¿Entiendes?

Well last year at this time, PDG Gaven advised me to start writing the February newsletter article then because it was the hardest one. I laughed, thinking he was joking....

Today as I sit down to write this I understand that he was not kidding (you can't blame me for thinking he was .... he was great at one liners and still is....).

When I think about world understanding, many ideas come to mind. Our exchange students, both inbound and outbound, embody the concept of world understanding. As they live in their chosen country, they work to acquire the language and the knowledge that will allow them to comprehend another culture. It is no easy task as they strive to move from unconscious cultural incompetence (no idea what is going on) to unconscious competence (where they function naturally without thought or choice). The YE committee says they are changing the world one student at a time...and the truth of that is evident. As the unknown becomes known to us we value the differences we all possess. When I was seeking a home for a Hungarian YE student, I asked one of my students who had expressed an interest in being an outbound if he would like to host to get a better idea of what it would be like. NO he replied. When I asked why he told me he did not like Hungarians. How many do you know?, I asked. The answer: NONE! Later, after having met the boy, the student told me he had missed the boat. How true! It is such an opportunity, a gift really, that is available in our district. It amazes me to this day that only about half of the clubs in the district avail themselves of this chance to offer this experience to their communities. "A better world shall emerge based on faith and understanding." (General Douglas MacArthur)

Perhaps world understanding comes from understanding ourselves better. Why do we do what we do? Why do some choose to be Rotarians? Is it the good meals at meetings? Is it that we have nothing else to do on a given morning, noon or evening? Is it only in the hope it will improve our businesses? I think not. How do we explain to people the ideals and concepts we not only believe in but also practice? Do we spread our Rotary story freely? I know some Rotarians who have never sponsored a new member. Is it that they live on an island or is it they don't care to share? We share Rotary with our communities through our projects, with people of other lands through YE or the DGE Hospitality program but do we share it with our friends and neighbors?

Well enough of me rambling. But I do want to remind you all about the district conference. If your club hasn't scheduled a presentation please contact Barb Harper b28j02@tds.net. If all else fails or you have scheduled one past March 1st, please remember that the early registration discount ends on March 1st and that our room block at the Sheraton expires on March 25th. I looked the hotel up on the internet and found a rate for that weekend of $309.....our conference rate is $159.50 for a standard room....Yikes!

Peace,

Ellen
DG for 2016-2017 Announced

The nomination committee met on January 26th, 2014 and selected Tom Rogers to be District 7120’s District Governor for the Rotary year 2016-2017. Tom is a member of the Canandaigua Rotary Club. Pictured with Tom is his wife Sandie Rogers.

Congratulations Tom and welcome to the Governor Team!

Rochester Rotary Honored

Rochester Rotary Club was inducted into the Rochester Area Business Ethics Foundation's Hall of Fame. The Rochester Rotary Club is the first not-for-profit to be inducted in the eleven years that the RABEF has awarded the Rochester business ethics award. Pictured - RABEF Board president Richard Anderson, Rochester Rotary President Bob Attardo and Rochester Rotary Past President John White.

A Big THANK YOU to the Rotary Clubs of Avon, Bloomfield, Corning, Honeoye Falls-Mendon, and Palmyra Macedon

By Jeff Krans

As DRFC, I recently received this email and wanted to share it with all the clubs supporting Global Grant 1419338, funding a mobile eye clinic in southern India. It is touching to hear how much our help is appreciated:

Dear Jeffrey Krans:

Greetings from Rotary Club of Kothamangalam. Let me introduce myself. I am Dr. Mani Raghavan, a member of Rotary Club of Kothamangalam and at present Assistant Governor of District 3201 in India. I am the one who took the initiative for the Global Grant Project Mobile Diabetic eye clinic and presented it to our District Rotary Foundation Chair. At the outset I would like to express our profound gratitude to you, your District and partner clubs for supporting this project.

We will certainly sign an MOU with the Beneficiary Eye Hospital to track the services given by the project as well as for its long term maintenance. Thank you very much for this valuable suggestion.

Thanking you and Wishing you all a HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Mani V. Raghavan
Rotary Club of Kothamangalam.

A little information about the project:

In rural South India, many in poorer communities do not have the resources to travel to a hospital. Further, there is a high incidence of diabetes in the area, leading to blindness that can be averted if caught early enough.

The Rotary Club of Kothamangalam in Kerala State recognized a need and our clubs have helped fund a global grant to meet the need. With our partners in India, we are providing a mobile eye clinic that will bring services to the rural poor in their home communities. Health education classes will be conducted during the outreach programs of the mobile eye clinic to create awareness about diabetic eye diseases. Screening all of the diabetic population for possible eye involvement will help to diagnose disease early and have it treated before leading to sight threatening complications. People in villages have to depend on hospitals in cities to know if they have diabetic eye disease. By this project these facilities will reach the doorstep of rural population. The eye clinic has also guaranteed a 50% reduction in fees for those persons this project inspires to obtain treatment.

The Rotary Foundation: Doing Good in the World!
District Membership Committee Update
Submitted by PDG Norma, Committee Chair

First of all, I would like to congratulate and thank all the Clubs who have brought in a total of 98 new members for the period covering 7/1/2013 to 1/31/2014. I would like to make a special mention of the six (6) Clubs that brought in the most new members during this time frame and they are:

- Newark - 8
- Canandaigua - 6
- Clifton Springs - 6
- Penn Yan - 6
- Scottsville - 4
- Sodus - 4

Those 98 new members were brought in by 41 of the 68 Rotary Clubs in our District. Great job Rotary Clubs!

I would like to mention that each of our Rotary Clubs is hard at work in attracting and engaging their new and current members.

How many did we lose during the time frame above, you ask? Records show that approximately 134 Rotarians left their clubs. Out of this number, 18 Rotarians passed away. In addition, several of those who left their Clubs had transferred either within our District or to other Rotary Districts. The District Membership Committee wanted to obtain some information from Rotarians as to why they left their club. To get this information, individual e-mails were sent to those who had e-mail addresses on record. So far, the rate of responses received from the e-mails sent is at 40%.

