

SPOKES

FROM THE ROTARY CLUB OF PENN YAN
BOX 512, PENN YAN, NY 14527

Facebook: www.facebook.com/pyrotary Website: <http://py-rotary.weebly.com/>
Please Join Us! Tuesdays at Noon – Top of the Lake – 301 Lake Street, Penn Yan



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Leon shows us Bolenge and his project



Leon, his foundation, Rotary Clubs from our district and Turkey and some individual donors made a great change possible. Leon took us on a tour of the project...showing the many Congolese who worked with him, the kids who benefited and the many community and national leaders who came to cut the dedication ribbon. 9 fresh water wells were dug to a depth of about thirty meters. Workers also dug large pits

in which two large latrines for students and one small latrine for teachers were built. Leon, like others who develop sanitation and water projects in Africa, remarked that the provision of a latrine for female students means that more of them will come to school. Leon also showed pictures of crews building ferro-cement above ground cisterns for rain water. The cisterns are connected to concrete hand wash stations for the boys and girls attending the school. The school was a brick and mortar building of some substance and showed many classrooms. It had been built by a missionary many years ago, and was important in the community. Leon's grant also included an educational dimension...to teach personal hygiene...hand washing to the children. Health across the larger region is expected to increase as the children return home and model better hygiene in their families.

Leon learned many lessons in the course of the project. Transportation of sand costs more than the sand and that every one of the 7,000 concrete blocks must be made by hand, one at a time. Costs arose in unexpected places. Leon's plan to collect rainwater off the tin roofs in gutters and pipes was set back when it was seen that rafter tails and fascia boards at the edge of the roofs were rotten and needed replacement before gutters could be supported. With the absence of AC electricity and gasoline powered equipment, all work was done by hand. He also learned that tools or equipment that he send from the USA to support the project could go astray and might be delivered 8 months late.

Leon shared that where there is a need, many positive things can mysteriously occur. A Christian group had trained local tradesmen in the art of hand drilling boreholes to the depth of water, and now those men were available and looking for work. After getting RI grant administrator approval, Leon abandoned drinking water sand filters in classrooms and opted for clean drinking water from the wells.

As a further treat, Leon showed us pictures of life in Kinshasa and along the Congo River. The economy is what many call “dollar a day” subsistence living. He informed us that squatters build shanties on any open land they can find, including cemeteries. Life is focused along the river banks (much like what we experienced in the colonies in the late 1600’s). Agriculture practices also resembled those of our colonial and Indian past. A colorful, active market was Leon’s grocery store. His home had a solar panel, the usual roof and walls, a 12v DC refrigerator, lamp, table, chair, mattress on the floor and a mosquito net over it. Motorized transportation usually consists of a motorcycle.

His new friends call him weekly, and Leon misses the children that would follow him everywhere he went. It is notable that Leon’s wonderful candid pictures show many smiling faces. Leon’s efforts were truly a gift to the world.



News and Notes of interest

First, two apologies – It was incorrectly reported that **Tina M** was working with the Peace Corps overseas. It was in fact only Steve; and Tina was employed by the State Department. Also, **Tom H** is a Paul Harris Fellow for the third time...a PHF+two...not as reported last week.

Tom H trusts everyone is doing well in their reaching out to donors, and asks for people to return their Radio Day assignments as they are completed. Please don’t wait until the last moment to turn them all in. And he notes that mentioning to people that it’s the 50th anniversary may encourage them to increase their gift certificate donation to a \$50 value.

Happy Dollars: There were many comments of appreciation for Leon’s project and his wonderful presentation.

Carl S lost the fight with his fountain pen, such that his shirt was becoming as colorful as his tie.

Stephanie Z-W says that Elias is fitting right in and is helping shepherd the gaggle of kids in the Willson home. “...give him a break and invite him out for a dinner or a trip. He is looking to ski this winter!”

Diane K confessed that her slip and fall on ice in the woods has set her back a bit. But, she is grateful for her wonderful nurse...**Jeff**...and that she might be avoiding surgery...more to come.

A three day weekend was what the doctor ordered for **Tom M**. “Loved every minute of it.”

Being a little short on cash, but being very happy, **Jeff K** gave (to the considerable amusement and hilarity of the members) fifty cents for Leon’s great program and fifty cents for **Sue A’s** representing the club at PDG Jim Holden’s ceremonies.

After attending the calling hours (funeral?) for PDG Jim Holden, and being out and about with Rotarians around the community, **Sue A** shared her appreciation for the Rotary family. And, appreciated the fifty cents....

Patrick T was happy for Syracuse beating Duke...yeah!

Carol W asked anyone who wanted to help make up a table of 8 Rotarians for the Chamber Dinner Dance on February 6th to see her. There are six now and she hopes to fill the round.

Tom M, speaking for the **Can Hunger** team announced that community businesses and organizations are asked to register for the contest by February 26th. The cans and packages of non-perishable food used in the “constructions” will be donated to the Food Pantry, formerly Food for the Needy, now called something new. One of the competitors last year was the staff of Knapp and Schlappi, who made a huge tool box from cans and spaghetti boxes. Ideas anyone? See Tom.

