

*Chartered September 1, 1921*



*The Monthly Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Easton*

**100**  
The Rotary Club  
of Easton, Maryland  
1921—2021  
A Century of  
Service to Others



**January 2023**

*The Rotary Club of Easton was the first Rotary Club in the world in a town of less than 10,000*

**Happy New Year!**



*The Coffee Bean  
With President Kelly*

As you enjoy your morning coffee think about the “bean” and how it brews into something so delicious with such a strong aroma all around. You can be like the coffee bean and discover the power inside yourself to transform your environment. As we think about resolutions, think of those that will permeate into your community as service to others. Let’s think about new opportunities that may not have been tapped or volunteering with non-profits already in existence in our community. You can begin making a difference by getting involved with our Rotarian Projects for the month of January.

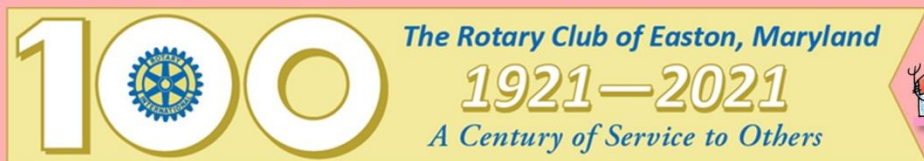
**January Blood Drive** – Contact Sherye Nickerson – [sheryeh@gmail.com](mailto:sheryeh@gmail.com).

**Rise Against Hunger Food Drive** – Contact Richie Wheatley – [rwheatley@baycapitalmortgage.com](mailto:rwheatley@baycapitalmortgage.com).

Thank you for your commitment to service above self and making a difference for others!

*Kelly*





## WELCOME TO THE WORLD!



The Rotary Club of Easton welcomes two precious girls and future Easton Rotarians to the world— **Sloan Elizabeth Abbonizio** (left) & **Maria Faye Gunsallus** (right)! Sloan was born on December 14, 2022, and is the daughter of Jessica & Mike Abbonizio of Easton. Maria was born on New Year's Day 2023, and is the daughter of Iryna & Frank Gunsallus, also of Easton. We wish Sloan & Maria health, happiness, & long life!



Operation Christmas Spirit is such a meaningful way to do two of the most important things: honor the legacy of a truly great & good person and to serve others. Lord Sheldon Scott started this project to bring Christmas joy to those who would otherwise have little, and now Lonnie Green and his group of dedicated Easton Rotarians carries that legacy on. This year was fantastic, and we cannot thank Jordan Lloyd enough for cooking over 900 Christmas dinners! OVER 900!!!!!!!!!!!!!! What an amazing accomplishment and gift! Thank you, Jordan! AND– just look at these tremendous accomplishments:

Donations – \$18,075

Kids’ Coats – 75

Gifts & Books – 250

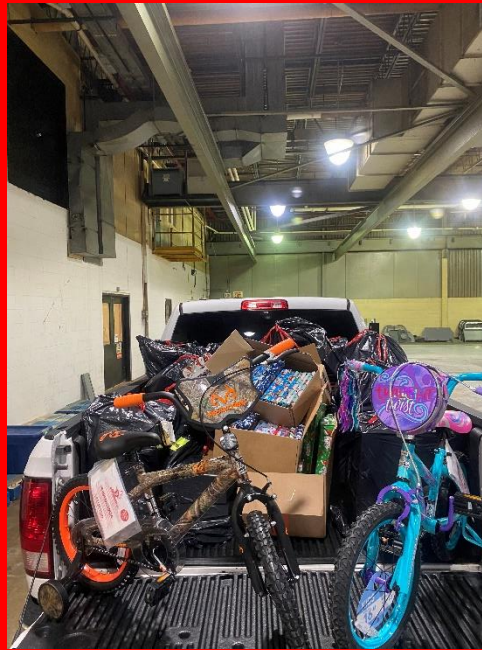
Thank you, Lonnie, and thanks to each & every Easton Rotarian who helped!



