

CORTLAND BREAKFAST ROTARY NEWS

Together We Serve, Together We Make a Difference



CORTLANDBREAKFASTROTARY.ORG



EDITED BY SOPHIE WELBURN



President Terry Cahill

Front Desk:

Matt Banazek

Jim Dempsey

Thought for the Day:

Kim Cameron

Raffle Winner: Laurie Comfort

Attendance: 22

Zoom: 0

Guests:

Elizabeth Janke

Anna McGraw

**“There’s gotta be more to do,
more to give back”**

Rosie Taravella and the American Red Cross



The guest speaker at Cortland Breakfast Rotary Club this week was our very own member, Rosie Taravella!

Taravella started out by briefly describing her career, which she admitted to being “very weird and requires explanation.” A Cortland High grad from the class of 1980, Taravella headed west to California in pursuit of acting. There she became the first waitress to work at Johnny Rockets, an opportunity that sent her to such places as Tokyo and London to take part in training and store openings. It was while waitressing that she made a connection that got her into the acting world. Taravella is credited with appearances in Full House, Married...With Children, Almost Perfect, and co-wrote Carlo’s Wake. Taravella has also written a number of plays included in an anthology titled “Let’s Put on a Show” that is available on Amazon.

Profits from the production of one of the plays, “The Wives,” went to an organization that supports victims of domestic violence, and it was this experience that gave Taravella her taste for giving back.
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Meals of Hope



July 31

& August 1, 2026

Summer Picnic



August 12, 2026

Red Cross continued...

Taravella's sister spoke to her about how she might consider fund raising, given that she was well-practiced in "having to win people over with [her] personality."

Taravella decided she was tired of the California desert and moved to Rochester to be near her mom. It was during a visit to Cortland for a Main Street Live event that she met her husband, Scott Goodrich.

In 2012, Taravella applied to a Red Cross job that she saw in a newsletter, and started overseeing a region that included eighteen counties. In 2018, she was given responsibility over an even bigger region and made the move to New Jersey.

She and Scott bought a place on the Jersey Shore and fully expected it to be the setting for their retirement, but when the opportunity to become the Vice President over the northeast division (encompassing nine states) presented itself, Scott said "Let's go home," and the couple returned to Cortland in February of this year.

Taravella describes her time with the Red Cross as extremely rewarding. Responding to some 60,000 cases throughout a year, Red Cross volunteers prioritize "taking care of the people, helping them navigate what to do next, and ensuring their immediate needs get met."

The Red Cross provides other services such as swimming lessons, CPR training, and more, and Taravella explained that "there is probably some way that the Red Cross has touched you."

Ways that individuals can get involved with the Red Cross include taking one of their classes, volunteering, and donating. A huge need right now is for blood, and there are multiple opportunities in the area to give this month.

Taravella concluded by saying that her experience with the Red Cross as very humbling, and how her favorite part is in helping mentor those that are coming up after her.

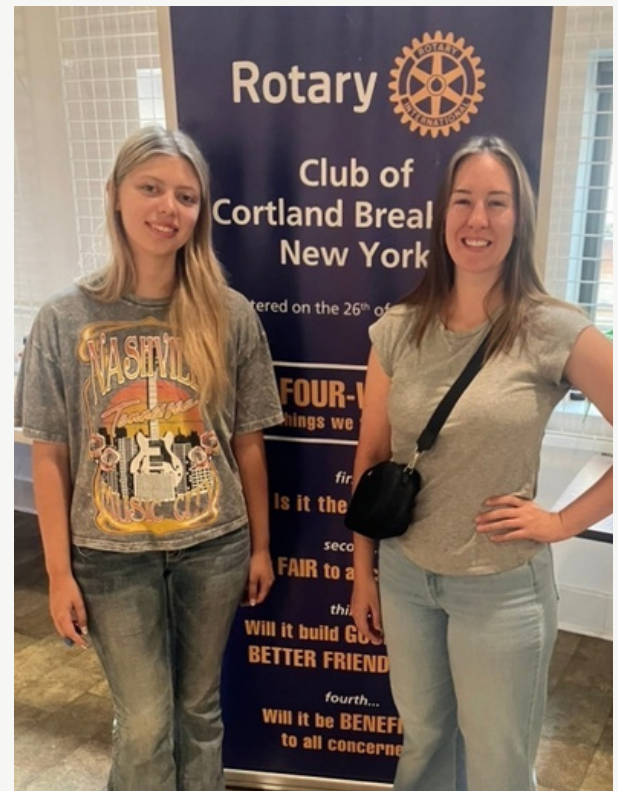
**SEE UPCOMING BLOOD
DRIVES HERE**



Kathie O'Mara (7/15)

Anniversaries

None



Anna McGraw, outbound exchange student to Switzerland, and Liza Janke who was DeWitt Rotary's outbound student to Denmark in 2012.

Happy Dollars

Don Richards: Received last check from a McGruff Tournament sponsor which means all sponsors for the Ride for Rotary and McGruff have paid!

Laurie Comfort: Traded in her 2010 CR-V for a 2023 RAV-4.

Pat Clune: Came back from Ireland, had a great time- should've given a happy dollar last week when he still had Euros in his pocket; for Mark for a great year as president, and to Terry for a great year ahead; Holiday in Homer is this Saturday.

Mark Roberts: He and Scott Goodrich get to sit at a table with all these beautiful ladies.

Kim Cameron: League of Women Voters has an upcoming discussion on how local news strengthens our democracy, featuring fellow Rotarian Frank Kelly- August 3rd.

Karen DeWitt: Past exchange student coming up from Brazil for a few days, it will be great to see him.

Rosie Taravella: Happy to be invited to speak and that so many showed up; glad the Homer fire department horn didn't go off during her talk.

Conrad Janke: For Rosie being our guest speaker; for daughter, Liza, now a Cortlandite! For the Anna McGraw's graduation party.



Sign up to Volunteer!

Contact Bob Martin at:
bob49martin@verizon.net

Meals of Hope

Set-up:

Friday July 31st (6-8pm)

Work day:

Saturday August 1st

Table Captains @ 8am

Packing volunteers @ 9am

Clean-up & transport @ 11am



Summer Picnic



**August
12th
5PM**

BOB'S BBQ PROVIDED BY DON & LUANNE...BRING A DISH TO PASS, YOUR BEVERAGE, AND A SWIMSUIT IF YOU WANT TO SWIM. COST IS \$10 PER PERSON. AT DON RICHARDS' 692 HATCHERS RUN, CORTLAND

Local News Strengthens our Democracy!

Amanda Caridi, Managing Editor, Cortland Standard
& Frank Kelly, Columnist will lead a discussion on
this topic!
PLEASE JOIN US

Dinner at 5:00 p.m. (\$20/person)
Discussion at 6:00 p.m.

Monday, August 3, 2026
CNY Living History Center

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS'
OF CORTLAND COUNTY



Sign Up **HERE**



<https://forms.gle/BSS1bsvegihRjyxq5>



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