

CORTLAND BREAKFAST ROTARY NEWS

Together We Serve, Together We Make a Difference



CORTLANDBREAKFASTROTARY.ORG



EDITED BY SOPHIE WELBURN



President Terry Cahill

Front Desk:

Jim Anderson

Thought for the Day:

Mike Shafer

Raffle Winner: Kathie O'Mara

Attendance: 26

Zoom: 1

Guests:

JoAnn Dukelow

Jane O'Shea

Kim Allen

UPCOMING EVENTS

Alzheimer's Walk



October 24- Ithaca

November 8- Syracuse

Area 13 Meeting- Hopshire



November 14, 2026

"There's a tremendous need"

JoAnn Dukelow, Jane O'Shea, and ESL



This week, the Cortland Breakfast Rotary Club was host to JoAnn Dukelow and Jane O'Shea who shared about their work in providing adult English as a Second Language (ESL) classes!

JoAnn is the program coordinator for the classes, which are free and held at the Cortland Community Center every Monday and Wednesday from 9am to noon.

Last year, the center had twenty students from seven different countries, and currently there are twelve students from five different countries taking ESL classes.

The tutors- including Jane O'Shea, a retired teacher- are all volunteers, so funding goes towards the purchase of materials including textbooks. JoAnn explained how they have two foundations providing financial support for any purchases they need, so she is grateful that the load has been taken off and she no longer needs to go out begging for funds. (continued on page 2)

ESL continued...

But the latest challenges include the threats of abduction by ICE, and between this fear and difficulties with childcare, many of the tutors are making home visits.

The value of the work is clear- "There's a tremendous need," says JoAnn. And Jane described how she works to connect people to what they need, including helping to obtain a driver's license, searching for scholarship opportunities for college, and seeking citizenship.

"We get very close, and I just want to see how I can make their lives better," Jane explained, "They benefit from leaning on people, they need support, and I'm willing to give it."

Last January, they hosted a dance event to bring the students together, celebrate friendship, and make sure they know that they're not solitary islands.

"What impresses me is how hard-working they are-learning English, working at their jobs, and taking care of their families," JoAnn concluded.

They are always happy to take in donated supplies like notebooks, pencils, etc. And are especially seeking more volunteers.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE
CORTLAND COMMUNITY
CENTER AND ESL CLASSES
HERE](#)



Karen DeWitt 9/29
Steve Cinquanti 10/5
Valerie Kaiser 10/6

Anniversaries

Matt Banazek (9/29/1999)

NEXT WEEK'S
THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:
JEREMY BOYLAN

**WALK
TO END
ALZHEIMER'S**

Nov. 8th

[CLICK HERE TO
JOIN THE TEAM!](#)

Happy Dollars

Mike Shafer: For the Radio Day- he spoke with Clint Brooks and Brian Tobin; for the men's national team; Kathleen's birthday.

Steve Cinquanti: Had a work weekend at camp- Kurt Behrenfeld came and blessed the cabin.

Matt Banazek: For Jeremy Boylan and the organizing of the river cleanup.

Rosie Taravella: Having her year-end review so putting out good vibes.

Scott Goodrich: Phillies vs. the Braves

Bob Martin: Went to the farmer's market in Ithaca and saw Jim Anderson there; bandages finally removed from his fingers.

Doug Withey: For the radio program with the students, Mike Eves does a great job.

Mark Roberts: Had his own work day at camp.

Ed Finkbeiner: Glad to be back, was at camp all summer, finished his hot rod.

JoAnn Dukelow: For the support that Rotary gives; for Jess and our lime tree.

Jackie Burke: For Joanne being our speaker.

Sophie Welburn: Celebrated first wedding anniversary this last weekend- went camping, hiking, and to Hollenbeck's.

Kim Allen: For Joanne Dukelow; Radio Day- thank you to all those who spoke, and for Dianne Higgins & Kathie O'Mara recommending speakers.

Dianne Higgins: For sitting with JoAnn Dukelow and all the happy ladies at her table.

Jeremy Boylan: For the river cleanup, appreciate all the help.

Terry Cahill: River cleanup had an article in the paper, thank you Kim for work in organizing it"

Held 9/26

Thank you to Kim Allen of the Rotary Club of Cortland for organizing this great event!



River Cleanup



**With help from
students from the
Purple Tiger Science
Honor Society &
Interact Club!**



More than two truckloads of trash was removed from the Tioughnioga, including shopping carts, bicycles, DVD players, and more!