# OPERATION CHRISTMAS SPIRIT 2022









## 2022 J. Howard Anthony Community Service Award



### Paul Prager Receives 2022 J. Howard Anthony Community Service Award

For his investment in the town of Easton, for his businesses which employ many residents of Talbot County, and for his philanthropy, **Paul Prager** was awarded the 2022 Rotary Club of Easton, Maryland, J. Howard Anthony Community Service Award at Easton Rotary's annual Christmas party held on December 21, 2022. It is Easton Rotary's highest honor and has been given annually since 1994 to a non-Rotarian Talbot County citizen who has lived in the county for at least ten years and has shown unswerving devotion to Rotary's motto of "Service above Self" and who has impacted Talbot County in a meaningful and lasting way. Previous recipients have included such luminaries as Sheriff Joe Gamble, Bill Corkran, Henry Purdy, Sylvia Gannon, Bob Willey, Walter Black, Lord Sheldon Scott, and many more., Congratulations, Paul! Our community genuinely appreciates all you have done—thank you!

Pictured are Easton Rotary President Kelly Griffith, Paul Prager, and J. Howard Anthony Community Service Award Chair, Tom Hill.



# CHRISTMAS PARTY

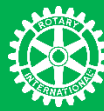
Easton Rotarians have been doing service work in our community for 101 years, but they also have fun. These are a few glimpses of this year's Christmas party so graciously hosted by the Academy Art Museum in Easton!



ACADEMY  
ART  
MUSEUM











THE ROTARY CLUB OF EASTON

**Rise**  
AGAINST HUNGER  
food • community • sustainability



**Rise**  
AGAINST HUNGER



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Rise Against Hunger is on **Saturday, January 21, 2023**, at Waterfowl HQ at the corner of Harrison & South Streets in Easton. Please contact **Richie Wheatley NOW** at [rwheatley@baycapitalmortgage.com](mailto:rwheatley@baycapitalmortgage.com) or 410-924-1002 to see how **YOU** can help! Setup is from 8:30–10:00 AM where volunteers are needed to unload supplies & prepare stations. Meal packing is from 10:00 until noon, and Richie needs as many volunteers as possible! Bring your family– it's a lot of fun, and it really makes a difference in the world!

# HEROES BLOOD DRIVE



## Heroes Blood Drive Under Way

Please contact President Elect Nominee Sherye Nickerson to see how you can help with this year's Heroes Blood Drive. You can contact her at [sheryeh@gmail.com](mailto:sheryeh@gmail.com) or 410-829-0377. Thank you!

## Worthy of Note



Interact

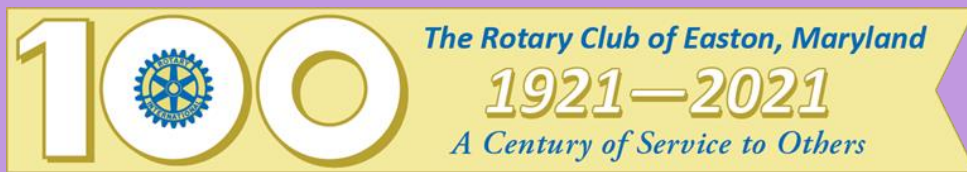


Easton High School ♦ Easton, Maryland

Because of Casey Baynard's outstanding work in re-establishing the Interact Club at Easton High School, the Interact Club received a \$2500 donation! Congratulations, Casey!!!

Casey is shown here with DG Hugh Dawkins receiving a special District 7630 Youth Service Award! There's no doubt how committed Casey is to the youth of our community in SO MANY WAYS!





In order to pay for all 19 students to attend RYLA, we have started a Super Bowl pool (\$20.00 per square) which is truly random and a lot of fun! The winner of each quarter of the game will receive \$100, and the winner of the complete game will win \$200. The rest of the money will go to pay for students to attend RYLA! The SUPER BOWL BOARD will be at Scossa on January 12, 2023, but you can also contact Kelly Griffith or Casey Baynard!

