



# THE ROTARY RAZZ

Rotary Club of Oak Park - River Forest, Illinois

No in-person meetings until further notice

Club 3190  
District 6450

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June 9, 2021


## TODAY IN OPRF ROTARY

June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021



**Rotary**  
Club of Oak Park - River Forest  
Speaking this week: 6/9

**Robert Stelletello**  
Speaking about  
Dementia Awareness  
Training for the  
general public



Join our club! Email [outreachoprfrotary@gmail.com](mailto:outreachoprfrotary@gmail.com)

**Robert Stelletello**  
Dementia Awareness Training  
for the General Public

Right at Home Hinsdale/Oak Park/Chicago is owned and operated by Robert Stelletello. The company provides non-medical in-home care for seniors and disabled adults; it has been operating in Oak Park and surrounding communities for 8 years.

Robert's background includes extensive experience in business, finance, insurance, not for profits and real estate. He is also a Dementia Live coach and certified presenter of Dementia Awareness training

Robert is married with three adult children and lives with wife Kate in Wheaton, Illinois.

### Also, this week in OPRF Rotary

- June 12 - Happy Birthday Megan Traficano
- June 12 - Interact Fullerton Woods Clean-up - 9:30 AM
- June 12-13 - RI International Convention
- June 13 - D6450 Book Club - Mikayla Onayemi Moderator
- June 14 - DRFCC Committee Meeting - 7:30 AM
- June 14 - RI Convention - Interact VP Mikayla Onayemi Social
- Justice Panelist/Breakout Session 6:00-7:00PM
- June 14-16 - RI International Convention

## NEW MEMBER APPLICATIONS

We are delighted to announce that the following person has submitted a membership application to the Rotary Club of OP-RF. Per Club rules her name must be published in three consecutive issues of the RAZZ before the Rotary Board may vote on the membership request. This is the first of three notices. Any concerns, please contact Sue Quinn or any current OPRF Board Member.



**NAME:** Laura Bezinovich  
**BUSINESS:** Brookdale Oak Park  
**SPONSOR:** Lesley Gottlinger  
**PROFESSION:** Sales Counselor

Trouble logging on to OPRF's Zoom, call on:

Eric Van Ness - Cell: 517-414-8397

[evanness@wradvisors.com](mailto:evanness@wradvisors.com)

Sue Quinn - Cell: 312-342-1750

[Sue.quinn7777@gmail.com](mailto:Sue.quinn7777@gmail.com)

Lesley Gottlinger - Cell: 708-751-2821

[bookgramma@gmail.com](mailto:bookgramma@gmail.com)

### See Inside for the following:

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PLATINUM	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
	  	  	 



## Let's Celebrate

our first in-person gathering  
in more than 15 months

Plan to attend the 1<sup>st</sup> "real" gathering of 2021.



Celebrate Eric VanNess' installation as our incoming 2021-22 President June 30. Celebrate the wonderful successes of Sue Quinn's Presidential year. Plan to attend this blowout event that will be held at the Forest Park Post 414 American Legion Club located at 500 South Circle Avenue [at the corner of Adams]. Eric is a member of Post 414, and he has put much effort into its recent revitalization. Dress is casual.

There will be an open bar [2 free drinks included with your admission] and individually wrapped selections of Starship Sub sandwiches and sides.

We ask that you register in advance on the website. This event is free to those 2020-21 members who have paid for meals as part of their annual dues. There will be a charge of \$20 to those members who pay for their weekly lunch as well as for guests who join us. While checks will be accepted at the door, registration deadline is June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Unused meal punch cards may also be applied.

Contact Sue Quinn [312-342-1750]  
with any questions.

Look forward to seeing you there!!

*Yours in Rotary,*

*Sue Quinn*

*President 2020-21*



### June 2021

**June is a BUSY month. Mark your calendars NOW!**

- 16 - Board Meeting Day
- 16 - Presentation of 2021-22 Budget by Eric Van Ness
- 18 - International Services Committee - Noon
- 18 - Kidz Express Team Meeting - 2:00 PM
- 19 - Juneteenth
- 19 - D6450 Grants Committee Meeting 9:00 AM
- 20 - Fathers' Day
- 23 - Presidential year in review- Sue Quinn
- 26 - Tentative Kidz Express Vaccination Event
- 27 - Interact Meeting - via Zoom - 1:00 PM
- 29 - D6450 DG Installation - Jane Hopkins
- 30 - Eric Van Ness- President's Installation - 5PM

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**A few dates to save . . .**

From RI President Holger Knaak  
Dear friends, I hope you are as  
excited as I am for  
the [#Rotary21](#) Virtual Convention,  
beginning 12 June! Register today  
at [convention.rotary.org](https://convention.rotary.org).

