

Valley Courier

Monthly Newsletter

The Rotary Club of Geneseo, N.Y.
Club 4780 of District 7120 www.GeneseoRotary.com

January

2021



Birthdays

Marilyn Lyon	Jan. 7th
PP Chris Rider	Jan. 11th
PP Kurt Fletcher	January 28th
PP Dick Gallivan	January 29th



Anniversaries

William Daniel	January 8
PP Art Hatton	Jan. 14th
Darcy Lynch	Jan. 17th
PP Dick & Sally Gallivan	Jan. 31st



Rotary Archive

By the 1920's, Rotary knew it could be successful in large cities, but could it be successful in smaller cities and even small towns.

We know the answer because Rotary is everywhere. It is not the size of the city but rather, it is the size of the heart of club members that determines the success of a Rotary Club.

Source: R.G.H.F.



Chamber of Commerce presents Virtual Shopping experience at the Shops of Livingston County to Geneseo Rotarians, December 7th



The Livingston County Chamber of Commerce has developed an innovative way to continue holiday shopping traditions and let shoppers virtually walk through shops and interact with store owners in an immersive new technology.

Virtual shopping info available at

[The Shops of Livingston County - Livingston County Chamber of Commerce, NY](https://www.livingstoncountychamber.com/virtual-shopping)

PP Mike Kolberg and Melissa Savino Photo submitted by PP John Lanpher.



*Remember
to donate to
the local
food pantry*

**January is Rotary's
Vocational Service
Month**



Compeer Presentation on Nov 23rd Lunch meeting



PP Mike Kolberg and Barbara Mestler, Affiliate Program Specialist of Compeer of Livingston County.
Website info at [Compeer of Livingston County \(ny.gov\)](http://Compeer of Livingston County (ny.gov))
Photo by PP John Lanpher

November 30 Presentation by Habitat for Humanity



Chuck Pols and Leann Hill

Website info at

Livingston County Habitat for Humanity



Thank You

Thank you to everyone who rang the bell for the Salvation Army and /or delivered the holiday food baskets.

Nicaragua

For those Rotarians who were not members of our club in 2010 or 2012, this is a synopsis about our club's involvement in Nicaragua.

Fuente de Pino is a women's cooperative whose members create traditional pine needle baskets. Geneseo Rotary donated money in 2010 towards the purchase of five solar panels on their homes so they could continue working on the baskets in the evening.

Additionally their children could now read and do homework at night.



In 2012 Geneseo Rotary made a donation towards the cost of construction of a new school for the children of Las Minfias, El Sauce, Nicaragua.

Photos by Tim McMahon



Old School



New School

The next page contains an article from Tim McMahon about how Nicaragua has fared from recent hurricanes.

El Sauce (“sow-say”) is situated in the west-central part of Nicaragua. The nearest city, Leon, is about 1 ½ hours away. At one time El Sauce was a vibrant rural community, and in the early to mid-20th century, was a rail center, shipping cattle, beans and rice for export. Unfortunately, the railroad was torn up, and the rolling stock auctioned off in the 1980s, in order to pay off war debts after the 1979 revolution there, that overthrew the dictator, Anastasio Somoza.

Since then El Sauce has been described in one tourism guide as a sleepy cowboy town. To this day people on horseback in the town’s colonial center is a common sight. There is no manufacturing in this community of about 12,000 people, and the primary industry continues to be agriculture. It is known for its production of organic honey, sesame seed, rice, beans, corn, coffee, and some beef cattle.

Nicaragua is bordered by the Pacific Ocean to the west, and the Caribbean Sea on the east. The Nicaraguan climate has two basic seasons: hot and dry, between January and May, and hot and humid, between June and December. The rainy season runs from September to November, which unfortunately coincides with the tail-end of the hurricane season.

This year Nicaragua was slammed by not one but two very powerful hurricanes within two weeks of one another, coming right at the end of the rainy season. The brunt of the storms was felt in the north-eastern corner of the country, along the shared border with southeastern Honduras. There was a great deal of damage, and some loss of life. Being further inland, El Sauce did not experience the levels of damage, collapsed buildings, uprooting trees, etc., which we all saw on the news. However the town did not escape some impact, as they experienced high winds and heavy rains from both storms. This resulted in significant flooding and many of the low lying areas and homes were inundated. One bridge connecting El Sauce with a community to the north was washed away.

Although there was not a great deal of property damage, and no loss of life in El Sauce, the major impact was on the winter harvest. Reports from the community, as well as from elsewhere in the country, indicate that in many areas the harvest was nearly completely destroyed. This has quickly resulted in a significant jump in the cost of basic commodities. Nicaragua, along with Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador, are now pleading for international aid to help in their recovery.

Submitted by Tim McMahon. Tim and his wife Mary have been organizing support for a Catholic elementary and high school in El Sauce for many years.



Sally Fox and PP Carol Carey

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

We had a very successful bell ringing campaign this year. Although this picture was from Dec 2019, both ladies rang the bell this year as well. Geneseo Rotary had 20 bell ringers (all masked and following CDC guidelines) that collected \$2,386.00.

We received info from Salvation Army Division Headquarters that kettle funds received prior to January 1st, 2021 will be matched. I believe that means \$4,772.00 will be funneled back to the Geneseo Unit for those in need.

Great job and thank you to all the helpers with this program.

Submitted by PP Bonnie Swanson

Christmas Food Baskets Delivered

On Saturday December 19, Geneseo Rotary assisted the Geneseo/Groveland Food Pantry deliver Christmas Food Baskets & Gifts to approximately 65 families.

The photo shows food baskets being prepared by Food Pantry volunteers at the Geneseo/Groveland Food Pantry (housed at Central Presbyterian Church in Geneseo).



Rotarians delivered more than half of the food baskets. The balance of the baskets were picked up at the Food Pantry by recipients. Thanks to the following Rotarians who assisted with deliveries: Darcy Lynch, Howard Stewart, Heather Ferrero, Don Livingston, Bonnie Swanson, Kim & Tom Cox, Tim Hayes, John Lanpher, Patti LaVigne, Mary Kay Yanik, Paul Kreher, Sally Fox, Mary Alice May, and Steve Kelly (Submitted by PP Howard Stewart)