



CORTLAND BREAKFAST ROTARY

The Friendliest Club in the District!

August 24, 2022

WAYNE MAHAR

Wayne was Chief Meteorologist at CNY Central TV, Syracuse, before retiring last December.

He was the first full time meteorologist on Central NY television. Before Syracuse TV, Wayne was in TV in Portland, Maine for six years.

Wayne also started Precision Weather even before getting into television. Precision Weather Service is a private weather consulting company forecasting weather all over the world, from Super Bowl concerts to high profile Hollywood weddings.



CANINE CARNIVAL

Wayne and his mother are long time animal lovers,

and when his Mom passed away in 2007, he started the Priscilla Mahar Animal Welfare Foundation in her name to raise money for animal

shelters, and to help animals find homes.

The biggest event his non-profit does each year is the Canine Carnival, which has grown to be one of the largest animal rescues in the country. This year it will be on September 17 at Jamesville Beach Park. To date Wayne's foundation has donated nearly \$400,000 to CNY shelters.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dues are due! Save President Conrad a phone call—pay by August 31!

Don Richards—Chicken Barbeque—September 17. Sign up—1130 to 130pm, or 130pm to 330pm, at Bob's Barbeque in Little York.

Jeremy Boylan—River Clean Up—September 24.

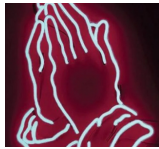
Don Richards—Pumpkinfest is October 1 and 15, committee meeting at 8am.

Puzzle Solvers, families with autistic children, is having a golf tournament September 25 at Walden Oaks. Kimberly Friedman was our Speaker July 22.

Newspaper Article—"What Would You Do If War Came To Your Neighborhood", talks about a Rotary Club in Kharkiv, Ukraine, fixing 1500 food packages a day.

Maria Gimma—Seven Valleys Schools would like members to be partners with the school, and talk to the kids.

EL PREZ



ROTARY 1/2 MINUTE

HAPPY DOLLARS

Dianne Higgins—spent 10 days with her sister in Villa Rica, GA.

Maria Gimma—having Suzanne Austin as our guest.

Conrad Janke—having Cheryl and Mark Matt here, and seeing Wayne Mahar.

Mark Hahn—vacation next week.

Steve Cinquanti—Di and Joanne.

CONRAD JANKE

JEREMY BOYLAN

DON RICHARDS, DIANNE HIGGINS

CHERYL MATT, MARK MATT, SUZANNE AUSTIN

CHERYL MATT

MIKE CATALANO—1) JOINED ROTARY IN 2011; 2) SPONSOR WAS RITA WRIGHT; 3) MEMORABLE MOMENTS ARE WHEN HE PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIPS TO DESERVING STUDENTS, AND THE SURPRISED LOOK THEY ALL HAVE.

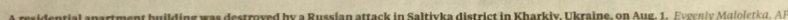
Joanne Sautter—happy to be here.

Cheryl Matt—happy to attend our meeting.

Terry Cahill—to see Wayne.

Jeremy Boylan—glad to have a Wilson tennis racket to foil a bat at 2am.

Don Richards—to have Dianne back and at the front desk.



Communal service workers clear a crater after shelling in the center of Kharkiv on Aug. 11.
Sergey Bobok, AFP via Getty Images, TNS

THE RESTAURATEUR
On a recent Wednesday night, shrapnel pierced the walls, windows, and ceiling of Oleksiy Lomskiy's NEBO Restaurant in the DAFI Mall for the second time. (Putin's military seems to love targeting malls, as I have seen in every city I've visited.)

The first attack on the mall also set the multiplex cinema next to the restaurant on fire. Lomsky risked his life fighting the blaze with a handheld extinguisher until the firefighters arrived. Being inside a cinema mostly reduced to ashes by a Russian rocket gives you an idea of the absurdity of this war.

But Lomskiy kept his staff going, adding more kitchens, in order to cook meals and bake bread for 8,000 people daily. In Lomskiy's Kharkiv neighborhood of high-rises scarred and blackened by rocket attacks, I see weary adults lining up outside the battered NEBO for a midday meal.

Lomskiy also has a fleet of yellow delivery vans that deliver food to danger zones; while I was visiting, one of them radioed that it had come under heavy shelling, but it managed to escape.

Like the Rotarians, the restaurant owner worries that the West's attention will fade if the war continues.

"Now, most Ukrainians who relocated to the West are running out of money," he told me.

