rotary’s 90th Anniversary at Deb’s Café in Wayland.

The event was a dual celebration - the second one being the recognition and celebration of Wayland Rotarian Arthur Traphagen’s milestone of 50 years as a Rotarian.

Above: Wayland Rotarian Tom Didas (right) congratulates Art Traphagen for his 50 years and presents him with a certificate of appreciation.

Above, DG Gaven Hurley congratulates Art and later placed a new Paul Harris pin on Art - one with one more Sapphire making Art a PHF+2. All of Art’s family members are Paul Harris Fellows - his wife Deanie and their 4 children.

District Conference

Last month’s GRAPEVINE listed the Breakout Sessions with the presenters for the District Conference in Lake Placid, May 3-5. This issue we present the “Free-time Activities” for your consideration during this great weekend.

Of course, the Lake Placid Region is loaded with things to do and sights to see on your own. A member of the Lake Placid Regional Office of Sustainable Tourism will be at the conference check-in table in the lobby of the hotel all Friday afternoon.

Conference organizers have also put together a variety of on-site and off-site, indoor and outdoor, daytime and evening (following the Plenary Sessions) activities.

- A Scavenger Hunt to enjoy while you browse the shopping district in the village.
- Bocce play on the hotel lawn.
- Golf competition both Friday and Saturday
- Two mile scenic hike led by a local Rotarian
- Walk the loop around Mirror Lake
- *** “See the Sights with Sally” bus tour of the area
- *** Tour the Olympic Museum
- Two movies: 1980 Olympic hockey “Miracle on Ice” and the monster movie, “Lake Placid”
- Bingo games with prizes
- Cabaret style magic show starring future District Governor Bill Gormont
- Swimming and exercise on your own using the hotel facilities
- Pose for Davie Boyer as he creates a memorable caricature, benefit of the Foundation
- Place your bids at the Silent Auction, also to benefit the Rotary Foundation
- Hang out in the House of Friendship

*** Registered conference attendees will be asked to choose and pay to attend these activities via a mailing in April.

HAVE YOU REGISTERED YET? GIVE IT A TRY TODAY... YOU MAY STILL BE ABLE TO GET A ROOM IN THE BEAUTIFUL CROWNE PLAZA.

See You There!

District 7120 Conference
Hosted by the Rotary Club of Pittsford

2013

Lake Placid May 3-5
For details: www.rotary7120.org
Belmont Recognizes Rotarians

**February Rotarian of the Month - Belmont**

Brandon LaValley (pictured at right) and his wife, Nancy, have been residents of Belmont, New York for the last thirty-six years. Born in Beekmantown, New York, Brandon eventually relocated to Belmont in 1977, where he and Nancy raised two daughters, Kristina and Erin. Today, they are the proud grandparents of ten grandchildren. As a youth, Brandon participated in the Boy Scouts and was an alter server at his church. In later years until his retirement, Rotarian LaValley was employed by the Fillmore Market Basket, where he was responsible for the many facets of food chain service. Nancy is a Registered Nurse Supervisor for Jan and Bev’s Home Health Care Service.

Upon his recruitment into Rotary in 1985, Brandon became very interested in the youth activities fostered by Rotary, particularly the Genesee Valley Rotary Camp. He has been a Belmont Rotary Club Camp Representative for the past twenty-five years.

Belmont Rotarian Brandon LaValley is proud to point out that he has had perfect attendance as a Rotarian for the last twenty-eight years. His actual meeting attendance is outstanding and make-ups have been few and far between.

March Rotarian of the Month

Rotarian Dirk Knapp enjoyed growing up in Belmont, New York and even as a young person, was involved in his community as a member of the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. Following graduation from the Belmont Central School, Rotarian Knapp graduated from Alfred State College with a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Dirk was employed at Acme Electric in Cuba, New York for thirty-seven years, and for the last six years, has been employed at Dresser Rand Corporation in Wellsville, New York.

Dirk’s wife, Debra, is a guidance counselor at the Genesee Valley School in Belmont.