X X X X

Monthly Fullerton Woods Forest Preserve  
Clean-Up event. **June 12, July 10, and August 7** All  
will be from **9:30 to 11:30**. Coffee, lemonade, water,  
and pre-packaged treats will be provided. Those  
wanting to sign up for clean-up, please let Lesley know.  
More than 25 people, requires a permit.

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**Annual Donut Day** is **August 14** at the  
Oak Park Farmers' Market. Save the  
Date. Details to follow.

X X X X

**Annual Food Truck Rally** is **August 28**.





### Meeting Notes:

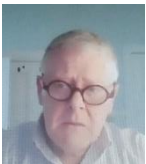
Hope everyone had a wonderful 3-day weekend.



Just a couple of announcements. Not much time left to put ads in for the Interact cookbook fundraiser. They are super affordable, and we want to show the kids we value them and support them. You need to get your ads in to Lesley ASAP. **Deadline has been extended to June 9<sup>th</sup>.** Email blast coming out with where to send checks, what is required for ad copy. We will also still take recipes.

Sue did put in push the RAZZ for support of The Rotary Foundation. The speaker was outstanding; he was a tremendous motivation to and for me. If you missed "A Gathering for Good," here it is, up on YouTube and available to share with everyone. The clip of Scott Lang is 26 minutes, and the entire program is just a bit over one hour. The clip of Scott includes introductory remarks by Bob Giles and closing remarks by Ade Onayemi. OPRF Rotary was well-represented that evening. Clip of Scott and the Peace Fellows – <https://youtu.be/gdytoRqW5G4>

Remember, it is The Rotary Foundation that supports our funding of community, international and scholarship grants. One-quarter of what we give comes back to the club three years later to spend on those projects. Thanks to the kind donations of Rotarians from three years ago, Eric has \$6,000 DDF [District Designated Funds] to spend on projects. You want to make sure your contribution is applied to the Annual Share fund, although it could also be designated for the Environmental or Polio Plus accounts as well. You can contribute online by logging onto <https://my.rotary.org/en/donate> or you can mail a check payable to **The Rotary Foundation** to our Foundation Chair, Charlie Williams. Donations are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. Club Foundation Chair Charlie Williams pointed out that every dollar a member gives will be matched by club points to be applied to obtaining or increasing your own Paul Harris Fellow or gifting one for someone else. Charlie



would like to get this done by 25 June to ensure appropriate postmarks.



### Coming Live and In-Person

### Lunch Meetings Resume at Cucina Paradiso!

We will be meeting face-to-face again beginning July 7 – so, that will be Eric's first meeting. You will need to pre-register and pre-pay. Keep in mind we will need to guarantee a minimum of 25 meals each Wednesday. We will be eating plated lunches outside, under a covering, and lunches will be plated.

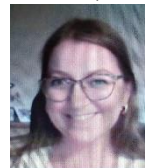


Iris pointed out that Marga Hewko has visitors coming in July from Santa Cruz, the DG Designee for 2023-24, and asked if it would okay for them to visit our club.

### Program Notes:

Moving on to the program portion of today's meeting – new member classification talks... The first speaker for is Alexis Marcotte, although she is not that new, she has never had the opportunity to officially introduce herself.

Alexis works for the Boy Scouts, and as of June 3, it will be two years. She is the District



Executive first for Twin Lakes District until they merged with Portage Creek District. Personally, she was the staff advisor for the Council's Food program. Portage Creek District was able to collect 10,000 pounds of donated items which converted to more than 5 tons of food which was donated to the Chicago Food Pantry or local food pantries. Overall, the Greater Chicagoland/Northwest Indiana Council collected more than 100,000 items or over 50 tons of food.

Scouts are always looking for volunteers, and Alexis is always available to answer questions. She graduated from NIU in 2019, and 2 days later she got her job with Boy Scouts and has been here ever since. Alexis has graciously accepted a spot on the Membership Committee.

The "Bonus Box" in the upper right corner of Sue's screen is the Sawyers – Debbie and Greg. Being



traditional, Sue chose to ask ladies first Debbie to speak first.

