

# *Puzzle Solvers*

Nicki Wynn, Ryder Wynn, Hilary Dwyer

## *Cortland Breakfast Rotary*

*3 January, 2024*

*Since 2021 the unquestioned, undeniable, and undubitably "Friendliest Club in the District!"*

Puzzle Solvers was founded in 2009 by Kimberly Friedman, Nicki Wynn, and Jackie Newton to provide compassion to families with autism, and to help realize autism's unique abilities. It helps to give families a voice, with the chance to meld into society and hope for the future.

Hilary Dwyer is a local speech-language pathologist who was drawn to the mission of Puzzle Solvers. Ryder Wynn was diagnosed with autism at the age of 3, who had family members who helped and advocated for his needs. He relayed how he was used to a routine, and would panic when the routine was disrupted.

An important facet of Puzzle Solvers is Connecting Caregivers, which not only assists caregivers and other professionals, but also provides an Autism Parent Support Group. Puzzle Solvers does not receive support from the government, which means it does a lot of fundraising. It holds a golf tournament every September, merchandise in April for Autism Awareness month, and raffles throughout the year. It also works with the Racker Center, and is teaming up with Access to Independence.

We thank Hilary and Ryder for the great work that they do, and for taking the time to explain it to us today!

Puzzle Solvers is a local 501 C3 who have been in our community to assist local people and families with Autism in a variety of different ways including support financially, socially, and connecting families with local resources. Two of the members of their volunteer team include Hilary Dwyer, M.S. CCC-SLP, and Ryder Wynn.

Hilary Dwyer is a local speech-language pathologist who completed her Bachelor's of Science in Speech and Hearing Science in 2017, and her Master's of Science in Communication Disorders and Sciences in 2020 both from SUNY Cortland. Ryder Wynn is currently dual majoring in the honors program for both History and Anthropology with a strong interest in Museum Studies at SUNY Cortland. Ryder has been a member of Puzzle Solvers for a majority of his life, as his mother Nicki Wynn, serves as VP and is one of the original founders. Both Ryder and Hilary work with Puzzle Solvers to help families in the community build a network of resources through various different activities. Both attend various resource fairs in the community to spread the word, and network about Puzzle Solvers. They also both facilitate last year's newest addition, the Connecting Caregivers Parent Support group that helps pair caregivers with other caregivers in the Cortland community so that they may network with other, share resources, and learn something educationally each meeting. Meetings are dual faceted as they serve for a place to connect and discuss, and gain support, while also offering various activities and information each session from a licensed therapist and many guest speakers on Autism related topics.

# Who are we?



Kimberly



Nicki



Jackie



Hilary



Nancy



Ryder



Gabe

- **Kimberly Friedman**  
President
- **Nicki Wynn**  
Vice President
- **Jackie Newton**  
Treasurer
- **Hilary Dwyer**  
Parent Support Group Facilitator
- **Nancy Oustad**  
Merchandise
- **Ryder Wynn**  
Autism Educator & Advocate
- **Gabe Friedman**  
Autism Advocate

## 2024 Connecting Caregivers Schedule:



**Connecting Caregivers**  
Autism Parent Support Group  
Est. 2023

Join us for a welcoming group which provides peer support, and educational content for parents and caregivers of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).



- Free, virtual & in-person meetings
- Meet other caregivers
- Learn about programs & community resources/supports/services

**Date:** Second Thursday of each month  
**Time:** 6:00 PM - 7:15 PM  
**Location:** Access to Independence Community Room  
Virtually via Zoom <sup>®</sup> platform  
**Meeting ID:** 812 0125 5267  
**Password:** puzzle

Questions?  
For more information contact Hilary Dwyer at [hdwyer09@gmail.com](mailto:hdwyer09@gmail.com)

Connecting Caregivers  
Autism Parent Support Group  
**2024 Meeting Schedule** **PUZZLE SOLVERS**  
Meeting time will always be 6:00 PM - 7:15 PM

