



# THE LIFTBRIDGE

February 28, 2025 Edition 128



## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

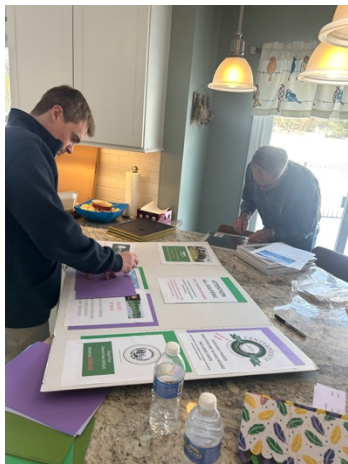
Hello fellow Rotarians!

Happy almost March! It looks like Spring is right around the corner for us now. Hard to believe after the winter we have been having.

Thank you for everyone's hard work moving into STF. Pat George especially has been a fearless leader for us, Rotary owes him a great thanks for leading all of the planning for this great event. Also thank you to Becky for organizing and hosting everyone yesterday to help put the raffle/auction items together. I was never aware of how much went into that aspect so I'm glad to be involved. I know everyone will complete their duties as needed on Sunday but please remember to have a good time and show our guests we know how to have fun. Thank you again to everyone you make me proud to be in this club.

Sincerely,

Thank you,  
Andrew Spreter





SAVOR THE FLAVOR - MARCH 2!!

3<sup>rd</sup> - No meeting - relax from all your hard work you did for STF!  
 10<sup>th</sup> - LUNCH meeting @ EagleVale; Humans for Education  
 17<sup>th</sup> - Dinner meeting @ EagleVale; Disc Golf  
 24<sup>th</sup> - Dinner meeting @ EagleVale; Fairport Robotics  
 31<sup>st</sup> - Dinner meeting @ EagleVale; PathStone Corp



John Baynes - 5 years  
 Hunter Fuerbacher - 6 years  
 Dave Scheirer - 9 years  
 Boris Glus - 10 years  
 Connie Borkhuis - 11 years  
 Mark Fuerbacher -25 years!



**MARCH**  
 BIRTHDAYS

1<sup>st</sup> - Dr. Mike Lischak  
 3<sup>rd</sup> - Pat George  
 4<sup>th</sup> - Lew Heisman  
 8<sup>th</sup> - Terry O'Neil  
 10<sup>th</sup> - Ken Buckle  
 24<sup>th</sup> - Dave Doser

**Rotary**



March is  
 Water, Sanitation,  
 and Hygiene Month







Congratulations to Rotarian HUNTER FUERBACHER for his recent engagement to his girlfriend, now fiancé, Kali! Hunter proposed recently while vacationing in Florida. He got down on one knee in front of the Wishing Well at Magic Kingdom. They are hoping for a 2026 wedding. Well done Hunter!



## MEMBERS BEING ROTARIANS

On Monday, February 24, Rotarians were at it again. Maureen, Becky, Nancy, Bill Stevens and Ron handed out another 94+ dictionaries to our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders at Brooks Hill. Pictured in the blue hoodie is President Andrew's neighbor who was so excited to show off her new dictionary that she ran right to his home when she got out of school. And Brad Allen received a video from the Ukrainian family that he help settle here. Their 3<sup>rd</sup> grader (in white shirt) was also thrilled to get her dictionary and was excited to share the 4-way test and the longest word with her family!!



## **STF.... NO. 15...**

**Loaded, and ready to fire!!**

**If we were any more ready, Heinrich would be home Sunday taking a nap!**

**Pat has every Savor and Flavor covered. Now if only the Club members would all show up to do their thing, he won't sprout any more grey hairs.**

**The auction committee seems to have the details all worked out except where to locate Andrew, and what the minimum bid amount should be.**

**Prizes will be awarded to the member(s) selling the most tickets to this year's event.**

**Rumor has it that the prizes will be tickets to sell at next year's event!**

**We have another chance to show the other Clubs in the area what good planning and support goes into a great fundraiser...WE are ready to take that chance!**

**Go Fairport Rotary!!!**

**You earned it!!**

## **SAVOR THE FLAVOR**

**Boris**



## **Club Chuckle**

**I almost had a psychic girlfriend...**

**But she left me before we met!**







# MEMBER Spotlight Thompson



## Summary 1<sup>st</sup> Half of My Life:

Born in 1940 in Rochester. Lived on Vermont St in 18<sup>th</sup> ward. I was the youngest of 6. Attended St. Ambrose school thru 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. Contracted Perthes of the right hip. The only cure was complete rest for 3+ years, which resulted in 6 weeks in St. Mary's Hospital, 7-8 months in The Beechwood Convalescent Home, and 2-3 years on crutches with right leg in a sling. As a result, I was transferred to school #5, designated for handicapped children, where I spent 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades (I was skipped through 4<sup>th</sup> grade. MY father was a policeman. It didn't pay well but had a good pension and a steady job. But with 6 kids we were definitely in lower middle class economically.

