

# Bob Balk

## CNY Rotary

Cortland Breakfast  
New York

Chartered on the 26<sup>th</sup> of October, 1966

**THE FOUR-WAY TEST**  
of the things we think, say

*first...*

**Is it the TRUTH**

*second*

**Is it FAIR to all**

*third*

**Will it build**

**BETTER**



Cortland  
Breakfast Rotary  
25 September, 2024

***"When we think about Rotary, we should think about service"***

**Adversity can deflate some people, but brings out the best in others.**

A Rugby player in college, Bob Balk's life changed when he broke his back when falling off a roof when he was 22. After his accident he returned to sports playing wheelchair basketball, and fed his competitive spirit by running 5 and 10 k's, then participating in cross country skiing. After winning several Paralympic medals, Bob turned to the pentathlon in Atlanta in 1996. Several years ago he started bobsledding in Lake Placid, and is currently the World para bobsled champion. Bob displayed many photographs of his accomplishments and travels, which evoked a sense of friendship and fellowship—especially when he was with the Clintons and Al Gore. It is this spirit that he is directing to CNY Rotary when he becomes President this July. He believes that our Clubs should talk to the community about the things that we have done. We should concentrate on projects that benefit the most people by our service. He is planning larger scale service projects that would involve Clubs across the District. One cannot help but be inspired by what Bob has achieved, and we look forward to this spirit in his Presidency. He is a Paralympic "hopeful" for the [2034 Paralympics in Salt Lake City, Utah](#), an outstanding 40 years after his first Olympic participation. This observer, I wouldn't bet against him!



Bob Balk is a Managing Partner, Pier 70 Ventures. Fund I, the INpact Fund, is focused on investing in impact-driven healthcare innovation. Fund II, The Washington Fund, is an SSBCI sponsored fund with an investment focus in WA state companies working on the future of health and future of mobility.

Bob's corporate career with The Boeing Company began in 1997 where he joined as a business development analyst in the space, communication and defense business. He worked his way up in various business development roles eventually moving into Phantom Works, the advanced technology division of the company as Manager, Global Venture Capital Investments.

Bob lifelong avocation has been in sport. He is a six-time Paralympian and Paralympic medalist, competing in four winter games (cross country skiing)(1994,1998,2002,2006) and two summer games (athletics)(1996,2000). Bob was a national team member with USA Canoe/Kayak 2012-16, competing internationally at the world cup and championship level. He began Para Bobsled in 2021 and quickly became internationally competitive and is the current 2024 world champion, winning world cup titles and setting track records.

Bob has also been very active in various volunteer sports administrative roles with the US Olympic Committee, International Paralympic Committee and International Olympic Committee, primarily advocating on behalf of athletes in the movement. In 2013 he was awarded the Paralympic Order, the highest honor in the Paralympic movement, for his contributions and service to athletes. He currently serves on the executive committee for the United States Olympians and Paralympians Association.

Bob joined Rotary in 2012 as a member of the Moravia Rotary club. He has held various positions in his club. He has recently become involved with district level leadership and is CNY President elect.

Bob has an undergraduate degree in management from the University at Buffalo and an MBA from the University of Rochester with a concentration in Finance, Operations and International Business.

Bob is the proud father of three children: Robert, Jack, and Bebe.



President. **Jackie Burke.** Guests. **Bob Balk, Evan Kurtz, Nishi Kadvani.**  
Front Desk. **Dianne Higgins, Terry Cahill.** Rotary Anniversary. **Matt Banazek**  
Thought of the Day. **Sophie Clough.** Happy Birthday. **Pat Clune, Karen Dewitt.**  
Raffle. **Mike Catalano.** Attendance. **23**

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
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**This Saturday, September 28,**



**830am** – River Clean Up, River St., Jeremy Boylan (p. 5);

**Noon to 2pm** – Chicken Barbeque, Bob's Barbeque, Don Richards (p. 6);

**9am – Noon** – Drug Take Back, three locations, Sheriff Mark Helms (p. 7).

Genevieve Geer, Le Puppet Regime, our Speaker on June 26, will have an exhibit 9/21–11/2 at Earlville Opera House (p. 8).

Homer Congregational Church sent us thank you note for our donation.

Karen Dewitt said we are committing to an Exchange Student next year.

Jackie Burke asked Committee Chairmen to report to her how many members participate in their activity. She also reminded us that Pumpkinfest is in two weeks, and that both Rotary Clubs sponsor the Children's Tent.