Date & Time:	Location:	Meeting Topic:	Important Info:
01/11/2024	Hybrid	Parental Pride & Ableism: What is it?	Location: Access to Independence & Virtual
02/08/2024	Virtual ONLY	Teaching Children About Autism	Virtual Meeting ONLY this month
03/14/2024	Hybrid	Hearing & Audiological Services	Location: Access to Independence & Virtual Guest Speaker: TBD
04/11/2024	In-Person	Autism Awareness Month	Location: TBD Guest Speaker: Ryder Wynn, Autism Advocate
05/09/2024	Hybrid	AAC 101: Communication Software & Devices	Location: Access to Independence & Virtual Guest Speaker: TBD
06/13/2024	Hybrid	Goal Setting: Goals at School vs. Home	Location: Access to Independence & Virtual
07/11/2024	Hybrid	Preparing for Back to School with a Special Education Teacher	Location: Access to Independence & Virtual Guest Speaker: TBD
08/08/2024	In-Person	Handing Rullying and Peer Engagement	Location: TBD
09/12/2024	Hybrid	Community Engagement: Tips for Running Errands & Shopping	Location: Access to Independence & Virtual
10/10/2024	Hybrid	Guardianships & Planning for the Future	Location: Access to Independence & Virtual Guest Speaker: TBD
11/14/2024	Hybrid	Applied Behavior Analysis	Location: Access to Independence & Virtual Guest Speaker: TBD
12/12/2024	In-Person	Holiday Celebration	Location: TBD

**Zoom Information:**  
Meeting ID: 812 0125 5267  
Password: puzzle

\*This is a tentative schedule based on our current 2023 event calendar. Meeting topics & information are subject to change.

**Questions?**  
For more information contact Hilary Dwyer, M.S. CCC - SLP  
[hdwyer09@gmail.com](mailto:hdwyer09@gmail.com); or message us at Puzzle Solvers

2024

YEAR OF THE



DRAGON

*President.* Don Richards

*Front Desk.* Terry Cahill, Mike Shafer

*Thought for the Day.* Conrad Janke

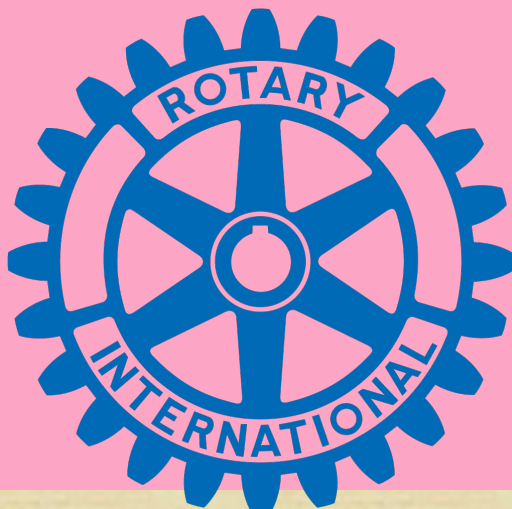
*Birthdays.* Tiffany Martinez, Dorothy Fowler

*Rotary Anniversary.* Jim Dempsey, Mark Roberts

*Guests.* Hilary Dwyer, Nicki Wynn, Ryder Wynn, Jackie Newton

*Raffle.* Jim Dempsey

*Attendance.* 20 + 5 Zoom



**Corinne Hayes** is grateful for our Speakers, and reported that the Salvation Army Kettle Drive netted \$52,000;

**Conrad Janke** ponied up for our Speakers, for his 2 month absence from work, and for the engagement of **Ariel Corl**;

**Don Richards** contributed for our Speakers and for 2024;

**Glenn Reisweber** is not happy about the lack of snow;

**Steve Cinquanti** thanked our Speakers and for **Jim Dempsey** and **Mark Roberts** joining our Club in 1993;

**Mike Shafer** thanked **Jim Dempsey** for being his Rotary sponsor;

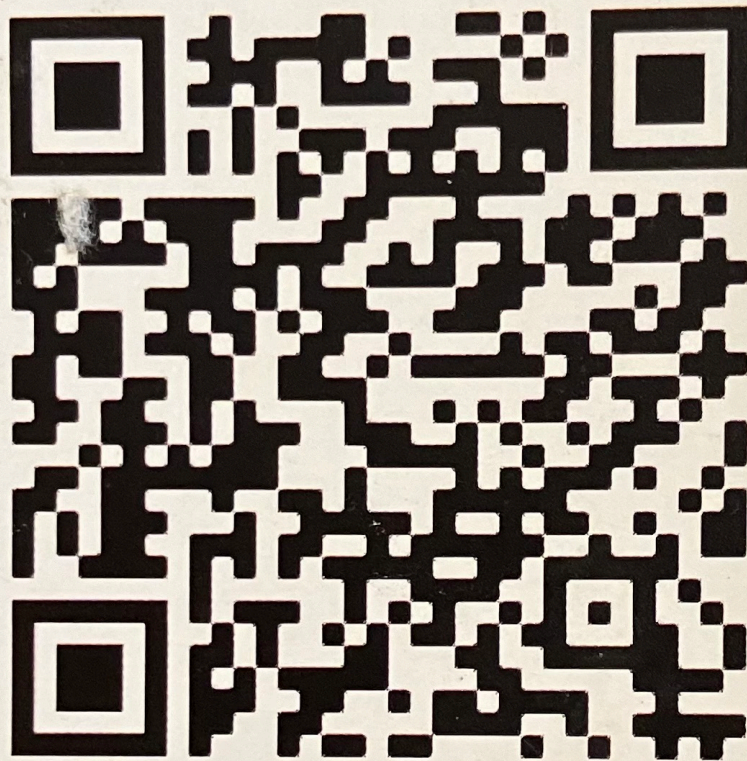
**Chuck Feiszli** celebrated a great Christmas and New Year;