They have two children, Eric and Susan, and two grandchildren, Anabelle and Sebastian.

As an adult, Dirk Knapp is extremely proud to serve his community through the activities of the Belmont Rotary Club. “Giving back to our community is very important to me,” says Mr. Knapp. “That is why I joined this club. And when there is a need for assistance in other parts of the world, Rotary steps in to fill that need. Helping others is what we are all about.”

Newark Rotary Makes Donation to Hospital

On February 21, 2013, the Newark Rotary Club made a donation of $4,000 to the Newark-Wayne Community Hospital in support of their new Emergency Department. Newark Rotary raised money through its annual Winter Wine and Food Affair held in January. Making the presentation were (left to right) Jan Hence, Linda Werts and club president Bob Bendix to fellow Newark Rotarian and hospital president Mark Klyczek.
Bath-Haverling Student to Compete in Rotary Oratorical Finals

At the February 21 weekly luncheon meeting of the Bath Rotary Club Sarah Wright, daughter of Murray and Brenda Wright of Bath and a junior at Bath-Haverling Central School, delivered the speech which garnered her second place at the Rotary District 7120 Semifinals held on February 17th at Naples Central School. June Bates, local Rotarian and mentor for Wright, presented Sarah a framed certificate, a check for $100.00 from the local club, and a Rotary pen and keychain.

At the semifinal competition held in Naples there were nine contestants from the following school districts: Bath-Haverling, Canandaigua, Dundee, Fairport, Honeoye, Honeoye Falls, Keshequa, Naples, and Penn Yan.

Bath-Haverling Interact Club Attends Rotary Club Meeting

At a recent luncheon meeting of the Bath Rotary Club twenty members of the Bath-Haverling Interact Club, sponsored by the Bath Rotary Club, were honored for their service to the community. Additionally, several students assumed the duties of the Rotarians themselves.

Amelia Flint, President of the Interact Club, presided over the meeting under the guidance of Becky Stranges, Bath Rotary Club President. After the ringing of the bell, Colin Gilbert delivered the invocation, and Katie McKinley led the group in the pledge to the flag. Mary Colomaio and Ariana Manikas stepped forward and reviewed the activities in which the Interactors have been involved so far this year.

The Interact club service-oriented projects included: manning the water station in Bath for the Wineglass Marathon, Cleanup Day for the elderly in the Fall, helping with the Halloween Party for children at the Dormann Library, Coats for Kids, filling Thanksgiving baskets at Catholic Charities, Helping Hands for Christmas in the Park, Christmas event at the Dormann Library, Valentine cards for the veterans at the Bath VA Center, and collecting used textbooks and other books for third world countries.

Finally, Jack Robbins challenged all the attendees with a trivia question, Danielle Neu collected money from the local Rotarians for fines, confessions, and happy dollars, and Alexandra Schlecter drew the winning 50/50 ticket.

The Bath-Haverling Interact Club is led by Amelia Flint, President; Danielle Neu, Vice-President; Ariana Manikas, Secretary-Treasurer; Ms. Cari Scott, Faculty Advisor. Mrs. Becky Stranges and Mr. Dave Stewart, Bath Rotarians, serve as Co-Advisors to the club.

The Bath-Haverling Central School, the Bath Rotary Club, the community of Bath, and their families can be most proud of these fine young men and women who display the Rotary International motto of “Service Above Self”.

Pictured above is Bath Rotarian June Bates with Sarah Wright.

Pictured above - left to right: Sarah Bagley, placing first, a junior at Penn Yan Academy, Sarah Wright, placing 2nd, and placing third was George Kotlik, a junior at Naples Central School. Bagley and Wright will move on to the final competition on March 23rd at St. John Fisher College.

Up to four finalists on the Rotary District 7120 Final Level may be awarded the opportunity to choose from scholarships available for September 2014 at several area colleges.