The result of this survey will be shared in the next issue of the Grapevine, ensuring that the identities of the individual Rotarians and clubs are protected.

Another project that the Committee has been focusing on is working with two smaller Clubs that had asked for assistance in recruitment/attraction of new members. This project was an offshoot of the Membership Seminar held last September 2013.

All new Rotarians from July through December 2013 should have received “Welcome to Rotary” Cards from the Committee. This is another way of showing new members that their Rotary membership is recognized and acknowledged.

If there are Rotary Clubs that have any questions about member attraction or recruitment and retention strategies or would like to meet with the Committee, they may send an e-mail to PDG Norma at leonora@frontiernet.net or to any of the other members of the committee.

The following are the District Membership Committee members:

- Sara Visingard Fairport svisingard@HarrisBeach.com
- Diana Hernandez Rochester Latino prindino@gmail.com
- Pat VerPlank Palmyra-Macedon PVPDesign@aol.com
- Claudia Burcke Pen-Web Claudia@rochesterbiz.com
- Jim Locker Hornell jclocker@stny.rr.com
- Jonathan Usdin Pen-Web ju@jonathanusdin.com
- Daniel Kelley Canandaigua dkelley@bankwithlnb.com
- Gary Reilly Newark GMReilly@frontiernet.net

P.S. Figures on new members and terminated Rotarians were derived from the District website.

Mr. Moose Gets a Clean Bill of Health!
Belmont Rotary’s 2013-2014 Mascot, Mr. Moose, has been traveling nonstop since his arrival in the Fall. Club member Donna DiGirolamo decided it was a good time for him to get a physical to ensure that his medical needs were not being neglected.

Upon our arrival at the Veterinary Care of Cuba, located in Cuba, New York, Mr. Moose was met with friendly faces from receptionists, Gerry and Trish. He loved the attention! Mr. Moose went into the examination room with his foster feline sister, Grace, as support. (Little did he know…) He soon discovered that the cat may not be the only one having a physical! Dr. James Kernahan (pictured with Mr. Moose) listened intently to the heart of our special buddy during his examination. Dr. Kernahan was pleased to give Mr. Moose a clean bill of health, declaring that he was fit to enjoy the many experiences ahead of him. Mr. Moose was just happy that the syringes on the shelf were not for him!
Welcome New Members

Palmyra-Macedon

Palmyra-Macedon Rotary Club inducted a new member - Jim Murray. Pictured above, left to right - Pal-Mac members Peter Park, Bob Sloan, President Pam Dean, Gary Hopkins and new member Jim Murray.

Seneca Falls

Pictured above is Seneca Falls new member Wendy Friedman-Kolsen (right), with her sponsor Dr. Tim Ryan and Seneca Falls Rotary President Lynne Tyler.

Palmyra-Macedon

Palmyra Macedon Club President Pam Dean (left) welcomes new members Brian Brooks and Andy Wahl.

Ontario Walworth

Devon Schmidt was inducted as a new Rotarian to Ontario-Walworth Rotary on February 4th. Devon is the 1st Ontario-Walworth Rotary member to join following participation in all four of Rotary’s District 7120 Youth programs. She has been an Interact student, RYLA participant, Exchange student to Belgium, and member and president of the ROTEX Rotaract Club. Ontario-Walworth Rotary Club President Mary Merritt pins Devon while looking on are Rotarians: proud sponsor mom Robin Mark (left) and induction presenter Bob Stevenson.

Gananda

On Feb 4th Gananda Central School District became a member of the Gananda Rotary. Pictured left to right: Amy Suchan - Board Member, Shawn Van Scoy – Superintendent, Jess Nichols –Vice President Gananda Rotary, Bruce Niven – President Gananda Rotary, Kelly VanLaeken – H.S. Principal, Matthew Mahoney –M.S. Principal, Bill Buchko – Board member. Missing from picture is Tracie Douglass, Coordinator of Curriculum Instruction and Staff Development. The Gananda Rotary has partnered with Gananda Central School District with many literacy projects, fellowship contributions as well as supporting special interests.
Bloomfield Rotary Welcomes New Member

At left is Bloomfield Rotary’s newest member, Estelle Hall. She was inducted by (Winter) President Travis Piper on January 20, 2014.

Hammondsport Rotary Presents Check

Pictured above - Hammondsport Rotary President Larry Bates (right) presenting a check for $400 to Fire Chief Billy Fries (left) and Citizen's Hose Company President David Bulkley (center). The funds were donated by attendees at the Community Goodwill Harvest Dinner held annually at the fire station.

Joint Rotary and Kiwanis Meeting

Provided by Jack Kellogg

At an annual joint meeting of Canandaigua Rotarians and Kiwanians at the NY Wine and Culinary Center both clubs were able to break bread and share ideas.

In a rare appearance and pictured above is Rotary President RJ Pietropaolo and Kiwanis President Celeste Foster.

Canandaigua Rotary Presents Paul Harris Award

At a recent meeting of the Canandaigua Rotary Club at the NY Wine and Culinary Center Tim and Sandy Reed were presented the prestigious Paul Harris Award. The Award is given to individuals who exemplify a community inspiration and who have brought leadership and service to our community.

Pictured above, left to right are: Tim Reed, President RJ Pietropaolo, and Sandy Reed. Photo by Jack Kellogg
Paul Harris Presented at HF-M

Honeoye Falls-Mendon Rotary Club is privileged to have some very dedicated, talented and spirited members in their club and they all deserve the recognition we can give them. Jackie Main was recently awarded a well-deserved Paul Harris Fellowship for all the work and time she has devoted to their many projects and causes over the years. Don Alhart (above-left) was on hand to help present this award along with her husband Tracy. Brava Jackie!! You’re an example to us all.

Congratulations Margo Harper

Margo is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow recipient. On Tuesday January 21st Margo received recognition and another multiple stone pin. Her generosity & support for the foundation is inspiring. Pictured with Margo is Marcia Cameron, Avon Rotary’s President.

