



# Rare Meat

The newsletter of the



April 2026



Serving the citizens of Albany, Troy and environs since 1925

## OFFICERS 2025-2026

President:

QUEEN GHAFFAR-ADJEI

1st Vice-President:

BATMAN COLLINS-  
HACKETT

2nd Vice-President

DAVIA GADDY

3rd Vice-President

GREG SHELTON

Secretary:

JERRY GORDON

Treasurer:

RUTH SANO, Club

LARRY KRUG, Char Fund

Tail Twister, Lion Tamer:

SHAWN NEWTON &

NIGHTWING HAMLIN

Directors, 1st year of 2:

MARYANNE GORDON

MIKE O'BRIEN

Directors, 2nd year of 2:

DAVIA GADDY

DR. ALLEN ZIEKER

Membership Chair:

**THIS COULD BE YOU!**

Marketing Comm Chair:

EVA BASS

Immediate Past Pres:

JODI SHELTON

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**YOUR SUBMISSIONS  
ARE ENCOURAGED!**

*Report of the general meeting held on Wed, March 4, at  
The Hub*

This was our first meeting at The Hub, and it went pretty well, although the attendance could have been better. Thank-you to Jodi for providing cheese & crackers, fruit, drinks and other snacks. Present was potential member Carmen Morales.

Lion Batman confirmed that the Spelling Bee will be held at Love Albany Center (formerly Christ's Church), 8 Kate St (near the corner of Delaware Ave and Whitehall Rd) on Saturday, March 28 at 9 AM. We're expecting 40-50 participants. Batman has received a \$1000 donation from The Community Foundation, and will be getting one from The RED Bookshelf.

Our newest Little Free Library is going in at Kidz Klub, 75 Whitehall Rd, which is right around the corner from the Love Albany Center. It would be nice if we could get it installed before 3/28.

Lion Jerry announced that the district is holding a raffle to benefit LCIF. First prize is a Helen Keller Barbie doll; drawing will be at the testimonial on May 8. Tickets are \$5. [See bottom of page 2 and page 8]

Lion Melissa said our Earth Day celebration will be on Sat, Apr 25. We'll have our usual table with reading glasses, coloring books, etc. Melisa, Carrie, Jodi & Queen are the committee. They'll need \$1200-1500 for food, but there are other orgs willing to contribute; the club will fill in as req'd. We'll need helpers, so set the date aside.

St Catherine is holding their Casino Royale at Franklin Plaza in Troy on Thurs, May 28. The honorees include Queen for the A&T Lions, Jerry & Maryanne, and Ruth. In an email vote after the meeting, we decided to be sponsors at the Jack of Hearts level (\$500), which gets us 2 tickets and a 1/4-page ad.

The meeting adjourned about 6:45 PM.

In an email vote before the meeting, we approved a donation of \$100 towards an MJF for DG Barbara from the district.

*Report of the board meeting held online on Monday,  
March 16, on line*

We discussed the spelling be again. Arrangements are pretty much in place for the Spelling Bee on Saturday, March 28. Volunteers are in place as judges, but some other help may be needed that day. We're expecting 40-50 participants. In addition to a \$1000 donation from The Community Foundation, we got \$2500 from M&T Bank, \$250 from each of two individuals, and will be getting a donation from The RED

## MEMBERSHIP

VICKI ADLER

MICHELLE BAKER

EVA BASS

JOANN BEACH LOVER-  
IDGE

DR. ROB BRASS

PAUL "BATMAN" COLLINS  
-HACKETT

DOUG DAVIS

DENNIS FAGAN

DR. STEFAN FOSCO

DAVIA GADDY

QUEEN GHAFFAR-ADJEI

JERRY GORDON

MARYANNE GORDON

KHALEL "NIGHTWING"  
HAMLIN

DR. VICI HARRIS

CHRIS HORAN

LARRY KRUG

DR. DAVID LEVINE

CARRIE LOVE

KRISTIN McVEIGH

MELISSA MILTON

NIKKI MILTON

SHAWN NEWTON

MICHAEL O'BRIEN

RUTH SANO

RICH SCHMIDT

GREG SHELTON

JODI SHELTON

SUE SHIPE

ERIC THOMPSON

DR. ALLEN ZIEKER



## Bookshelf.

We're joining the Albany Rotary at their meeting on Wed, April 1, at noon, at the VFW Post at 4 Everett Rd Ext, Albany. [See page 3]

We decided to support sending a high-school sophomore from Troy HS to the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership seminar (HOBY NYE), which will be held at SUNY Albany from June 5-7. This will cost us \$225. Batman suggested that perhaps one of us could speak at the seminar about the importance of community service.

Jerry announced that in April, we have to vote on officers for LY '26-'27. [See page 3]

In an email vote after the meeting, we decided to sponsor NABA's Spring Celebration at the Copper level (\$750), which gets us 2 tickets.