Pat Clune spent 8 days in Ireland, and appreciated the birthday song;

Steve Cinquanti, a founding member of our Club, remembered how the Club started as a no singing Club;

Conrad Janke enjoyed attending a former Exchange Student's wedding in Hungary;

Chuck Feiszli spent three weeks hiking in the state of Washington;

Bob Martin's knee replacement is going so well that he can drive;

Evan Kurtz, former District Governor, felt great to be with us again;

Bob Balk was honored to meet our Club;

Jackie Burke appreciates Bob as our Speaker, and is looking forward to the colors of fall.



**Bob Balk shared with us his collection of Olympic medals and mementos. Six Paralympics—six medals!**



2024 River Clean

[Sign up Here!](#)

**Saturday**  
**September 28 @ 8:30am**

**We've got an ambitious stretch this year, so get out your hip-waders!**

We'll have two teams this year. One will start at Riverside Plaza, and we will work our way downstream via kayaks if the water level is high enough. I have a couple extra kayaks available for those that want to give it

# Rotary Fall Chicken Barbeque Fundraiser



**Chicken Dinners with 2 sides for \$15.00  
or a Half Chicken for \$8.00**

**Where: Bob's BBQ - 5290 NYS Rte 281, Homer, NY**

**When: Saturday September 28th - Noon to 2pm**

**How to Order: Use this link and QR code**

**<https://www.cortlandbreakfastrotary.org/chickenbbq>**



**venmo**

**ATTENTION BUSINESSES  
LARGE ORDERS AVAILABLE  
FOR PICK UP ON FRIDAY 9/27**

**Thank you for your support**





## Drug Take Back Event

Cortland County Sheriff Mark Helms, in partnership with the Cortlandville Fire Department, Cincinnatus Fire Department, Marathon Fire Department, and the Marathon Area Volunteer Ambulance Corps (MAVAC), proudly announces the Fall 2024 Drug Take Back Event scheduled for Saturday September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024, to be held in three locations:

- Cortlandville Fire Department from 9am - noon
- Marathon Village Green/ High School from 9am - 11am
- Cincinnatus Fire Department from 9am – 11am

This is a drive thru style event to help the public dispose of any unused, unsure, or outdated medications in the easiest and most efficient manner possible, while ensuring these medications are kept out of the hands of youth and are safely disposed of.

Thanks to my friends in the Cortlandville, Cincinnatus, and Marathon Fire Departments, there will once again be annual Drug Take Back Events each year.

For anyone that may not be able to attend the Drug Take Back Events, there are multiple permanent medication disposal kiosks available in Cortland County, some for example are located at our Police Departments in Cortland County:

- Cortland County Sheriff's Office: 54 Greenbush Street, available 24/7
- City of Cortland Police Department: 25 Court Street, available 24/7
- Village of Homer Police Department: 43 James Street, Monday-Friday, 8am-4pm
- SUNY Cortland Police Department (Whitaker Hall): 4 Pashley Drive, available 24/7

These Kiosks can be utilized throughout the year without waiting for a specific drug take back event, ensuring that residents can dispose of medications safely at any time.

Unfortunately, we will be unable to take liquid medications or sharps at this event.

I look forward to seeing everyone on Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Mark E. Helms'.