Greece Rotary Presents 3 PHF’s

Greece Rotary proudly presented three new Paul Harris awards at a recent meeting. Those honored are, left to right: Dan Barletta - Sapphire +5, Larry Wills - Sapphire, and DGN William Gormont - Benefactor Certificate. Al Melutis, center, Greece President Elect, made the presentations assisted by Greece Club President Larry Evarts, right.

Paul Harris Presentations at Chemung County Sunrise

At their annual Holiday Dinner held on Wednesday, January 8th the Chemung County Sunrise Rotary Club was honored to present 7 Paul Harris awards. District Governor Ellen Hughes was on hand to make the presentations.

Pictured above, left to right: Brian McGinley , RC Ike , Darlene Ike (PHF+1), Jane Wells , Doug Wells (PHF+2) and Peter Wallin (PHF+1). Not pictured is John Kelly (PHF+1).
Recognitions at Naples Rotary
By Bill Cooper

At a recent Rotary Club meeting the prestigious “Doc and Katy” award was presented to Deborah Allison for her outstanding service to the Naples Community and especially her work with students at Naples Central School.

Ms. Allison, an Administrative Assistant at NCS, in her spare time has coached cheer leading for 22 years, directed the Drama Club for 17 years, directed the students' Operation Santa program for seven years, as well as participating in drama activities at the school and Bristol Valley Theater. In 2012 she received the Mary Eva Duthie Award for significant contribution to the NY State Community Theatre. In addition Ms. Allison co-directed more than 18 theater presentations at NCS and even Coached and Umpired Babe Ruth Baseball.

The ‘Doc and Katy” award is presented in honor of George and Katy Abraham who were great supporters of community projects, especially at the School Garden Doc founded many years ago. The award is not presented on an annual basis, but when outstanding individuals, such as Ms. Allison, are nominated.

Additionally, Rotary Paul Harris Awards were presented by Warren Jordans to Steve Richards and by Michael Joseph to Gerry Giacoman.

Penn Yan Rotary Sponsors Rebekah Bagley for Oratorical Contest

Rebekah Bagley gave a passionate speech on “What is the importance of ethics in the life I plan to live?” at the January 28th meeting of the Penn Yan Rotary Club. The speech centered on ethics with references to the principles incorporated in Rotary’s Four Way Test.

Penn Yan President Diane Krans (left) with Rebekah Bagley
Rebekah incorporated elements of the Four Way Test with her dream to be an engineer. She sees cooperation and collaboration with scientists and other engineers as a way to advance technology for the benefit of the world. The members congratulated her heartily and the Keuka Restaurant presented her with a $10 gift certificate for use at Wise Guys pizza or the Keuka Restaurant.

This contest initiated in 2005 by Rotary District 7120 and in association with the Rochester Area Colleges offer winners of the competition at the finals to earn a four year college scholarship at many of the colleges in our area.

DGE at San Diego

Pictured is Clifton Springs Rotarian and DGE Scott MacDonell (right) at the Rotary International Assembly in San Diego. Pictured with Scott is, left to right: RI President Ron Burton and his wife, Jetta, along with Clifton Springs Rotarian and Scott’s partner Vivian Ryan.

Canandaigua Rotary Club
New Meeting Location
NY Wine and Culinary Center
800 South Main St, Canandaigua
Thursday, 12:15 PM
Vocal Contest Results

The District Vocal Contest was held on January 12, 2014 at Roberts Wesleyan College. Many thanks to the Vocal community for putting all of this together and our judges.

We had 27 students try out. The winners are.....

First Place
Mackenzie Wright
Greece

Second Place
Anders Namestnik
Canandaigua

Third Place - a Tie
Giuliana Bozza
Greece
William Hin
Penfield

Bloomfield Rotary Honors Students

On January 13th, Bloomfield Rotary gave honor to 6 outstanding students at Bloomfield Central School. Each student received a $50.00 award for their favorite charity.

Pictured above, left to right: Dylan Taillon, Chelsea Towns, Ken Chauby, Rachel Austin, Melanie Weber, Ty Clauss, and principal of BCS, Dr. Nancy Gerstner, who gave out the awards and certificates.

Chemung County Sunrise Rotary Club Awarded $2,600 to Local Organizations

Pictured, left to right: Chemung County Sunrise Rotary Club President Michael Battersby (left) with the recipients - Ron Ogden - National Soaring Museum ($400), Dick Evans - Woodlawn Cemetery ($300), Bill Jewitt & Bob Rajsik-EMSTAR ($600), Jenny Monroe -Downtown Elmira Summer Culture Camp ($400), Bob Butcher, David Smith representing Tanglewood Preserve ($300), Not pictured GST BOCES ($400) and Meg Lowmen Camp ($200).

To all Golfers
Save-The-Date

Friday, September 5, 2014
District 7120 Golf Tournament

Island Oaks Course
Lima Country Club
Lima, New York
More details to come.
**Watkins-Montour Rotary Gives Dictionaries to Third Graders**

As an early holiday gift, last month, members of the Watkins-Montour Rotary gave their annual gift of dictionaries to third graders in the Watkins Glen and Odessa-Montour school districts.

Rotarians hand out the dictionaries to the great anticipation of the students, then help them learn how to use them. The "Dictionary Project," as it is known, is intended to encourage literacy - one of Rotary's goals.

Pictured above: (top) Rotarian Tony Fraboni and (left) Bridgette Stewart help third graders learn how to use the dictionaries.

**Camp Haccamo Receives Donation**

Special thanks to Mommies for Miracles, Inc.! Mommies for Miracles generously donated $5,000 to Camp Haccamo on January 8, 2014. We appreciate Mommies for Miracles’ support and commitment to Camp Haccamo! Without the generosity of an organization like them we would not be able to provide the dream of a summer camping experience to individuals with special needs!

Pictured above is, left to right - Mike Sofia, president for Camp Haccamo and Ashley Steeves, Director of development for Camp Haccamo.

**Pal-Mac School Receives Dictionaries & Thesaurus**

On February 4, 2014 Palmyra-Macedon Club members and exchange student Szabi donate dictionaries and thesaurus to the 3rd and 4th graders at the Pal-Mac Intermediate school.

