

*Let's Make Rotary a Priority!*

# CORTLAND BREAKFAST ROTARY

04.16.2025

Cortlandbreakfastrotary.org

Wednesday

## **'I CAN SPEND MY LIFE BEING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SIGHT & DARKNESS' Dr. Anshu Chandra & the Global Eye Project**

Dr. Anshu Chandra shared with Cortland Breakfast Rotary about her incredible service of providing eye care to under-served communities around the globe.

Upon earning her Doctor of Optometry degree, Dr. Chandra realized that she would rather provide her skills to those who need them most. She turned down two job offers in the US, taking up part-time work that could offer the flexibility to go and serve by providing eye clinics in communities that include India, Nepal, Peru, Lebanon, and Haiti.

Dr. Chandra found herself returning over and over to Haiti, just a four-hour flight away, where she realized that their need went beyond her visits to requiring a permanent eye clinic. Her goal became to find a way to develop a sustainable program, empowering local community members by providing education and professional training services. In 2015, a clinic was opened in Fond-des-Blancs. The model was to provide free consults, and affordable fees for glasses. As of December 2024, the clinic has provided over 120,000 free eye exams, and has been able to make a shift from treatment to a focus on prevention of eye diseases.



[Learn more about  
Global Eye Project  
here](#)

The clinic in Fond-des-Blancs now faces an urgent challenge. The space they've operated in for nearly a decade is no longer available, and they must raise \$300,000 to build a permanent facility.

"Every contribution helps us remain open and continue providing free, life-changing care to the thousands who rely on us each year. We would be tremendously grateful for your support."

Donations can be made in the following ways:

- Online: [www.globaleyeproject.org](http://www.globaleyeproject.org)
- Zelle ID: [globaleyeproject@gmail.com](mailto:globaleyeproject@gmail.com)
- Venmo: @Anshu-EyeClinic
- GoFundMe: <https://gofund.me/22362fd9>
- Mail: Bay Eye Charitable Foundation 10161 East Pickwick Ct, Suite C Traverse City, MI 49684

**President:** Jackie Burke

**Front Desk:** Sophie Clough,  
Glenn Reisweber

**Thought of the day:**

Pat Clune

**Birthdays:**

Ed Finkbeiner (4/18)

**Anniversaries:**

None

**Attendance: 20**

**Zoom: 2**

**Guests:**

Dr. Anshu Chandra (via Zoom)

**Raffle winner:**

Sophie Clough

## ***Announcements:***

- Voting on updates to by-laws next week; please plan to attend!
- Correction from last week: Ed Finkbeiner pulled the ace of spades, allowing him to donate \$200 to his charity of choice- Loaves & Fishes.
- May 15-17: signups to help with the Red Dragon Reuse collecting event.
- June 19- McGruff Golf Tournament
- Rotary Community Day will now feature a band.

## **Happy Dollars**



**Mike Shafer:** For the honor bestowed on Glenn, we can aspire to emulate his service.

**Conrad Janke:** Congrats Glenn; and thank you to Dr. Chandra for being our speaker.

**Ed Finkbeiner:** For new member Bob Pitman, and congrats to Glenn.

**Steve Cinquanti:** In honor of Glenn, and great job to Mike May who served as MC.

**Laurie Comfort:** For Glenn & Bob Pitman.

**Pat Clune:** For new member Chief Pitman; happy birthday Ed; congrats Glenn.

**Mark Roberts:** New member Bob, and for Glenn, a role model for Mark's upcoming role as president.

**Mike May:** Congrats Glenn!

**Sophie Clough:** Returned from a trip out west, to Reno & San Francisco with sister as a memorial pilgrimage to dad's favorite places.

**Glenn Reisweber:** Glad to share the event of the Distinguished Citizens Award dinner with friends and family; Mike May is the reason for where he is, getting him connected to the community.

**Jackie Burke:** Respect for Glenn's work; for new member Bob; for a successful 1890 House/Kiwanis event.



### Message from RI President Stephanie Urchick

Mike Shafer summarized a message from RI President Stephanie Urchick regarding the success of polio eradication. The strength of Rotary comes in its numbers, with 1.2 million members globally. Each member brings various skills, viewpoints, and can make an impact in their communities and beyond.

We have just a little bit further to go before we eradicate polio; donate to Rotary International to help!

[Donate to Rotary International here](#)

# New member!

Welcome to our new member,  
Chief Robert Pitman!



*The Cortland Breakfast Rotary Club Presents:  
34th McGruff Golf Tournament*

*June 19, 2025*



[Register to play here!](#)





Mike May hands the award for  
Cortland Distinguished Citizen of the Year  
to Glenn Reisweber.  
Congratulations Glenn!

Kurt Behrenfeld's grandson, Hudson  
Brian Parker, was welcomed into the  
world on Monday, April 14, by his Mom  
and Dad, Ashley and Andy.  
Congrats to all!



*This week's*  
**BANNERS**