Kelly: [kgriffith0907@gmail.com](mailto:kgriffith0907@gmail.com) or 410-924-8045

Casey: [casey.baynard@shoreunitedbank.com](mailto:casey.baynard@shoreunitedbank.com) or 410-463-0135

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is an intensive leadership experience organized by Rotary clubs and districts where students develop their skills as leaders while having fun and making connections. This is an EXTREMELY worthwhile program, so please try to support this fun Super Bowl pool! By the way, the Rotary Club of Easton sends more students to the District 7630 RYLA Conference than any other club in the District, so we have to make sure we fund EVERY one of those 19 students!

# Significant Rotary Anniversaries



*John Hurt (left) & Hugh Dawkins at the “virtual” 2020 Change of Officers Night*

**John Hurt – 39 years**

**Hugh Dawkins – 52 years**

These two amazing Rotarians have absolutely lived Rotary’s motto of “Service above Self” and Rotary’s Four-Way Test. Our club, district, and Rotary itself would not be the same without them, and we are so fortunate to have them in our midst. As much as they’ve accomplished in life, above all they are great friends, and that’s a tremendous gift to all of us. Congratulations, John & Hugh, and thank you for a combined **91** years of service!





It is with deep sadness that we report on the death of Libby Dawkins, mother of our own Past President and Immediate Past District 7630 District Governor, Hugh Dawkins, on December 20, 2022. This is her obituary from the December 28, 2022, *Star Democrat*.

## Libby Dawkins



**EASTON** — Easton, MD: Amy Elizabeth Kelley Dawkins (97) departed this life on December 20, 2022. Born on December 19, 1925 she was the daughter of Hilary DeWitt Kelley and Hilda Isabel Rebecca Tolson of Chester, MD.

During High School and after graduating in 1942 from Stevensville High School, she worked for her father at his garage in Chester. On June 16, 1946 she married Hilbert Hughlett 'Hilly' Dawkins and moved with him to Easton, where she worked as an enumerator for the 1950 census. She returned to Kent Island in the early 1950s and ran a grocery store with her husband in Stevensville where she made Maryland Beaten Biscuits to supplement the store's income. She also delivered Dawkins Sage Sausage to other retailers. She helped her church raise money after calculating the cost of sugar and other ingredients to show that the Methodist Women could make buttercream eggs at Easter and sell them for a profit.

Libby and Hilly moved back to Easton in 1957 where they founded what became Hilly's Garden Center. Begun as a simple roadside produce stand, Libby sought ways to expand and diversify. The Garden Center became one of the first retail sources for herbaceous perennials, offering them to local gardeners who had previously be able to buy them only bare-root by mail order. Libby expanded her horticultural knowledge through a well-worn set of gardening encyclopedias and the generous tutelage of her experienced customers and wholesale plant growers.

Libby further expanded the business by finding sources for garden statuary, wicker fur-

niture, floral supplies and tools for gardeners. Pottery, glass ware, iron works and porcelain figurines were some of the offerings of the gift shop.

When someone made the offhand remark that the shop should sell some ornaments to go on those cut Christmas trees (the procurement of which found its own adventures in Maine and Canada) Libby headed off to New York City with no more information than an address: 225 Fifth Ave/1107 Broadway. This led her into the magical world of Holiday Décor and hundreds of new business associates who became great friends. Back on the Eastern Shore, the Trim-a-Tree Shop became the first of its kind retail store dedicated to Christmas ornaments. In those days the products came from Europe, the far east and the USA. The Tree Room became an annual ritual each fall as part of the shop was walled off from customers and only revealed in its full glory in November. The displays created traditions with many local families such as those who brought their children in to take their own Christmas card photos in front of the decorated trees.

Following her divorce in 1988, she worked full time as an Associate Broker in real estate, saying that she once sold dirt by the pot but now sold it by the acre. She retired in 2015.