**Wayland Distributes Dictionaries**

Wayland Rotary Club distributed dictionaries to the Cohocton 3rd graders (Wayland Cohocton School). In the middle you will find Wayland Rotary’s moose.

**Perry Rotary’s Hot Cocoa & Hard Covers**

Hot Cocoa and Hard Covers was an apt title for the Winter Literacy Night at the Perry Literacy Center. A favorite activity of many families during a cold Winter such as this one is to curl up with a good book while sipping hot chocolate.

This special event was designed to increase student’s love for reading and winter-themed books shared by volunteers from the community and SUNY Geneseo. Parent workshops were conducted focusing on pre-literacy skills for parents of students in Pre-K to 1st grade.

Literacy West of Wyoming donated books so that every child in attendance received a free storybook to take home.
My year in Finland: Part 2

By Chelsea Kennard
(excerpts from the original)

I realized as I unpacked from my Lapland trip how fast time goes. Lapland is northernmost Finland, located at the Arctic Circle. It felt like I was just packing for the trip, and I instantly wanted to hit the replay button, because I realized that this trip was a perfect moment, but I didn't really recognize it as such until it became a memory.

The third day we were able to go to a reindeer farm, learning about the traditional farming ways versus the modern techniques. In Lapland, reindeer are very common, roaming around in the wild. A few times the bus had to stop, because there were reindeer crossing the road. We were able to feed the reindeer, and we also went on a reindeer sleigh ride. In the same day, we snowshoed about half a mile to a husky farm, where about 400 huskies -- sled dogs -- were being trained to become part of a husky team. The exchange students paired off, and each pair enjoyed a husky-pulled sled ride on a track through the forest.

The last night of the trip was the hardest, because we had a "Going Away" ceremony for the exchange students who were leaving in January, known as the "oldies." It was our last time together as a group, and we were forced to say goodbye to some of our best friends, not knowing the next time we would see them, but just knowing that we will meet again. I realized that the most amazing people will pass by you, change you, and leave to another corner of the world in the blink of an eye. These people have shared incredible, indescribable moments with me and they all hold pieces of my adventure. The next day was the departure, but we had one more stop before we all returned to our host families. We stopped at Santa Claus's Village and got to meet the man himself. Also there was lots of shopping, sledding, and visiting the different parts of the village filled with Christmas trees and snowmen. In the center of the village was a massive Christmas tree that had flags from all over the world hanging on it. Next to it we found a sign holding numerous arrows pointing in the direction of major cities around the world; one stated that New York was 6204 km away. I was hit with a moment of clarity, realizing just how far away I was and what I was experiencing. I have constantly asked myself: "What have I gotten myself into?" And I have come to believe that if you're not asking yourself this question, then you're not doing it right.

There is more to the traditional Finnish Christmas than Santa Claus and gifts. It is a time to enjoy the company of loved ones; my family spending it at my host grandmother's house. Food plays a central part in the Christmas celebrations, ham being the main dish in most households, and a variety of fish, casseroles, and salads served with it. The most authentic Christmas Eve breakfast is rice pudding, where one almond is put into the large pot. Whoever gets the almond in their helping is said to have good luck and fortune for the following year.

In Finland, Christmas Eve is the main event of the holiday. So on the 24th of December we drank Glögi, enjoyed Christmas dinner, and opened gifts. Glögi is a Scandinavian holiday drink, which is based on grape juice, flavored with spices, and served hot with almonds and raisins.

Then the following day, relaxing quality time with family and friends is preferred. So on the 25th we attended more Christmas parties and ate lots of leftovers. Gingerbread cookies and chocolate are the traditional sweets during the holidays, along with "Joulutorttu," which translates to "Christmas Tart." The Joulutorttu are star-shaped tarts, made from pastry, filled with prunes.

Onnellista Uutta Vuotta Kaikille! (Happy New Year All!)
On January 29th Ted Markham, age 92, of Bath passed away quietly at Ira Davenport Hospital in Bath. Ted was a dedicated member of the Bath Rotary Club since his induction in August 1970. In recognition of his 42 years of outstanding service to Rotary, Ted was awarded honorary membership May 10, 2012 by the Bath Rotary Club. At its weekly luncheon meeting on that date Markham was presented a Rotary spinning, weather station clock inscribed with the words: Presented to Ted Markham by the Bath Rotary Club upon his designation as an honorary member following his many years of active service.

Since his induction into the local club Markham served on many committees and projects, maintained perfect attendance for more than 25 years, and held several offices, including that of club president in 1981. In 1995 he received Rotary’s coveted Paul Harris Award. In recognition of his service and contributions to the entire community and Steuben County, Markham was inducted into the Steuben County Hall of Fame in 2005.

Markham worked with Dr. Konstantine Frank to bring the culture of European grape varieties to New York State. The area’s successful production of fine European-type wines grown locally initiated a business of major economic importance to the Finger Lakes. Over the years many of the local vintners have turned to Markham for advice and assistance.

As a 1963 founder and administrator of Mossy Bank Nature Center, Ted worked to provide a site for recreational and nature activities. In 2007 the park was renamed the Ted Markham Nature Center to honor him for his years of effort, vision, and dedication to the center. In addition, the Village of Bath has benefited from his various interests, including serving on the Bath Shade Tree Committee since its inception in 1963, establishing his Christmas tree plantation which offered summer employment to several students, and assisting activities of the Future Farmers of America and 4-H Clubs in the area.

Avon Rotary Club lost a very special and talented member with the passing of Gladys Iler. Gladys died on Saturday, January 25, 2014 after becoming seriously ill with cancer. Gladys, like her Mother Harriett, was a graduate of the Eastman School of Music. Her love for music, both teaching voice and playing the piano was a huge part of her life. Gladys taught music in Rochester at School # 39 for 37 years, retiring in 1995. She sang and played the keyboards at the United Methodist Church. She continued to teach students at her home until her illness progressed and prohibited her from doing what she always loved.