Due to my handicap status, and my dad's low wages I believe, I was enrolled in the Rotary Sunshine Camp at Durand Eastman, for 2 years, which was very enjoyable. I remember picking berries, swimming in the lake, snipe hunting in the woods, good food, all kinds of sports activities and games, where they accommodated my handicap status.

I returned to St. Ambrose for my 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> grades, then attended Aquinas Institute for the next 4 years. I opted not to go to college and for several years was a door-to-door salesman.

In 1962, Monroe Community College was created, and I decided to rectify earlier bad decisions and enrolled in MCC, even though I was working full time at the D&C as a district manager. This allowed me to spend time during the day to attend school. I found I loved school and was an "A" student for all of my time in school and graduated number 1 in my class. In my second semester I didn't have the funds to continue (\$250) and was on the cusp of dropping out when one of my professors realized the issue and obtained a \$250 scholarship for me. I also took a second job doing insurance reports on applicants (\$2.50 per report) which were flexible hours so I could do it between classes. That and raising 6 children made for a very busy 4 years until I graduated. I averaged 2-3 hours of sleep a day. Another professor arranged for a full scholarship to U of R, where I graduated with a Bus. Ad. degree in 1966.

I went to work for Xerox in 1966 and loved it for the first 10 years or so because it was a young company in explosive growth, and I was able to make crucial decisions as I ascended the corporate ladder. As time progressed, the bureaucracy grew and my ability to make decisions was increasingly curtailed. As a result, in 1981 I decided to leave the company, when it was offering substantial buyouts, preferring a smaller company, with less bureaucracy.

## Summary 2<sup>nd</sup> Half:

I separated from my wife in 1977. When I met Mary in 1978, we dated for 6 years before marrying in 1984. We had started a business, an unfinished furniture store (Naked Furniture) which we eventually sold to Raymour Flanigan in 1984. In the meantime, I asked Mary to manage the store, and I moved to Binghamton NY to be manager of FP&A for Savin. This was a contingency should the store not be profitable (it wasn't). 1984 was a big year -new marriage, sold the store and I took a job in Ogden, Utah as Corporate Controller for Iomega Corp.

Utah was an interesting place. Awesomely beautiful, great skies full of color, incredible National and State parks (65% of Utah is parks). We loved our time there, spent many weeks visiting time and time again, various parks, never tiring of the tremendous beauty and variety. Mary and I both had jobs requiring travel, her domestically, and me internationally, so we traveled extensively. That and we drove back east at least once a year to visit family. We are a blended family- 9 children, 22 grandkids and 22 great grandkids so far. We have visited all 50 states and 48 state capitals (missing S, Dakota, Maine) and 6 of the 7 continents (missing Middle East). Our trip to Turkey was cancelled due to COVID.

The company had huge swings up and down, but eventually it launched a product (the zip drive) which was a huge success, going from a \$100 Million to \$ 3 Billion revenue in a couple of years. At its peak, I accepted an offer from a headhunter to be COO at a small high-tech company back of the east coast (Number Nine) in 1995. It was a turnaround assignment, but I was unable to do it. I also suffered a heart condition requiring a triple bypass and decided to retire in 1998. I came out of retirement due to another offer from a headhunter to be CFO which I accepted but eventually decided to retire again. In 2004 we retired to Arizona in an active retirement community (Saddlebrooke) just north of Tucson city proper. A great place to retire and we enjoyed 20 years there until, due to a death of a family member and our deteriorating health, we were motivated to move back to our roots in Rochester.

I was thankful for getting a good education and realized it was the key to success to achieving lifetime goals. We also celebrated our success with substantive charitable contributions throughout our lives.

