



HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS RESOLUTIONS

ROB: Our holiday highlight every year is our traditional 7 Fish Stew on Christmas Eve. That, 2 bottles of wine and 2 loaves of Italian bread makes for one happy dinner table.

ED: Dinner on Xmas Eve, having our family together, getting and giving presents, I hope to be able to walk and get around next Xmas. Happy for what I have but would like more!

GENIE: My holiday highlight was going to a new place in Montclair, called *Adventure Rooms* with my husband and kids. It's an "escape challenge" where you find clues and solve riddles to open locks and get out of the rooms in 60 minutes. Happily, we escaped with 3 minutes to spare (only 30% of all teams escape). Great fun for all of us! My resolution this year is to get up early (6 a.m.) and get the most time possible out of every day with the hope of exercising early and being more productive.

SAL: Holiday highlight — Spending a day with a dear friend who is fighting for his life. For the new year — Laugh often. Appreciate the little things in life and enjoy them.

LAURA: We decided to give experiences instead of gifts this year. So, Paul and I took the boys into New York for a few days. We had nice dinners out, walked everywhere and saw "The Color Purple," which was excellent. Besides that, we just spent the holidays with the families and ate and drank too much and relaxed.

CHARLIE: I hope for it to truly be "Sweet" to be 20"16"

JULIE: The holiday highlight for 2015 was the birth of my grandnephew, Theodore Robert D'Aloia on December 20th. I was very happy that I was true to my 2015 New Year's Resolution to focus a healthier life style. 2016 is here and I will continue on my journey at the Max Challenge.

SHARON: My holiday highlight was the Christmas Eve candlelight service at St. James AME Church in Newark with JC, Justin, Olga and Oliver. The service is filled with music, dancing and joy and the biggest thrill was watching Oliver unabashedly dance in the aisles to the music. The pastor high fived him! My resolution is to be mindfully in the moment no matter what I'm doing.

A Celebration of Margaret

*"Death leaves a heartache no one can heal,
love leaves a memory no one can steal."*

— FROM AN IRISH HEADSTONE

ON DECEMBER 19, 2015, at 11 am, over 150 friends and family members poured into Herb's museum to celebrate the life of an amazing woman. It was a beautiful sight to see just how many people - from the very young to contemporaries of Margaret - could fill that space with love and memories. Many at the memorial spoke, relaying stories of Margaret and Herb. The one common theme that was repeated over and over was that this was a woman of warmth and class. She obviously touched many people. Our own Norm Woolley spoke of how Margaret loved children and talked about her magic purse that seemed to always have a special "something" in it when children were around. Sharon shared a poignant story of when, at our gift exchange a year ago, Margaret had the foresight to steal a remote control car that Sharon had her eyes on for Oliver.

I talked about how, regardless of the pain she was in from severe back arthritis and a hip fracture, as my patient, Margaret never complained and dealt with her adversity with grace and dignity just like I am sure she did in battling throughout her final days. She will be missed by all, but she touched so many and made each and every one of those she came in contact with better in doing so. "We meet but briefly in life; if we touch each other with stardust, that is everything there is."



mark your CALENDARS

JANUARY

THURS., 1/21

11 am BOARD MEETING
12 noon MINDY SCARLETT
Marketing Strategist

ON THE ROAD

WEDS., 1/27

KENILWORTH ROTARY CLUB
Rinaldi's Restaurant, 24 N. 20th St.

MON., 2/1

COUNTY-WIDE MEETING
WITH RI INT'L DIRECTOR
JULIA PHELPS
Grand Summit Hotel

TUESI, 2/9

SPRINGFIELD ROTARY CLUB
McLynn's, 250 Morris Avenue

WEDS., 2/17

FANWOOD/SCOTCH PLAINS
ROTARY CLUB
Stagehouse Tavern
366 Park Ave., Scotch Plains

TUES., 2/23

5:30 PM BOARD MEETING
Connect One Bank

WEDS., 2/24

BERKELEY HEIGHTS CLUB
Chimney Rock Inn
342 Valley Rd., Gillette

THURS., 3/3

ELIZABETH ROTARY CLUB
Garden Restaurant
943 Magie Ave., Union

THURS., 3/10

BACK TO SUBURBAN!!

WEDS., 4/27

DISTRICT ASSEMBLY
Bridgewater Marriott Hotel

FRI., 5/13-SUN., 5/15
DISTRICT CONFERENCE
The Inn at Pocono Manor

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AUTOMOBILIA NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM



Laura and Frank



Bugs kidnapping Herb!



Richard Draudt with Ginger Rogers at Automobilia

AUTOMOBILIA 2015 A BIG SUCCESS!!

It just keeps getting better and better! The new space opened up in Herb's Museum accommodated a record number of guests making it our biggest ever! Also new was the money machine contest donated by Unity Bank. Thanks, John, for this creative addition to our event! The event committee, led by Laura, pulled together the last minute details to ensure that our club would be able to donate a hospital bed to a young man with cerebral palsy...and we did it!