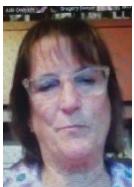
Debbie has enjoyed the meetings thus far. She and Greg have raised two kids together whom they like. She shared some of her background including her time working as arbitrator with the Better Business Bureau, with CPS Board of Education training some of the Local

School Councils in their collective roles and responsibilities, budgeting, and principal selection, and went on to chair the 28-member School Board Nominating Commission, recruiting, slating, and presenting proposed slates to the mayor for approval. She is now over the Concierge Desk at the Palmer House, a 1600-room property. Also involved with Choose Chicago, on the advisory board of Concierge Preferred, and is a self-professed pain because she likes to follow the rules. In answer to what drew her to Rotary, she said husband Greg brought her. They talked about it and settled on OPRF Rotary because we are a good fit for them. We are progressive, our goals, ideals and focus are the same as theirs. They were looking for something to do locally.

Greg took up the reigns to share and introduce himself. As a younger man, Greg had the opportunity to do a lot of cross-country travelling. He worked Phillip Morris for almost 20 years, until they downsized. Greg then attended Concordia University to finish his undergraduate work. He went on to work for Sears for many years. Last year, he spent last year with AARP and their Experience Corps working with pre-K kids teaching them to read until COVID shut them down. It seems everyone here is dedicated and wants to make a difference. That is what we want: to make a difference and provide some hope for the future. Greg also describes himself as a jazz impresario.

Sue then asked Carla Sloan if she ever had the opportunity to give her new member introduction. Sooo, there she was - in the hot seat.

Carla began by saying she has lived in River Forest for 33 years. She has 4 kids, became township supervisor eight years ago. She got involved because her undergraduate degree is in government. She is also passionate about the many areas of focus we address. Her oldest



daughter has Autism which explains her interest in Developmental issues. She is hugely excited because the IL State Legislature just passed a \$170 million budget for those with disabilities. Certainly, they need more, but this is the biggest budget the state has ever approved. Sue pointed out that when Carla said she just wants to be able to begin to give back, she already has. Carla sits on our Rotary Club Board of Directors and along with Greg and Debbie stepped up to serve on the Community Grant Selection Committee.

We chatted about the beauty of upstate New York - Carle is from Schenectady, NY.

Ade reminded folks that the District Conference starts on Thursday. It is open, and it is free. We will be featuring our Interactors. Their next Forest Preserve clean-up is June 12.



Nancy Teclaw announced she just moved to 1318 Elgin, Forest Park, and she is a new neighbor to Lesley and Don Gottlinger. Lesley suggested she and Nancy ride-share. Eric noted that is a lot a work just to get more jam. Lesley reminded folks to let her know about jam refills so she can bring some to the July 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. Lesley shared the history behind the jam making and distribution.

Bob Giles asked where we send our Cookbook Checks . . . **All checks should be made payable to OPRF Rotary. Please put "Interact Cookbook" in the memo section of your check. Mail your check to: OPRF Rotary Club, P. O. Box 654, Oak Park, IL 60303. Please mark your envelope Attn: Interact Cookbook/Lesley.**

Linda Sahagian put out a **MAJOR ASK** for food trucks for the Rally on August 28. We **desperately need more food trucks** within the next 24-48 hours. Please let Linda know ASAP.

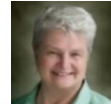
Lesley was finally able to share a sample "anonymous" cookbook ad. Sue noted that today is Mike Quinn's birthday, and they have a 1:20 Cubs game to get to!!! Hope they make it on time. Happy Birthday, Mike. Enjoy the day and the game.

Eric led the group in The Four-Way Test of the Things We Think, Say, or Do, and sent us all on our way.

Work on the **Virginia Cassin-Sr. Michelle Germanson Fund** is moving along quite nicely. The goal

of the fund is to target girls ages 10-13 who may not have an opportunity to explore their passion or interest and who may not have the economic wherewithal to do something like this unless they have outside financial support.

**Checks should be made payable to OPRF Community Foundation. Indicate Cassin Germanson fund on the note line of the check. Mail to: Oak Park River Forest Community Foundation, 1049 Lake St. #204, Oak Park IL 60301.**





## A Few Photos to Share . . .



Upper-level National German Awards: Earlier this school year, 3 [#FenwickFriars](#) took home gold medals for Levels 2 and 3. Among them, Jack Kornowski '22 [Oak Park, IL] who earned a Level 3 gold medal. Congratulations, Jack! For those not in the know, Jack was our OPRF Rotary's Outbound Youth Exchange student to Germany during the 2019-2021 school year.



## Model UN - June 2, 2018



An amazing day!! So very proud of our Interact Model UN team. They were wonderful. All around a terrific OUTSTANDING day.