Bob Smith spoke about Interact. It is restarting on the first Sunday of February with the new academic semester. He pointed out that the mission and focuses of Interact are the same as Rotary. Leadership will come from Patrick T, Sandi P and Bob. According to Bob and much to the amusement of the club, he says Sue A is either backing up, backing out, or something like that.

Not knowing that the card deck was in the Sergeant’s collection box, the winner took half of the \$14 pot. Oh well, we’re still looking for that elusive Ace.

As an aside, we might want to find a fast and fun way to keep our Bob S’s separate...perhaps calling Bob Smith Super Bob; Bob Scharf becomes Photo Bob; and Bob Shrader becomes for now President Bob...may be Big Bob later. Just a thought ☺

For the Foundation Comment, **Don O** told the story of a District Governor in Missouri who cancelled his change over dinner party and asked that everyone donate the cost of a ticket to a food bank or volunteer at one. This DG also started the Food Wars. Clubs from northern Missouri were pitted against the southern ones for a month in a civil war of canned goods. Several tons of food were collected and donated.

More often than not, the photos you see in *SPOKES* are taken by **Bob Scharf**, our “photo Bob.” Credit is due. He does a great job.

News is that Brent Elias, spouse of Barb E and host dad to past exchange students is recovering well from a stroke. Your prayers are invited.

Events inviting your involvement

Everyone is invited to a **social at the Andersen home on January 22nd from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.** Bring your whole family and a favorite snack and/or beverage. Heather, who started KidCARE, will be home and it would be nice if everyone coming donate some NEW underwear or socks for local children. Sue lives at 3025 Norris Road in Penn Yan, NY 14527.

Lauren Snyder from Dundee Rotary is letting everyone know that their club is holding a calendar raffle. \$25 for any day you choose. See one of the Dundee Rotarians for a chance.

PEO, a women’s philanthropic organization that is active in Penn Yan will be holding a breakfast, March 6th (Elks or Moose?) to raise money for scholarships for girls and women. Same day as our Radio Auction.

Birthdays coming up

Tom	May	2/2
Chris	Bergman	2/16
Teresa	Vivier	2/25

Fun and Fellowship this week

Yes, we are in the grip of winter in spite of two warmer days last week. Ice is growing around the old pier by Top of the Lake. 25 Rotarians and guests met for a luncheon of chili dogs, chips and broccoli salad. Guests were: Elias; John Chmiel, guest of John S; and Canuck Norm Evensen, guest of Chris B.

Thanks to our Club Service volunteers for the month of January.

Set up	Dave Graham
Attendance	Jackie Shrader
Pledge Song	John Socha
Rotary Minute	Bob Smith
Prayer	Tom May
Sergeant	Sandie Minster



Our Projects this Year

It’s a new year, SO LET THE FUN BEGIN. History shows that we are our happiest when we come together for a day or a few hours of work. Working the radio and bid board for the Radio Auction brings out a lot of smiles. Regrettably there is all the advanced work for the projects too, but wine and cheese at the work sessions make the jobs much lighter. Thanks in advance for pitching in, and let’s have some fun!

Can Hunger, Sandi Perl leader, starts February 26th.

Rotary Day’s Radio Auction, Carol Worth, Bob Shrader, Sarah Crevelling and Tom Hunt are leading the charge. Sat March 5th at the Living Well 8:30 to 5:00 on air. **Asking for donations from businesses by February 2st.** It benefits all our charities, especially Camp ONSEYAWA.

Sat. April 23rd – **District Training Assembly**. Hosted by our club at the Penn Yan Academy. Led by Stacy W. Lots of indoor and outdoor duties to assist 300+ Rotarians attend the assembly. Will need raffle items. This is an opportunity for the club to earn a little income as well to benefit our several charitable projects.

Friday April 29th – Sunday May 1st - **District Conference in Hershey PA**. Fun! Fun! Fun! Take a break from our busy project schedule to enjoy some of the fruits of Rotary. Look for the hospitality rooms and sign-up sheets for trips to Hershey Park.

Sat. May 14th- **Flights of Fancy, a Finger Lakes Wine Classic**. Led by Carol Wand Rob S, in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce. 24 wineries, 6 restaurant chefs, music and fun! Starting with this new event, we

hope to help develop interpretive signs that show the history of the Outlet Trail.

Photos from the DGE reception



Tina, Monica and Eduardo share a moment over wine at the Milt Matthews District Governor Elect Exchange meeting at Rooster Hill Vineyards



DGE Miguel De Paoli from Northern Argentina, DGE Eduardo Dalmedo and Monica from Southern Argentina, Host Rotarian Richard Dubois from Elmira Club and DGE Jose Jara from Chile



Carol W and John S mugging it up during the DGE reception at the Worth/Schwartzing's home

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
- 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
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Penn Yan's Friends of Rotary –

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<http://www.friendlydodgechryslerjeep.com/>

Lyons National Bank

www.bankwithlnb.com

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Rooster Hill Vineyards

www.roosterhill.com

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