A Paul Harris recipient, Gladys loved her Avon Rotary friends. She was completely devoted to attending the meetings, arriving early to be sure all would hear her playing the piano while they arrived. In 2008, Gladys convinced me to become a member. Gladys was an avid RPO ticketholder as well as the Geva Theatre. She loved the finer things in life, like her clothes, books and her favorite restaurant, Roonies. She knew English history, especially the monarch's and their families, and had a thorough knowledge of her family ancestry. Gladys lived all her life on Main Street in the home her grandfather built in 1909. Don't forget her New York Yankees! she'd watch every game possible year after year. Rest in peace, Rotarian Gladys. We will all miss your charm, wit and your music.

Mary P. Fischer, age 101, previously of Middlesex, New York, currently of Delaware, Ohio, passed away Wednesday, January 22, 2014. Mary was preceded in death by her beloved husband, F. Howard Fischer, past District Governor of D7120, sister, Mildred Sankey, and brothers, Eli, George and Mike. She is survived by her sister, Dorothy Ulrich; brother, Nick Popovich; sister-in-law, Mary Popovich; dear friends, Bob and Margie Hunt; and many other nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends.
Palmyra Macedon Exchange Student

Palmyra Macedon Rotary Club's exchange student from Hungary, Szabi Zsudel, presented a program on his home country. Special guests were Joe and Carol Juhasz, local residents who emigrated from Hungary after the Revolution in 1957. Pictured are Szabi, Joe Juhasz and Carol Juhas.

Gorham Rotary hears about CCLS

At the January 9th Club Meeting, the Gorham Rotary Club welcomed Marcus Whitman School District Superintendent, Jeramy Clingerman. Mr. Clingerman thanked the Club for its long-time support of the schools, their programs and students.

Books and Literacy Program at Perry

Ray Griswold spoke on behalf of CNY Books for the World.

The program started in the year 2000 by a Rotary group in Texas and South Africans without texts. Rotary International and corporate donations help to run this program managed and started by Rotary. They take obsolete texts and send them to over 30 countries abroad which need them. 17 million books have been sent for only a cost of $290,000.

What a way to help those who need books!

Bloomfield’s Ugly Sweater Contest

At Bloomfield Rotary’s January party Meg Huff and club president Travis Piper won for their ugliest sweaters.
**Watkins-Montour Rotary Honors “Students of the Month”**

### December Students:

**Watkins Glen - Matt Gill** - is President of the Class of 2014 and a member of Rotary Interact. He has volunteered time for WGHS Blood Drive, Seneca 77, Finger Lakes 50, and the 4th grade swim meet. Through Service Learning, Matt assists in Living Environment classes by helping students with classwork. Matt has been named Odessa File Athlete of the Year for his sophomore and junior years. He competes in Spring Track, Indoor Track, and Cross Country. He recently finished 2nd in the NYS Class D cross country meet and was invited to compete in the Federation XC meet for the second year. He plans to attend college to study Electrical and Mechanical Engineering and continue running.

**Odessa-Montour - Hayden Moss** - is president of the senior class and is a member of the band, chorus and bowling and Envirothon teams. Hayden was awarded the Bausch and Lomb Science award and the NYS Attorney General’s Triple C Award, and he represented the Odessa-Montour as a NYSSMA soloist. Hayden volunteers at school events and serves as a student aide in the classroom. He worked at the Summer Rec program last summer as a counselor to 5th and 6th graders. Hayden plans to attend Corning Community College for 2 years and then transfer to complete his studies in science toward a career in meteorology.

### January Students:

**Watkins Glen - Rachael Miller** - is Student Council Vice President and was a chief coordinator of the school’s holiday fun day and One Billion Rising event. She also helped coordinate the Gas Free Seneca Student movement acting as publicist, activist, and student leader. Rachael said that being part of Model UN and Interact has helped shape her leadership skills and her volunteer work has opened her eyes to the real world. Rachael plans on attending CCC after graduation and hopes to become a traveling registered nurse.

**Watkins-Montour Students (continued):**

**January Student - Odessa-Montour:**

**Brennan Voorheis** - was described as "polite, a gentleman and compassionate, the first to step up and not let someone bully." He's vice-president of Student Council, the Senior Class treasurer, a member of Band and Interact, and an actor with one of the lead roles in the school's spring musical, "Sound of Music." He also volunteers for a Food Pantry, is a tutor, and participates in stage productions at the Havana Courthouse Theater. Brennan plans to attend college and major in economics and psychology.

*Photos courtesy of Charlie Haefner.*

**Penn Yan Rotary Recognizes “Student of the Month”**

Penn Yan Rotary Club recognized **Abbey Duncan** as student of the month for January 2014. Abbey is a well rounded student well known in the Penn Yan community for her academics and music. Abbey has been a musical student at the Hochstein School of Music in Rochester. Quite an achievement for this young lady. Abbey received a $25 gift card for Long’s Cards and Books, a $10 gift certificate for the Keuka Restaurant/or Wise Guys Pizza, a framed certificate and congratulatory letter.

*Pictured, left to right: Penn Yan Rotary President Diane Krans and Abbey Duncan*
Prattsburgh Rotary announced the January Student of the Month Award at Prattsburgh Central School. The chosen student is Cassandra Lasher, a senior who is very active in school and community activities, including being part of the National Honor Society, volleyball captain, student council treasurer, yearbook editor, Viking Press editor, and class secretary. Cassie also babysits, has had many part-time jobs, and helps on her family’s alpaca farm and fiber mill.

Bath Rotary Offers Scholarships and Loans

As part of its continuing commitment to help students further their education, the Bath Rotary Club announces that applications are available to students at Avoca Central School, Bath-Haverling Central School, Bradford Central School, Campbell-Savona Central School, Hammondsport Central School, and Prattsburgh Central School for its Frank E. Nicklaus Memorial Scholarship and Bath Rotary Club Scholarship. In addition, the Wes Payne Scholarship and Interact Scholarship are also available to students at Bath-Haverling Central School. Last year $13,500 in scholarships were awarded to ten graduating seniors from five of these area schools.

Students in these school districts should ask their guidance counselors for applications, details, and eligibility requirements. Applications must be completed and submitted to the Bath Rotary Club by April 1. The recipients of the scholarships will be notified in late June and invited to attend a weekly club luncheon in early July at which they will be recognized for their outstanding achievement and extraordinary involvement in school and community activities.

