



## THE ROTARY CLUB OF MONTICELLO, NEW YORK

Officers: Joseph D'Abbraccio (President), John Greenbaum (1st VP), Les Kristt (2nd VP), Orshii Boldiis (Secretary), Fouad Kerendian (Treasurer)

BOD 2014-2016: Helen Diehl, Richard Stein, Bob Ernst, Fouad Kerendian, Jill Greenbaum, Lori Orestano-James

BOD 2015-2017: Jacob Lerner, Randy Katz, Barbara Carr, Pam Sussman, Janet Kaplan

### THE JANUARY 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2016 MEETING:

President D'Abbraccio commenced the meeting by introducing our two guests and speakers from the Spring Valley Rotary Club: Howard Goldin and Ed Frank. Joe then announced the January birthdays and anniversaries.

**Birthdays:** Pam Sussman—Jan. 1, Jill Greenbaum—Jan. 7, Bob Ernst—Jan. 12, Barbara Carr—Jan. 16; Rich Rubin—Jan. 20

**Anniversary:** Jerry & Loraine Bogursky—Jan. 30.

### Old Business:

- The HEART-A-THON will be held on Saturday, February 13, 2016, at the Sullivan Hotel. The Club is collecting donations before the event and manning the fund-raising telephones between 1:00 P.M. and 2:00 P.M on the day of the event.
- The Sullivan County Boys & Girls Celebrity Dinner will be on March 4 at the Villa Roma, and the theme this year is "Storybook Characters on the Boardwalk". Lori is seeking three members from the Club to play the roles of the three little pigs. This is your chance to ham it up while bringing home the bacon to benefit the many needy boys and girls in our county.
- Club Officers 2016-2017—there are still vacancies for several positions. Please consider volunteering—we need you!

### Evening's Program

Howard Goldin and Ed Frank, members of the Spring Valley Rotary Club, are the co-founders of STEP, **S**chools **T**o **E**nd **P**overty, a 501(c) 3 not-for-profit whose principal mission is to provide children in several countries with an opportunity to obtain an education by assisting in the building of schools; and, providing basic school supplies and classroom aids.



Howard & Ed in Vietnam as part of the STEP Program

Howard and Frank served in the US military during the Vietnam War. In 2005, they returned to Vietnam. Their return trip was initiated in part to resolve the psychological and physiological issues that they had confronted and endured as Vietnam Veterans. Howard was wounded in battle, and his son had died from the effects of Agent Orange. While Ed encountered numerous brutal firefights as a sailor on naval boats patrolling the country's rivers.

On their 2005 trip, Howard and Ed saw the pressing and urgent need to assist in providing children with safe, clean schools to gain an education. STEP also provides school supplies and wheel chairs for handicapped kids. In the eleven years since STEP's founding, it has built two schools in Vietnam, and a third one in Jamaica. The first school, The Rose School, is in the central highlands of Vietnam, and enrolls primarily Montagnard students (the Montagnards are one of a number of indigenous ethnic tribes that have been historically repressed); The Bac Lieu Elementary School teaches 165 students and is located in the southern most province of Vietnam; while the third school, McCooks Penn Primary School, was opened in Jamaica in 2013. All three schools teach children in grades from Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> Grade.

STEP is in the process of raising \$82,000, which will allow the Rose School to enroll about 800 students. Its current enrollment is 540 students. STEP has already raised half of its fund raising objective. To reach its goal, it would like each of the Rotary Clubs in District 7210 to donate \$1,000. By doing so, STEP's fund raising efforts will be a success.

#### **50/50:**

Bijan won this week's drawing.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS & PROGRAMS:**

Feb. 2nd—Youth Exchange Planning

Feb. 9th— Dan Sturm, Town of Bethel Supervisor

Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>—Heart-a-Thon

Feb. 23rd—Meet the Village of Monticello Candidates

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Barbara Carr, Joe D'Abbraccio, John Greenbaum, Randy Katz, Fouad Kerendian, Les Kristt, Jacob Lerner, Marty Miller, Doug Muller, Lori Orestano-James, Victor Radice, Alex Rey, Pam Sussman and Bejan

**“Always” remember to Invite a Friend**

We need to increase our membership, so please take the time to invite a friend or associate to one of our meetings.

**Don't forget to practice the 4-way Test!**

**THE FOUR-WAY TEST:**

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Rotary District 7210 information can be found at [www.rotarydistrict7210.org](http://www.rotarydistrict7210.org)

To learn more about Rotary International, go to [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

**Listen to RadioRotary at [www.hvradionet.com](http://www.hvradionet.com).**

The *Montigram* welcomes new ideas, photographs, and suggestions as well as member stories and articles about the history of our club.

The *Montigram* respectfully submitted by **John Greenbaum**



