

Fairport Rotary Club
THE LIFTBRIDGE
December 15, 2021
Edition 51



A MESSAGE ABOUT PRESIDENT JOHN

John and Maureen Hall are both recovering from recent surgeries. Even though Maureen's road to recovery is a shorter trip than John's, they may be needing some roadside assistance along the way. (Get the pun?) If you can help out by dropping off a meal, even if it's takeout, or having one delivered, or dropping off magazines, books, puzzles, it would be very Rotarian of you. Meals are already planned for next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, but help will be needed around Christmas time and thereafter. Phone calls are appreciated too. Once John is up to par and gets his motor running once again (another pun), he'll be more than excited to send us a message in our next newsletter. Refer to our club membership list or contact Past President Becky for the Halls' street address and/or phone numbers.



Dave Schierer's father-in-law Ernest Enter passed away on December 8, the day of his 95th birthday. Condolences can be sent to Sue and Dave's new address at 70 Potter Place, Fairport, NY 14450.

Congratulations to George Wolf and Heinrich Fischer earning Paul Harris supplemental pins: George +2, Heinrich +3. Your ongoing commitment to Fairport Rotary and the Rotary Foundation is a true inspiration to all; you epitomize Service Above Self!



DECEMBER

*the month of joy, happiness and
to finish what you started.*



Here's what's left of our calendar this year:

Monday, December 20 – Zoom Meeting, 7:00 p.m. – RSVP to Karen Zeitounzian by Friday, December 17

December 27 – NO MEETING- Enjoy your holiday week –may you find peace and happiness around you and in your heart.



Fairport Rotary News Letter – **December 13, 2021** at Eagle Vale – last on site meeting of the year. Terry O’Neil greeted us and took money, providing change to his partner in crime, Dave Doser, selling the 50/50 tickets.

Tom Weldgen continued collecting Rotary Foundation donations – he will be collecting at every meeting - **make checks payable to “The Rotary Foundation”** and he will complete the forms for your donation. If you wish to discuss donation options, please call Tom or text him at 585-851-1925. Or Tweldgen@gmail.com

Past President Becky Wilson was our guest Pres, filling in for President John Hall. She gaveled us to order at 6:15 and Boris led the Pledge, followed by our invocation from Marg Kerr.

She then made a few brief announcements before dinner – update on the Halls – Maureen had her surgery last week and was home that day. She is recovering, but cannot lift things so she must take it easy. Meanwhile, PJH had his leg worked on – he has a large cast over entire leg and cannot get it wet – will have this on for 6 weeks??! He can move around with crutches, BUT has to lift leg to get out of bed, and Maureen cannot help. They are working on home care help and family members are coming in to assist. HOWEVER – they need some help and PPBW thought we might sign up to bring over some meals, or help them out. She is passing a sign-up sheet with some days marked for possible help. Call PPBW if you can help and she will give you some open dates and options. Meanwhile – cards and texts would be nice.

PPBW then introduced guests calling on Dan Arbuckle who introduced our program guests, Aileen and Brian Keenan.

Cindy Hunt – Food Shelf response – Cindy read a very appreciative letter from the Perinton Food Shelf, thanking us for our response and donations of special food items for their Holiday food basket drive – a huge success.

We then broke for dinner, consisting of salad, rolls, and hot pasta Bolognese.

PPBW then introduced Dan Arbuckle to introduce our program speakers, Aileen and Brian Keenan for program about their business – “Erie Canal Adventures!” Dan told us that they have been great supporters of Fairport Rotary, sponsoring and contributing to our events, like Savor the Flavor. Aileen is a LeMoyne graduate and CPA – working for Price Waterhouse in Boston for 8 years. They then decided to grow their own businesses and began a process where they started, developed



and sold several businesses, including Rufalo. In 2019, they acquired Mid Lakes Landing in Macedon and the boat fleet that is Erie Canal Adventures. They own a fleet of 11 red and green canal boats. Started to set things up, had to make some repairs, upgrades, etc. to organize how they could operate.... then Covid hit! Not great timing, but they turned it into a silver lining – taking the time to do a lot of extensive work and to organize how they could continue to keep business alive. It turned out that they were able to pick up on a GREAT way to vacation near home, and in the safety of your own family or friends, by taking one the their 3, 4, or 7-day canal boat trips – all included! The boats are mostly 2 cabins, including upgraded thrusters to assist in docking, full bath, shower and air conditioning, full electric, full kitchen with upgraded appliances, microwaves, Keurig coffee makers, stove, bikes for when you dock to use the canal trails, and fuel for your trip in large tanks that should cover your entire tour! They set up some suggested travel routes to the east, or to the west, to fill the 3 different trip options. At the Macedon Landing, they have 40 slips and rent them out or charge small dock/undock fee. The canal tour fleet works out of here. First day is usually an afternoon of training on the boat including dock and depart procedures. Then most people either stay local overnight that first night, or stay local overnight on their last night of return



They had 325 tours for the year, usually with 4 to 6 people on the boats, coming not just locally, but from 35 states and with significant use from people around New York, and 6% from Florida to explore the canal as a vacation spot and picking up on their relatively safe option during Covid. Prior to Covid, there were many tours from overseas group and throughout the US, but restrictions stopped many of these. A large group from Florida has come up for several years annually (since before the Keenans acquired) and taken the fleet for a 7-day group tour.

