

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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Member Mary Ellen...mom and mentor



Mary Ellen Morgan delivered a biographical sketch from the heart! Wow! Eight children and a 32 year + career in the Elmira Free Academy library, then mentoring Keuka College students in their student teaching assignments for another decade, is not your average mother's life. Rotarian Mary Ellen has lived a life of service, both in the club and in her community. Her life started in Elmira where as a good Irish girl she went to a Catholic elementary school then the Elmira Free Academy. Her love of books led her to a career in library science and teaching.

She spent a good portion of each year on Keuka Lake, swimming, scouting bowling, skating, and enjoying music. Later in life, she would find her way back to Keuka Lake with her husband Dean. She graduated from Geneseo College and then obtained a Masters from Elmira College. Her work with books began in '59 as a clerk and page at Steele Memorial Library. In the school system, her interests led her to work as an Elementary Librarian and a Secondary Library Media Specialist; while she dabbled in Adult Education, chairing the Art, Music and Foreign Language and Library division. Outside of the normal school routine, she coached JV and Varsity Cheerleaders for the Football and Basketball competitions. Up until a year ago and after retiring from public schools, she has been the supervisor of student teachers at Keuka College. There she was elected Adjunct Professor of the Year in 2011. She's in Who's Who in Education and past president of countless organizations.

Many of us know her from her association with the Business and Professional Women's Club. She has been active in Penn Yan, the Southern Tier and was elected statewide president. Where she was instrumental in leading the Ms. Penn Yan program toward scholarship and leadership. She has become a director of the Grace Legendre Foundation which annually awards \$300,000 in scholarships for women to obtain Masters Degrees and the PhD.

In Rotary, she is a past president, Paul Harris Fellow and past Rotarian of the Year. In her many years in the club, she has devoted a great deal of love and time to Rotaract at Keuka College, where with Evelyn Emerson, she co-advised the club for a decade. Behind the scenes she has always found time to create commemorative records of significant events. She has given every past president, since her own year with a scrap book of the year, and when Jeff was District Governor, she arranged for the creation of a quilt which depicted the major events of his year. Continued -

Mary Ellen continued –

Mary Ellen's true love is her family. She and Dean combined families so as to have 8 children to raise. Now, she boasts of 18 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. She loves her coffee, and her times spent attending various teas. Her biographic talk was entitled; "Coffee, tea or ME." Her nieces and nephews call her Aunt Me. Is that short for Mary Ellen????

Outside of Rotary these days, besides enjoying her large family, she is co-president of the PY AAUW, President of the Yates County Retired Teachers, enjoys Yates County and Southern Tier Women, and any project that involves youth.

A trip to Alaska was a great highlight of many years of trips, but really, being on Keuka Lake is a special treat. "I'm still sewing, quilting, swimming and reading."



Mary Ellen shows off her Alphabet Quilt at the Club meeting of February 2nd. Tina Miller admires it up close.

News and Notes of interest

Thanks to all that are getting Auction donations and ads in to **Tom H.** **Carol W** and **Tina M** are coding all the items into the computer so we can get the newspaper ads and the auction board postings ready. So far, they say, they have about half of the normal donations. That means there are more to come! **Send 'em in!**

Sandi P, 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, Send local organizations to Sandi P, who had rules, guidelines and application forms. Sandi's team has set a goal of 3,500 items...a small stretch from the 3,300 collected last year. **Leon F** will be leading our club team, Interact and Rotaract will be doing entries as well. Anyone interested can donate to either of the tree teams.



Progress on Flights of Fancy Wine Classic is steady. 16 wineries are on board, and the buzz around town is steadily growing. The idea that we are going to be helping the Outlet Trail has brought out a lot of support for the Wine Classic. Volunteers, from the Lions Club, the Academy teachers and Friends of the Outlet have been reaching out to Rotary. It might be a chance to name them "**Friends of Rotary.**" **Tarn W** has volunteered to manage the food vendors and demonstrations; and **Jodi at the Chamber** is going to work on scheduling musicians. **Jeff, the chef at the NYSWCC** (Culinary Center in Canandaigua), has asked to be included as a demonstration on wine and food pairing, and will be also doing more instruction inside Milly's Pantry.

Advance posters, hot pink, for the Auction are going around. See **Tom M.** Watch on Facebook for more about the Auction.

Don O spoke about the Foundation celebrating its 100th year next year. Also, Camp ONSEYAWA was given \$2,500 by Riley J's as the proceeds of their fun run. Longtime leaders of Camp ONSEYAWA, **John** and **Paula Kenny** are retiring from the board and from running the annual golf tournament for ONSEYAWA.

Tom H pulled the 2 of spades...pot keeps on growing!

Jackie S handed out roadside lawn signs from the Yates Substance Abuse Coalition that say: "Together we can stamp out Heroin"

Tom H failed to mention how the grape trimming was going....perhaps his boast from last week was a little hollow and that his crew needed a little more time.

If there is anyone who can clip Rotary articles about the Wine Classic or the Auction from the *Dundee Observer* and the *Finger Lakes Times*, **Carol W** would like their help. Carol does read....those papers.

Super Bob reminded us that the Interact was going to meet this weekend. He, **Sandi P** and **Patrick T** are going to assist the students; and **Sue A** is going to drop by this last time to give a little help in transition.

Tom M urges us to "like" and "share" the PY Rotary Facebook page. Spread the word. Can-Hunger, the Auction, and the Wine Classic need to be put out there far and wide. Social Media messaging and advertising is the way that the new generations do it! **The 150th share will get two free passes to Flights of Fancy, the Wine Classic.**

Events inviting your involvement

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 5th (Elks or Moose?) to raise money for scholarships for girls and women. Same day as our Radio Auction.