## Favorite Things:

**Charites** We have started a charity (SPIRIT NYS) to enable homeless and parentally insecure teens to stay in school through graduation and we also established in 1996 the Thompson Family Scholarship Foundation at MCC to recognize the impact of their scholarship to me in 1963. Additionally, we have both contributed to Rotary - The Rotary Vocational Fund, Paul Harris and others .. Additionally, multiple donations over the years to AmeriCorps, St. Jude, Christian Children's Fund., Michael J. Fox (Parkinson's), American Cancer Society, etc.

**Rotary:** Mary was a charter member of Sunshine Rotary in SaddleBrooke. We both belonged to Rotary in Saddlebrooke for many years

**Cards:** Poker (Still looking for a neighborhood game), Bridge, Euchre, Pinnocle.

**Board games.**

**New York Yankees**

## Something No One Knows About Me:

I'm an open book. No secrets.



Fairport Rotary Newsletter – February 17, 2025 dinner at Eagle Vale – group meeting with Brighton Rotary.

“Designated treasurer”, Ed Johnston collected funds filling in for traveling Terry O’Neil, Dave Doser sold 50/50 tickets, and Tom Weldgen passed out more Savor tickets.

Connie Borkhuis, Sergeant at Arms Committee, gaveled us to order at 6:15 calling on Bob Hunt Ken Buckle to lead the Pledge. Mark DeBacco offered our invocation.

President Andrew Spreter welcomed and began with introduction of visitors going table to table to let our Brighton Rotary visitors identify themselves.

Pres Andrew then opened announcements -

Pat George made announcements regarding Savor the Flavor – sell the tickets – he explained to our visitors and had posters on each table describing and the QR code for scanning. Next week is big final planning meeting – please plan to attend and bring in all cash collections for tickets, ads, etc.

Ron Roberts – advertising – going well. Becky – get auction items to them – thanks for those brought in tonight!

Pres Andrew then announced we would break for dinner and conversation with our guests including talk about our respective cub events and issues in current environment.

We broke for dinner of salad, rolls, chicken parmigiana over penne pasta and coffee bar.

After dinner, Pres Andrew began the program by Introducing Past President, Tom Wolanski. Tom explained that he had contacted several other clubs and invited to get together to talk about issues as well as sharing camaraderie. Tony Conte – Brighton President spoke with and then met with Tom as they discussed their concerns, and both agreed a get together would be really good! The idea to ask the police chiefs to be the program was a good choice since we have many things in common and share the idea that we need to build safe places for our people and find ways to resolve or at least bring change about in our social services and attention to those needing significant help.

Fairport Chief Matt Barnes and Brighton Chief David Catholdi then presented a very expansive discussion of their respective communities, their mutual aid of other departments including Rochester, the Monroe County Sheriff, State police, Ontario County Sheriff, even reps from the FBI and homeland security! – especially as they plan for the major festivals and events held in western New York and massive crowd safety and control issues.





Nancy Ragus also explained how long and detailed that process is for things like Canal days and our music fest – meeting for almost a year in planning, review of past event, recommendations for change, need for change due to venues, vendors, entertainment, food and beverage distribution, the number of attendees, the railroads etc.

These gentlemen offered an open discussion both plus and minus – and asked for our input and questions as they presented – the club participated with an enthusiastic series of questions, and discussions of problems and issues – problems at our shopping malls, safety fears, car jacking's, theft, break ins, drugs, bullying, youth issues including poor parenting hunger, no family support unit, etc. also discussed relationships with the school systems – both chief highly supportive of efforts taken at the schools to specifically follow students where they can see issues and the need for added support, counseling, etc.

They discussed budget items and the extreme need for more equipment and officers, but constraints of local budgets. Clear that none of the needs are cheap – they are extensively trying to expand drone usage particularly at events – this is extremely efficient and very quick in spotting and getting help to issues. But it all eventually winds up back with us – we are the taxpayers, and we are paying. Both men really asked us to look at things and make our decisions – if we are not happy with status they NEED US to press our representatives locally and at state level to make changes.

Thanks to Matt and David for great presentation and open discussions!

Pres Andrew asked Dennis Behr to draw the 50/50 ticket, # ending 7853 – held by Dr. Mark Finke! Small pot was \$15 and large pot was \$ \_\_\_\_ ask terry? \_\_\_\_\_. He drew the 9 of diamonds, so the large pot still grows.

PLEASE attend next week for our final planning of Savor event and bring in auctions items and as much ticket money as possible!

Meeting adjourned 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Weldgen