Aileen and Brian answered questions from our group, and the canal tour fleet was praised by Ron Roberts and by Bill Stevens; both of them have taken these vacation tours and they were great! Highly recommend them as a neat vacation.

You can tour as far west as Lockport, time wise, and you can get to the Genesee and to Corn Hill, etc. To the East, you can follow the Cayuga Seneca trail and then Montezuma on your way back. Thanks for an interesting program, and vacation option.

PPBW thanked Aileen and provided our Rotary Coffee mug.

50/50 drawing - 4939 was winning number and Tom Wolanski was winner of the \$10 small pot, but drew a Joker! Had to give back the small pot, and the "Large Pot" of \$10 (not so large since Megan cleaned it out last week!) was carried over to our next meeting--January 3 NEXT year!

Final comments by PPBW and best wishes for safe and happy holidays.

Next week – Karen and program committee have put together a group "FUN" program as our last official gathering of the year 2021. The program is Ugly sweater, laughs and games on ZOOM at 7 pm! RSVP to Karen's link in her email of 12/10/21!! Join for a simple fun Holiday night from the comfort of home.... wine, beer and cocktails at your discretion!

NO meeting 12/27

Respectfully submitted,
Tom Weldgen



Fairport Rotary 2021 Holiday Send-Off

Monday, December 20, 2021 @ 7 p.m.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81644318832>





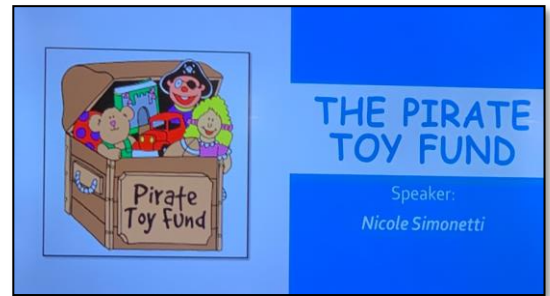
“From Tragedy, a Good Thing Shall Arise...”

EagleVale
December 6 2021

President John opened the meeting at 6:00.

Andy Spreter led the Pledge.

Mary Beth Christiansen gave the Invocation.



Ed Rosen, from Perinton Food Shelf, thanked the Club for its support of Christmas baskets.

President John gave a spirited account of how he separated his quad tendon, is slated for surgery this week to be followed by months of convalescence.

Tom Weldgen handed out Paul Harris supplemental pins: George Wolf - +2 and Heinrich Fischer - +3.

The tragedy was the death from leukemia, at age 8, of Christie Simonetti. The story of the Good Thing that Arose was deftly spun by Christie’s younger sister, Fairport Rotarian Nicole Simonetti.

Flying by the seats of their pants, Christie’s parents, David and Lorrie, together with Rochester entertainer, “Gary the Happy Pirate” distributed toys to children in the hospital with their daughter. The calming and comforting effect the toys had on the recipient patients was miraculous. This effort did not stop with Christie’s death and morphed into what is now known as the Pirate Toy Fund.

The Pirate Toy Fund is the only nonprofit organization in the country dedicated to distributing new toys year-round to children-in-need throughout the Greater Rochester region. The Pirate Toy Fund has distributed almost 400,000 toys since 1995 and continues to actively pursue new avenues to expand its mission.



David and Lorrie Simonetti were in attendance.

Go to piratetoyfund.org for more information.

Happy Dollars had no limits tonight! Peter Lovier won a golf tourney at Pinehurst; Enzo Scollo returns to Italy; Brandon Scribner’s son made a winning basket in overtime; Andy Spreter got engaged; and on and on.

50-50. \$15/\$139. **The big pot was won by Meghan Rinaudo!**

George Wolf



WELCOME:

Past President Mark Fuerbacher filling in for President John, called the **November 30** meeting to order at 6:15. We turned to the flag and said the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a Rotary Moment by Newcomb.

We dined on mixed green salad topped with turkey and mandarin oranges, rolls, coffee.

