

# CORTLAND BREAKFAST ROTARY

01.22.2025

Cortlandbreakfastrotary.org

Wednesday

**“You don’t stop playing because you get old,  
you get old because you stop playing!”**

This week our club was delighted to be joined by guest speaker, Bobcat!

Bobcat grew up on Long Island. It could be said that it was his "dad's fault" that he became a farmer given he always had to be pulling weeds in his dad's garden. He also had a head start in developing DJ experience during family parties, BBQs, and block parties. Bobcat attended SUNY New Paltz and studied communication and media. There he met Allan Gandelman who would become a long-time friend and future business partner.

Allan began his career teaching high school social studies, and quickly realized a major obstacle for his students was a lack of fresh and nutritious food. He wanted to start a farm to be able to educate kids about where their food comes from. Allan and Bobcat founded Main Street Farms in 2011. They started out in a greenhouse using hydroponics, and over time, the venture grew until they had 6 different properties. Around 2015, they struck a deal with Don and Jason Reed who were seeking organic farmers to utilize their land. Currently, Main Street Farms uses about 60 acres of the Reed farms.

Main Street Farms grew from two to over 100 employees. Their produce is made available in multiple regional farmer's markets, by supplying restaurants, and through their CSA. Allan also possessed the foresight to enter into the cannabis and hemp market, initially producing CBD products, then upon legalization expanded to adult-use THC products.



Bobcat has stepped back from many of his responsibilities at Main Street Farms to prioritize the upbringing of his daughter, Lillian. His philosophy is to find ways to make money and have fun, so he currently engages in a number of part-time passions; he acts as trivia host at Summerhill Brewing, he's in a folk band called The Local Farmers Union, and creates music for kids as "Mister Bobcat." With the hope to make DJing a primary income source, he has created Bobcat Music. He also does weeknights as a DJ for X101, and serves as a substitute teacher at Lime Hollow. Bobcat is a founding board member of Cortland ReUse.

After all that he still finds some time to work on fixing up his 1820s-era house!

**President:** Jackie Burke

**Front Desk:** Corrine Hayes,  
Mike May

**Thought of the day:**

Dianne Higgins

**Birthdays:** Jackie Burke (1/23)

**Guests:**

Nishi Kadvani

Bobcat

**Raffle winner: Mike May**

**Attendance: 20 (1 via Zoom)**

## ***Announcements:***

- **The Membership Committee makes the second announcement of intention to invite Doug Withey to become a member.**
- **Ride for Rotary committee held a meeting via Zoom, discussing ideas about the future of the event, and potential changes to charity allocations.**

## **Remembering our dear friend Regina**



## Happy Dollars



**Steve Cinquanti:** Reminder to speak directly into the mic, and brought along a newspaper from the 20-year anniversary of CBR in 2010 to pass around.

**Mike Shafer:** Listened to his True Value Christmas album gifted to him last week.

**Don Ferris:** Grateful for the instruction on proper mic use from Steve.

**Conrad Janke:** Glad to be able to Zoom in on last week's meeting and enjoyed Nishi's talk.

**Sophie Clough:** Showing off work pants with knee pads, ready to do some painting at the historical society.

**Glenn Reisweber:** Braving the freezing temps out on the ice this morning with the Rotary Hockey League.

**Mike May:** Had winter celebrations with family at his house.

**Pat Clune:** Will use his mayor privilege to not participate in the wing-eating contest this weekend.

**Matt Banazek:** Ryan Fitzpatrick

**Jeremy Boylan:** Advertising dollar for Homer Winterfest this weekend.

**Jackie Burke:** For speedy recoveries for Kathie O'Mara and Terry Cahill.

**Don Richards:** "Miss Summer" stood him up during a visit to Sarasota.

## This week's banners: 90s theme







DOING THE MOST GOOD

January 13, 2025

Rotary International Cortland Breakfast  
PO Box 2  
Homer, NY 13077-0002

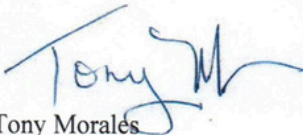
Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! As we reflect on the past year and look forward to the months ahead, we are filled with gratitude for supporters like you who make our work possible. We are truly thankful for your gift of **\$100.00** received on December 31, 2024.

Thank you for being an essential part of The Salvation Army's journey, and we want you to know how deeply we value your partnership. We hope 2025 brings you joy, health and fulfillment, and we look forward to sharing the positive changes your support helps create.

We wish you and your loved ones a joyous and healthy New Year!

Sincerely,



Tony Morales  
Donor Services Director

***We affirm that no goods or services were provided in return for your tax-deductible contribution.***



CORTLAND BREAKFAST & NOON,  
TULLY, AND WHITNEY POINT  
ROTARY CLUBS

# WEDNESDAY MARCH 26TH MEETING

AT THE CORTLAND ELKS @ 6PM

\$20 per person  
Non-spouse guests:  
Free

Speaker:  
CNY President  
Lizzy Martin

