

*Let's Make Rotary a Priority!*

# CORTLAND BREAKFAST ROTARY

07.23.2025

Cortlandbreakfastrotary.org

Wednesday

## **'SOME DAY WE GOTTA MAKE A CHANGE' NY'S DAIRY INDUSTRY AND THE MIGRANT WORKERS THAT MAKE IT POSSIBLE**



[View Mike's interview here](#)

Mike McMahon, former owner of EZ Acres dairy farm in Homer, educated the CBR club this week on the realities faced by the agriculture industry and the migrant workforce that makes it all run. In 1995, the McMahon's consolidated and modernized EZ Acres with new facilities that they thought would ease their labor issues. What they discovered is that little changed and they continued to struggle to find a source of reliable labor. In one year they had forty-two W-2s for what was supposed to be a thirteen-man crew, signalling a massive turnover rate. At the start of the new millennium they made the move to bring in Hispanic laborers, workers that were eager for consistent jobs that would allow them to stay in one place.

McMahon instantly fell in love with these workers, individuals from Mexico and Guatemala that would go on to not only stay and work at EZ Acres for multiple decades, but remain in and contribute to the Cortland County community. McMahon took it upon himself to pursue Green Cards for his workers, only to learn that all of their social security cards were forgeries. In this way, McMahon uncovered the bitter truth about how there are few legal paths for migrant workers in the agricultural industry, and none for year-round laborers. The H-2A program is available for seasonal labor for nine months of the year, and provides visas to around 310,000, whereas the need for laborers runs in the millions. The gap, especially in the dairy industry which runs 365 days a year, therefore, is generally filled via illegal means.

McMahon questioned how it can be possible to continue to support a growing economy without the legal labor to make it happen; to alleviate this issue he's testified in front of Congress, offering up a 17-point framework for legislation that would allow for longer-term guest workers. While it didn't seem to go anywhere at the time, McMahon remains hopeful that we're moving toward a positive change.

**President:** Mark Roberts

**Front Desk:** Conrad Janke & Jim Anderson

**Thought of the day:**

Sophie Clough

**Birthdays:**

Jim Anderson (7/26)

Dick Kroot (7/27)

**Anniversaries:**

Cindy Stoker (7/28/2021)

**Attendance: 24**

**Zoom: 0**

**Guests:**

Mike McMahon

Morgan Spaulding

Melanie Vilardi

Kim Cameron

**Raffle winner:**

Kathie O'Mara

## Announcements:



- Graph-Tex orders are available to pick up at 24 Court Street.
- Imagination Library 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration (and Cortland Free Library 100<sup>th</sup> celebration) this Saturday at Court House Park, 11-1pm.
- Loaves & Fishes still seeking volunteer help, contact Kim Hill- Office (607) 756-6195; Cell (607)-345-8775.
- August 20<sup>th</sup>- River Cleanup
- August 27<sup>th</sup>- Picnic at Don Richards' @5pm (No AM Meeting).
- September 27<sup>th</sup>- Chicken BBQ from Bob's BBQ.
- Meals of Hope packing event Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> & 2nd; have 57 volunteers!
- Still seeking member to train as future chair of Youth Exchange! Student from Spain incoming.

SEEKING FUTURE CHAIR FOR  
YOUTH EXCHANGE COMMITTEE



Contact Karen DeWitt:  
kldewitt29@yahoo.com

CBR PICKLEBALL LEAGUE  
WEDNESDAYS @ 6:00AM-  
COURTS BEHIND THE HOMER  
AMERICAN LEGION.  
BEGINNERS WELCOME!



## Happy Dollars



**Steve Cinquanti:** New grandson born Sunday- Bryson Ross, 8lbs 12 oz and 20.5"!

**Glenn Reisweber:** Formed a neighborhood NASA, shooting rockets with Steve Cinquanti their grandsons.

**Jackie Burke:** For Steve becoming a grandpa to a new grandson; for guests Melanie Vilardi and Morgan Spaulding.

**Terry Cahill:** Congrats to Steve, and for our speakers.

**Bob Martin:** Received social security cards for Afghan family members, and will be able to help them seek jobs.

**Doug Withey:** Apologies for missing his Thought for the Day last week; is candidate for Town Supervisor in Cortlandville.

**Laurie Comfort:** For Grandpa Cinquanti; won't need surgery on her knee.

**Conrad Janke:** Thank you to Mike, our speaker; welcome Kim Cameron, hope you will be joining our club; for Steve C.'s new grandson; attended the baptism of Kurt Behrenfeld's grandson, Hudson Parker.

**Kurt Behrenfeld:** For his grandson's baptism (thanks Conrad!).

**Don Richards:** Congrats Steve, their grandsons share birthdays; welcome Mike McMahon and Melanie Vilardi.

**Mark Roberts:** \$5 for his own five grandkids.

WELCOME TO THE WORLD  
BRYSON ROSS!



## MEALS OF HOPE MEAL PACKING EVENT!



Packing 20,000 meals  
in 2 hours!

August  
2nd  
9am-12pm

AUG 1<sup>ST</sup> : SET-UP 6PM-8PM

## *2025 Rotary Clubs of Cortland, Fun Summer Picnic!*

Bobs Barbeque provided by Don & Luanne....

Bring a dish to pass, your beverage, and a swimsuit if you want to swim! The cost is \$10.00 per person for Members and Spouses, Prospective Members, Guests are welcome!

Where:

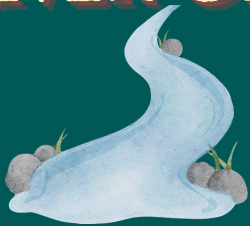
692 Hatchers Run, Cortland N.Y. 13045

When: Wednesday August 27th

Time: 5:00 RSVP DEADLINE: Wednesday, August 22nd

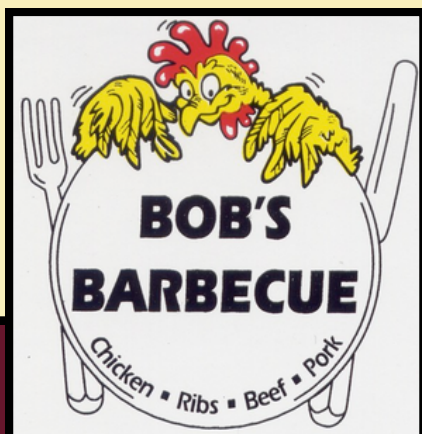
Cell: 607-745-7779 E-mail: [rotaryrichards@gmail.com](mailto:rotaryrichards@gmail.com)

## RIVER CLEANUP



SEPT.  
20TH

## SEPTEMBER 27TH



THEME: CLUBS  
WHOSE DISTRICTS  
INCLUDE TWO  
COUNTRIES