

# Rotary Club of Dewitt

PO Box 131, Dewitt, NY 13214



SERVICE ABOVE SELF



DEWITTROTARY.ORG



BE THE INSPIRATION

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

February 11	<i>Frank Mento "My Story"</i>
February 14	<i>Valentine's Day</i>
February 18	<i>President's Day No Meeting</i>
February 25	<i>Diane Kupperman Make a Wish Foundation</i>



The meeting was called to order by President Linda Ervin with the singing of *America the Beautiful* and the Pledge of Allegiance. The invocation was given by Leo Eisner.

## VISITORS AND GUESTS

Dewitt Rotarian inductee Davis Yohe and his wife, Linda; DAG Blessed Sikhosana; our speaker, Dana Balter.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Conrad Janke has arranged for tickets for the SU women's basketball game for the evening of February 25<sup>th</sup>. His first batch sold out but he has managed to acquire more. Join in the fun! With a pregame get together in the 44 Club. To get tickets, contact Conrad.
- Kathy Kotz noted that we almost have a signed contract with Benderson for our pancake day location; all that's needed is a insurance binder.
- DAG Blessed Sikhosana announced that she is sponsoring a grant request for \$1000 for the development of community gardens in Zimbabwe where she will be traveling shortly.

## NEW MEMBER INDUCTION

Membership Chair Cheryl Matt introduced **Davis Yohe** to the membership for induction to the Rotary Club of Dewitt. His sponsor was Dr. Michael Cadin. Davis was accompanied by his wife, Linda.

Davis Yohe and his wife Linda have resided in Syracuse for over 39 years. They both were born and raised in the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania area, and little did they know, when moving here in 1979, that they would stay this long! They have two children: Allison and Christopher and two grandsons- Gavin and Everett.

Davis's business career includes management/leadership roles with several health care agencies and administration with a multi-level health care provider, as well as financial services. He then moved into service as a successful real estate executive -specializing in the management and development of multi-family properties throughout Upstate New York. Most recently he has decided to focus his real estate experience in the area of commercial real estate and pursuing his own real estate development opportunities.

Davis is no stranger to Rotary. His father, Davis, was an active Rotarian for many years – a Paul Harris fellow, twice serving as President of the Washington, PA. club, and attending many District and several international Rotary conferences. Interesting to note that when Rotary formally voted to accept women into full membership, his law partner, Charles Keller, was President of Rotary International. Following his father's lead, the younger Davis served as a member of the Eastwood and Syracuse Clubs for over 15 years. In both clubs he served in leadership roles as an officer, Board member and Committee Chair. He is also a Paul Harris Fellow.

Davis is a proud graduate of the University of Virginia helping to organize several Cavalier Alumni events over the years.

He is an avid sports fan who is blessed to have his three college teams: alma mater Virginia, Pitt, and Syracuse all play in the same athletic conference. An active runner for many years, Davis has participated in many races, including eight full length marathons. (Dr. Mike Cadin actually ran one with him in 2001



and served as Davis's photographer and head cheerleader in another!) Davis also qualified for the 2007 Boston Marathon. Other interests include travel, classic cars, and American History.

Davis is very excited to re-engage with the world of Rotary service and looks forward to getting to know all the members of the Rotary Club of Dewitt.

## PROGRAM

Our speaker today was Dana Balter, who recently ran in the last election for this district's congressional seat . Dana spoke about a new program being started called **Enter the Public Square**. The mission of the program is to build civic engagement with Americans ages 3 to 103.



They envision an America where:

- A person's role as a member of our democracy is as integral a part of their identity as their role in their family or in the workforce.
- Every member of our society knows that their voice matters and that they have the power to shape societal affairs.

- Every member of our society has the skills, attitudes, and behaviors that enable them to exercise their voice.
- Regular civic engagement is the norm.
- People understand that politics is more than elections and partisanship; it's communities coming together to solve their problems.
- The strongest force shaping our government is the will of the people.
- The promise of government of, by, and for the people is realized.

There are four programs that they have developed as part of their mission:

- **FIELD PROGRAM:** EPS's nonpartisan canvass moves beyond the election cycle and stimulates debate, information sharing, and data collection through meaningful conversations.
- **UNIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP:** EPS's University Fellowship program equips local University students with the tools needed to spark and facilitate civic engagement in their communities.
- **PRE-K-12 PROGRAM:** EPS's Public School program offers practical civic engagement through supplemental, age appropriate curriculum addressing issues such as current affairs, media literacy, group decision making, and policy analysis.
- **RESEARCH AND CONSULTING:** EPS will fill the 'fact gap' by providing verified information on common public concerns; provide local governments, political candidates, campaigns, and interest groups with high quality research on issues affecting their constituents' concerns; and help local governments build and facilitate civic participation programs.

We all are invited to a launch party on Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 2:30 at the Bishop Harrison Center where you can learn more about the program and sign up to volunteer or contribute.

### **HAPPY "JAY" DOLLARS**

Betty Lamb, Steve Woiler, Kerin Rigney, Blessed Sikhosana, Linda Ervin, Leo Eisner, Tom Carafa.

**50-50** was won by Michael Cadin.

*Respectfully submitted,*

**Michael F Miller**

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