

# CORTLAND BREAKFAST ROTARY

02.19.2025

Cortlandbreakfastrotary.org

Wednesday

## Martin Sweeney: “A story that must be told”



Martin Sweeney, retired Homer High School U.S. history teacher and current public historian for both the town and village of Homer, regaled CBR this week with excerpts from his latest book. “The Remarkable Life of Albert Haskell Jr.” won 2024 CNY Book Award for Non-Fiction, and includes several tales about Haskell’s experiences in Rotary!

Martin had the privilege of looking over scrapbooks kept by the descendants of Albert Haskell Jr., and based on their remarkable contents determined that Haskell’s was a “story that must be told.”

Referred to in his own lifetime as “Mr. Cortland,” Haskell was an accomplished lawyer, politician, banker, civic organizer, supporter of higher education, and promoter of industrial expansion. He was also a founding member of the local Rotary chapter in 1919!

Martin read from the chapter titled “The Great Rotary Hijinks,” which includes a story about an elaborate scheme of mischief involving a wrecked car being manually pulled up Cortland’s Main Street by 52 Rotarians in a torch-lit procession, and supper of pancakes and sausage with maple syrup served out of oil cans, and butter in grease cups. Rotarian James A. Farrell, the primary “victim” of the pranks, was first to be served a large pancake, and when he bit into it found a large steel ring cooked inside.

For more details on this and other pranks spearheaded by Albert Haskell Jr., you might just have to snag a copy of the book!



### The Remarkable Life of Albert Haskell Jr.

The King of Crown City

Martin A. Sweeney

**President:** Jackie Burke

**Front Desk:** Dianne Higgins,  
Jessie Farrell

**Thought of the day:**

Jeremy Boylan

**Birthdays:**

None

**Anniversaries:**

None

### **Announcements:**

- Register for the Conference of Champions by Tuesday, March 4th.
- March 26th is a special three-club meeting. See next page of newsletter for more details.
- Updates to by-laws are in progress
- Still looking for members to join the Youth Exchange committee. Contact Karen DeWitt or Jackie Burke if interested.

**Attendance: 19** (1 via Zoom)

**Guests:**

Martin Sweeney

Doug Withey

Laurie Comfort

Kaitlyn Boylan

**Raffle winner:** Conrad Janke



## **Happy Dollars**



**Bob Martin:** Happy for Doug Withey, who will be joining Rotary, and saw a flock of robins at Lime Hollow which must mean spring is coming!

**Martin Sweeney:** Happy to be at Rotary once again.

**Pat Clune:** For our guest speaker.

**Mike May:** Happy to be at Rotary where its nice and warm.

**Jeremy Boylan:** For guests, Martin Sweeney, and Kaitlyn Boylan who got up early even though she doesn't have to go to school- happy birthday on Friday!

**Don Richards:** Happy to see everyone, will be heading back to Florida.

**Conrad Janke:** For our guests, and a happy birthday to Kaitlyn!

**Jackie Burke:** For Martin Sweeney, always enjoy reading his articles in the Homer News.



CORTLAND BREAKFAST & NOON,  
AND TULLY ROTARY CLUBS

# WEDNESDAY MARCH 26TH MEETING

AT THE CORTLAND ELKS  
COCKTAILS @5:45PM

\$20 per person  
Non-spouse guests:  
Free

Speaker:  
CNY President  
Lizzy Martin



←  
Even if you didn't register, everyone  
is welcome at the Hilton Canopy in  
Ithaca, THIS Sunday 2-4pm!

CNY  
Rotary 

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