



WEDNESDAY WRAP-UP

Of the Geneva, New York Rotary Club

www.GenevaRotaryClub.org

Miss a meeting? Make it up at
www.RotaryEClubOne.org

**Wednesday,
Sept. 18,
2019**

Next week:
Tom Hawks, Pres. Naples
Rotary "My Journey with
Cancer"

President, Mary Lawthers, led the pledge, Four-Way Test, and gave the invocation.

Five Minute Interview - Jerry Forcier and Ruth Leo

First Up: Jerry Forcier

Jerry has been a Rotary member since 2016. John Watson was his sponsor

- Jerry grew up in Westport, NY (population 1200) a small town on Lake Champlain and about 30 miles East of Lake Placid
- He graduated from HS in 1985 with the huge class of 21 kids. The entire enrollment of the school was 290!
- His family owned telephone and internet companies which serviced the top six counties of New York State from Watertown to Glens Falls.
- Jerry started out working in the family business as a telephone installer and repairman. He said he couldn't have his own telephone in his room unless he installed it himself!
- He was admitted to Union College in Schenectady in 1985 but continued to work summers as a lineman. He was a proud member of Delta Chi Fraternity.
- While in school he spent a term abroad in Italy and had an audience with the Pope with 100,000 of his closest friends. He returned to Italy in 2002, and had another audience with the Pope - this time with only 5000 friends.
- He graduated from Union in 1989 and entered Law School in Michigan.
- He passed the bar in 1994 and returned to the "North Country" where he opened his practice.
- As if practicing law wasn't enough, Jerry joined the Westport Fire Dept. as an interior attack firefighter. He told a story of entering a burning house and had a porch collapse on him. His fellow firefighters had to pull him out.
- In addition to being a firefighter, he joined the Emergency Squad as a Certified First Responder which is almost an EMT. He worked all hours of day and night and became a certified rescue and recover ice and river diver. (sadly, it was mostly to recover)
- His fire fighting days took its toll on him as he was "burned out" – no pun intended – and quit!

- He moved to Plattsburgh, NY in 2004 and joined that “other club” Kiwanis. He loved being a Kiwanian and made a lot of great friends there. He was the first to serve two terms as President of the club.
- He moved to Geneva in 2011 because, being an avid Yankees fan, he did not want to live in a town called Boston, NY where his girlfriend is from!
- He rented several homes in the Finger Lakes – Canandaigua, Keuka and Seneca, but liked Seneca the best and Geneva’s traditional downtown. He has noticed a change for the better since moving here and opening his law practice.
- Since he heats his home with only wood, he has been cutting and stacking 10 cords for the winter. He lives in a house on the lake and loves the wildlife of the area.
- He loves history, plants, animals and sports.
- Jerry is happy that he joined our Geneva Rotary Club as he finally found a set of people even more wonderful than his Kiwanis friends.

Next up: Ruth Leo

- Rotarian for 14 years – Jack Fratangelo was her sponsor
- Born and raised in Geneva
- Oldest of three children – two brothers – one lives in Seneca Falls, the other in Ithaca. Four nieces and one nephew; four grand nieces and three grand nephews!
- After graduating from Geneva High in 1965, she worked at HWS in the Library then Admissions office for 5 years
- Decided it was time to leave Geneva and moved to Atlanta, GA. Where she worked at Georgia Tech for two years, then Public Defender’s Office where she met some interesting people such as bank robbers and airplane hijackers.
- Moved back to Geneva in 1975 as she missed the Finger Lakes and our wonderful winters. She got a job at Cornell and stayed there for three years.
- After the Winter of 1978 she went back to Atlanta and got her job back at Georgia Tech in the School of Industrial and Systems Engineering where she stayed until her retirement in 2001.
- She survived the 1996 Olympics! GT was the Olympic Village so she had to go to work every day while the Olympics were in progress! She was an ambassador for welcoming other countries’ teams to the Village.
- From 1999-2000 she travelled to Europe as the coordinator for the GT Masters in International Logistics Program where she was responsible for all travel arrangements and class materials for 25 executives from the U.S. and around the world.
- In 2001, upon retirement, Ruthie came back to her hometown and took care of her father until his passing in 2004.
- She worked for Morgan Stanley, the FLH Foundation, and the Geneva School System for a few years when she decided it was time to enjoy retirement!
- She is a member of St. Michael’s Orthodox Church where she sings in the Choir, is a member of Church Council and Secretary of the Ladie’s Organization.
- She is very close to her family, taking care of her 3 grand nieces on a regular basis. In addition to her local family, she also has two grown nieces who live in Washington, DC. One of them is getting married next year to a British fellow and will be living in England enjoying crumpets and tea after marriage!
- One interesting tidbit, to this date, the house she grew up in is still inhabited by family. Three generations have lived and continue to live there. *(Ed. Note: The “latest generation” recently moved from the house, but continue to own it!)*

Next up:

- **Neil Sjoblom & Linda Equinozzi**
- **Tara Rago and Ted Baker**

Guests

Two Interactors – Emily McFadden and ???(Sorry, I didn't get the name!)

