



Club No. 4765
Organized April 24, 1919

“IMAGINE ROTARY”
AMERICAN LEGION POST #256
454 North Main Street

DISTRICT 7120

December 8, 2022

No. 21

VOLUME 103

Official Newsletter of Canandaigua Rotary Service Foundation

TODAY'S PROGRAM: Canandaigua Academy Jazz Band, Greg Kane

NEXT WEEK: Board Elections, Christmas Holiday Cheer Collections and Club Fellowship

NOTES FROM NOVEMBER 17th MEETING



Visiting Rotarians: None

Guests: Heather Rickett (proposed Rotarian) - guest of **Jodi Kaufman**; Dave Luchessi - guest of **Tom Rogers**; and Ginny Kellogg - guest of **Jack Kellogg**.

Remembrance: Honorary member **Jim Hollabaugh** is doing well at Ashton Place in Clifton Springs.

Announcements

1st Friday Gathering: December 2nd, 5 p.m. at Canandaigua Country Club.

Holiday Cheer: **Preston Pierce** chaired the collection again this year. Members contributed \$1000 which will be matched from club funds for a total of \$2000 to be given to area needy families for food for their Thanksgiving dinners.

Holiday Concert: **Steve Uebbing** announced that Ginny Ryan from Canandaigua National Bank will be the Master of Ceremonies for the concert. Make sure to attend or give your tickets to friends and family to attend. Let's fill the auditorium with holiday spirit.

Board Elections: **Mike Schiller** is working on getting members to run for our club board of directors. If interested, get in touch with Mike by December 10th, as the election will be held on December 15th.

Illuminate Light Parade: the downtown parade was held on Saturday. The huge crowd enjoyed the many vehicles and floats that were adorned with holiday lights. Special thanks to our **President Marty Potter** for preparing our Rotary Float. Members and family who participated include **Marty Potter**, Chuck Potter, **Kathi Nevin**, **Judy Ratcliffe**, **Donna Miller**, **Mike Schiller**, Tammra Schiller and Quinn Schiller.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing had great weather on November 26th for our first holiday bell ringing. Our next date to “man the kettles” is Saturday, December 17th. If you haven’t signed up to help, contact **Curt Bailey**.

Athena Recognition: hats off to our own **Tara Rago** and **Tracey Dello Stritto** for being nominated for Athena Awards.

Environmental: **Jodi Kaufman** reported that the committee members are working with City Council and the School Board to help with environmental issues. She also reported that you can recycle any unwanted t-shirts – see Jodi for information.

Exchange Student: Maja reported she visited NYC for the weekend – Times Square, Chinatown and the zoo were highlights. She's also part of the CA Indoor Track Team.

Veterans Family: **Mike Schiller** is working on collecting items for a family for Christmas. Mike shared the “wish list” via email. All donations need to be to Mike by December 5th.

Paul Harris: **President Marty** presented a Paul Harris +2 to **Jack Kellogg** and a Paul Harris +3 to **Clark Kurtz**. Congratulations to both members who do a lot for our club.

Veterans: **Pres. Potter** presented a Rotary Veteran pin to **Preston Pierce**, a veteran of the Army.

Tara Rago is proud that husband Mike Rago will be County Undersheriff next year.

Lynn Holcomb is coaching basketball this season and both sons are on two teams each. Keeps her on the go making their games.

Gloria Dancause became a volunteer tutor for the Generations program that Sharon Gullo presented on recently. Gloria also reported that her husband is improving and gaining weight.

Paul Harvey - recent trip to South Carolina for his nephew's wedding.

Dick McCaughey reported his son Jaime is a ski instructor, but recently tore his MCL.

Mike Wilcox is proud of his daughter-in-law's coaching abilities.

Program

David Hutching, Director of Sonnenberg Gardens, talked of what's been happening at the state park. Mary Clark Thompson made each of the specific gardens in tribute to her husband. The first garden on the estate was the Italian Garden, located just off the porch of the Mansion. The grounds are 54 acres and the Japanese Garden on the grounds was the first one built in the USA. The gardens at Sonnenberg are the only Garden State Park north of New York City. Visitors in 2022 totaled 34,000 and the site is the #1 tourist site in Ontario County. The operating income for the gardens comes from admissions; events such as weddings, art shows, car shows, and mystery events; gifts and memberships from the community; and grants.

Projects that they are working on for the future include: replanting of the Rose Garden (approximately \$20,000), preservation of the Temple of Diana (approximately \$165,000); and remodel/rebuilding of the Army Reserve building (estimate of \$7 million).

David told of a new visitor who has become a major donor to the gardens, giving large donations toward each project. David spoke of the \$12,000 pledge of Canandaigua Rotary toward the new Admissions Booth to be located in the Army Reserves Building that Sonnenberg recently acquired.

Sonnenberg's goals for visitors are:

- to tell the story of the Thompsons
- to deliver happiness
- make their visit a restful experience
- keep the guests joyful

Sonnenberg relies heavily on volunteers as they only have 4 full time and 3 part time paid staff. During 2022 they used 16,000 volunteer hours for duties such as gardening, lawn mowing, tram drivers, admission booth and wine cellar work. If you'd like to volunteer, see David or call Sonnenberg. They'd like to get up to 20,000 volunteer hours in 2023.

David talked of a joint project that Rotary and Kiwanis have been working on at the VA Hospital grounds where they are cleaning up, weeding, and planting in the Serenity Garden.

David, who's been in the horticulture business for 49 years, also spoke of the community garden at Sonnenberg where produce is grown. This year Sonnenberg gave over 1000 pounds of produce to Gleaners Kitchen to share with local members of the community.

Joker Draw: **Jack Kellogg** took home \$15 and **Mike Wilcox** had Maja draw a card. The joker draw is at \$189 and now the 3 of diamonds is gone from the deck.



Fines



Kim Tenreiro started his annual presentations of “The Christmas Carol”. Be sure to attend one of his local presentations.