A visiting Rotarian was aghast when he heard us start "**Happy Birthday**" for **Tom M**. At the end of the song, we were on key and actually harmonizing. To this he remarked: "Well, at least by the end, you were finally together." When given the whole story by those at the table, he smiled and said he is looking forward to telling the story back in his club. It seems that we are finally on the Rotary Map of "strange facts."

Pam D expressed happiness that some woodchuck named Phil was unable to see his shadow.

Elias and team are still in the play-offs....go Mustangs!

Carl S expressed his happiness that he survived without any injury, but the deer and his caddy are history.

Let's see....was it **Mary Ellen** that celebrated the 50th birthday for one of her daughters and then went to the sewing group with **Evelyn**?

Jorgen O in his usual, soft-mannered way let us know that he would be "suffering" from travels to the Caribe, where he and Lynn will be Contra Dancing for a week. Now, isn't Contra Dancing something that people in homespun linen frocks do in a drafty barn on cold NY winter nights? The club will need to see video of their trip and dancing if we are to believe it!

And, someone invariably mentioned the **ORANGE** and a basketball game. Winning season in the ACC, or.....?

Birthdays coming up

Chris Bergman	2/16
Teresa Vivier	2/25

Fun and Fellowship this week

Well, what can we say? Three days of record breaking daily high temperature. Big thick Deli wrap sandwiches, soup and salad graced the buffet and brought many smiles to a packed house of 35, including guests:

Larry Williamson – Sodus Rotary, Heating/AC
Herb Tinney – guest of Photo Bob from Elmira
John Pinno – guest of Deb F-C, Vocational and College Program director at the ARC of Yates.
Elias – Exchange Student from Finland

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

Set-up/take-down:	Tina & Steve Miller
Attendance:	Taryn Windheim
Pledge/song:	Jeff Krans
Rotary Minute:	Leon Fontier
Prayer:	Mary Ellen Morgan
Sergeant:	Patrick Tolbert/Sandi Perl



What's Next:

Feb 9 th	Board meeting LNB 8:00 AM
Feb 9 th	District Assembly work
Feb 16 th	Laurie Martin – Work Force
Feb 23 rd	Evelyn Watkins – Drug Court

Our Projects this Year

We're rapidly moving closer to a spring time of projects. Are you ready?

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.

Get those ads and donations in ASAP – See Tom H. It benefits all our charities, especially Camp ONSEYAWA.

Sat. April 23rd – **District Training Assembly** It will be hosted by our club at the Penn Yan Academy; and is led by Stacy, Diane and Sue. 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. One session will feature the **"Read to your baby"** initiative that Ryan put together and was awarded a District Simplified Grant.

Sat. May 14th- **Flights of Fancy, a Finger Lakes Wine Classic** There is a BUZZ about this. Big talk around the community about Rotary's taking this step to extend the Tourist Season and to benefit the Outlet Trail. Wow!!!! Starting with this new event, we hope to help develop interpretive signs that show the history of the Outlet Trail. The Lions have offered their help too.

Hunger in America -

Since the Club will soon be collecting cans for our local food bank, we could talk a bit about hunger. Statistics on hunger ("*Hunger in America*") are not pretty...one in seven families is "food insecure." Since the worst days in 2008 the statistic has improved about 6% a year, but

there is still a need to assist many families...generally families of color and families headed by a single parent.

According to this report, food insecurity is linked to poverty and poverty is linked to global economic and social forces. Jobs are located where the cost of business is the lowest...where the costs of transporting raw materials and finished goods and wages are the lowest. So, manufacturing in the US goes overseas. Also, those workers who can migrate will go where wages are higher or work might be available. So, in our USA, we see immigration and outsourcing, both of which contribute to more poverty and food insecurity.

As Rotarians who seek world peace and understanding, are we concerned with the tension that arises from these global issues? How could we influence the forces that give rise to the poverty and food insecurity we experience here in Yates County? Sharing food is one way, but what is the bigger, more permanent approach to the worldwide processes?

Peace in Syria would change the forces behind the flow of migrants to Germany, France and England. It would reduce the number of deaths in the Aegean Sea. Then what about the crossings from Northern Africa to Spain or Italy? What about the steady flow of immigrants into the USA? Would more economic opportunities in the Middle East, Cuba, Guatemala and Honduras change our situation here? Would there be less tension around the world or here in the USA?

In Malawi, the Rotary water project means that the farmers in that region can grow two or three seasons of crops, not just the one made possible by the one short rainy season. The Rotary support of that project and other trades-oriented educational projects in the Children's Village has led to the creation of several local businesses and expanded agricultural production. Do these projects change the worldwide system a little bit for the better? Does that little ripple of change make it to our shores and to Penn Yan?

What if we could help make more people around the world economically self-sufficient and successful? How quickly would their improving quality of life and more wealth affect our poverty levels? Would our children and grandchildren experience a significant change? On hunger one man opined that we could reduce poverty by reducing our national defense budget, which we could do if there was less worldwide conflict, which would happen if there were more economic security abroad. Is he possibly correct?

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



Penn Yan's Friends of Rotary –

Friendly's Dodge Chrysler Jeep

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

Lyons National Bank

www.bankwithlnb.com

Roto Salt & Remeecasting

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

Eaves Family Dental

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

Birkett Mills

www.thebirkettmills.com

Carey's Farm and Home Centers

www.careypenny.com

Steve Owens and Classic Café

<http://classiccafedundee.com/>

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www.roosterhill.com

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www.simmons-rockwell.com