

**SPOKES**  
**FROM THE ROTARY CLUB OF PENN YAN**  
Box 512, PENN YAN, NY 14527

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Please Join Us! Tuesdays at Noon – Top of the Lake – 301 Lake Street, Penn Yan



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<https://www.rotary.org/en>

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## ***Yates-Cornell Cooperative Extension***



Arlene Wilson, our county's Cornell Cooperative Extensions (CCE) Executive Director helped the club recognize the importance of her agency in developing strong agriculture, improving the local economy, teaching home economics and helping preserve the environment of the county. Unlike many other counties, the county-based agency we affectionately call EXTENSION is very strong and effective here. As a more rural community we depend on the assistance provided by Extension and its technical resource... Cornell University.

Ms. Wilson reminded us of Extension's history. She started with Ezra Cornell, Abraham Lincoln, and the Land Grant (Merrill) Act of 1862. Federal land was sold to establish agricultural colleges by a president and Congress committed to economic development (canals, railroads and agricultural technology). Ezra saw CU as the research institution that would support the new national agricultural industrialization. The two state colleges of Human Ecology and College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (formerly Home Economics and Agriculture) were founded in 1896 and 1962 respectively. The 1914 Smith Leaver Act started funding extension agents in every county. Now we have many specialists, youth, farm, wine, general agriculture, and environmental conservation. Aquatic and terrestrial invasive species control has been the most recent expansion of services. Japanese Knotweed along the Outlet Trail is one such invader. Other programs are the Boat Launch Stewards' program and removing Water Chestnut in the Outlet marsh. Two important volunteer lead services are the Master Gardeners and Master Foresters. For wood lots, there are programs to help people sustain healthy forests and make a little income on the side...selling wood or mushrooms.

4-H is an important program for developing youth leadership for the community and for rural agricultural business. Recently, Arlene observed a teen use welding skills to make a pig smoker spit and a second grill. It is the 4-H Teen Council that runs the dairy bar at the fair. The 4-Hers did all the planning of staffing, menu, pricing.

Another educational program helps adults get off of public assistance...training and motivating mission. Also there are the important agricultural program...helping the Mennonite and "English" farmers. Veg grower program is about high tunnels which extend the growing season, broadening production to include flowers, or fresh vegetables all year round. Programs that increase farm production and profitability are many and extensive.

Arlene talked about grafting different varieties of a plant to acquire the benefits of each; using drip irrigation and tiling to manage moisture in the soil; managing destructive pests without pesticides with something simple as shiny films instead of black plastic to control weeds and insects in the fields. See: <http://yates.cce.cornell.edu/agriculture>.

Hans Petersen is our grape specialist. The Vineyard Training Center on 14 near Anthony Road Winery is a very important educational site. We are educating the regional youth to work in the grape and wine industry and do some special training for vineyardists.

In cooperation with the Yates Chamber, CCE publishes *Taste of Yates*, a regional tourism promotion, business development, and educational effort. The first 100,000 copies have been distributed and a second printing is underway. The guide helps people find those direct-from-farm-to-consumer operations.

A move into the future that is under study is the use of drones for agricultural surveillance. They can detect/monitor water saturation, soil temperature, plant development using the visual and infrared spectrums.

In PY Rotary tradition, Arlene was given a standing ovation



## News and Notes of interest

**Whit Y.** was circulating sign-ups for his Squaw Point picnic. Be sure to get on the list so he can order your NY Strip steaks. If your name is not on the list, contact Whit...he says there are 25 or more already signed up.

**ONSEYAWA Carnival** is August 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Andersen family has signed up to help with the photo booth and ring toss. **Ef** can use a few more helping hands. He also is taking names for members that want to help in the kitchen one day.

**President Bob** and **Jackie** are exceptionally happy after a trip to Cape Cod for a family celebration of their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary (a bit before the September actual event).

**Bob S.** was glad to have his middle child here.

**Deborah**, aka **Debbie**, says she hails from Penn Yan, but is temporarily in exile in Temple, Texas. "I am no Texan...believe me."

**Tom H.** contributed to the "Happiness Fund" because of his cellphone doing strange things.

On the matter of **ring toss jar rings**....we have enough! **Don O.** says "Thanks for all the donations." Also, thanks to Chuck Mitchell and the Oliver House, we have 80 stuffed animals for awards of the ring toss game. **We still need 30-40 more give away items.** They should be worth about \$1.00.

**Many** were happy with the program of the week or for the great weather...not too hot and not too cold.

**John S.** switched up the program and had us singing at the end of the meeting. Not a bad move...we sounded really much better.

**Don O** walked away with \$7 from the 50/50.

## Fun and Fellowship this week

It was a really joyful event. President Bob got several good laughs. 6 guests met with 20 PY Rotarians and dined on burgers, hots, chips and macaroni salad. No rain, and temperatures about 80. Guests were:

- **Deborah**, daughter of **Bob S**
- **Bob Smith**, Friend of **Stacy W**
- **Taryn Windheim**, ARC, and member of the Canandaigua Rotary.
- **Bob Bennett** retired from BOCES, looking for a project or retired-person job.
- **Mike Kenyon**, member of Canandaigua Rotary
- **Amy Munsen**, granddaughter of **Dean** and **Mary Ellen**

## What's Happening Next

- 8/11 Club Assembly**
- 8/18 Picnic at Yonge's**
- 8/23 Camp ONSEYAWA Carnival** Setup around 10AM, Contests begin at 11AM
- 8/29 Camp tear down**
- 9/15 Picnic** at the Branchport State Park

Thanks to our Club Service volunteers for the month of August:

Set up	Sue A and Rob S
Attendance	Witt Y
Pledge Song	John S.
Rotary Minute	Stacy W
Prayer	Evelyn E
Sergeant	Ef A

## Birthdays in July

Sue Andersen	8/19
Dean Morgan	8/21
Evelyn Emerson	8/23
Dave Hoffman	8/27
Stephen Miller	8/28
Jeff Krans	8/30

QUESTION – Who started the club tradition of signing Happy Birthday off-key?