## Our April meetings



Our next general membership meeting is **Wednesday, April 1 at 5:30 PM**. As noted above, we'll be at The Hub, headquarters for the Sheldons' various enterprises. It's a long building and you'll enter thru the white door in the middle. It's dinnertime, so feel free to bring something for yourself, but be prepared to clean up after yourself, too. There's a microwave available (along with a full commercial kitchen). [Note that 1st Street is one-way, from Ontario St down to Quail St]



**Monday, April 20 at 7:30 PM** is our on-line board meeting. Watch for the link.

## Earning Some Green by Going Green

You've all got your CLYNK recycling bags; I hope you're using them. If you need more for yourself, **or for any friends or family members who are willing to help us out**, contact Lion Jerry at 518-235-8232 or [1jerrygordon@gmail.com](mailto:1jerrygordon@gmail.com) for more bags.

It's simple: Fill the bag with cans and bottles that are NYS-redeemable (water bottles, soda bottles & cans, beer bottles & cans). Bring the full bag to your nearest Hannaford, scan the label and drop the bag into the chute. All those nickels will be deposited right into our bank account. **This project earned us \$177 last year, but with greater participation, it could be a lot more. Email, call or text Lion Jerry now to get more bags.**

The district is raffling a Helen Kellen Barbie Doll to raise money for LCIF.

A picture is on page 8. Tickets are \$5. Give your money to Lion Ruth, who will send it in for all of us. The drawing will be at the DG Testimonial on Friday, May 8.

**There's a lot going on over the next month or so:**

Sat, March 29: Our latest project: the Scripps National **Spelling Bee**. See page 4 for details.

Wed, March 31-Fri, April 3: Lion Eva's **Bunny Give-away**. See page 7 for registration info

Wed, April 1, 12 Noon: We're joining **Albany Rotary** at noon at the VFW Post at 4 Everett Rd Ext, Albany. It would be nice to get a good turnout of Lions. We'll be discussing possible ways to work together.

Wed, April 1, 5:30 PM: Our general **membership meeting** at our new location, The Hub. See page 2. Also, for those who care, Passover starts at sundown.

Mon, April 6-Fri, April 10: Volunteer with **Feed the Youth**. See page 5 for details.

Fri, April 17-Sun, April 19: **MD 20 Convention** in Syracuse. If you plan to attend, let Lion Jerry know so that you can be properly certified to vote.

Mon, April 20, 7:30 PM: Club **board meeting** on line. Watch for link.

Wed, April 22: Earth Day

Sat, April 25: Our club's **Earth Day celebration** will be held at The Hive. Assorted help will be needed, so save the date.

*But the most important item is picking our officers and board of directors for LY 2026-2027.*

Our current leadership is listed in the left-hand column on page 1. Queen has agreed to lead us for another year, for which we are grateful. But there are many other roles that need filling, such as Membership, Marketing and PR, and LCIF Coordinator. Between now and our 4/1 meeting, I'll try to make calls to many of you to discuss the situation and your willingness to step up.

**Happy Birthday!**

Happy **April** birthday to these A&T Lions:

- 18th: Sue Shipe
- 19: Larry Krug
- 23rd: Khalel "Nightwing" Hamlin



**Happy Anniversary!**

Happy Lions Anniversary to these **April** inductees:

- Khalel "Nightwing" Hamlin: 1 year
- Davia Gaddy: 5 years (+5 years with Troy LC)
- Vicki Adler: 22 years
- Maryanne Gordon: 27 years
- Rob Brass, Michael O'Brien, Allen Zieker: 28 years

**Mark Your Calendar**



- Sat, Mar 28: Spelling Bee, see page 4
- Wed, April 1: 12Noon-Meeting with Albany Rotary, see page 3. 5:30PM, Lions meeting, see page 2. Passover starts at sundown.
- Apr 6-10: Help feed the kids, see page 5
- April 17-19: MD20 Convention in Syracuse
- Mon, April 20: Lions Board meeting, see page 2.
- Sat, April 25: Earth Day event at The Hive.

*For other events around the district, visit [20WLions.org](http://20WLions.org)*

**2026  
SCRIPPS  
NATIONAL  
SPELLING BEE  
REGIONAL  
QUALIFIER**

**3/28/26  
9:00 AM**

**LOVE ALBANY CENTER  
8 KATE STREET  
ALBANY, NY 12209**

**WINNER  
GOES TO  
NATIONALS!**

**The RED  
Bookshelf**  
This is my book, these are my books, I am a reader!

**Read  
Each  
Day**



Bring a potential member to a meeting.

THE ALBANY COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE

# CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS & DONATIONS

We are looking for volunteers who are willing to take the time help feed the children of the city of Albany over their spring break (April 6<sup>th</sup> to April 10<sup>th</sup>.)

We are also looking for donations for the lunches we will provide the community.

Please fill out the survey link below to express interest.



