

# SPOKES

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

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pyrotary](http://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*



**VOL: 95 – No. 16**  
**January 3, 2017**

## OFFICERS

**Tom May & Sandi Perl**  
*Co-President*

*President Elect*

*Vice President*  
**Bob Smith**

**Diane Krans**  
*Secretary*

**Sue Andersen**  
*Treasurer*

**Bob Shrader**  
*Immediate Past President*

## DIRECTORS

**Leon Fontier**  
**Sandie Minster**  
**Mary Ellen Morgan**  
**Rob Schwarting**  
**Jackie Shrader**  
**Stacy Wyant**

**District 7120 website:**  
<http://portal.clubrunner.ca/50098>

**Rotary International:**  
<https://www.rotary.org/en>



## Meetings / Events

- 1/8 – Interact at the Living Well (7:00 PM)
- 1/10 – Board Meeting LNB (8:00 AM)
- 1/10 – Sarah Gaffney/Keuka College Women's Basketball Team
- 1/17 – Bob Sloan (and hopefully Carl Schwartz)/Camp Onseyawa
- 1/24 – Kathy Swarthout/Yates County Public Health presentation on radon gas
- 1/29 – Rotary Day at Keuka College – Basketball Game – watch for more

## Birthdays coming up

(Friends and Rotarians)

Pam Donnells	1/9
Christine "Tina" Miller	1/16
Tom May	2/2
Chris Bergman	2/16
Teresa Vivier	2/25



## Volunteer Service Opportunities

### CLUB SERVICE DUTIES FOR JANUARY:

- Song / pledge: Carol Worth
- Welcome / Attendance: Diane Krans
- Rotary minute: Diane Krans
- Happy dollars: Sue Andersen
- Prayer / Reflection: Evelyn Emerson

### PROGRAMS LOOKING FOR LEADERSHIP

The club survey says that the following projects/programs are looking for leadership, else we will stop supporting them: **Can Hunger** (perhaps Rotaract with lead), **Miss Penn Yan**, **Stocking the Red Bookshelves**, **Arbor Day** tree purchases, bagging and giving to elementary school students, **Scholarships** awarded at the PYA or for Keuka students and **Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA)**.

## Rotary Minute:

Diane Krans rose to talk about Rotary International Conferences. She, Jeff and Carl Schwartz (maybe Leon?) are planning on attending in Atlanta, so others might want to tag along too. Time to make plans/reservations is right now. If Atlanta is too far away and might cost too much, she called our attention to the following year's conference in Toronto. We have access to many hotels there and some clubs in the district are planning on attending in mass!

## Programs/Projects we keep

The survey says that we want to keep and support:

Rotary Leadership Institute stipends  
Youth Exchange – after a short break in '17-'18  
Interact  
Rotaract  
Camp ONSEYAWA and the Camp Carnival  
Student of the Month  
Oratorical Contest  
Literacy projects – to be developed further  
Santa's helpers during Star Shine  
Bell Ringing for the Needy  
Halloween Party for the Community  
Concerts in the Park  
Foundation Christmas Party  
Keuka Lake State Park Picnic  
Perl's Picnic  
Steak Out Picnic

## Programs/Projects we drop

The survey says that we want to drop these:

Road Clean Up by the Water Plant  
Boys and Girls State  
Service Above Self Recognition Luncheon/Dinner  
Milt Matthews District Governor's Reception

## Visiting DGE Visits Us



DGE John from District 9600 arrives for a week of friendship in 7120 with his wife "Bo". John and Bo met at the RI Convention in Lisbon and were married at the RI convention in Bangkok. They are convention junkies and devote a large part of their year to clean water.

## Happiness and Confessions:

It was a raucous, rousing good time this Tuesday at Top of the Lake. 26 of our members and one guest made for great conversations around the tables. **Patrick** introduced his wife Rachel.

Many club members volunteered to help and attend the Milt Matthew's District Governors Elect wine tasting party and reception.

**Sue** is looking for a few more volunteers to help reach out to various potential sponsors. Give her a call and help.

**Sona** has moved to the Schwarting/Worth home for a month or six weeks before moving on to the Wunder's home in the village. Carol and Sona swim laps at the "Y" in Geneva, and then she runs 5-6 miles every day she doesn't swim. School grades are typical as is her love of getting together with her other 7120 exchange students.

**PDG Jeff's** New Year's resolution is to make a point of being nice to at least one person a day. He says that it is a great feeling and urges others to adopt the habit. He says: "Surprise people with niceness!"