The first place winner at the final competition will also present the winning speech either at the District 7120 District Assembly to be held on April 13th at Red Jacket High School in Manchester or at the District Conference on May 3 – 5 in Lake Placid.
Corning Rotary Instrumental in Regional Spelling Bee

For over ten years there has been a Regional Spelling Bee held at the Campbell-Savona School. When it was learned that this year’s Spelling Bee might be in jeopardy because past sponsors dropped out, Corning Rotarian Dick Pope was contacted for assistance. Dick Pope quickly put together a team headed by Corning Rotarian Deborah Joseph. Corning Rotarian John Pignatore was able to get sponsorship from Arnot Health and Guthrie Healthcare - and - Kraft Foods Group agreed to maintain their sponsorship.

The officials at Scripps Organization in Cincinnati, the sponsor of the national Spelling Bee in Washington, DC, were delighted to learn of the regional sponsorship stating that Corning Rotary is the only Rotary Club in the entire US sponsoring a Regional Bee. Corning Rotary had to raise $6000 to fund the initiative in which they were successful.

Other Rotary Clubs in the area sent checks to help fund the efforts of the Corning Rotary Club. Local businesses such as Corning Federal Credit Union, The Glass Menagerie, Modernseed, Bob Evans Family Restaurant, Wegman’s and The Leader made significant contributions.

In past years ten to twelve schools from five counties participated, each sending their two top spellers to the Regional Bee. The Corning Rotary Club Spelling Bee Committee did extensive promoting and was able to get twenty schools to participate. Each school needed an organizer of their own spelling bee to select their best spellers. This organizer could be a principal, a teacher, or a parent who did not have a child participating.

The Regional Bee was held on Thursday evening, March 7th. Well over 200 parents, friends, teachers, school coordinators and mentors attended.

Above: Rotarian Dick Pope at the podium with some of the contestants looking on.

Spelling Bee (continued):

The following Corning Rotarians served in various capacities:

Dick Pope, Master of Ceremonies
Deborah Joseph, Judge
Bill Boland, Photographer
Pauline Emery and Nancy Shaffer, Dessert Servers
Christy Kager, Costumed Bee
Wendy Winnett and Gerry Wolfe, Huggers

Additionally, Benita Nesbitt from the Bath Rotary Club served as Official Record Keeper and Corning Rotary’s exchange student from Belgium, Julien Vandecaasbeek, served as our second costumed bee.

And the winner is - Sriram Hathwar (center) with Corning Rotarians Dick Pope on the left and Deb Joseph.

Sriram is a seventh grade student at Corning’s Alternative School for Math and Science. Second place was claimed by Sriram's younger brother, Jairam Hathwar, a fourth grade student at Chemung Valley Montessori School. This was Sriram's fourth victory in the Regional Spelling Bee. In 2008 he was the youngest speller in the history of the Scripps National Spelling Bee. In 2009, he finished 37th, and in 2011 he finished sixth.

Sriram will be going to the National Bee in Washington, DC the week after Memorial Day.
Interact Clubs - Fundraising for Special Olympics

The Interact Clubs of Pittsford Mendon & Sutherland High School conducted their 6th annual Pastapalooza fundraising dinner at Calkins Road Middle School on Wednesday, February 13th. Receipts from this year's event were donated to Special Olympics to sponsor athletes in the 2013 New York State Winter Games in Rochester.

Pittsford Interact Club members welcomed and entertained as many as 800 athletes and coaches prior to the opening ceremony during the Special Olympics 2013 New York State Winter Games. This is the third year the Interact clubs have been invited to serve as the Olympic Village for this event.

Don’t forget to register for the District Assembly - Saturday, April 13th
7:30 AM - 1:00 PM
Red Jacket High School
Shortsville, NY

Bath Rotary Celebrates 90th

On Thursday, March 14th, Becky Stranges, President of Bath Rotary (pictured at left) welcomed Bath Rotarians, visiting Rotarians from neighboring clubs, guests and prospective Rotarians at the Bath National Hotel to celebrate Bath Rotary’s 90th anniversary. Bath Rotary was chartered on March 16, 1923.

