



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

John Buonadonna - President - 2012-2013
"Peace Through Service"

Rotary Club
Of
Pearl River

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Rotary Meeting
Greenhouse Cafe - Pearl River, New York
Date: March 21st 2013

Pledge: Rick Helman (Jay's
son and photographer for our
Club picture)

Invocation: Marty Erickson

Visiting Rotarians: Mike
Seidenfrau – Congers/Valley
Cottage Club



Guests: Gita Mehta , Raj's wife and Rick
Helman, Jay's son.

Birthdays: Frank Ripa
– Who told us he was
85 to shame the rest of

us who look our ages – and Suzanne
Grant

Anniversaries: Belated 9th

Anniversary wishes for Jim and Kathy Shepard who celebrated on March 20th



Announcements:



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all concerned?
concerned?



Soapbox race registration began with a session at the Pearl River Middle School at 7:00pm. The second opportunity will be on March 28th – same place, same time.

April 19th the Nyack Rotary Club - which was the sponsor of our Club – will celebrate it's 90th Anniversary. The event will be held at the Nyack Seaport with cocktails beginning at 6:30 with dinner to follow. Cost is \$125 per person or \$200 for a couple.

The Association for the Visually Impaired is celebrating its 40th year of service with a dinner on Thursday, April 18th. The event will be held at The View in Piermont, beginning at 6:30. Cost is \$110 per person. Kirk and Jennifer Flynn are very active in this organization and a show of support would be welcomed long time

Queen of Hearts: Rick Helman picked a loser on the hold-over from last week, and Jaya did the same for this week. Not to worry...The pot got bigger.

Happy Bucks:



George gave the Goat to Brian Doyle for being the last to arrive today.

Many kudos to Defiant Brewery and our Fellowship Committee for a great St. Patrick's Day party complete with live dancing s and lovely, talented Irish Step Dancers.

Jay announced feeling very much in sync with Passover: Moses parted the seas and he paid for his son's lunch.....Equally remarkable events in the course of human history?



Praise to Dorothy and Ryan for the great work they do helping our Rotaract Club at Dominican thrive and flourish.

Many Welcome Backs! To Jaya....And Happy Birthdays to Frank and Suzanne and anniversary good wishes to



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Program:

Our own Raj Mehta gave a riveting presentation on the subject of Mental Illness and Violence, something of great interest after the horror in Newtown.



Some highlights;

Only 5% of crimes are committed by the mentally ill.

Schizophrenia – the mental illness most often associated with violent crimes – is actually a manageable, chronic illness whose symptoms – most notably paranoia – can be controlled with medication. In this sense it is similar to high blood pressure or diabetes. The disease rarely “goes away.” But the symptoms can be managed to remain in a range that don’t cause heart attacks, strokes, coma or amputations – or in the case of schizophrenia, homicides or suicides. So it does not conform to reality to stigmatize everyone suffering from schizophrenia as being violence.

But a small percentage of schizophrenics do break out of the manageable symptom range and develop delusions and hear voices that become reality for the patients and can lead to violent behavior. Unfortunately, this is not foreseeable.

There are strict limits on the involuntary treatment of such dangerous patients. The patient can be hospitalized in a lock-down facility – but cannot be treated against his will without due process of law in a judicial setting.

A new law called SAFE took effect in New York on March 16, 2013 to limit access by the mentally ill to acquire guns and ammunition. The law requires health care providers to report – with little discretion – patients they feel may be a danger to others or themselves. These reports are entered into a data base that will flag existing gun permits for revocation and new applications for denial.

Raj pointed out that the benefits can go beyond avoiding criminal gun behavior against others and will also reduce suicide by gun – which currently dramatically exceeds the number of homicides using a gun.

Four Way Test: Jeffrey led the Four Way Test (Or if it was someone else, I forget!)