

Fairport Rotary Club  
**THE LIFTBRIDGE**  
January 30, 2021  
Edition 30



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Good Day my Fellow Rotarians,

One might think there is not much to report or get excited about but I think otherwise. We will soon be introducing some new members to our club, we will be working toward yet another awesome fundraiser, the days are getting longer and spring is right around the corner. Well, we haven't reached the corner yet but when we do, spring will be right around it. John Hall and his program committee continue to bring us fun and engaging programs which keep our Zoom meetings alive. Zoom may not be everyone's first choice for a Rotary meeting, but we seem to do a good job, and I am happy to report really great attendance at our Zoom meetings. Before you know it, we will be back at Eagle Vale and better than ever. We of course are still in search for a president elect for John Hall's Presidency, which is also right around the corner. Please feel free to email me if you have even a small amount of interest in volunteering for the position, and I will be happy to share how rewarding and easy it is to lead such an amazing group of people. We will be hearing from Don Alhart this coming Monday as he speaks to us about Every Rotarian Every Year. I look forward to seeing all of you on Monday.

Mark



## FEBRUARY CELEBRATIONS



2<sup>nd</sup> – Ken B's Birthday

21<sup>st</sup> – Ed J's Birthday

There seems to be no anniversaries in February

## FEBRUARY ZOOM CALENDAR

1<sup>st</sup> – Don Alhart, Rochester Rotary Club – "Every Rotarian, Every Year"

8<sup>th</sup> – Bill Gormont, Past District 7120 Governor – International Services

15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> – TBA



## The Dancing Man

One day, a man went to House of Mercy for food. It was cold, but he wore only a light shirt. Sister Grace Miller, founder and executive director of the shelter, gave him a winter jacket and went back inside the building to get his food. When she came back, he was crying and dancing. He wanted to hold the sister, he said, but knew that he couldn't because of the virus. He considered it: walking towards her, walking away, walking toward her again, all the while continuing to cry.

"It's amazing how many of them do not have heavy jackets, winter jackets. It's amazing the number of people who do not have boots or gloves," Miller said.

When people come to the door for food, the shelter also gives out boots, gloves, winter coats and jackets and underwear. People come to the shelter for food or for other things they may need in this cold, snowy weather.

House of Mercy is able to give out supplies like clothing and food to those who come to the shelter in part to community donations, for which there is still a need. Miller says that they "couldn't do it without the help of the community."

"We're grateful to the community. ... **We can still use more jackets and boots, socks and gloves, hoodies and caps,**" she said. "We can use those contributions, plus we can also use food," The organization also has a winter wish list on Amazon at <https://amzn.to/3r2HWpV>.

*This is an excerpt from an article written by Adria Walker in the January 30 edition of the Democrat & Chronicle*

If you have MENS jackets, boots, socks, gloves, hoodies and caps, new or used, drop off at Becky's and she will deliver to the House of Mercy!

## PERINTON FOOD SHELF GREATEST NEEDS

**COFFEE**  
**ORANGE/APPLE JUICE (48 OZ.)**  
**SHELF STABLE MILK**  
**CANNED STEW**  
**CANNED CHILI**  
**CANNED HASH**  
**MUSTARD**  
**SPAGHETTI**  
**GRAVY**

Drop off locations at:

**Perinton Food Shelf**  
**Perinton Town Hall**  
**Fairport Library**  
**Red Bird Market**  
**local churches**

All places ask that you call first.

Fairport Rotary in the News  
Check this out!



Fairport Police Department

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RAILPACE.COM

**Fairport, N.Y., Debuts Train Viewing Pavilion**

The Albert H. Knapp Rotary Pavilion in Fairport, N.Y., is an new locati...