She is survived by her children and their spouses: H. Hugh Dawkins (Kathy), Deborah J. Dawkins (Stuart Lehmann) and Lee L. Dawkins (Susan), five grandchildren: Kelley, Katie, William, Annie and James four great-grandchildren and seven nieces and nephews. She was "Aunt Libby" to many more who treasured her and will always remember her smile and positive attitude.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her brother, Earl Kelley, two sisters Mae Porter and Ava Honeycutt; her niece, Sandra Wingate and nephew Don Kelley.

A Celebration of Life will be held on January 3, 2023 at 1 pm at Christ Church St. Michaels with reception to follow in Etherton Hall. Internment will be private.





December 13, 2022 – Sam Shannahan's grave in Spring Hill Cemetery



## SAM SHANNAHAN

Before we leave December & Christmas, it's a good time to remember our founder, Samuel E. Shannahan. He was a true leader and believed in service, Rotary, & Easton with all of his heart. He died 80 years ago, exactly one year after the attack on Pearl Harbor. We owe him so very much...

100

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## January Meetings

05 – Board Meeting Report

12 – Danielle Haley – Talbot County BOE – CPI

19 – No Meeting – Please volunteer for Rise Against Hunger on January 21, 2023.

26 – No Meeting

## January Anniversaries

39 – John Hurt – 01/01/1984  
32 – Hugh Dawkins – 01/01/1991  
5 – Reza Jafari – 01/17/2018  
4 – Liz Connelly – 01/03/2019  
4 – Lonnie Green – 01/03/2019  
4 – Dana Newman – 01/03/2019  
3 – Deena Kilmon – 01/16/2020

## January Birthdays

03 Scott Patterson  
03 Barc Upchurch  
05 Phil Foster  
06 Ryan Groll  
07 David Anthony  
08 Connie Loveland  
09 Deena Kilmon  
13 Josh Clow  
15 Lou Satchell  
16 Susan Coulston  
16 JB Spear  
19 Bob Fogerty  
20 Patti Willis  
21 Anne Farwell  
26 Claude Maechling  
28 Lonnie Green

## Invocation Leaders

05 – Connie Loveland  
12 – Steve Shearer  
19 – No Meeting  
26 – No Meeting



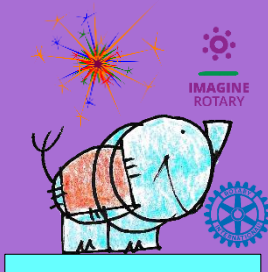
Richie Wheatley & Tim Kagan

*Each issue of **The Spark** is in honor of Past-President Richie Wheatley for his vision as President and for resuming this significant publication when it seemed as if it were lost forever.*



January

02 Closed  
04 Jed Anthony/Fran Jenkins  
06 David Lee/Sherye Nickerson  
09 Barc Upchurch/Brad Watts  
11 Mia Cranford/Megan Miller/Peter Dietz  
13 Mike Henry/Marvin Foster  
16 Richie Wheatley/Kenny Miller  
18 Buck Duncan/Josh Clow  
20 David Anthony/David Fike  
23 Liz Connelly/Steve Shearer  
25 Megan Cook/Lonnie Green  
27 Mike Kopen/Dana Newman  
30 Albert Pritchett/Anne Farwell



Spark Editor  
George A. Hatcher, Jr.

THE ROTARY CLUB of Easton, MD  
P.O. Box 1444, Easton, MD 21601  
District No 7630 - Chartered 1921  
Meets Thursday at 12:15 P.M.  
Scossa Restaurant  
8 N. Washington Street, Easton, MD

### 2022-2023 Cub Officers

President ..... Kelly Griffith  
President-Elect ..... Andrew Walsworth  
President-Elect Nominee ..... Sherye Nickerson  
Immediate Past President..... Reza Jafari  
Secretary ..... George Hatcher  
Assistant Secretary ..... Lori McDonald  
Treasurer ..... Abby Graves

### Directors

Club Service ..... Megan Miller  
Personnel Service ..... Megan Cook  
Community Service ..... Lonnie Green  
International Service ..... Connie Loveland  
Vocational Service ..... Casey Baynard  
Youth & Community Fund ..... Steve Shearer

ROTARY



INTERNATIONAL®