All club members did their part to create an awesome event: bringing wine, getting food vendors, selling raffle tickets and event tickets....Automobilia has become our signature event that enables us to give generously to those in need. Special Kudos to Laura for keeping the planning process on track and being at the helm of our best-ever event; Rob for his "automagria drink, using his special recipe; to Norm who stepped in as emcee at the last minute; to each and every Rotarian for their contributions of wine, food, time and energy and most of all enthusiasm.

Thank you doesn't begin to express our gratitude for Herb Singe and Herb Jr. who made the difficult decision for "the show to go on" after Margaret's death. Their generosity and open heartedness was palpable during the event. Without Herb Jr. there would be no auction – he is auctioneer extraordinaire and makes that part of the evening very entertaining.

Please remember our food vendors who generously donated the food for the evening. Think of them when you're deciding who to patronize for lunch or dinner: Arturo's, Maplewood; Bagels and Beans; Café Z; Chick Fil'A; Cioffi's; Cozy Corner; Galloping Hill Caterers; Padonno's Pizza; Reggio's Pizza; Suburban Golf Club and Taste It Presents.

Thanks to the generous craft beer donation by Peerless Beverage, we were able to offer a wonderful selection of ales in addition to the array of wine.



AUTOMOBILIA COMMITTEE



RICHARD BALDWIN IS BACK!!



THE McGRATH GANG



NORM EMCEES AUTOMOBILIA



LICENSED FOR CUTENESS



Rotary is ordinary people working together

DG2B CORNER



ROTARY MEETING

JANUARY 7, 2016

TABLE TALK

REMEMBER THE GOOD OLD DAYS

when we had our table talk at lunch captured by a designated reporter and published in the award winning COG, in some cases to our embarrassment?

Well, our resolution in the new year is to resurrect this Rotary tradition.

Let's see, at our first meeting back for the New Year "Sweet to be Sixteen" our table of Rotarians were discussing what they did over the Holidays.

Charlie spent New Years at his shore home, gazing at his new swimming pool, can't wait for summer.

Sharon spent a nice Christmas Eve at a AME Church service in Newark with her dear grandson dancing in the aisle to the delight of the parishoners.

Genie said she had fun with her family.

Then it came down to the nitty gritty and how this came up I have no idea. A conversation started a conversation on what a "woman can store down her bra." Then a little later Sharon proceeded to do so, to demonstrate. There was more, but it will wait for another day.

Rotarians, let start the New Year with all of us jotting down talk that happens at our tables.

I am sure there are some interesting tidbits of conversation that all of us will want to know about.

At the luncheon table. "Remember, what is said at the table doesn't stay there."

**In the Spirit of Rotary,
your table reporter FJL**

"IT'S SWEET TO BE SIXTEEN"

ONWARD TO SAN DIEGO

It's been 2 years since I was affirmed into the Governor Chain and the culmination of all the hard work starts next week at the 2016 Rotary International Assembly.

Happy New Year All...I can now say it's "Sweet" to be 20"16"!

The International Assembly is not open to all Rotarians, that would be the International Conference in May this year in Seoul Korea. The International Assembly is for District Governors Elect from around the world, all 565 of us, to come together, meet, create friendships and be trained for our year as District Governor.

It takes place in San Diego and for that week we have a full agenda with only one night on our own. Kathy is hard at work filling our suit cases trying to decide on what to wear. Ball gown, Tuxedo and casual attire are all part of the experience and she is really looking forward to meeting the other Spouses.

There will be a Festival Night where teams of DGE's perform a skit. My Classmates are very outgoing and wanted to participate even though it's not mandatory. So we have decided on a skit with an Ice Hockey theme. Since our Zone includes America, Canada and Russia we thought Hockey would be appropriate. One of my Classmates is an on-air personality by profession. She has taken on the task of producing the skit. She has ordered us custom Hockey Jerseys with our names on them and produced a radio type voice-over for the music portion. It looks so good on paper, let's hope us DGE's are capable of following direction and actually pull this off. Look for great pictures upon my return.

The really big part of International Assembly is the announcement of the 2016-17 Presidential RI theme. This year it is "Be a Gift to the World" We will be told by "My President" John Germ what he has chosen as the theme for 2016-17 starting July 1st. Get ready because it will light up the internet and shut down phone systems as everyone at the Assembly will want to share the news with all their fellow Rotarians, family and friends. I'll be one of them. Watch our Facebook page to see it. I'll send it over as soon as I can!

I'll be receiving my official Governor's jacket. It is also a secret on the style and color. It will be hanging in my hotel room as we arrive. I can't wait to see what I will be wearing for my year as Governor and indeed the rest of my Rotary life.

