



# **WEDNESDAY WRAP-UP**

## **Of the Geneva, New York Rotary Club**

[www.GenevaRotaryClub.org](http://www.GenevaRotaryClub.org)

Miss a meeting? Make it up at  
[www.RotaryEClubOne.org](http://www.RotaryEClubOne.org)

**Wednesday,  
Oct. 9, 2019**

Next week:  
Nash Bock, Habitat for  
Humanity

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

**Five Minute Interview:** Linda Beckley and Rich Kasulke

**Linda Beckley:**

Linda was born and raised on Tillman St. in Geneva. This was in the heart of the Syrian community. Her grandparents emigrated to the US from the 'old country' during the early 20th century Syrian diaspora. She is very proud of her heritage and of her close association with St. Michael's Church. She went through the Geneva City school system. After graduation she started off as a hair dresser. Soon she married a young fellow who was a Viet Nam combat vet. Together they had a son, Jason who is a teacher in Texas. Her husband served as a Geneva City PD officer, but passed away as a result of agent-orange exposure at 29. She then obtained her RN degree through FLCC, working in various departments at GGH. Eventually she became the Geneva High School nurse and retired from that position.

During this time she met and married Phil. They have 2 daughters: Meredith, who is an RN and works with Seneca County addiction services while maintaining an interest in musical production as well as being the musical director of Trinity Episcopal Church. Their other daughter, Katie, is supervisor of out-patient devices for Happiness House.

Linda is proud of having functioned as the first female president of St. Michael's Church board and still is heavily involved in church activities and functions. Every Tuesday you can find her working at the Center for Concern's food bank. She joined Rotary about 1 1/2 years ago and thoroughly enjoys the camaraderie and social commitment provided by the club. Other interests include vegetable/flower gardening, reading and sewing. And, of course, her grandkids.

**Rich Kasulke:**

Rich is originally from Queens and earned his BS from Fordham University in 1971. He attended medical school and graduated from SUNY Syracuse where he received degrees in General Surgery and Urology. While in med school, he met his wife Sally who was also in med school. From 1981-2003 they were affiliated with the Adirondack Surgical Group.

In 2003, he moved to the Geneva area to join the Finger Lakes Medical Associates, retiring in 2016. He was affiliated with Geneva General Hospital and Soldiers and Sailors Hospital in PY.

He has 3 sons. His oldest son who is 42 and is currently a Cinematographer, Screen Writer, and Film Director. His middle son is 38 and lives in Fayetteville, NC and was a Green Beret Medic and Army Ranger for 12 years before retiring. He now works for the Department of Defense. His youngest son is 36 and is a General Surgeon in Auburn, NY.

r. Kasulke was first involved with Rotary in Saranac Lake from 1991-2003 and Paul Kirsch got him involved with Geneva Rotary. He is also involved with Catholic Charities, the NYS Department of Health Board of professional Medical Conduct, overseeing Physician Assistants, and Doctors.

**Up-coming Interviews:**

Charlie Bartishevich and Ellen Wayne  
Suzie Flick and Shad Cook

**Guests: Interactors**

Rye Weber  
Emily McFadden

**Announcements**

- Jim Dickson: November 2 is the clean up on Rt 14 (Clarks point to Yates County line)
- Chris Lavin: He has 10- \$100 raffle tickets for sale for the get-away to support Boys and Girls Club