## ROTARY REMINDER . . .

OPRF Rotarians, if you have **Happy Dollars**, no need to wait to do it via Zoom or even face-to-face anymore. Just send Lesley your Happy Bucks recognition, and it will be printed in the next issue of the RAZZ. You will be on your honor to send your contributions to Treasurer Cathy Hall - on a quarterly basis, if you like, to the P. O. Box:



OPRF Rotary, P. O. Box 654, Oak Park, IL 60303

The evening was about *Sharing Our Stories* and what we will leave as our legacy. So much of what we do as Rotarians is supported by our Rotary Foundation. What



follows are just some of the references made and stories shared at last Friday evening's opening session of D6450's Annual Conference. We Rotarians of Oak Park - River Forest are a big part of that legacy - including our Interactors. We share in photos and words the impact we and other D6450 Rotarians just like us have made just in this past year - a year of difficulty, of chaos, and of uncertainty - a year of pandemic which we have survived and on which we have left our mark!

**District 6450 Clubs that Participated in the Early Childhood Education Grant Program**

**\$500 / Club**

Aurora	Joliet
Aurora Sunrise	Kankakee
Beverly - Morgan Park - Mt. Greenwood	Lemont - Homer Glen
Bolingbrook	Manteno
Brookfield - Riverside	Maywood - Proviso
Channahon - Minooka	Montgomery
Chicago Heights - Park Forest	Moraine Valley (Palos Hills)
Chicago Lakeview	Naperville
Chicago Little Village	Naperville After Dark
Chicago Near South	Naperville Downtown
Chicago Rotaract	Naperville Sunrise
Chicago Southeast	Oak Forest
Chicago Six Corners	Oak Lawn Healthcare
Darien	Oak Park - River Forest
Downers Grove	Orland Park
Elmhurst	Plainfield
Hinsdale	Romeoville
Homewood	The Southland
	Woodridge



Providing 264 iPads to nursing homes and safety net hospitals in the Chicago area, 39 clubs and four districts participated in raising over \$64,000!

The stories shared Early Education Childhood projects, COVID Response projects, iPads for Nursing Homes and Hospitals, Simple Schools projects, Environmental projects, and finally Rotaract and Interact projects.

One of the Interact Clubs recognized was our own - The Greater OPRF-FP Area Interact Club. We present that section of the evening in its entirety as once again our young people make us proud. . .

*New Generations* refers to the youngest generation in the family of Rotary. Many are participants in Rotary's youth and young adult programs: Interact, Rotaract, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), and Rotary Youth Exchange.



Past RI President Luis Vicente Giay coined the term New Generations when he shared his belief that the future of Rotary relied on involving young people in the organization's programs and activities. At the 1996 RI Convention in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, he said:

"Our vision for the future, now more than ever, is the difference between success and failure. The New Generations are our investment in the future. Let us begin to build that future today."

New Generations Service became Rotary's 5th Avenue of Service in 2010. It is defined in article 5 of the Standard Rotary Club Constitution:

*New Generations Service recognizes the positive change implemented by youth and young adults through leadership development activities, involvement in community and international service projects, and exchange programs that enrich and foster world peace and cultural understanding.*

Rotary clubs should be committed to involving youth and young adults in their vocational, community, and international service projects, and to providing programs and resources that support them.

**Interact Clubs** - Interact clubs bring together young people ages 12-18 to develop leadership skills and learn about the world through service projects and activities.

Four of our 25 Interact clubs reported notable service deserving of our recognition during this Rotary year!

**The Interact Club of Bremen High School, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Oak Forest** worked tirelessly to communicate with every student to let them know that they are not alone during this unprecedented year. Four juniors who wish to remain anonymous *created Invisible Inspirations, to send care packages to their peers.* Every Monday night these four students met with their advisor to determine how to reach other students, calling on the school social worker as well.

Some students received a red envelope care packages in the mail while others received an email. All received tips about medications, college, studying, and anyone who came to room 125 and asked for a personalized stress ball and hand sanitizer, received one. The Club also sent holiday cards, valentine greetings, etc. to nursing homes and the residents at The Pointe in Crestwood.