**Regina Grantham** saw her grandson over the holidays.

WISHING YOU



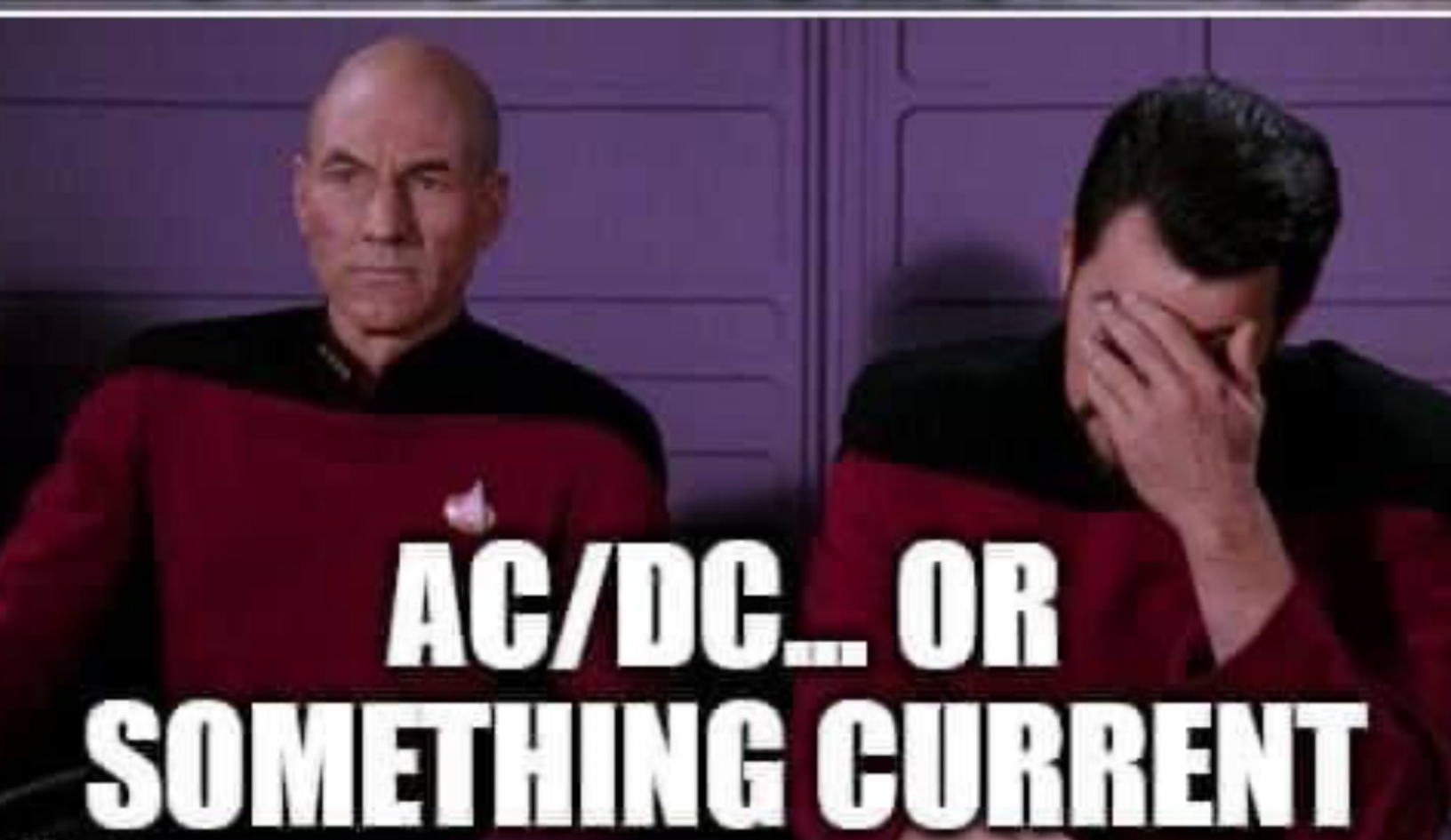
IN THE NEW YEAR



Cortland Breakfast  
Rotary Club



**DO PEOPLE IN  
ELECTRIC CARS LISTEN TO...**



**AC/DC... OR  
SOMETHING CURRENT**