## Paul Harris' Friendship Trees

For years, our PY Rotary Club has been celebrating Arbor Day with the giving of three trees to one grade in the several Elementary Schools. For the longest time I believed it was simply an Arbor Day event, and there was no deeper connection with Rotary. It seems that there is a Rotary tradition of planting trees in various nations as a symbol and hope for peace and understanding. It was the habit of Paul and Jean, when they visited foreign countries to plant a tree. A little research uncovered this:

**Paul P. Harris**, founder of Rotary International, was a renowned spokesperson for world peace. "If we are not above indulging in flights of imagination, we may perchance find our usually staid and unemotional selves raised to a sense of exaltations as we contemplate the coming of the day when the genius of men will all be directed to constructive undertakings and the roar of cannons heard no more. Merely a gesture to be sure, but dire have been the consequences of gestures of ill will and there have been an abundance of them. It is high time that there be more gestures of good will, and what better or more appropriate than the **planting of trees**, the living, growing hope of the realization of **the highest concept known to man -- universal peace?**" -- Paul Harris

International Presidents, since 1931 have adopted and continued the practice. Several peace trees

survived the onslaught of war and destruction. Many were cut down by vandals and later replanted. Some were moved to "safer" sites, and regrettably some were destroyed by the ravages of war.

I wonder if we might want to undertake a new project here; one that incorporates our exchange students and Dyke Smith's concern that the village needs more urban trees. Could we plant a tree somewhere in the village (perhaps the school, the hospital, a nursing home or in a park) every year that we have a visiting international exchange student? If it is winter hardy and not invasive, we could plant the national tree from that country. From Japan it is the Cherry Blossom. From Finland, it is the Silver Birch.

## Rotary Minute -

**Stacy W** gave us a little bit of news and history on International Youth Exchange. Our Finnish student, ELIAS, will be arriving on August 13<sup>th</sup>. Saki, had ended her USA tour and departed over the weekend. She reported on Tuesday a safe return in her home. This was a job well done by all. Thanks to many for the time they gave Saki and our successful program.

## Join in a project - Feel good

This is where you mention the needs of charitable organizations with which you serve. Fill us in!



## Doing a Make-Up Meeting?

Club members are encouraged to make up for missed meetings whenever possible. One can make up by:

- Visiting neighboring clubs or attending a club while on vacation.
- Log in on District 7150's Internet Club [www.rotaryclubNY1.com](http://www.rotaryclubNY1.com)
- Attend Interact or Rotaract meetings
- Work on a club or district committee
- Attend a district function
- When you have made up a meeting, please be sure to notify Chris Bergman for proper credit. [hatzcb@yahoo.com](mailto:hatzcb@yahoo.com)



## *News from the Library*

Contact: Alex Andrasik, Adult Services Librarian ([aandrasik@pypl.org](mailto:aandrasik@pypl.org)). All events will be held in the Hicks-Kimball Room unless otherwise noted

### **Empower New York: Save Energy, Save Dollars, Monday, August 10, 5:30-6:30 pm**

Learn about steps you can take to save home energy costs in this NYSERDA-sponsored presentation provided by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Yates County. You'll also learn about the library's new collection of home energy audit Eco-Kits, made possible by a grant from the Foundation for Southern Tier Libraries! Participants will receive a free CFL light bulb.

### **Computer Basics V: Smartphones, Wednesday, August 12, 4:00-5:00 pm**

More and more people are accessing the web using smartphones, cell phones with an Internet connection. Come find out what you need to know about data service plans, apps and more in this free program. Register by calling 315-536-6114 by August 11.

### **Why Read Graphic Novels? Tuesday, August 18, 6:00-7:30 pm**

Not just for graphic novel fans! Learn why this art form is of significant educational, literary and artistic value, and leave with a list of must-reads. Featuring an educator, a creator, and a retailer, this event will examine graphic novels from all angles!

### **PY Writes—And Reads! Wednesday, August 19, 5:30-7:30 pm**

PY Writes - and reads! You are cordially invited to celebrate the conclusion of our first workshop by joining us for a reading of the diverse stories created by our avid writers and instructors. This event will feature the debut of a new story by local author Bethany Snyder. Be there!

### **Classic Film Night, Friday, August 21, 5:30-8:00 pm**

This month's classic film is a wartime thriller about "a hillbilly sharpshooter drafted in WWI despite his claim to be a pacifist, who ends up becoming a war hero" (IMDb). Starring Gary Cooper. 134 minutes; not rated, but expect some 1941-era combat action. Free and open to the public!

## *Penn Yan's Friends of Rotary -*

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**District Golf Outing?????** Are we going to send a team?

**The Rotary Theme for the Month of August is MEMBERSHIP AND EXTENSION!** What could we do this month that would honor that thematic message? There have been many great visitors in July. John S. has brought us many very interesting people ...thanks!

**Bob Heggie**, past member, was an avid Boston Red Sox fan, so he was present this week when the Yankees played the Red Sox. Regrettably for Bob, the Sox lost two of three to the Yanks.