Sheriff Mark E. Helms





*"Calamity  
and Other Triumphs"*

AT

EARLVILLE OPERA HOUSE

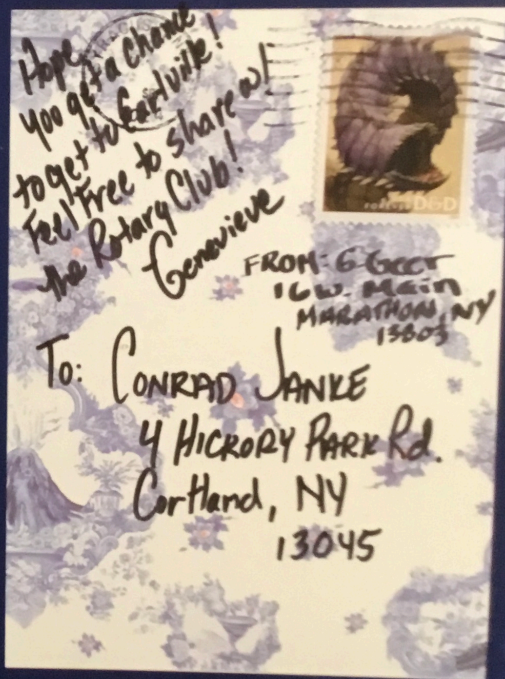
EARLVILLE, NY

SEPTEMBER 21-NOVEMBER 2, 2024

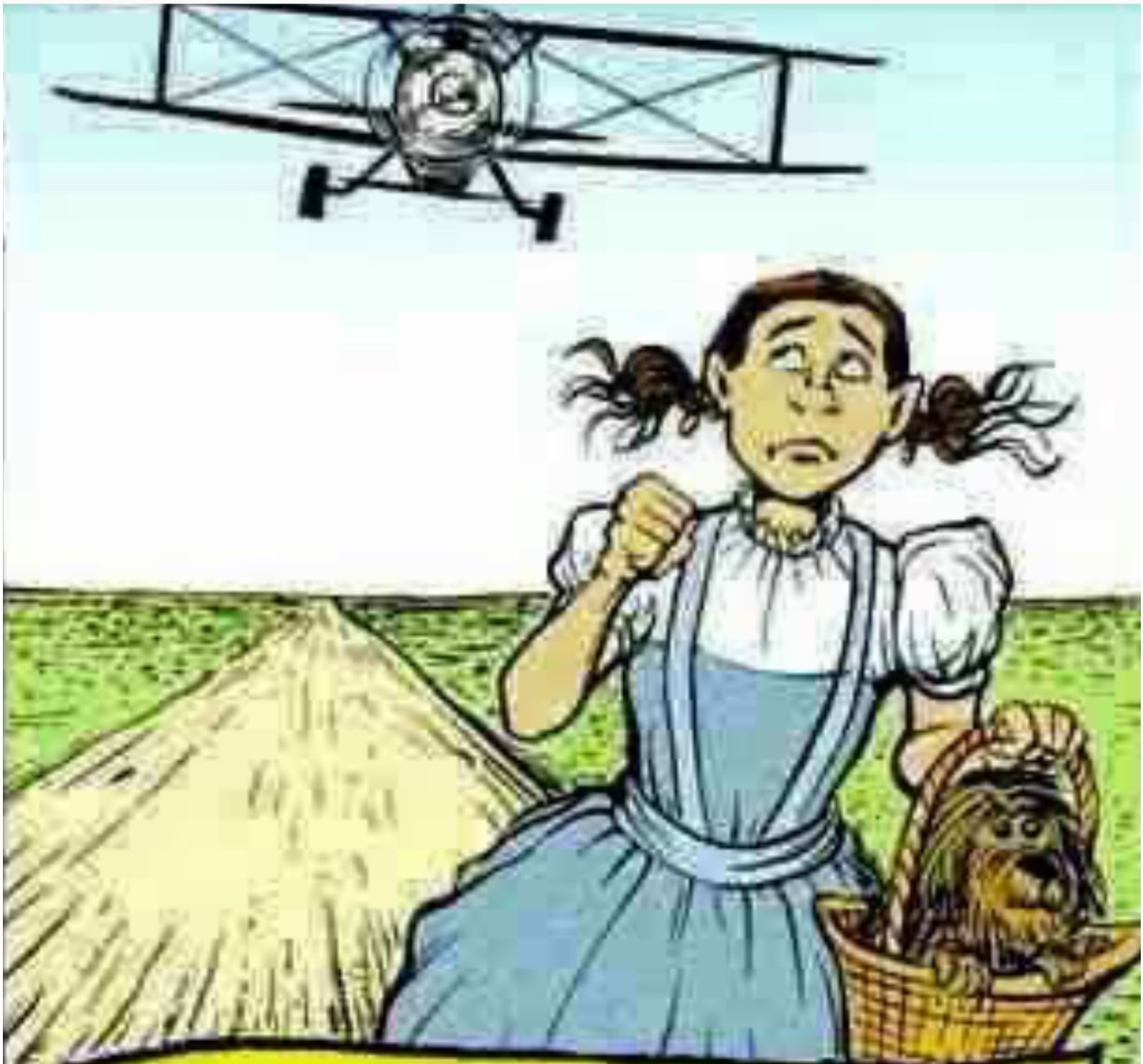
OPENING SEPTEMBER 21 AT 100PM

FOR ARTISTS HOURS, PLEASE VISIT

[WWW.GENEVIEVEGEER.COM](http://WWW.GENEVIEVEGEER.COM)







(UNFORTUNATELY, ROBOTY HAD