The local club also offers student loans to those in these areas who may need some financial assistance for their college plans. Applications for the loans are also available from the schools’ guidance counselors or by contacting Mr. Richard McCandless, Bath Rotary Club, P. O. Box 648, Bath, NY 14810.

Pen-Web’s “Snow Much Fun”

Team Goonies won this year - taking out other team favorites like the Fire Breathing Kittens.

Pen-Web Rotary held its 4th “Snow Much Fun” softball tournament on January 25th on the fields behind Webster Town Hall. Six ball teams - each played four rounds in frigid, windy winter conditions. Tournament director and past president Derek Meixell said, “We had another great year and we want to see the event grow.” The club also appreciates that DG Ellen Hughes stopped out to show her support.

Pal-Mac’s Mystery Dinner Theatre

The 4th Annual Pal-Mac Rotary Mystery Dinner Theatre took place January 25th at the Palmyra VFW. This year’s play called the “Speakeasy” raised $1,500 for Camp Onseyawa.
Inauguration of Purified Water Plant

Newark Rotarians, Linda and Kurt Werts along with the Rotarians of Chetumal, Mexico, recently celebrated the inauguration of the purified water plant in the community of Luis Echeverria near Chetumal, Q. Roo, Mexico. The Newark Club has been an active partner with the Rotary Club of Chetumal in Matching Grant #78062 which was awarded in January of 2013. In 2011 several Newark Rotarians met with Rotarians from Chetumal, heard their need for clean water at affordable prices in their rural communities and decided to work together on a Matching Grant to benefit this community of 800 residents and surrounding villages of some 1200 more. Matching Grants, now Global Grants, give clubs the opportunity to work with others around the world along with our Rotary Foundation to make large humanitarian projects happen. The Newark Club was happy to have had the cooperation and additional funding from our District 7120, Chetumal Club as Host Partner, their District 4200, Bayramapa Club, Turkey and their District 2420 and Bitola Club, Macedonia as International Partner in this endeavor to improve the health and strengthen the economy in this rural community.

The purification system housed in the Chetumal water treatment facility is state of the art purification equipment.

Belmont Rotarian of the Month

Belmont Rotarian of the Month (February)

“As a service organization, Rotary positively impacts communities locally, nationally and abroad”, replied Belmont Rotarian Don Skinner when he was asked why he joined the Belmont Rotary Club in June 2006. “I wanted to be a part of an organization that is involved in community and international service. When Butch Fuller invited me to a meeting, I realized that Rotary fit in with the enjoyment I find doing projects that benefit the community.”

Don Skinner was born in Cuba, New York and raised in Friendship where he grew on a dairy farm. Don enjoyed interacting with his fellow students as he played basketball, soccer and participated in track during high school. Later, Don has one daughter, two sons, twelve grandchildren… including one set of triplets and one set of twins! He and his wife Wendy, live in Belmont.

Don attended Alfred State College and received an Associate’s Degree in Landscaping Design. Don worked for Rochester Gas & Electric as a lineman for twenty years. Then, he spent another twenty-two years for RG&E as a power line construction foreman. After retiring, (did I say retiring), Don was employed by the Power & Construction Group, LLP doing power line inspections and thermal surveys all over New York State. Throughout those years Don has raised beef cattle, restored classic cars and built hot rods. Many young people benefitted from his service as a Boy Scout leader and little league coach. He has served as director and officer in the Belmont Betterment Association and the Fountain Arts Center. He belongs to the Allegany County Pheasant Program, National Rifle Association and North American Rail Car Operators Association. Not always keeping his feet to the ground, Don is also a private pilot.

Rotarian Skinner brings a great deal of hands-on enthusiasm to each activity in which he participates. Don is always the man at the top of the ladder when it is time to hang or remove Christmas wreaths down the main street of Belmont. He has more than once helped remove and dispose of items from the Belmont Free Library throughout our renovation project. He is as talented with a mop as he is with a raffle ticket, and as an early riser, is usually at an event before anyone else. Since June 2006, it has been obvious to those around Don that he is indeed enjoying taking part in projects which benefit local and global communities!
Newark Rotary’s “Queen of Hearts”
50/50 Raffle

Gary Reilly is drawing from a deck of cards which is Newark’s 50/50 raffle for the orphanage they donate to in Haiti. He is trying to Draw the “Queen of Hearts”. Currently no one has drawn the queen and there is only 9 cards left. The pot is up to $3,600.00 and growing! Mitch Ruffalo is in the background who oversees the Queen of Hearts drawing.

Canandaigua Rotary hears about John North Willys
By Dave Luitweiler

Victor-Farmington Rotary Club heard an outstanding presentation on the life of John North Willys by Ontario County Historian Dr. Preston Pierce.

Mr. Willys (1873-1935) was born in Canandaigua, NY. His family was originally from Bloomfield, NY. In his early business career - as a teenager - he sold bicycles in Canandaigua. He was one of the giants among carmakers in the early part of the 20th century. By 1919 he was the second largest carmaker in the USA – second only to Henry Ford. His company - Willys Overland - would go on to be the company that produced the Jeep during WW II – now an iconic name in the world of automobiles. Unlike his contemporaries – Henry Ford, David Buick, Walter Chrysler, Louis Chevrolet, etc. – few today recognize his name.

Mr. Willys was a Rotarian – many of his top executives were Rotarians and he was often quoted in the Rotarian Magazine prior to his death. Our speaker, Dr. Preston Pierce is, himself, a Rotarian and member of the Canandaigua Rotary Club. He presented a truly outstanding program that had a special significance for Rotarians – especially those from Ontario County where it all began.

Greece Rotary’s Italian Festa Dinner

“Delicious pasta and "purple pinkies for polio" were the order of the day at Greece Rotary's 37th annual Italian Festa Dinner on February 9th. Just under 2,000 dinners were served with an expected profit of $40,000!

Shown above are club members and youth volunteers, sporting their purple painted pinkie. For a $1.00 donation purple nail polish was painted on your pinkie nail, helping to highlight the need for continued funding for Rotary's efforts to eradicate polio worldwide. During mass immunizations, children's pinkies are painted purple so they can tell who has already been immunized. Fun way to spread the word about a most serious project.”

