

*Let's Make Rotary a Priority!*

# CORTLAND BREAKFAST ROTARY

10.15.2025

Cortlandbreakfastrotary.org

Edited by Sophie Welburn

## ‘CONNECTING WITH LEADERS IN MY GENERATION’ ANNA ALDRICH & RYLA



RYLA is an intensive leadership experience organized by Rotary clubs and districts where you develop your skills as a leader while having fun and making connections.

Connect with leaders in your community and around the world to:

- Build communication and problem-solving skills
- Discover strategies for becoming a dynamic leader in your school or community
- Learn from community leaders, inspirational speakers, and peer mentors
- Unlock your potential to turn motivation into action
- Have fun and form lasting friendships

Anna Aldrich, senior at Homer High School and one of this year's attendees to the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, spoke to the Cortland Breakfast Club this week about her experiences at RYLA!

This multi-day event held at SUNY Oneonta featured a schedule of speakers including entrepreneurs encouraging the attendees to learn their strengths and weaknesses; a police officer discussing the consequences of alcohol and substance abuse; and Anna's personal favorite- Supreme Court Judge Cheryl who talked about her journey from going to college thinking she was going to be a doctor, to switching paths, making the "leap of faith to do what her heart wanted to do."

In between speaker sessions, Anna got to engage in a number of fun activities with her small group, which she described as becoming like a family to her. She also joined the cheer team interest group which involved presenting a special cheer before each presentation.

RYLAthon featured trivia, minute-to-win-it, and leapfrog games, and the winners received a shiny belt like that seen in WWE.

At the talent show, Anna's group presented a dance to Justin Bieber's "Baby."

Before heading into RYLA, Anna described feeling somewhat lost, not connecting with her peers who she felt didn't work as hard at their schoolwork as she did. But at RYLA she was able to create connections with those who she saw as the next leaders in her generation. The experience also provided a taste of college, helped her network, and taught her how to accept change, grow, and foster grit and perseverance in her life.

## Announcements:

- November 5<sup>th</sup> - Meeting held @ 7:30am at the Cortland Elks Club for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Kick-off. No meeting at the Center for the Arts.
- Ed Finkbeiner took part in Zoom candidate forum on Tuesday; session for Preble Town Supervisor candidates to be held 10/16 @ 7:00pm.

*President: Mark Roberts*  
*Front Desk: Matt Banazek & Joanne Sautter*  
*Thought of the day: Glenn Reisweber*  
*Raffle winner: Matt Banazek*

## Birthdays:

*Chuck Feiszli (10/15)*  
*Kurt Behrenfeld (10/17)*



## Anniversaries:

*Chuck Feiszli (10/17/2007)*

**Attendance: 26**

**Zoom: 2**

**Guests:**

Anna Aldrich

Frank Kelly

Pino Alarco Hernandez

# BANNERS



## Happy Dollars



**Chuck Feiszli:** Made it to seventy-five! Had a great party last night.

**Frank Kelly:** For his mother, who would have celebrated her 104<sup>th</sup>, sharing a birthday with Ron Walsh; cousin's granddaughter completed the Chicago Marathon.

**Glenn Reisweber:** Happy birthday to Chuck!

**Kim Cameron:** For last night's candidate forum, and thank you especially Ed F.; recording should be available on LWV website.

**Ed Finkbeiner:** Happy birthday Chuck, and thank you for those that joined in on his forum.

**Pat Clune:** Happy birthday to Chuck; the League of Women Voters put on a great event, glad Ed could handle the technology!

**Jim Dempsey:** Nice trip to Cape Cod, good to be home.

**Conrad Janke:** For our speaker, Anna; had a great time with Chuck; nice long obituary for brother Rick, thank you for card from the club.

**Chrissie Allen:** Happy birthday Chuck; was able to clean out her father's attic.

**Laurie Comfort:** For Chuck.

**Jeremy Boylan:** Happy birthday Chuck; for our guest speaker.

**Don Richards:** For Chuck.

**Mike Shafer:** Home from Puerto Rico; has a hip replacement 10/16,

**Steve Cinquanti:** Heading to Cincinnati for the Bengals-Steelers game.

Erratum: Last week, Chrissie Allen is the one who enjoyed a weekend in Buffalo with her daughter, not Laurie Comfort. Apologies!

Learn about the candidates  
running in our local elections.



## A Rotary Social

*(Rotary Club of Cortland, Cortland Breakfast Rotary,  
Spouses and Significant Others are welcome too!)*

***EAT, DRINK and BE SCARY!***

*Please join us for Halloween Happy Hour.*



***Tuesday, October 28, 2025 / 5pm-7pm***

***\*This will be in place of our lunch meeting.  
No lunchtime meeting on Tuesday, Oct 28th.***

**At the home of Kevin and Sheila Ossit  
4314 Alexandria Drive  
Cortland, NY 13045**

**(NOTE: Please do not park in front of the light blue house across the street from the Ossit's  
yellow ranch house...Grrrr! She will come out and make you move!)**

**--Stop by for Chili, Mac n Cheese, and other Fall Favorites!  
--You do not need to be in costume (unless you want to!).**

***We hope to see you!  
RSVP appreciated, but not required.  
sheila.ossit@gmail.com***