**The Interact Club of Oak Forest High School, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Oak Forest** found many ways to stay busy and contribute to their communities during the pandemic. A list of their activities for this year include:

- **creating care cards for essential workers,**
- **care cards for local nursing homes,**
- **October food drive for Redeemer's Church Little Free Pantry,**
- **random acts of kindness for World Kindness Day,**
- **partnered with other local Interact groups to create/send Holiday cards for veterans and active - duty service members,**

- **created Holiday and Valentine's Day cards for the OF senior citizens that typically attend school sponsored luncheons,**
- **virtual "check in" wellness checks event,**
- **fundraiser at Chipotle,**
- **OF covid mask fundraiser,**
- **created fleece tie blankets for Hope Children's Hospital,**
- **and another food drive in April for Redeemers Church Little Free Pantry.**



These students also created accounts on the "Innerview" app where they keep a log of their service hours. Two of their juniors participated in the virtual RYLA retreat pronouncing it a valuable and positive experience.

**The Interact Club of Rosary High School, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Aurora** had a wide variety of outside service opportunities despite the many COVID restrictions in place at the school including all club meetings having to be held virtually, meeting virtually two Wednesdays a month., the girls have been in-person learning four days per week since the start of the school year. 45 members strong, they were able to participate various service opportunities.

This year's special project was holding a Suicide



Food Drive at Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry

Rosary High School Interact had many Projects!



Prevention Week; the goal was to inform the student body of signs of mental health issues and to raise money for Batavia's Suicide Prevention. The girls prepared and shared informational announcements with the student body daily; hung club-designed magnets on student lockers; sold Suicide Prevention bracelets; and had a wear purple and teal day [suicide prevention colors] where the student body had to pay \$1.00 to be out of uniform. The club raised \$600!

Other service projects this year include:

- **Partnering with the Montgomery Rotary Club for their Fox River Clean-Up Day**



- In October and February, peeling vegetables for a stew to be served at Hesed House, a local homeless shelter
- Food disbursement at Aurora's Interfaith Food Pantry
- Annual Halloween Food Drive, collecting 1882 pounds of food for the Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry
- Interfaith Food Pantry's Trunk or Treat Event
- Helping Catholic Corner Store decorate for Christmas
- Sorting toys at Toys for Tots
- Annual Christmas party for Catholic Elementary School, creating a Party in a Box for each grade level.
- Adopt -a- soldier - letter-writing
- Making Birthday Boxes for a local food pantry.
- Easter Basket Distribution for Aurora Interfaith Food Pantry
- Adopt-a-soldier Easter Care Package
- Decorating for Candlelight Ball fundraiser at RHS
- Making blankets for the Linus Project
- Earth Day project
- Rotary Club of Aurora Food Pantry distribution day

**The Greater OP-RF-FP Interact Club, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Oak Park - River Forest** is a community-based club with fewer than ten members who have consistently met and performed services in the Community. The club meets virtually twice a month. In response to the protests last summer, the Interactors decided to learn about identities, accurate histories, and take action, performing anti-racism work. In July 2020, they started a Social Justice Book Club that meets quarterly to discuss books related to Social Justice and taking action.

The club maintains a blog on the Rotary Club of Oak Park - River Forest website on Environment Sustainability, Mental Health and Social Justice. From the latest blog, 4 Steps to Self-Care, comes the following:

**"When things get overwhelming, it becomes difficult to remember to take care of ourselves. Remember that for you to give back, help others, and be a positive person, you must first take care of yourself."** The article shares, "four steps you can take to improve your overall wellness and prioritize self-care."

The club is in the process of adopting the Fullerton Woods Forest Preserve of Cook County; They are tasked



The Greater Oak Park-River Forest-Forest Park Interact Club Adopted a Fullerton Forest Preserve



with cleaning up the Forest Preserve monthly. They are

currently on a pact to clean the preserve for 8 consecutive months!

One of their members serves on the District



Environmental Committee and is a facilitator for the District's DEI Social Justice Book Club. She will also present and participate on a panel at RI's International Convention on Youth perspective on Social Justice.

Unfortunately, due to participation limits set for the virtual RYLA conference, only one of the three interested members could join the conference.

The club is working on a Recipe Book scheduled for publication on July 4 as a Fundraiser for their activities. You are welcome to send your favorite recipes.

Individual members participated and received service-hour credits for:

- Tutoring other students from grade school to high school
- Making masks for seniors and first responders; and
- Helping teachers with technology-related issues for their classes.

As our communities continue to reopen, they will go back to their usual service projects:

- Toys for Tots
- International Potluck
- Rotary UN Model Conference
- Feed My Starving Children.



Finally, I want to commend Gina Arguelles [Bremen HS], Kerry Fitzmaurice [Oak Forest HS], Mart O'Connor [Rosary HS], and Lesley Gottlinger [The Greater OP-RF-FP Interact Club] for their leadership as advisors to our youth. They have led their Interact clubs with compassion and dedication for many years.



The Oak Forest High Schools kept busy during COVID.