[http://railpace.com/fairport-ny-debuts-train-viewing-pavilion/?fbclid=IwAR1YnCivheH79\\_et2I2GRTTCPN\\_GJOuO5VZn5IWioP5\\_2LbNOKXHMa7T6-58](http://railpace.com/fairport-ny-debuts-train-viewing-pavilion/?fbclid=IwAR1YnCivheH79_et2I2GRTTCPN_GJOuO5VZn5IWioP5_2LbNOKXHMa7T6-58)

## Liftbridge - Minutes for Jan. 18, 2021

President Mark opened this Zoom meeting by introducing guest Dennis Behr, who is considering membership in our club. Ron Roberts then introduced Tom Hollis, a former Fairport Rotarian now living in southeastern Pennsylvania who enjoys sitting in on our meetings. Ron also introduced Megan Rinaudo, a Fairport Village resident who is also considering the possibility of membership.

Connie Borkhuis then led the pledge and Becky Wilson offered the invocation. Without further ado, Ron then introduced Nicole Simonetti, Director of Public Affairs and Communications for Waste Management's High Acres Landfill. We then held our induction ceremony, bringing in High Acres as a Corporate member with Nicole as prime representative.

Tom Weldgen cited two club members who had added blue stars (additional recognition) to their status as Paul Harris Fellows. Tom Van Buskirk added a second star and Maureen Hall a third.

Nancy Ragus then introduced Tammee Poinan Grimes, who captains the Colonial Belle and handles many other duties for the family boating business. Captain Grimes, the only female tour boat captain on the Erie Canal, noted that the business began with a leased boat in 1989, operating out of Pittsford before moving to Fairport in 1992.

In 1995, the current Colonial Belle boat was purchased. Originally built in Rhode Island in 1961, it was operating in San Francisco Bay in 1995, and the cost of shipping it back to the East Coast was prohibitive. The solution? Tammee, then 18 years old, and her father went to San Francisco and sailed the boat back to Fairport via two oceans, the Panama Canal, the Hudson River and, finally, the Erie Canal. The trip took seven weeks.

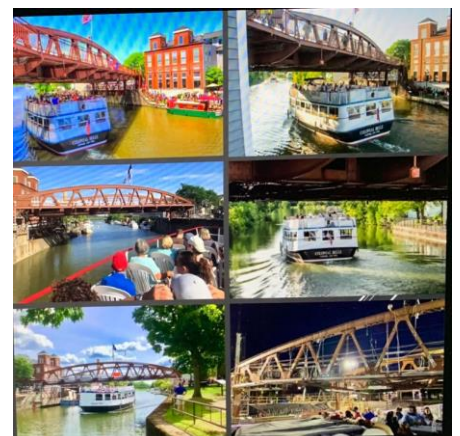
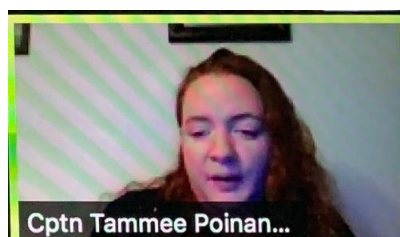
At 60 feet long, 27 feet wide, and weighing 110 tons, the Colonial Belle is the largest tour boat on the Canal and, in a typical (non-COVID) summer, it ferries 12,000 to 15,000 passengers with both regularly scheduled tours and many special events.

Thanks to Captain Grimes for an informative and entertaining presentation.

President Mark closed the meeting by opening the session for Happy Dollars donors and found many ready contributors, including: Tom Wolanski (first grandchild on the way); Bob and Cindy Hunt (enjoying Florida); Nancy Ragus (daughter getting married in March); Dennis Behr (Bills won!); Maureen Hall (thrilled to have Nicole as a member); Boris Glus (has vaccination scheduled); Diane Ross (in honor of two Rotary friends who passed away from COVID); Bob Hartnett (wife Mary Kay out of hospital and recovering from COVID); Dave Doser (just received his vaccination).

Program for Monday, Jan. 25: Live from near Brisbane, Australia, a report from Kirsty Gierson Hearsey, who was a Fairport Rotary exchange student from The Land Down Under some 15 years ago.

