

We Have Fun, And We Get Things Done!

CORTLAND BREAKFAST ROTARY

12.10.2025

Cortlandbreakfastrotary.org

Edited by Sophie Welburn

CARRIE NARROW & CORTLAND REUSE



The Cortland Breakfast Rotary Club welcomed Carrie Narrow, Executive Director at Cortland ReUse, as guest speaker this week! Carrie started at ReUse five years ago as ReUse Coordinator, bringing to the job twenty years of non-profit experience.

The mission of Cortland ReUse includes working to extend the lifespan of our local landfill, which is estimated to have less than ten years left with no official plan for what to do next. Items are saved from the landfill and re-sold, or re-used in new and creative ways. The money made from sales goes to paying four employees a living wage, paying rent, or into vital programs that give back to the community. These include warming kits for the unhoused, as well as a partnership with Catholic Charities providing furniture and necessary home goods for those who have experienced tragic house loss.

The Annual Red Dragon ReUse event has been growing every year, and last year saved 80 tons from the landfill! Other campuses are starting to implement similar events based off of Cortland's example. Indeed, this year Cortland ReUse was awarded as Non-Profit Leader in NYS Reuse, Recycle, Reduction, so their impact is not going unnoticed!

Cortland ReUse gives back in so many other ways—they work with our very own Jackie Burke to collect medical equipment and crutches to be sent to Africa and Ukraine. Through ReStart Recovery Workforce, ReUse guides those recovering from substance abuse into a career. The space is also host to workshops including a writing workshop held every first Sunday.

Keep an eye out too for upcoming events in 2026 like the Fundraiser of Facts Trivia Night, and the Death at the Vault Murder Mystery Masquerade! Looking forward, as Cortland ReUse continues to grow, they are hoping to secure their own building.

Announcements:

- 12/12- Dollar Drop rescheduled- This Friday at Grand Union! Sign-ups for 1-hour shifts needed: 4-5pm & 5-6pm.
- 12/14- Gingerbread 5K Run/Walk. Seeking volunteers to help with the food drive portion @ 7:30am.
- 12/14- Wassail Party at the 1890 House is a great opportunity to see CBR's tree!
- Final vote on Board of Directors members concludes 12/16; see email from Dianne Higgins.
- 12/19- Loaves & Fishes food basket event; need help at 2:30pm setup for 3:30pm start. Food has been purchased from Sav-a-Lot.
- 12/21- Yule-ibration at the Ake Gallery @ 5pm.
- 12/21 @2pm - Don Richards invites members to come to see the Delaney Brothers Bluegrass Christmas at the Center for the Arts; contact Don (607-745-7779).

President: Mark Roberts

*Front Desk: Mike May
& Jessie Farrell*

*Thought of the day:
Dianne Higgins*

*Raffle winner:
Jim Anderson*

Birthdays:

None

Anniversaries:

None

Attendance: 22

Zoom: 0

Guests:

Carrie Narrow

Pino Alarco Hernandez



*President Mark Roberts recognized as a Paul Harris
Fellow- congratulations!*

Happy Dollars



Jackie Burke: For Carrie, our speaker; the festive decorations in the room and general atmosphere of the holidays makes her happy!

Conrad Janke: For Carrie; Ed Finkbeiner helped get a new pole for our sign; sad dollar for the loss of his golden retriever, Levi.

Jeremy Boylan: Thank you to Mike, Don, and Dianne for the work put in toward the food baskets.

Ed Finkbeiner: Had a difficult task putting all his engineering experience into that pole; had his last village board meeting, done with politics!

Steve Cinquanti: Congrats Mark!

Laurie Comfort: For Mark; her bank adopts a family for the holidays each year, and it was nice to see all the employees getting into buying gifts, had a wrapping party, a heartwarming experience.

Kathie O'Mara: Back from Virginia where she visited her sister's family.

Dianne Higgins: For Mark- congrats!

Don Ferris: For Mark joining the elite group of Paul Harris Fellows; for today's snow storm.

Terry Cahill: For Mark's inclusion in the Paul Harris club; had safe travels to Vermont and back; saw on the way that the Woodstock Rotarians were having a large Christmas tree sale.

Bob Martin: Advocating for Doug Withey to be elected to the Board.

Doug Withey: Is anticipating a busy time visiting nephew in Germany with stops at all five of the local Rotary clubs- needs to bring more banners!

Pat Clune: For Ed's last village board meeting, been on there together for the last 10 years so will be strange not having him there.

Chuck Feiszli: For Mark, for the work on the food baskets, and for Ed.

Mike May: For Carrie; and congrats Mark!

Don Richards: Congratulations Mark!

Mark Roberts: Sad dollar for learning his son will not be able to come up from Virginia for the holidays; daughter's husband has a job interview with the Walton (Wal-mart) family; thank you for the Paul Harris recognition.



BANNERS



[Sign up here](#)

LET CONRAD JANKE KNOW IF YOU'RE ABLE TO HELP!

December 14th @ 9am

Guthrie Cortland Memorial Center partners with Cortland Rotarians to benefit the Seven Valleys Health Coalition!

GINGERBREAD

5K

RUN/WALK



**COME SEE THE CORTLAND
BREAKFAST ROTARY TREE!**



The 1890 House
presents its annual

Wassail Party



Celebrate the joy of the season!

Sunday, December 14th from 12:00pm to 4:00pm
at the 1890 House, 37 Tompkins St., Cortland

Festivities to include:

- 12:00pm to 4:00pm:
 - Open House (all floors)
 - Festive Fare
 - Traditional Wassail Punch
 - Visits by Santa Claus & The Grinch!
- 12:00pm to 1:45pm:
 - Dickens Christmas Carols
- 2:00pm to 3:00pm:
 - CNY Flute Choir
- 3:00pm to 4:00pm:
 - CHS Instrumental Ensemble



*Free
and Open to the Public*

OPTIONAL (but appreciated): Please bring a can of food to donate, as we will be accepting donations for our local food pantry.

1. "Give one, take one" or "take what you need" at the event. Kids welcome, too!
2. Have a lot of toys that need a new home? Bring a bag to share.
3. Volunteer! You can organize a table and help families/kids select new toys.



THE STARLING'S FIRST YULE-IBRATION

December 21st, 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM
Ake Gallery, 165 South Main St
Suite 14L (Basement Level)

The shortest day of the year is near, and what better way to ward off seasonal blues than with the warmth of community?

Free to all; Donations appreciated.

YOU are invited to join the murmururation this Yule for:

- * Hot Cocoa & Treats * Open Mic Music & More *
 - * Fun, Fine Art for Sale Throughout the Ake Gallery *
 - * New and Like-New Giftable Items Exchange *
- (Give items you haven't used; Get items you totally could!)