He wants to keep feeding as many as he can. He was also concerned about how to shelter Kharkiv citizens who lived in destroyed buildings; he thinks they will need places to sleep for at least the next 18 months.

NEBO means "sky" in Ukrainian, and the restaurateur has set up a charity foundation called "Peaceful Sky of Ukraine" to fund future operations. Until now, he has paid part of the expenses himself, and received some help from World Central Kitchen, as well as funding from European aid groups.

But he warns that "Putin will destroy what he cannot have," and "Kharkiv can be easily destroyed if we can't stop Russian rockets from flying."

Ukraine's civic army, like its military forces, knows that all its efforts will be insufficient if the West stops paying attention. Yet, unlike many of America's past misbegotten overseas efforts, U.S. assistance to Ukraine goes to a country whose people are doing their utmost to help themselves win.

Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. Readers may email her at trubin@phillynews.com.

will give their army the long-range weapons needed to push Russian forces back beyond artillery range. They believe their fight for democracy is also the West's fight.

So let me introduce you to a few of Kharkiv's courageous volunteers.

In a basement cafe of Kharkiv's French Boulevard Mall, real estate agent Igor Balaka recently rang the bell to call the "New Level" Rotary Club chapter to order. They, along with myself and my translator, were the only customers.

Most of the 300 stores in the mall have been closed since a Russian rocket damaged the roof of the complex earlier this year. But the mall's owner, Robert Mkrtchian, a Rotarian, allows the group to use a former skating rink in the basement to organize 1,500 food packages a day for those left homeless or hungry by the war.

Packages of macaroni, other packaged foodstuffs, and bandages, saline solution, and syringes for hospitals line the concrete floor of the rink, along with clothing and household supplies.

The Rotarians have been working with many other volunteer groups to disperse the goods across some of the neighborhoods that have been hardest hit. They also work to clear the rubble.

Balaka: Serhij Ivalho, a developer; and

Pavlo Filippenko, the head of a construction business, discuss how to find funds to build modular housing to help Kharkiv when winter comes. Members of the group are concerned that access to water and electricity will become a problem and more citizens will lose their homes from shelling.

"In wars you've seen, how did the economy survive?" one member asked me. "Is this like the other wars you've seen? We've never seen a war before."

I realize that these businessmen, like most Americans, never imagined an all-out invasion could come to their country in the 21st century. They are struggling to figure out how to rebuild their city even as the Russians try to destroy it. They know their survival depends on whether the United States gives them the long-range weapons to push back Russian artillery beyond the range of their city.

"War is a situation where you see what people are capable of," says Mkrtchian. "People take off their masks."

Balaka adds, "Everyone left here in Kharkiv is like a family."

Then the group nervously asks me the question I heard everywhere in Ukraine: "What will happen in America if the Republicans get the majority in Congress, or Trump becomes president again? Will your country stop supporting Ukraine?"

Rubin *Philadelphia Inquirer*

...build, and rescuing sur-
vivors in villages the Russians still

Like Americans, some volunteer through church groups or clubs. But I have met many who have created volunteer networks or are working on their own to make a difference. Their civic resistance to the Russian invaders is a morale boost to the public — and to the army.

While ordinary Americans debate how to counter threats to our democracy, these Ukrainians are fighting to save their democracy from a Russian takeover. Many have the skills to find jobs elsewhere in Europe but have chosen to stay on, despite constant risk to their lives.

In Kharkiv, 20 miles from the Russian border, volunteers face nightly shelling. They wrestle with the uncertainty of whether the United States and its allies

SYRACUSE POST STANDARD, 8-21-22, F5



PRESIDENT CONRAD JANKE WITH VISITING DEWITT ROTARIANS CHERYL AND MARK MATT. CHERYL WAS PRESIDENT OF DEWITT ROTARY, BALDWINVILLE ROTARY, DISTRICT GOVERNOR OF 7150, AND WILL BE PRESIDENT OF DEWITT NEXT YEAR. MARK WAS PRESIDENT OF FAYETTEVILLE-MANLIUS ROTARY, AND FOUNDATION CHAIRMAN OF DISTRICT 7150.

Cortland County's Overdose Awareness Remembrance Vigil

**~~Wednesday~~, August 31
7:00 PM**

**Court House Park
37 Church St. Cortland , NY 13045**



*Healing Hearts Collaborative
A Community 2022*

**For more information
visit healingcortland.org
and**

facebook.com/HHCsavesLives

Healing Cortland



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