- Shad Cook: The Empty Bowls event will be Wed Oct 16<sup>th</sup> – Our Lady of Peace for Catholic Charities. Adults \$20 and Children under 10 \$10  
Cost includes soup, bread, beverage, dessert and a handmade ceramic bowl!
- Dave Cook- ONSEYAWA dinner is cancelled due to slow ticket sales
- Dave Cook: Santa Train- Update on ticket sales 4:00 train is filling up
- Stephanie Hesler: Sat Nov 2 is the GSA dinner in the Vandervort Room at HWS. Del Lago is donating tables. A nice event to support scholarship for Geneva students!
- Suzie Flick- League of Woman Voters tonight (mayoral and city council) – in 2 weeks all city council candidates will appear at the library
- Ruth Leo: St Michael's Church is hosting a Greek Dinner on Tuesday, Oct 15. Tickets are \$18. Takeout will be available at 5:00 pm; eat-in seating begins at 6:00 p.m. – see Ruth for tickets
- Ken Steadman- Visited friends at Ferris Hills
- Chris FitzGerald: Linda Equinozzi and Chris are working with Geneva Reads and the City to create a Story Walk at the lakefront to utilize the \$100 DG Grant to support literacy.

**50/50** Won by Gerry Forcier – sharing \$87 with Polio Plus

### **Happy Dollars**

- Dave Cook- Talked with Ted on his radio show
- Charlie Bartshevich- Fined Bob McFadden for not introducing the Interact students, one of whom was Bob's daughter!
- Ruth Leo- thought she saw Jason Hagerman on the street and jokingly yelled out to him - only to find out it was not him. *(Ed. Note: One of life's most embarrassing moments!)*
- Karen Luttrell- adopted one of the Cairn Terriers from the Naples area and named her Abbey (my sister adopted one named Polly)
- Helen Kelley- went on a long weekend in Quebec and loved the food
- Stephanie Hesler- had a great time with her son Nate who was home from College
- Neil Sjoblom- forgot to meet Lisa because he was out paddling 7 miles in his kayak
- Jim Devaney- went to the Notre Dame game and he won on a square- had fun tailgating
- Ken Steadman- spent 3 weeks in the wild west and a week with his oldest son
- Charlie Bartshevich- made yet another request to introduce the Interactors
- Mike Rusinko- Made the first batch of cider with Carol! Happy his knee replacement was 1 year ago and he is doing well

### **Program**

**Today's Speaker: Brien Ashdown- HWS Professor and Executive Director of the Education for the Children Foundation**

#### **Summary:**

Brien works through a British Organization Education for the Children (EFTC) in support of the school of hope in Guatemala. The mission of the School of Hope is to break the cycle of poverty in Jocotenango, Guatemala, through education and empowerment. Children and young people from impoverished backgrounds are provided with quality education and empowered to become motivated, confident and employable. The hope is that they will then move on to further their education and be able to obtain rewarding employment which will improve their quality of life and help them break free from the cycle of poverty that is so prevalent. In Guatemala public schools are free but because they charge for uniforms, books, and other fees it prices out many people who cannot afford it. The school of hope is free and can accept 450 of the neediest children. Most families are squatters who live in the hillsides. EFTC provides scholarships for graduates of the K-9 so they can go on. Brien came to seek support from Rotary in hopes that our Rotary Club would consider collaborating with a Guatemalan Rotary Club and perhaps other local clubs to ensure that students get the resources and help needed. The annual budget of the school last year was \$1 million. Salaries account for about 45%, 25% food, 30% is medical costs, etc. Approx. 80% of students finish program. The trouble is in sending them on to the next school, since they are already employable when they complete 9<sup>th</sup> grade. The next capital drive is to build a High School (both academic and vocational). Yearly amount for a student to go to a public school is \$500 to \$600. **To make a donation [eftcusa.org](http://eftcusa.org) or you may email Brien [brien@eftcusa.org](mailto:brien@eftcusa.org).**

Submitted by Chris FitzGerald

<b>Four way test:</b>			
<b>“Of the things we think, say or do:”</b>			
<b>1. Is it The Truth?</b>			
<b>2. Is it Fair to All Concerned?</b>			
<b>3. Will it Build Goodwill and Better Friendships?</b>			
<b>4. Will it be beneficial for All Concerned?</b>			
<b>Mary Lawthers</b>	<b>Dave Cook</b>	<b>Ford Weiskittel</b>	<b>Bob McFadden</b>
President	Vice President	Secretary	Club Treasurer