Ron C. Roberts



**Liftbridge – Meeting of January 25, 2021** - President Mark Fuerbacher greeted us and opened our Zoom meeting at 7:00. PM introduced Kareen Zeitounzian to lead us in the pledge followed by Amy Steidle to offer our invocation.

President Mark made opening comments and asked for introduction of guests – calling on Ron Roberts who introduced Megan Rinado for another meeting with us – she is interested in becoming a member. Also, Tom Hollis joining us again.

PM introduced Dennis Behr joining us again and also seeking membership. PM also noted that Anne (Barrone) Winslow was on the zoom for our program tonight.

PM then called for announcements – Bob Linder announced a meeting of the Savor the Flavor committee to work on the upcoming May dinner fundraiser – 6 pm zoom, next Monday February 1 at 6pm. PM will send out invite for Bob.

PM then turned meeting over to John Hall, who introduced tonight's program – an international zoom meeting directly from Australia, where it was already mid-morning Tuesday, January 26 which is officially Australia day there. Kirsten (Hearsey) Grierson was one of our Rotary Exchange students and joined us to provide tell us what she has been doing since the exchange. Kirsten is a daughter, a sister, a twin, and now a mother.

Kirsten started with some history before the exchange – she was born and lived in South Africa until about 8 years old. When the family moved to Mauritius – Indian Ocean Island nation off coast of South Africa for 3 years, and then final move to Australia on the Gold Coast. The family has always had the travel bug – her older brother traveled, she, her twin brother, and her younger brother all became very involved in the Rotary exchange programs and have continued to travel – they work to earn money to travel!

She has had heavy involvement with Rotary programs for youth, and exchange, and they are a big part of her life, including some related mentoring programs with youth and college students.

She loved her exchange with us and while here, stayed with 4 host families, all still connected, and visited 30 states! She stayed with Vin Barone and family, and also with Tom Wolanski and family.

She has had many work experiences – from restaurant to Information Technology. She studied IT and graduated with her BS degree in 2010 and also majored in management and marketing. She worked for a marketing and research company. She worked for Google under contract and gave support to their stores to teach employees how to sell and use products – she was a trainer. She had 7 years in IT and wanted a change, to help people more. She went back to studies and specialized in pediatric speech pathology working with very young children and also helping with the aging community to focus on swallowing and related speech / hearing impacts for our seniors.

They have had 6 exchange students themselves, including Anders – the exchange student from the Pittsford Rotary club – he visited us a few years ago. Her husband Lee also loves to travel and has been to 12 countries – his mother from Thailand, was also a big traveler.

They have had a busy life – they have a house, an 8 month old son, and her twin brother also has a baby son nearly the same age!

Kirsty wrapped up with a brief overview of Australia and the Covid issues. Australia has done remarkably well overall and continues to be very careful. They are not far along with the vaccines yet, but working on them for care personnel first.



Really nice to see her on zoom and catch up with the previous student that impressed us all so much on her original exchange! Let's hope that these programs will be able to start back up again – they are a remarkable way to spread world understanding and peace.

P Mark thanked Kristy for zooming with us and also thanked John Hall for arranging the program for tonight.

PM asked for last minute comments or announcements – Ron Roberts told us that he had recently seen an article in a railway magazine that talked about a train going past the Albert Knapp Rotary Pavilion at 65 miles an hour and blowing the horns! Train spotting is a big thing and Ron has found that they are always looking for great train spotting locations, and ours had made the list!

PM informed us that Dave Large is dealing with some health issues for his wife Carol. Please keep her in your prayers or drop Dave a note.

Next Week – PDG Don Alhart will talk about the importance and meaning of “EREY”.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Weldgen – Stay Well!

P.S. John Hall received this from Kirsty after our meeting.



*“It was so lovely seeing you both, I miss you both and Fairport too. It made me a bit emotional when I first got on the call as Fairport rotary has such a special place in my heart and seeing my families on the call made my heart so happy. Thanks again for having me!” Kirsty*

Ezra - my favourite person in the world