Palma Fratto Evans – to be inducted today

Nicole Miracle – Office Manager Sampson State Park

Amanda Jensen – Cottage Manager Sampson State Park

Announcements

- No announcements today!

50/50 Won by Johnny O., \$37 for Polio Plus and \$37 for the winner

Fines and Happy/Sad Dollars

- Danielle and Jason Hagerman were fined for their picture in the paper
- Bruce Tuxill also paid a fine for his picture in the paper
- Jim DeVaney was interviewed on Syracuse TV News.
- Jason Hagerman had a sad dollar for wrecking the family vehicle, but is happy that no one was hurt in the accident. (*We're happy too, Jason!*)
- Jason also had a happy dollar for the family vacation in Wyoming.
- Stephanie Hesler was happy that her son played on a winning soccer team.
- Jim DeVaney and Dave Cook were the first non-Italian Bocce team at the Sons of Italy. Their name: "The Ameri-canZ"!
- Jim also had a happy dollar for his grandson who plays football at Bishop Ludden High School. He noted that vaping is not allowed at the school, but quipped that it is good for his business!
- Shad Cook had a sad dollar for his daughter who broke her humerus (sp.?) bone playing volleyball. Fortunately, she is healing nicely.
- Carol Chester was happy that Jason and Danielle are OK after their accident. She was also happy about the article in the paper regarding Trinity Church and the real story behind the scenes.
- Dave Cook added to Jim DeVaney's comment about the bocce game – since they played so badly, they were able to get to the bar and pizza before the Italians!
- Ellen Wayne was happy that her family is growing with more new babies!
- Ted Baker recently had laser surgery on his eye for a torn retina. (*So Ted, now you know what it's really like to get "poked in the eye"!!*)
- Ruth Leo had a sad dollar for a recent mishap. While staying at her nephew's new house which she was unfamiliar with, she missed the last step coming down the stairs and fell – landing on all fours! Needless, to say she was moving rather slowly today.

Induction of New Member

Our newest member, **Palma Fratto-Evans** was inducted today. John Oughterson was her sponsor.

Palma married her high school sweetheart, Bill Evans in 1972. Yes, 47 years ago! They have three daughters and one son and four grandsons who are her life and love!

After the kids were in school, Palma became a nurse and worked for various nursing agencies. She had to retire due to back and shoulder injuries.

Palma worked in ARC homes and eventually with NYS disabled. She also worked in home hospice and House of John.

She taught first aid and CPR for the American Red Cross and responded to NYC during the 9/11 disaster.

Palma's volunteer involvement includes Meals on Wheels, Huntington Nursing Home, past vice President and President of Waterloo Sportsman Club, Past President of OSDIA and served on Council of Women's Italian Club.

Palma was the first woman President of the Geneva Lodge Order of Sons and Daughters of Italy in America. She loves to play euchre and runs the league at the Sons and Daughters.

Thank you, Palma, for saying yes – and welcome to Geneva Rotary Club!

Program

Dave Cook introduced our speaker, **Nicole Miracle, Office Manager of Sampson State Park**. Nicole gave an eye-opening overview of the park. Some highlights:

- After World War II became the second largest naval training station in the country, named after Rear Admiral William T. Sampson from Palmyra, NY
- Sampson was used as an Air Force Base during the Korean War and in 1960 became a state park.
- 2,083 acres with 4 miles of Seneca Lake shoreline
- Rolling terrain and abundant wildlife
- Camping includes 245 electric sites and 64 non-electric sites
- 7 rustic cabins
- 10 new self-contained cottages
- Supervised swimming area
- Marina with 100 slips
- Restrooms with showers
- Picnic shelters
- Picnic area with tables and grills
- Volleyball, tennis, and basketball courts
- Ball fields and playgrounds
- Hiking and Biking
- Military museum
- Concession stand

Nicole noted that hunting is allowed on the property from October – December 18.

Submitted by Ruth Leo

Four way test:

“Of the things we think, say or do:”

- 1. Is it The Truth?***
- 2. Is it Fair to All Concerned?***
- 3. Will it Build Goodwill and Better Friendships?***
- 4. Will it be beneficial for All Concerned?***

Mary Lawthers
President

Dave Cook
Vice President

Ford Weiskittel
Secretary

Bob McFadden
Club Treasurer