



The Peal

Rotary Club of Canandaigua



Meeting Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. American Legion Post #256 454 North Main Street	www.canandaiguarotary.org Club # 4765, District 7120 Organized Apr. 24, 1919	Publication Date: October 22, 2026
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Official Newsletter of the Canandaigua Rotary Service Foundation

Today's Program: Kyle Sheppard – East Coast Vanlife

Next Week: Regina Deck - FL Healthcare System Holiday Giving

Meeting Notes from: October 15, 2026

Pledge: President, Dr. Paul Harvey

Inspiration: Jody Wilbur

Song: Mark Sheppard: Smile – Sing a Song

Visiting Rotarians: None were present

Guests: Melanie Soberon brought her daughter, Christina to Rotary and Beverly Cartwright's guest was Jean Wilson. Last year, at 98 years of age, Jean retired from working at Thompson Hospital where she worked at the front desk assisting folks as they entered the hospital.

Announcements: President Paul reviewed matters covered at most recent Board meeting. He reiterated there is a group of our members working on updating our club's strategic plan. The group is being led by Kathleen Draper. If anyone would like to have input on the plan, talk with Kathleen or Paul. The group consists of four board members and Kim Tenreiro. The Board voted to donate \$1800 to the Finger Lakes Symphony Orchestra so they can purchase new kettle drums and \$8000 to Camp Onseyawa to help pay for the \$15,000 the camp spent to purchase new golf carts. The Board is also looking into possibly getting grants to help with the installation of automatic doors at The Salvation Army and Gleaner's Kitchen. ***We currently have 18 members who have not paid their annual dues. If you have not yet paid, please do so. Thank you!***

Janet Tenreiro reminded us that October 24th is World Polio Day. If you have not yet joined the Polio Plus Club (where you pledge to donate \$100/year to polio plus until polio is eradicated) and would like more

information on how to join, please see Janet. Steve Uebbing shared the RPO Committee has been hard at work and we have raised enough in corporate sponsorships and ads sales to cover all the expenses for the RPO Holiday Concert. Rick Lessard is handing out postcards you can give to friends and family to encourage them to purchase tickets to the concert. If you have not received your postcards yet, please get in touch with Rick. We are hoping each member can 'sell' a minimum of 6 tickets. Tickets are electronic this year, except for those tickets which will be given to corporate sponsors and business package holders. Gloria Dancause is looking for members to help her fill 75 bags with candy after our meeting on October 22nd. The candy will be given out at Commons Park on October 24th during the downtown Canandaigua Fall Festival. If you can help, please stay after our weekly meeting. Jeff Anthony has Camp Onseyawa raffle tickets for sale. They are \$5/each or 3 for \$12. The hope is to have every Rotarian purchase at least 3 tickets. The funds go to Camp Onseyawa and will help pay for the \$15,000 they spent to purchase new golf carts for the camp. Camp Onseyawa dinner is being held on November 6 at Club 86 in Geneva. Tickets are \$50 each and reservations must be made October 30th.

Pit Passes: Two pit passes were turned back in. David Korpiel and his wife visited Spain and Portugal with friends. David enjoyed Portugal more than Spain. They visited the Rock of Gibraltar while over there, including seeing the Barbary macaques, the only wild monkeys in Europe. They also took a cooking class while abroad. Ed O'Connor and his wife took a trip to Vience, Italy which he said was amazing. (He donated another \$10 to

the club because it was such a great trip.) They also went to Croatia and Montenegro.

Kent Gilges purchased one of the available pit passes.

Happy Dollars: **Gloria Dancause** was happy getting over the flu and recently celebrating her birthday with a trip to the Thousand Islands with her husband. **Margie LaTourette** paid up for her first trip to Europe, visiting the Netherlands, Belgium, Greece, and London. **Jeff Anthony** also took a trip to Greece with his wife and a group of friends. He loved spending time in the Aegean Sea, sipping a glass of wine and watching the sun set. **Al Walker** was happy to celebrate another birthday, especially because his daughter is in town to celebrate with him. We all sang Happy Birthday to Al. **Melanie Soberon** shared her son, Fernando had joined the cross country team and was doing very well for a beginner. **Jack Kellogg** saw Gene Gerard and Gene said to say hi to all of us. Gene is now 105 years old! **Bill Hallett** had happy dollars for the Buffalo Bills winning in overtime on Monday night. GO BILLS!

Program: **Ken Poole - Genealogy**

Ken presented an outstanding talk on how to get started with your genealogy project. Here is some of the information he shared.

Genealogy is not just the collection of names, locations, and dates. The real task is to weave a story that brings our research to life. This is what your family will thank you for.

When you are young your grandparents try to tell you their history, and you don't care because it doesn't interest you at the time. Later on, you will wish you had written down what they said.

Family funerals are a great time to get the family talking and telling stories. Write down what they say!

Write your obituary now! Only you know the story you want told. Your family will thank you.

Resources available to help find your family history

- Ancestry – largest collection of information (\$\$\$)
- Family Search – free source of information
- National Archives – source for census 1790-1950
- Find A Grave – free resource with family based info
- New York Historic Newspapers
- Newspaper.com
- Fulton History
- Google Earth
- AI

AI – getting better by the day

- Google Gemini AI – Free
- Good discovery tools, it's how you ask
- Great photographic remediation tools
- Translation of cursive text

- Translation of languages
- Far more powerful than your local library
- May have errors so be careful

Don't forget to check the family Bible (if you have one) for written family records.

DNA records can be useful for finding relatives.

- Ancestry links you with millions of people who have subscribed
- 23andme second largest source of DNA records
- My Heritage good for finding European, middle east and Jewish connections
- Family Tree DNA primary commercial source for Y-DNA (Paternal) and Mtdna (maternal)

Summary

- Ask family for information
- Create family tree
- Find cemetery stones and records
- Write out family individual histories
- Gather essential documents BMD
- Create binder(s) store everything
- Find pictures, remediate on Google AI
- Create a story
- Write your obituary
- Share with family often.

Finally, Ken is always willing to help you on your genealogy journey should you have any questions.

Joker Draw:

Al Walker drew the 3 of hearts and **Gloria Dancause** went home with \$15.

Upcoming Rotary Events:

October 24th – Halloween in Downtown Canandaigua. Gloria Dancause is coordinating Rotary's participation at the event. Rotary will have a presence from 11-3 and she could use some volunteers to help handing out candy and pumpkins. See Gloria if you can help.

November 6th – **Camp Onseyawa Dinner** being held at Club 86 in Geneva. Tickets are \$50 each. Reservations must be made by October 30th. Forms will be available at our weekly meeting to purchase your tickets.

November 18th – Pie Baking for Gleaners Kitchen. If you would like to help bake 24 pies for Gleaner's Kitchen Thanksgiving meal, please let Jody Wilbur know. Pie baking will commence at 8:30 am at the American Legion.