Wayland Donated Dictionaries

The Wayland Rotary donated dictionaries to the Kenya Project, which was organized by Holy Family Parish. We are hoping to partner with the group under RI's grant program. Pictured, left to right: Fr. Stephen and Ellen Stephens, new member Sue Keister and Tom Didas.
Oratorical Contest at Brighton

On February 10, 2014, the Brighton Rotary Club, at its regular meeting at St John’s Meadows, hosted a first round Oratorical Contest among Brighton High School juniors. The contestants, pictured below are from left to right Chandrika Sanapala, Hia Ghosh, Aidan Calvelli, Levi Lorenzo, & Amina Shareef.

The topic of the contest is “The importance of ethics in the life I plan to live based upon the Rotary Four Way Test: Is it the truth; Is it fair to all concerned; Will it build good will and better friendships; Will it be beneficial to all concerned.”

Brighton Rotary selected two contestants to compete in the semi-final round to be held at Brighton High School on Wednesday, February 26, 2014, starting at 6:30 p.m. in room 262. The winners from the Brighton Rotary contest are Chandrika Sanapala and Aidan Culvelli both juniors at BHS. The public is cordially invited to attend the semi-final round.

The winners at the semi-final round will advance to the finals held at St John Fishers College on Saturday March 22, 2014. The final winners will be entitled to select a scholarship from one of the following area colleges: Alfred University, Finger Lakes CC, Monroe CC, Elmira College, Keuka College, Nazareth College, Roberts Wesleyan College, St John Fisher College, and the University of Rochester. The public is invited to attend the finals round as well.

U.S. Government appropriates $205 Million to the Global Polio Eradication Campaign

Message from DRFC Jeff Krans

Lana Rouff, DRFC in District 7170 (Binghamton area) penned the message below my message.

Please share with your clubs, with a request from your own DRFC to seek contributions from the public with this good news. Appealing to our friends, colleagues, and the public at large not only helps Rotary End Polio Now, it helps promote our humanitarian service, of which we can be justifiably proud!

When your club generates Polio-Plus donations from non-Rotarian contributions and submits those as a club, the club receives Paul Harris Recognition credits that the club can use to honor whomever the club wishes to recognize. Nice bonus.

A second bonus for us all as Rotarians is that funding polio with public fund-raising appeals leaves Rotarians better positioned to contribute our own dollars to the Annual Programs Fund (APF) of the Rotary Foundation. It is the APF donations that we benefit from as clubs and the district when three years later half is returned to us to use for District Simplified Grants and Global Grants we wish to support.

Lana Rouff's Foundation Minute for Week of February 17th:

President Barack Obama signed an omnibus appropriations bill in January that provides $205 million to support polio eradication in 2014. The largest government donor to polio eradication, the U.S. has contributed more than $2.3 billion since the mid-1980s, when 125 countries were polio endemic and the disease afflicted 350,000 people annually. Today only Pakistan, Afghanistan and Nigeria are endemic, and in 2013, the combined incidence of polio in those countries fell to a record-low of 157 cases. Last month, India reached a three-year milestone without polio, paving the way for the entire Southeast Asia region to be free of the disease.

Rotary has not only raised $1.6 billion for the eradication, but it has helped secure over $9 billion from donor governments since 1988.

We are so close – Pakistan remains the only country with areas of uncontrolled transmission of polio. This year – 2014 – 7 cases have been reported and one in Afghanistan.

Raise Funds to End Polio Now and help Rotary advocate for a polio-free world.

Thanks for your consideration!
Jeffrey P. Krans, District 7120 Rotary Foundation Chair

Oh yes, Please bring my brothers and sisters with you to Burlington!
Honeoye Falls-Mendon’s Casino Night
Photos by Dave Boyer

A great many folks came out for fun and fellowship at Honeoye Falls-Mendon Rotary Club for their "Casino Night" event Saturday, February 8, 2014 at The Rabbit Room in The Lower Mill, Honeoye Falls, New York.

Black Jack - know when to hold 'em.

Tickets? Hors d’oeuvres?

Several local companies and businesses sponsored the event. They also donated great prizes for lucky winners. In the end, the regional support was deeply appreciated.

Lima Rotary awards Paul Harris

Chris Maloney, Rev. Mike Maloney and Lima Foundation Chair George Gotsisik

At our Feb. 13th meeting the Lima Rotary Club was honored to present Rev. Mike Maloney (center) a Paul Harris Fellowship. Rev. Mike has been very helpful to our Club over the past 20 years for arranging the location for our annual Senior Citizen Thanksgiving Dinner. He also has helped many out in our community whenever a need arose.

Playground for Avon
By John Marks

A new playground for the children of Avon has gone from a pipe dream to a certainty. The Village of Avon Parks Commission has long considered the need for a new playground for Avon. There was an identified need for a more age appropriate playground with more emphasis on safety.

A stroke of good fortune occurred when the Avon Rotary Club’s President, Kirk Vanderbilt, made it known to the project committee that they were interested in doing a community project and would very much like it to be a playground. This was in the spring of 2012.

With Rotary as one of our partners along with the Village of Avon and ACE (Ace Community Engaged) the committee then confidently moved forward with designing a play site, selecting a vendor, developing a budget and establishing a fundraising plan. The Avon Rotary Club committed $7500 of club funds towards this project which represented support not only from Past President Kirk but Past President Laurie Vonglis and current President Marcia Cameron as well. The Club went the extra step by applying for a Rotary District 7120 Grant which they were awarded in May 2013 in the amount of $3750. So with their total commitment of $11,250, plus our other partners, the fund raising effort was off to a good start.

The first official fundraiser by the committee was opening day of Little League, April 2013, and the latest event was January 25th, 2014. Because of all the support from the community we are at $69,000 or 86% of our goal. This level of attainment will allow us to complete the project with the installation of equipment in the spring-summer 2014. The equipment for the playground will be manufactured locally by Bears Equipment of Lima. They were selected because they are local and their product made from white cedar is of high quality and will blend with the historical Avon Diving Park where it will be installed.