INDUCTION:

Dr. Tanya Wilson Thevansan, Community Relations Administrator for Fairport Central School System was inducted with Becky as her sponsor. Dr T was born in the Philippines when her parents were stationed there in the Navy. She moved a lot in her youth as her Dad is a minister. She received her BA is from Nazareth, MA and Doctorate from St John Fischer. She was employed by Rochester School System as Principal prior to coming to Fairport this fall. She and her husband, Manager of Henrietta Starbucks have 3 children. She is excited to join our club, meet the members and get involved!



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Stone Soup night, Monday December 20, Georgetown Community Room, 6:00. Sign up sheet was passed around the group. Hall's will host and asked for assistance as John has a severe leg injury and Maureen will be having surgery just prior. (Cancelled 12-2-21)



Mark Fuerbacher delighted us with the time lapse video of the building of the Homeless Shelters and transporting it to Peace Village. Special thanks to all the club members who participated under the amazing guidance of construction engineers Tom VanBuskirk and Ed Johnston. Ricci's transported the houses from Tom's shop to downtown Rochester. We can all be proud we are helping the homeless here in Rochester!

Bob Linder updated the club on Savor the Flavor. The committee met last Monday evening, discussed the event and decided to postpone until March

2023. There are COVID restrictions that forced this decision.

Cindy let us know how we can help the Perinton Food Shelf with Holiday baskets. A list of food items that are requested was in the November 30th addition of the Liftbridge.

Tom Wolanski informed us of December 8th Rochester Rotary and Downtown Development presentation of "Visions of the Future" with Adam Bello and Malik Evans. Tickets are available through Rochester Rotary. All COVID Guidelines will be followed.

PROGRAM:

Co-President Elect Nancy introduced Steve Schalabba, Monroe County Fire Coordinator and former Fairport Fire Chief. He is recognized by the Center for Public Safety Excellence as a "Chief Fire Officer" and is a nationally certified fire investigator. In addition to conducting firefighter training at the Academy, Steve manages all of the fire service special teams, like HazMat, along with the Monroe County Mutual Aid Plan. Steve will achieve 33 years of active service in the Fairport Fire Department next month. A warm Fairport Rotary welcomed Steve to the podium.

Steve began by thanking Nancy, nice job on the video, recognizing a few members associated with the fire department, Marg Kerr as Bill was the Fire Dept Pastor, Dave Doser, neighbor and former chief, John Baynes who was his teacher at FHS. He asked a few questions and awarded Doug Whitney with a Challenge Coin for knowing Cal Stewart was the first Fire Chief and Tom Wolanski with another.

Sharing numbers, Steve said that when he joined FFD there were 65 members and about 800 calls a year. Members are aging out and they are not seeing young members volunteering as the department looks at recruitment and retention. With the numbers down there are many times 3 departments have to respond to



a call to get enough firefighters to handle the fire. There are about 82,000 to 85,000 fire calls in the county and 34,000 a year in the city of Rochester.

The term Firefighter is only a small amount of what they do. Bushnell's Basin is the strongest of the 3 Fairport Departments. EMS team members are career services with not many volunteers. Next year several departments in the county will be combining. It is all about service delivery, being timely and staffed appropriately. During COVID all responders continued their service and Steve encouraged the members to treat everyone as if they were your Grandmother as often they are dealing with people on possibly the worst day of their life and making a difference.

In 2016 Monroe County established a Terrorist Response Force and serve as resources at events, even Canal Days here in Fairport. The Rescue Task Force have full ballistic outfits on when deployed during a situation of unrest. They are trained at EMT or higher. He said no good team meets in the huddle so there is relationship building which has value before the Bang.

Answering questions Steve said the calls are coded, event type, so the right resources are sent. There is a vehicle app that the fire service uses to leverage technology including training on electric car knowledge. Recruiting is done through Explorer groups, social media, sports groups and using creative strategies as bunk houses near the stations in under staffed areas. It takes 130 hours to train a firefighter with continuous training as they never stop learning. Staffing models are being developed, possibly using day laborers to hiring career firefighters. There is a bill on the Governors desk to provide property tax credits to volunteer firefighters. A GSE team members 30 years ago from Sweden was surprised at the service of volunteers as firefighters. With fires up this time of years please have your dehumidifier plugged directly into an outlet, watch your cooking and be aware of garage fires.

Donations can be made to Finger Lakes Burn Assn.

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION:

Area of focus that benefit from your donations. Saving Mothers and Children, Supporting Education, Growing Local Economies, Supporting the environment. Tom Weldgen will happily accept your checks. 50-50

Doug had the winning ticket and left the big pot to grow.

ADJOURNED:

Have a great week! See you Dec. 6 with Nicole presenting on The Pirates Toy Fund.

Maureen W. Hall

