

Rotary Club of Pearl River, P.O. Box 824, Pearl River, NY 10965  
 District 7210 - Region 8 - Zone 32 - Club #4982 - Charter Date December 12, 1935  
[www.rotaryclubofpearlriver.org](http://www.rotaryclubofpearlriver.org)  
 George Westphal, President 2014-15

## Meeting of April 9, 2015

### Board of Directors

*President*

George Westphal

*President Elect*

Dorothy Filoramo

*Vice President*

Larry Vergine

*Secretary*

Doreen Buonadonna

*Treasurer*

Kathleen Raffa

*Directors*

Bob Craig

Joseph Beckerle

Raghunath Mehta

Brian Quinn

Ann Taylor

*Past President*

James Murphy

*President Emeritus*

John Buonadonna

**The Four Way Test**

*Is it the truth?*

*Is it fair to all concerned?*

*Will it build good will and better friendship?*

*Will it be beneficial to all concerned?*

**PLEDGE TO THE FLAG:** Ed F.

**INVOCATION:** Ed F.

**GUESTS:** Robin Posnack, speaker and guest of Ed F.; Raselle Fisher, guest of Ed F.; Betsy Brenner, guest of Don; Carolyn Munno, guest of dad, Stephan. Dan Mendoza, guest of Ryan; Ron Axelband, guest of the bad table (?)

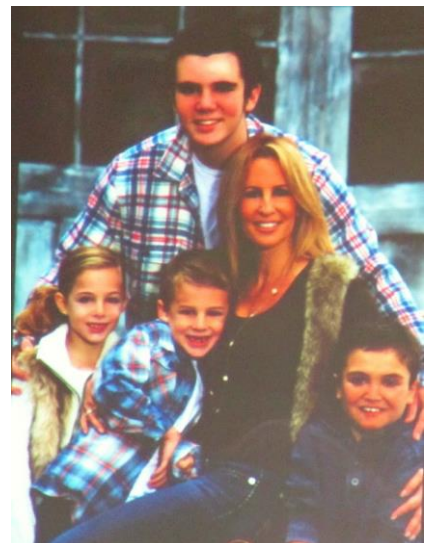
**BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES:**

Lauri's birthday on 4/15; Four anniversaries this week including Bonnie and Barry Werk on 4/9, Ed and Raselle Fisher (the big 50<sup>th</sup> – congrats) along with Frank and Maureen Neeson on 4/11, and Carol and Chuck McGrath on 4/12

**PROGRAM:** Robin Posnack, Ed F.'s

"adopted" daughter, spoke to us about a little-known genetic disease, Familial Dysautonomia. FD affects primarily people of Jewish descent (although it has been traced back to Irish roots) and compromises the autonomic and sensory nervous systems. People with FD do not feel pain, have poor growth, and experience a wide variety of compromising health issues. There are currently 350 cases of FD in the world, with over a dozen in Rockland, Westchester, and NYC, including Robin's second son, Jack. When she was pregnant, Robin was tested for all of the genetic diseases for which there were tests available at that time. She explained to us how the medical profession consistently makes new tests available unbeknownst to expecting mothers who believe after they have been tested once, that they are in the clear. She also explained that both parents

have to be FD carriers for the child to be at risk, and that when they are, there is a 25% chance the child will be born with FD. Thankfully, there is now a genetic procedure that can reduce that risk, but parents need to know about the tests and the procedure, and many do not. The good news is that Robin's son, Jack, who doctors thought would not make it past his fifth birthday, is now nine years old and doing well. While FD patients and their families are still waiting for a cure, they continue to work on making every day a happy one. Ed F. footnoted to us how Jack typically spends at least two months each year in the hospital for various ailments. He praised Robin for the



care, love and attention she gives to Jack, her other three children, and the community at large about FD. Thank you, Robin, for an enlightening program!

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- President George announced there is a Board Meeting this coming Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m. at Noonan's.
- President George passed around a sign-up sheet for the Fishing Contest on 4/26. All helpers needed. Hanns also gave out posters and flyers and asked help in spreading the word.
- President George announced the District Assembly on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the FDR Presidential Library in Hyde Park. All are welcome. President-Elect Dorothy also noted that potential members can attend as well. RSVP is required to Laurie Quinn by 5/2 to [laurie@technology4all.com](mailto:laurie@technology4all.com) or 518-392-6890
- The April fellowship event takes place on Tuesday, 4/21, at Aqua Terra Grille from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. with reduced price cocktails and appetizers. All are invited. RSVP to Barbara Kohlhausen.
- Bob C., on behalf of Lauri, reminded everyone the deadline for RYLA applications is next week.
- Bob C. announced that Coaster Car Derby Driver Applications and Hay Bale Sponsorship Forms are available.
- Frank R. reminded everyone the deadline for applications for a Rotary Scholarship is 4/15. Must be submitted to him or postmarked by that date. Application forms are available on the club website and scholarships are open to all residents of the Pearl River School District regardless of age or where they currently attend school.
- Jim M., just back from Vietnam with the STEP program, announced that EREY envelopes and donation box is on a table by the badge box and reminded everyone to please contribute so that Pearl River can reach our goal of 100% participation with an average donation of \$100 per person. Donations of all sizes are welcome.
- Hanns asked for volunteers to help him identify children in photos from last year's Coaster Car Derby so that he can seek permission to use the photos in this year's posters and flyers.
- Dorothy reminded all of the Installation Dinner on 6/14 at 6:00 p.m. at Old Tappan Manor. Invitations will be going out shortly.
- There is a makeup meeting tonight at Noonan's at 6:00 p.m.

**QUEEN OF HEARTS:** Ladies table won the draw but did not draw the queen. Eight of diamonds. Boo!

**HAPPY BUCKS:** Expertly collected by Joe Beckerle...Many dollars for today's speaker, the anniversaries, the lovely little Carolyn attending our meeting, Andy's new look, and the return of Jim Murphy from Vietnam. Congrats dollars to Joe Beckerle for his daughter's basketball team, which he coaches, going to the finals in the archdiocese. Ryan was happy about what he



considers the best Alternative Spring Break Week for DC with record numbers of students participating in a variety of worthwhile projects. Happy bucks from Nancy to be back in the fold.



**FOUR WAY TEST:** Frank N.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Sandy C.*