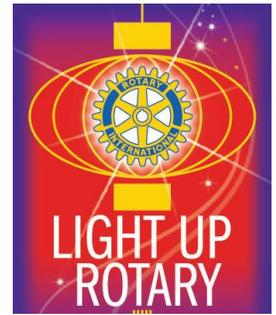


SPOKES
FROM THE
ROTARY CLUB
OF PENN YAN
Box 512, PENN YAN, NY 14527

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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John Socha &
Sue Andersen**
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Oratorical contestant speaks on ethics



Suzanna Slack, a home schooled student with an indomitable attitude and an ever-present smile, presented her District 7120 Oratorical Competition speech to the club. As always, the theme is “Applying the Rotary 4-Way Test” in your life and career. Suzanna is pursuing a career in Journalism, probably being a reporter in/on some as yet undiscovered media....or perhaps the good old newsprint. Her comments were very personal and showed a great deal of personal reflection on the important topic

of ETHICS. The club rose twice to applaud her presentation and it was evident that everyone was hanging on her every word. She was poised, clear, enthusiastic and extremely believable. Her examples of how the 4-Way Test would affect her work were very, VERY relevant to all of our careers. Well done Suzanna!

Pres. John reveals the secret formula for his youthfulness

Jumping into an impromptu biographical sketch, **John** revealed an important part of his life. He started with an emotional sharing that this day was his son’s 40 birthday, and because of that, he wanted to share a part of his son’s and John’s lifelong bonding experience. It was not what you would expect.

Divorced and raising three boys alone, John had this more than passing curiosity about hosting exchange students. He’d seen exchange students around school, but at that time was not a Rotarian or aware of their exchange program. Quickly, he learned that a single parent was not going to get a chance to be a host. That problem was solved when he married Peggy, and within a year planned to get Pedro from Spain, his first year long exchange student.

Typical of international exchange situations, there was cultural learning on both sides. Then there was a brother of Pedro, another Finnish son, Yan (spelling?), and later, Yan’s sister. Over the years, the Socha family developed these huge

emotional connections to two generations of two families. Even today, John's grandchildren are connected via Skype every Sunday to the grandchildren of a family that over 20 years ago sent a child to live with a stranger in a foreign land.

We laughed and cried with John as he took us through more than twenty years of what it is like to be a host parent. What a gift we have and give in our Rotary Youth Exchange programs. It is remarkable and life changing for everyone.



Club recognizes our Oratorical Contestant

PDG Jeff presents **Suzanna** with a certificate displaying the 4-Way Test and expressing appreciation for her representing the club in this year's District 7120 Oratorical Contest.



Suzanna's efforts were especially rewarding for the club and PDG Jeff. It was through his efforts that the Oratorical Contestants are able to compete for several very valuable scholarships at regional colleges. It just goes to show that in Rotary, a small club or just one person can make a huge difference in the lives of many.

Not much in the way of News and Notes this week...but read on...

The club decided that we would prefer to do **Arbor Day - Earth Day** celebration by bagging trees and handing out trees all on the same day, in lieu of a formal luncheon at Top of the Lake - April 28th. The trees will be delivered on the 25th, the day of our Radio Auction. The plan is to assemble at the Schwarting's barn at noon on the 28th, bag trees, gossip, tell stories, and eat pizza. Then, club members would go to the various 2nd grade classes at the three schools and deliver the trees that afternoon, say at 2:00 PM.

Bandito Tom M raised bail and is free again. He sends everyone his thanks and mucho appreciation for their pledges or donations to the Humane Society of Yates County.

Fellowship over lunch this week

In spite of persistent flu-like symptoms that have laid many low, 24 Rotarians and 2 guests were on board for an old fashioned comfort food buffet of juicy plump hot dogs, chips and that good old standby... mac and cheese...fancied up a bit for our adult palates. The temperature was soaring into the high 40's, snow and ice in parking lots were melting, but a few hearty souls were ice fishing...is the ice thinning? Guests were **Suzanna Slack** and her mom, **Kim**.



ABC's - March is Literacy Month

Rotary has monthly themes that provide structure and diversity to most clubs programs and activities. In keeping with that tradition, and for our newest members, it might be informative to take a closer look at our Club's and others' focus on Literacy.

Here, we have tended to participate in mostly school related literacy projects. For at least a decade or so, we have provided books and adult role model readers to our local elementary schools and Head Start programs. We have organized pajama parties and participated with other organizations when they do the same. We have donated electronic readers to the library, and have provided grants for the creation of reading level appropriate books (a cookbook) so that adult readers with poor reading skills can better fend for themselves in today's society.

Some club members have joined with the Literacy Volunteers of Ontario and Yates and become reading tutors. Reportedly, it is easy to volunteer and become very helpful. Contact the Penn Yan office at 536-6799 or online at: <http://literacyvoc.org/>. In some communities students mentor other students. A favorite project nationally in the USA and of many clubs in our district is providing a personal dictionary to every student in one of the elementary grades.