Another, **Janelle** resolved to register and become a bone marrow donor. And yet another, **Sue A** pledged to be present during the day...or to stay in the present without looking into the past or the future.

Great Holidays for many. **Dave G.** had a full house and **Dean** and **Mary Ellen** had seven of the eight kids and families back over the holidays. **John** spoke warmly about having a member of his Finnish family here for the holidays. Did **Stacy** mention that one more of the girls is getting married?

Nobody was really grouching about it...but...football on the TV was a bit much and finally done. Someone mentioned that we don't have to worry about the Bills anymore this year. Shame?

**John**, the usually reticent, shy and unlucky (?) guy we all know, won the \$5 from the 50/50.....again.

There was lots of laughing and good natured ribbing over Rob's announcement that he STILL loves his wife, Carol. Big mystery for many....might be that Flights of Fancy is just around the corner. When the "Happiness"

box made the rounds, Carol slipped in a few extra bills... hmmm?

**Tom M** looks no worse for the wear...he confessed to having survived three different Christmas Days. Also, his home is remodeled and the bank renovations are finished. Ahhhhh....a sigh heard village wide.

**Tom H.** warned us that he and Sarah Jane are heading to the slopes of New Hampshire for a week. He's not that bad a skier is he?

**PDG Jeff** thanked **Carl S** for hosting the Foundation Christmas Party; and thanked the club members for their generosity. Approximately \$1346.50 was raised on the Christmas Sharing Tree. It seems that the club has given over \$66/member so far this year. BRAVO!

The co-presidents thanked **Dean** for his faithful service as host at a month of Round Tables. Well done!

## *Rotarians and Trees...a history*

The Arbor Day Trees that we buy, bag and donate to elementary school children is part of a much bigger tree loving history of Rotary.

Rotarians have given and planted trees in the name of fellowship, friendship, and community service since the early 20th century. These trees, which can be found worldwide, have grown into enduring monuments of Rotary's ideals.

As president emeritus, Harris traveled extensively during the 1920s and 1930s, often accompanied by his wife Jean. During these trips, the nature-loving Harris planted trees to symbolize goodwill and friendship.

In the fall of 1932, Harris embarked on a five-week tour of European Rotary clubs and planted trees along the way.

"Wednesday forenoon I planted my first tree of friendship in European soil. It seemed to me especially appropriate that it took place in Germany—in its metropolis—Berlin. The planting occurred in a sports platz formerly devoted to war purposes, and a large number including Rotarians, city officials, and others were in attendance."

Harris also planted trees in Tallinn, Estonia, and Göteborg, Sweden, during this trip.

Planting trees soon became a hallmark of his travels, including in Australia, Brazil, Estonia, Japan, Mexico, and New Zealand. In My Road to Rotary Harris recalled:

"With the cooperation of Rotarians and local governments, I have planted friendship trees in the parks and playgrounds on five continents of the world and even on some of the major islands of the seas. Our trees stood as symbols of international understanding and good-will."

Other RI presidents also observed the tradition. In 1931-32, then-RI president Sydney W. Pascall planted trees at the sites of Rotary clubs he visited, reportedly at Paul Harris's suggestion.

Not all of the trees were planted outside the United States. The Harrises often entertained visiting Rotarians and dignitaries in their home, Comely Bank, and planted trees with their guests to mark the occasion. They called the garden their Friendship Garden.

Today, Rotarians continue to plant trees to symbolize enduring friendships and fellowship, to beautify parks and communities, and to contribute to a greener world.

It is notable that most of the European trees survived the horrors of WWII. Those that didn't were a testament to the fact that was destroy the fabric of friendship...but only briefly. Following the war, some of those lost trees were replanted as a gesture of goodwill and the renewal of friendship between nations.

The Harris's tree planting was preceded by the 1912 tree planting gesture of a Japanese city mayor who gave 3000 cherry trees to city of Washington DC. First lady Ms. Taft joined the Japanese ambassador's wife in planting the first two of those trees. In 1915 the US government reciprocated by sending a like number of Dogwoods to Japan. Both were gestures of goodwill that was strained by the circumstances of WWII.

In Penn Yan, one can spot spruce trees in yards all across the village where an enterprising youth planted his Rotary Arbor Day tree. Some succumbed to the ill effects of a lawn mower, yet many survived as tokens of friendship and care of the environment.

School teacher and Rotarian Bob Scharf ran this important club project for years. The club is looking for someone who will lead this program.