



**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**

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**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?*

#### **Meeting of May 21, 2015, President George Presiding**

**Pledge :** Frank Ripa

**Invocation:** Laurie Craig

#### **Visitors and Guests:**

Jean Acocella, Guest of Vinnie Acocella (Keep reading to find out why!)

Nick Vero – Speaker for the day

#### **Birthdays and Anniversaries:**

After some confusion it was determined that there were no birthdays this week....BUT there was a very important anniversary: Vinnie Acocella announced that he and Jean were married 49 years ago to the day...and virtually to the hour.....right here at Pearl River's St. Margaret's Church. Robust congratulations from all in the room!

#### **Announcements**

President George briefly shared Secretary Doreen's excellent minutes from the previous Monday's Board meeting. That lead to a brief discussion of the financial report related to the Fishing Contest and some options for future consideration.

George also told a "Jewish joke" that had nothing whatsoever to do with Jewish people or Jewish religious customs. But it was a pretty funny generic joke. I'd retell it here if I could only remember it.

Frank Ripa announced that the Scholarship Foundations winners have been selected and that the awards will take place at 7:00pm on Thursday June 11<sup>th</sup> at the Library.

He mentioned an anomaly this year – all awards will go to Pearl River High School alums this year, and none to Pearl River graduates from local private high schools. And for the first time in memory, there were no applicants who aspire to be school teachers. Anomalies or the start of trends? Only time will tell.

Carol McGrath announced that the Club is sending two students to RYLA – one of them being Kate Raffa's daughter – The reaction demonstrated what a happy thing it is to have the next generation of one of our own families stepping up for a first hand Rotary experience.

## **Queen of Hearts**

Ticket 766 was drawn – making the table of Dorothy, Jonathan, Lenny and Mike S. eligible for BIG BUCKS! But , alas, they pulled a ho-hum 9 of spades.

## **Happy Bucks**

Ray Bahar's ticket # 743 was drawn, making him the “winner” of the wicker basket to pass for Happy Bucks – a chore he performed with great style and humor.

Many, many, many well wishes to Jean and Vinnie

Raj and Gita are on their way to California for a big Indian style wedding – three days just for the festivities!

Happy bucks for the Dominican College graduation and for Spring Valley Rotary's own Howard Goldin for receiving an Honorary Doctorate of Humanities Degree.

Ray Pucci was happy that his granddaughter will be attending Florida State (If memory serves me right, at least one Gator alum and/or fan expressed distress at the news of another Seminole)

Jim Shepard happily showed us the pair of wooden shoes Evelyn Beckerle brought back to him as a gift from her trip to Holland.....Though I did a little investigating after lunch, and they will NOT fit.

Jay was happy at the prospect of taking his 7 year old granddaughter to the Ballet at Lincoln Center.

Lenny was happy at the prospect of some time away in the Catskills.

## **Speaker**

Nick Vero introduced us to the newly formed PEER 2 PEER program that will operate as a program related to the Rockland Independent Living Center. With the new program, Veterans Outreach, Case Management and Peer Counseling Services will be available to all Veterans, whether separated, retired or serving of the Armed Forces of the United States.

Unlike many programs, Families of Veterans from all eras are included without restriction to discharge date, type of discharge, or dependency status.

Peer to Peer networking is led exclusively by other Veterans. The services are free, anonymous, confidential, and are offered in a safe, non-judgmental environment.

Nick, is himself a retired U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard Veteran and holder of a Masters Degree in marriage and family counseling. He is one of two Outreach Coordinators for the Peer to Peer program. He can be reached at 845-624-1366 or on his Mobile at 845 608 5154.

Many questions and positive comments followed Nick's presentation – as well as heartfelt thanks not only for joining us to share the news but also for the work he does in our community.

**FOUR WAY TEST** – Led by past president Bob Simon.