Besides the Bears Equipment, the committee will include a natural play site adjacent to the Bears equipment with the objective of connecting play to nature.

It is the mission of the Avon Community Playground Project to support the development of the children of Avon in a healthy, natural environment through unstructured play. On their behalf the project committee and its three partners are acting to aid the children’s physical, cognitive, intellectual and social growth.
February 2014

- February 22nd - Advisory Council Meeting at Peppermints in Avon - 8:30 AM

March 2014

- March 14th - 15th - Multi District PETS in East Syracuse

April 2014

- April 5th - District Leadership Assembly at Geneseo High School 7:30 AM.
- April 5th - Grant Management Seminar - RENEWAL ONLY - Geneseo High School, 4050 Avon Road, Geneseo, NY - 9:30 AM registration; 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

May 2014

- May 2nd - May 4th - District Conference at the Sheraton Hotel in Burlington, VT Check in starts @ 3 PM on the 2nd.
- Advisory Council meeting - at Peppermint's in Avon - 8:30 AM start.

June 2014

- June 1st - June 4th - International Convention In Sydney, Australia.
- June 30th - District Change Over Dinner at the

SAVE THE DATE for the DISTRICT TRAINING ASSEMBLY

Date - April 5, 2014. Registration and breakfast at 7:45 AM. The programs begins at 8:30 AM and concludes with lunch at 12:30 PM.

Location - Geneseo High School, 4050 Avon Rd. (Rte. 39) in Geneseo, NY

Hosted by the Geneseo Rotary Club

This will be a great opportunity for all Rotarians to learn about a variety of club and district level programs and initiatives. The morning promises to be informative and relevant for new as well as experienced Rotarians. For further information visit the District 7120 website and click on District Assembly or contact DGE Scott MacDonell at scottdg1415@gmail.com.
**Upcoming CLUB Events (continued)**

- **March 2nd** - Prattsburgh Rotary’s Spaghetti Dinner - at the Prattsburgh Fire Hall on Allis Street - 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM.
- **March 10th** - A Taste of Pittsford - The Shults Center, Nazareth College; Wine and food tasting. Contact Jim Murphy - jimurphy@amica.com
- **March 15th** - Lima Rotary’s Spaghetti Dinner - 5 PM to 7 PM - Lima Family Diner, 7322 E. Main Street.
- **March 23rd** - Sunday, March 23rd at 2:00 pm in Kodak Hall at the Eastman Theater - the Eastman School of Music will be hosting The United States Army Field Band and Soldiers’ Chorus. The concert is free but tickets are required and are available from the Eastman Theater Box Office starting February 24th. Tel: 585-454-2100. The "band" is actually an orchestra without strings --- how great is that -- which was made famous by John Philip Sousa. All the musicians are professionals and most are graduates of the best music schools or music conservatories. This is your tax dollars at work, so enjoy it. Feel the pride as vets and active duty stand and are recognized during the Armed Forces Salute. Look closely at the harpist joining in for the "Stars and Stripes".

**April 2014**

- **April 5th** - Canisteo Rotary’s Annual Penny Sale - 5:00 PM - Canisteo-Greenwood Elementary School, 120 Greenwood Street, Canisteo, NY
- **April 6th** - Brockport’s 23rd Italian Festa (Ziti) Dinner - Noon to 5:00 PM - at Brockport Elks Club, 4400 Sweden Walker Road (Rt.260) - Contact Norm Knight @ 585-638-5371 for tickets - or purchase at the door.
- **April 26th** - Camp Haccamo/ Sunshine Camp Clean Up Day - at the Sunshine Campus.

**May 2014**

- **May 1st** - Geneva Rotary’s Service Above self Dinner - 6:00 PM at Club 86, 86 Avenue E., Geneva, NY
- **May 10th** - Lima & Honeoye Falls-Mendon Rotary Club “Rotary Community Golf Tournament”; 8:00 AM at the Lima Country Club, 7470 Chase Road, Lima, NY
- **May 31st** - Camp Haccamo’s 2nd Annual Auto/ Truck Meet

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**Avon’s Milt Matthews Hospitality Program**

By: Jim Tompsett (excerpts)

Waiting for the delayed flight Friday pm January 3rd Sally and I reflected on this new year and a new experience. The only Tompsetts we know are immediate family - we have never met others. Waiting for Rowley and Denise Tompsett’s arrival at the Rochester airport also involved other Rotarians, Peter Schwartz, Brighton Rotary and director of the District 7120 Milt Matthews Hospitality Program. This district program is over 40 years old. Also present were our co-hosts Glenn and Diana Balch. Our guests arrived only one hour late through Chicago (O’Hare) in inclement weather.

Rowley and Denise are from Canberra, Australia in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) and he is a member of the Hall Club and will be DG in District 9710 7/1/14 thru 6/30/15. That evening we had a wonderful feast at our favorite local restaurant, Ember Fire & Grill in Livonia. We were joined by Bob & Ginny House, Barb Herman, Kim & Jerry Dougherty and Kevin & Sue Tompsett.

Monday was another adventure as Julie Carney drove and were accompanied by Martina to travel to Corning Museum of Glass, CMOG. The Aussies expected to see a charming display of “Corning Ware” unfamiliar with all the other specialty glass created there from TV screens, to telescope lenses and Gorilla glass for techno screens. Also the historical glass displays and art glass were fascinating.

Tuesday was “transfer” day so after a relaxing am we met the Balchs for lunch at Peppermints, after which Rowley and Denise left to stay with Glenn and Diana. Tuesday evening was Scottsville Rotary meeting. Then a visit to the Eastman House Thursday, Friday was a Mormon history tour in Palmyra as Rowley’s son married a Mormon and they were entranced by the Mormon history here. Saturday lunch was at the Dinosaur BBQ, then we said “Good Bye” at Bugaboo Creek for a scrumptious meal and more gifts for our grandkids – stuffed toy Koala Bears and Baby Kangaroos (Joey’s)!

It was an interesting and uplifting experience. I wish to thank those club members who loaned warm clothes and boots to our guests.
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