



# N A I R A T O R

(That's Rotarian Spelled Backwards)



New Milford Rotary Club  
Chartered January 12, 1960



District 7890

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**March 2021**

## March Birthdays

- Mar 11 - Debora Ouellette
- Mar 12 - Gretchen O'shea Reynolds
- Mar 24 - Dave Elmore
- Mar 28 - Alex Rafoss



## Upcoming Meetings All via ZOOM

**Tuesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> - District 7890 Governor Elect, Randy Chapell,  
member of the Salisbury Rotary Club**

**Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> - Diane Swanson, Director of Pratt Nature Center**

## Rotary International theme for March - Water & Sanitation

Clean water is a basic human right that many are often denied. There are 2.5 billion people in the world that lack access to improved sanitation and 748 million people that don't have clean drinking water. Nearly 1400 children die each day from diseases caused by lack of sanitation and unsafe water. When people have access to clean water, they live healthier and more productive lives.

In 2015, the United Nations introduced their new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty and prosperity while protecting the environment and addressing climate change. Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6 water and sanitation encourages us to address universal access to drinking water and sanitation along with improved water management to protect ecosystems and build resiliency. \*

Rotary members are committed to reaching the water and sanitation SDG through projects like building wells, rainwater harvesting systems, and teaching community members how to maintain new infrastructure.

During March, Rotary Water and Sanitation Month, we're celebrating our commitment to create healthier communities by supplying clean water and sanitation facilities to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.

The Rotary Club of East Hartford Ct is pleased to announce that tickets to our annual Charitable Fund Raffle will be sold from Feb 1 – April 30. Prizes include \$5,000, \$1,000 and \$500. The drawing will take place Wednesday, May 5, 2021.

[Buy Tickets Now!](#) (And earn extra tickets by sharing our link!)

Each year the East Hartford Rotary Club donates \$50,000 - \$60,000 to various charities, such as :

- Koats for Kids - Provide winter coats for needy children
- Food Banks - Local food banks to feed the homeless and others in need
- Scholarships - Each year Rotary donates several \$2,000 scholarships to worthy students. On average 6 each year.
- Local Sports Teams - We provide funds for local youth sports to purchase equipment

The club also raises money for donations for International charities also:

- Shelterbox USA - Provides emergency shelter and tools to families displaced by conflicts and natural disasters
- End Polio Now - Rotary International's effort to eradicate polio
- Clean Water and Sanitation Efforts

The past year it has been particularly difficult to raise funds due to the Covid-19 pandemic. We are asking for your help to continue our good work. Please consider purchasing raffle tickets to help us support the organizations above.

**\*\* Reminder: NM Rotary Food collection.**

**A few items that are always in short supply are also listed.**

**Drop off sites: Katherine's Office – 74 Park Lane Rd, Arthur's Office – 143 Danbury Rd, Lore's Plaza, Hallway outside Mayor's office,**

**Town Hall - 10 Main Street**

**GETTING TO KNOW YOUR FELLOW ROTARIAN - Gretchen O'Shea Reynolds**

Where were you born ? Concord, NH

Who introduced to Rotary ? Bob Mellis

Your favorite sport team ? Steelers

Your favorite dessert ? I love chocolate ice cream

Your dream vacation ? Virgin Gorda & Paris with my grand-daughter, Alaska, all the state parks out west

If I won a million dollars, I'd .....give it to Rotary to vaccinate all the 3rd world countries against covid, and also buy a beach house near my children so they can visit often

Where do you hope to be 5 years from now ? 81 and Alive

Do you have any hobbies ? Watching birds, gardening, travel, exercising, music, playing piano and my work

How did you get your current job ? Grad school after years and then started my own practice. A lot of help along the way :-)

## **ZOOM MEETINGS**

As winter and the pandemic march on we are always looking to somehow put a positive spin on things. All of us New Milford Rotarians wish we could meet in person. There is so much more to be gained with in person meetings but we are stuck with Zoom and it looks like it will be with us for some time to come.

Now comes the positive spin ..... Two February Zoom meetings were fabulous. On February 10<sup>th</sup> we heard about BD Provisions. Our tour guide was the owner Jennifer Clark. What was so enticing about the presentation was that Jennifer exuded positivity. She and her husband took the plunge, opened up their business in a space on Main Street that had been vacant for years and years. The presentation made everyone feel good about our Downtown. Hopefully these kinds of businesses will thrive and make our town even more vital. Go visit BD Provisions, tell Jennifer you are from Rotary and maybe she'll give you a free gummy bear!

On February 17<sup>th</sup> we heard from Wayne Woodard the Director of the Sunny Valley Preserve. Wayne's presentation focused in on the history and the workings of this wonderful natural resource right here in New Milford. Over many years George Pratt purchased 19 parcels of land that now consists of 1850 acres of farm land, forest, wetlands, and meadows. The Sunny Valley Preserve is an invaluable asset to our community. Probably a lot of New Milford residents don't even know it exists but as Wayne enthusiastically pointed out we have a gem right here that can only make our town richer in so many ways, eg go to the farmers market on the Green in New Milford and check out the produce grown on the Sunny Valley farm.

So we slog through the winter but these Zoom meetings perk us up with so much to be positive about.

## **ROTARY DISTRICT 7890**

You have to check out our district Web Site. You will see our District Governor Marc Glass as King Neptune with mermaid Charlene.

Also the Web Site gives us tips on how to be an innovative club and therefore a successful club. .... eg. does our club have a diversity, equality, and inclusion chair ?

## **ROTARY INTERNATIONAL**

Let's remember we are members of a society that is 1.2 million strong with 35,000 clubs. We can make a difference locally and globally. No challenge is too big for us. 2.5 billion children have been immunized against polio. Our causes are promoting Peace, Fighting Disease, Supporting education, Providing clean water, Growing local economies, and Protecting the environment.

Stay positive folks, Spring arrives March 20.