<https://bit.ly/feedyouthalbany>

More information to follow, any questions send an email to [assistant.aclt.gvp@outlook.com](mailto:assistant.aclt.gvp@outlook.com)





**20** OUTSTANDING  
*women*  
**Jodi Sheldon**  
*of Delmar*



**B** **95.5 fm**  
The 80's to Now!

**Got Yarn? Or extra fleece fabric?**

**If you don't need it anymore, we will turn it into hats, mittens and scarves for the needy**

**Warm Woolen Wishes Project**

Unites people with yarn or fabric so they can help us reach our goal of 500 items by the end of 2025.

This helps us help everyone. Someone stuck at home will have materials to make cozy items. We will have those items to give to the needy. Everyone wins!

If you can help us out with yarn or fabric, let us know. We will be happy to pick it up and get it where it needs to go.

Contact the Albany & Troy Lions at [ALBANYTROYLIONS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ALBANYTROYLIONS@GMAIL.COM) or Lion Ruth Sano at 518-859-3796








**Helping Hands**



**Creating Comfort**



**Lion Eva Bass's Bridge Tha Gap  
Chocolate Bunny Give-Away**

To register your children, go to  
[gforms.app/r/KgTBOF](https://gforms.app/r/KgTBOF)



**CHOCOLATE BUNNY GIVE AWAY!**

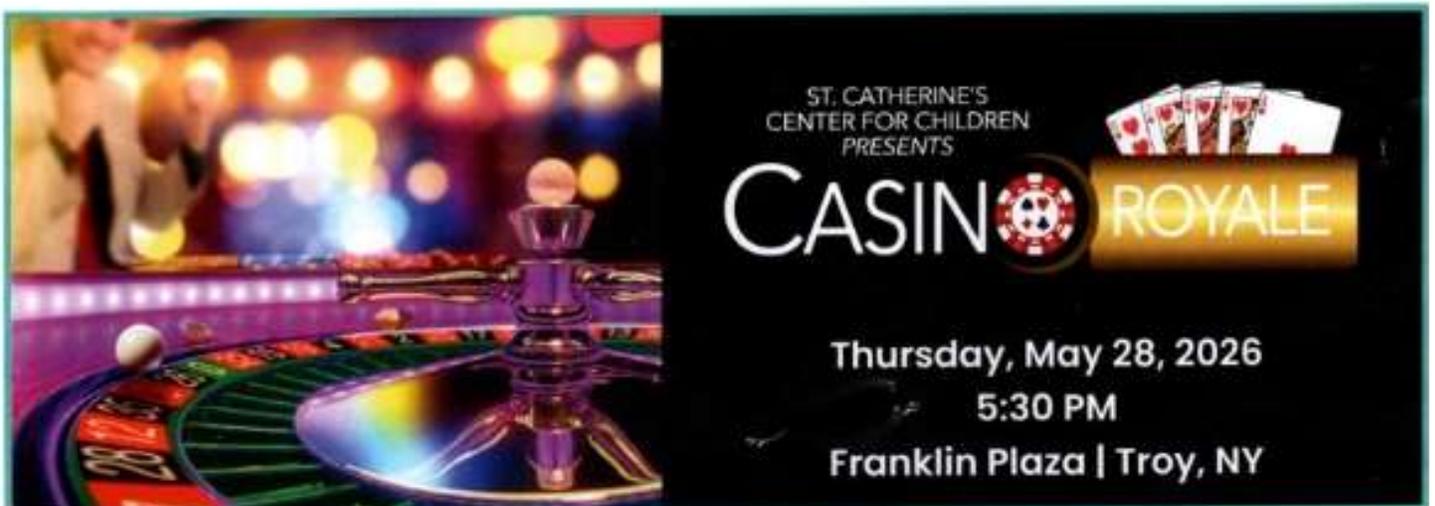
*Pick Up:*  
**MARCH 31ST - APRIL 3RD, 2026**  
★ 2PM - 8PM ★

*Location:*  
**1215 BROADWAY**  
ALBANY, NY 12204

**SIGN UP NOW**  
SUPPLIES LIMITED!

Powered By:  In Partnership With:   
<https://gforms.app/r/KgTBQCF>

The poster features a central illustration of a chocolate bunny surrounded by colorful Easter eggs and a basket of eggs. The background is a bright, sunny sky with clouds and falling confetti.



ST. CATHERINE'S  
CENTER FOR CHILDREN  
PRESENTS

**CASINO ROYALE**

Thursday, May 28, 2026  
5:30 PM  
Franklin Plaza | Troy, NY

The poster features a background image of a roulette wheel and a roulette croupier in a casino setting. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Save the date! St Catherine's will be honoring Broadview Federal Credit Union, Northwestern Mutual's Alexander & Gina Tronco, and for the Albany & Troy Lions Club, Queen Ghaffar-Adjei, Jerry & Maryanne Gordon, and Ruth Sano.

**This is the Helen Keller Barbie doll that the district is raffling off to raise funds for LCIF. See the bottom of page 2 for details.**