Guests were invited to share the hors d’oeuvres and snacks prepared by Around the Corner Catering. Additionally an anniversary cake was made and donated by Emy Lou Snyder

Pictured above are some of the Rotarians that shared in the celebration of Bath’s 90th anniversary.

Bath Rotary had on display 2 slide shows running simultaneously showing the club’s activities and projects they have participated in and completed over the past years.

Additional Anniversary events planned are a chicken barbecue on April 20th and an Anniversary Celebration Dinner on May 17th

Congratulations to Bath Rotary
Oratorical Contest - Final Event

March 23, 2013, Noon

The final event in the Oratorical Contest on Ethics will take place March 23rd at noon. The contest will be in the Cleary Family Auditorium located in Kearney Hall on the campus of St. John Fisher College. This is the main building with the steeple and the auditorium is on the steeple side of the building. Parking will be available in Lot A, which is the large parking lot just off the main entrance. Kearney Hall is just beyond the parking lot. A campus map can be downloaded from the Oratorical Contest page of our District 7120 website, just click on the New Generations Tab, then on Oratorical Contest. Kearney Hall is Number 14 on the map.

Rochester AM Rotary
Fundraiser for Hope Hall and other area Not For Profit organizations

Upcoming DISTRICT Events
http://www.rotary7120.org/DistrictActivities.cfm

- March 15th at 7:30 AM to March 16th at 1:00 PM
  President Elect Training Seminar (PETS) - Double Tree Inn in East Syracuse for all President Elects.
- March 23rd - Oratorical Contest - Final Event - Noon at St. John Fisher College
- April 13th - District Assembly - 7:30 AM - 1:00 PM - will be held at the Red Jacket High School in Shortsville, NY

Upcoming CLUB Events
http://www.rotary7120.org/DistrictActivities.cfm

March 2013

- March 16th - Newark Rotary Pancake Breakfast - Newark High School.
- March 16th - Mr. HFL Pageant - HF-L Auditorium - 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM.
- March 23rd - Sodus Rotary’s Bluegrass Show - Sodus Central School Auditorium - Meet & Greet 5:00 PM - Concert Starts 7:00 PM. See details on Page 10.

April 2013

- April 14th - Prattsburgh Rotary Spaghetti Dinner - at the Prattsburgh fire hall on Allis Street - 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.
- April 27th - Pittsford Rotary/R Community Bike drop - Pittsford-Mendon High School - 09:00 AM - 02:00 PM.

June 2013

- June 7th - Gananda Rotary will be participating in Relay for Life at the Gananda High School
- June 23rd - Rotary Night at Jazzfest - see flier on this page

Visit the District’s Calendar at http://www.rotary7120.org for additions, updates and details.
Meet the Group Study Exchange Team - 2013
District 7120 --- District 2410 Sweden & Latvia

Amy Alvaro

Amy was born in upstate New York and grew up in West Virginia. She first learned about Rotary when she joined her high school Interact Club in Weirton, WV. She was recently reacquainted with Rotary International through a good friend who is a Rotarian and has made great contributions in our local community.

Amy’s adult education began at Missouri Valley College where she studied biology and wrestled freestyle. During this time, she met a variety of amazing people with unique cultures which sparked her passion to network and travel.

Her employment started in a corporate wellness setting at General Motors along with teaching positions at the University at Buffalo and Canisius College. She also had the privilege of recovering donor tissue and organs for Upstate New York Transplant Services. She currently resides in Elmira NY and practices primary care medicine as a physician assistant for Arnot Medical Services.

Amy’s interests are laughing heartily and allowing her curiosity to take her on fun adventures, especially those outdoors and in the kitchen. She also enjoys the arts, most notably music and dance. As a GSE team member, Amy hopes to inspire and be inspired by new people in an effort to improve global quality of life.

Leah Wolanski

Leah is excited to join the Group Study Exchange this coming year. Growing up in Rochester, she is very passionate about what our area has to offer.