Another project, sometimes district wide, or by one club is the donation of used technical and educational books to poorer schools abroad. The Rotary Club of Roslyn VA donated 5,000 books to create the medical, agricultural and liberal arts library for the Central Uganda College, and in the district just east of us there is an ongoing program of shipping slightly used books to schools in the southern nations of Africa. Some books from the Penn Yan Schools went that way in the past year. (Thanks, **Tom H.** for trucking.)

Some Districts take on a huge project of training and equipping several thousand teachers who then go out into the bush for a year or more teaching basic literacy skill...reading, writing and math.

Last, some clubs have augmented the learning at day care facilities or head start centers by providing early literacy phonetic or sound sensing play/learning kits. One such Rotary recommended program is found at: <http://www.souns.org/>



Join in a project – Feel good

There will be a **Bowling Tournament Fundraiser for Camp Haccamo** on Saturday, March 21 beginning at 5:30pm at Clover Lanes, 2750 Monroe Avenue. Price is \$20 per person, with 5 member teams/\$100 per team, which includes pizza, soda and shoe rental.



Interactors are doing a District Interact project and would like the help of Rotarians. They are collecting small size tooth paste, shampoos, conditioners, soap, washcloths, combs and brushes to make toiletry bags to be given to a women's shelter or kids in crisis (foster care). These bags will be assembled at the District Assembly on April 11th, 2015. Their goal

is 100 bags. Individuals who have these items can send them to the District Assembly or contact Mary Anne Cooper, District Interact Chair at mcooper2@stny.rr.com. All help would be greatly appreciated.



What's Happening Next

- 3/17** Raisin' o' the Green \$\$\$ – Rotary Day updates in the Irish vocabulary of St. Patrick's Day
- 3/24** Rotary Branding – **Larry L**
- 3/31** **Pat Foster** Director of the YMCA Camp Corey and the Day before Fishing Season Opens

We will meet, next Tuesday, March 17th, at Top of the Lake. Rotary Day Teams will share their plans and progress with the club.

Club Service volunteers for March are:

- Set up Teresa Vivier
- Attendance Stephanie Willson
- Pledge, Song Larry Lehner
- Prayer Evelyn Emerson
- Sergeant Ryan Hallings



Rotary Day (4/11) and our two Auctions

Stacy says: "Wow! Time has flown by." A little over a week remains before all those donated items, ad copy and sponsorships need to be in. Thanks to everyone that has already submitted assignments. **Tom H.** smiles with experience...."We'll get 'em turned in....some at the last minute...you have to remind them, but everyone gets it done."

Tom M. and his team have the job of getting all the donations and sponsorships lined up, on display and posted on line. He needs time, so getting material in as soon as possible is essential.

Bob Shrader and **John S.** have the Production Team's ball rolling ahead, but have travel plans to

take care of first. Both will be back and kicking the teamwork into high gear around March 20th. They've lined up **Jack C.** to interview donors and grant recipients on the 11th. On Radio Day on WFLR (4/25) the Production Team plans on fewer auction items and more time devoted to reporting the work that Rotary does in our community.

Bob Shrader took a tour of the Archives to see what material there would make good displays at the **Rotary Day Celebration** (4/11). **This Team** is reaching out as well to different club members who can share a message about past projects during the celebration.

The PR Team, with **Dyke S.** and **Sarah C.** at the helm are preparing to guide club members through the process of becoming effective promoters of the auctions using face book, emails and other media. Of course, they will be using help to reach out to the more traditional media. **Sarah asks:** "Are you on Facebook? If so, check out our club's page and share it with anyone who might be interested in knowing more about who we are and what we do in our community. The new FB looks great and so does the 4/11 Invite. Thanks!

3/24 Bring it In - Day for Rotarians to return their donor's sheets, ads, sponsorships, etc. to **Tom M** and **Carol W.**

3/31 Going Hot - Target day for everyone to send an email message to friends and relatives, asking them to pass on news about our online or on air auctions. Start posting on Facebook

4/11 Spread the word to Rotarians - Pass out cards to Rotarians at the District Assembly

4/11 ROTARY DAY CELEBRATION - Party at Milly's: Let the Bidding Begin!

4/11-4/24 Online bidding

4/25 Live WFLR Remote Auction from Milly's

Your team leaders and contacts are:

Promotion: Sarah Crevelling screvelling@pypl.org

Production: Bob Shrader bob.shrader@proforma.com

Data entry: Tom M tom.may@communitybankna.com

Donations: Tom H ivesvine2@yahoo.com

Scty: Rob Schwarting rob.schwarting.280@gmail.com

Thinking about visiting?

Do you want some variety in your life? Well, visit a neighboring club. It is fun. Let others know when you plan on going, and you might be surprised by who might join you.

- **Canandaigua** - Meets Thursday 12:15 at the NYS Wine and Culinary Center. Awesome venue, but a little pricy at \$16.
- **Dundee** - Meets Wednesday noon at the Youth Center on Main Street. Great Buffet!
- **Geneva** - Meets Wednesday 12:05 at the Belhurst Castle, Route 14. A larger club.

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

Secretary Chris points out that you can use your make-up activity at any time. And it's not about the hours put in, but that it was a one for one exchange of activities....so long as it was about an hour or longer for a committee meeting. The Internet Club meetings last about 35-45 minutes....sometimes more and they count. This seems to make it fair for all concerned.