So as I go forward and complete this very important part on my way to your Governor I want to Thank everyone for all their help, kind words, encouragement, friendship and for everything you do for me and our Club. It's very humbling for me to have you on my side and it amazes me just how close we all are...All of Us...is such a good way to think of it and a good way to feel apart of something so special that only comes along once in a lifetime.

Till the next column...
Yours in Rotary Service

**District Governor Elect Class of 2016-17
Charles "Charlie" Minton**

ROB, THE FOOD GEEK

Here is a recipe that our family has been making for close to 15 years. I have to admit though that I cannot stretch the dough like Nancy so she usually makes this one. Enjoy!!

PIZZA DOUGH

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups of all purpose flour
- 1 pkg of rapid rising yeast
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 2/3 cups very warm water
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tbsp honey

DIRECTIONS

1. In a large bowl combine 2 cups of flour, yeast and salt.
2. In a separate container mix the water, oil and honey and stir it into the flour until a soft dough form.
3. Turn out the dough onto a floured surface, Knead the dough until it becomes elastic 10-15 minutes
4. Lightly oil a separate bowl and place dough in bowl so that all sides are covered in oil. Place a clean cloth over dough and keep it in a warm place to allow the dough to rise to double the size 30-40 minutes.
5. Shape and bake with any of the toppings you like at 450 degrees for 10-12 minutes

★ COMMUNITY ★ ★ SERVICE ★

MIRIAM MERCADO, COMMUNITY SERVICE

FOOD PANTRY

Let's rally to help those who need
our help in the community.
Bring your non-perishable food items.

STAMPS FOR WOUNDED VETERANS WHAT CAN STAMPS DO FOR A VETERAN?

Miracles, almost. Stamps can give bedridden patients, long-treatment patients, and convalescent patients, a consuming interest.... something to do to keep their minds active. They can sort and mount stamps without effort as they lie in bed. If they are ambulatory, or even in a wheelchair, they can pass happy hours soaking stamps and mounting them in albums. Even the far withdrawn, mentally disabled patient takes pleasure in using the more common stamps to make fanciful greeting cards, or to cover decorative boxes in organized therapy sessions.

Please tear off stamps from your incoming mail and bring them to the next meeting. The more the merrier!!

DISTRICT CONFERENCE HERE WE COME!

EACH OF ROTARY'S MORE THAN 500 DISTRICTS holds an annual conference. These meetings are considered so important that the Rotary International president his personal representative to attend and address each conference. The program always includes awesome entertainment, inspirational speakers, interesting programs that make your Rotary membership more meaningful.

Many Rotarians have never attended a Rotary district conference which means they have not experienced one of the most enjoyable and rewarding privileges of Rotary membership.

A district conference is for all club members and their spouses, not just for club officers and committee members. The purpose of a district conference is for fellowship, good fun, inspirational speakers and discussion of matters which make your Rotary membership more meaningful. Every person who attends a district conference finds that being a Rotarian becomes even more rewarding because of the new experiences, insights and acquaintances developed at the conference. Those who attend a conference usually continue going back, year after year.

One of the unexpected benefits of attending a district conference is the opportunity to become better acquainted with members of your own club in an informal setting. Lasting friendships grow from the fellowship hours at the district conference.

The District Conference is the celebration of the Rotary Year.

At this year's DC, it is our club's responsibility to promote "our" DC at the Shawnee on the Delaware May 5-7 2017.



Do you remember the meeting when Charlie told us he was considering taking on the role of District Governor for 2016-17? He detailed his personal commitment, along with what it would mean for our club. He clearly said he wouldn't take it on if we weren't ready to support having a DG from our club and that there would be no hard feelings if the club felt it couldn't support that role. He left the room so that we could discuss whether or not we felt, that as a club, we could take on the responsibility. Our club unanimously agreed to support Charlie's year as governor. We've already witnessed the personal commitment of time, money and energy that Charlie has already made as DGN.

Our primary responsibility, as a club, is to promote District Conference for Charlie's year and to make it successful. The kick-off promotion for DC in 2017 is this year's District Conference which is May 13-15 at the Inn@Pocono Manor. At this year's conference, our club will set the tone for next year's conference, generate enthusiasm for it, and begin the registration process.

We have a skit planned that will make it easy for everyone to participate in. We will literally become walking billboards for our conference with our skit.... a choreographed parade of sandwich boards touting the awesome attributes of our conference location and activities and the top reasons to come. But we need YOU there to recreate the energy we have as the Union club AT the conference.

Please join the fun and sign up for this year's district conference. Sharon has devised a piggy bank with an easy-to-do savings chart that will simplify putting money aside for the conference.

Do you know a potential speaker for one of our meetings?

We're always seeking ideas for interesting meetings. If you have an idea or know someone who can give an interesting presentation to our club, please contact **Charlie Minton**, Club Administration Chair.

When you start with Rotary, good things happen.