Leah studied her undergraduate in Business Administration and Tourism Management at Kent State University in Ohio, and afterwards spent 2 years working in New York City at a five-star hotel.

Due to her appreciation for the area, Leah decided to move back home to Rochester in 2012. Since her return, Leah has been working to help develop and grow the Product Sales division of a Minority & Woman owned business, OSO, Inc. When she is not busy at the office, Leah enjoys hiking and running with her dog, Oliver, and spending time with friends and family.

Though Leah is quite immersed in her business, she also excels in the kitchen, with a love for cooking and baking. She currently has a small “custom party” food service business, which she runs with two of her friends on weekends.

Leah hopes to bring her enthusiasm for travel, business growth, and creative nature to the GSE team. She hopes to gain knowledge, experience, and relationships with those she encounters and travels with this coming spring.

Ryan Hallings

With a diverse background ranging from a family farm to Assistant Vice President of a Bank, Ryan is a great addition to our GSE team. After growing up in Penn Yan, NY, Ryan attended Hobart College earning a B.A. in Sociology and Keuka College, earning a M.S. in Management.

Ryan is currently the Assistant Vice President & Agricultural and Commercial Loan Officer for Lyons National Bank, providing appropriate financial products to meet the financing and cash flow needs of businesses in the greater Yates County market. Ryan’s previous position was Vice President of Community Development for the Finger Lakes Economic Development Center in Yates County. Prior to the FLEDC Ryan worked as a Community Educator for Cornell Cooperative Extension in Schuyler County. Presently he serves as a Planning Board member for the Town of Milo.

(continued on Page 14)
Meet the Group Study Exchange Team - 2013 Team
District 2410 Sweden & Latvia
(continued from Page 13)

Michelle Radcliffe

Michelle has been familiar with the Rotary Organization since she was young and is excited to begin her involvement through GSE. With a B.S. in Hospitality Management from Keuka College, and as a lifetime Penn Yan resident, Michelle has a mix of educational, professional and community familiarity within the Finger Lakes region that make her an excellent GSE team member.

Michelle has experience in banking, regional state tourism, the wine industry, and is currently working in higher education, specifically with international students as an Administrative Assistant in Keuka College’s Center for Global Education.

As a wife and mother to three girls, and professional, Michelle’s energy, creativity, and leadership are an excellent asset to the GSE Team. When not working and spending time with her three wonderful daughters, Michelle devotes her talent to baking. Community members often reach out to her for bake sales and large scale functions for her delicious breads, cakes, cookies, and treats.

John Socha
Team Leader

John is joining his first Rotary Group Study Exchange as a Team Leader. He brings along excellent experience in Education, Governmental Administration, and Business Development with a B.S. in Math Education, a M.S. in Public School Administration, and a CAS in College & Public School Administration. John has been a member of Rotary for 28 years, actively participating in youth exchanges, and serving as Club President for two terms. Currently, John is teaching adjunct College Accounting & Finance as well as Leadership courses. He is also involved in Municipal and Private Business Accounting and Budgeting.

John previously served in US Air Force Reserves and has three sons, one daughter, and eight grandchildren. He currently owns The Showboat Motel and Restaurant on Seneca Lake.

As a true outdoor enthusiast, John enjoys skiing and has 25 years of SCUBA experience as a diver and instructor. John also is a licensed private pilot, and store owner. His diverse lifestyle has proven him and his wife Peg to be excellent hosts to many Rotary Youth Exchange participants, and has afforded them the opportunity of a wealth of travel. John hopes to further his travel experience, and to gain new friends through Group Study Exchange.

John’s experiences, insights, and personality are evident. Our group is fortunate to have a true leader directing this Exchange.

Group Study Exchange
An International Exchange Program for Young Professionals

There will be a Breakout Session at the District Conference where you can see, hear and visit with members of the GSE Teams from District 7120 and from District 2410 - Sweden & Latvia.
## District 7120 Attendance Report - January 2013

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[kreuserm@rochester.rr.com](mailto:kreuserm@rochester.rr.com)