



Winter 1999

Rotary News

from The D. G.

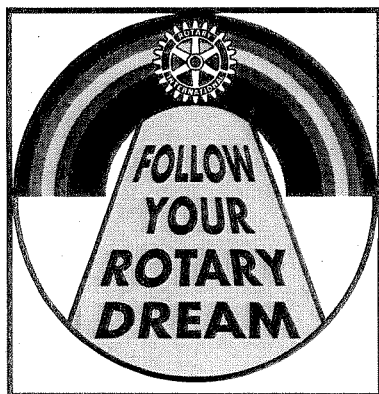


Dear Rotarians,

Happy New Year!

A heartfelt thanks to all the clubs and individual Rotarians for your extremely generous response to the hurricane victims who are struggling to rebuild their lives and countries in Central America. Many clubs in the District immediately responded with cash donations and many others came through with medical supplies, blankets and household goods that filled four shipping containers. Mary Ryback, this year's chair of World Community Services, did an excellent job of coordinating the District's efforts at disaster relief. She is to be commended for the dedication she brought to this project.

I want to give special thanks to the Mt. Kisco Interact Club of Fox Lane High School. These young people raised \$1,000 which they presented to the Mt Kisco Club to be forwarded to the relief effort in Honduras. The kids of this newly reactivated club did a great job and have set a wonderful example of what our American teens can accomplish. Those clubs which don't have an Interact Club, please take note. Our high schools are a wonderful and frequently untapped resource. We have a growing number of Interact Clubs in the District. Peekskill now has two! I urge you all to establish an Interact Club -- a sound investment in our kids. Harry Mendez, Chair of the Interact Committee can help you get started.



**JANET
DI BENEDETTO
2000-2001
District Governor**

District Governor Pat Anderson has certified that Janet Di Benedetto of the Rotary Club of Pleasantville, New York has been duly nominated by unanimous vote of our District Nominating Committee to be District Governor for the year 2000-2001

JANET DI BENEDETTO: AT A GLANCE

Rotary Club: Pleasantville, N.Y.

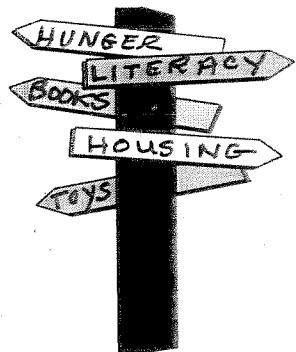
Rotary Activity:

- Joined Rotary in 1989
- Paul Harris Fellow, 1992
- Club President 1994-1995
- Initiated Furniture For the Homeless
- Re-named local sports field for deceased Pleasantville Rotarian
- Chaired committees on Youth Exchange; Cell Therapy Fund Raiser.
- Secretary of District Youth Exchange Committee
- Chaired 1995 District Assembly
- Chaired the 1994 and 1996 District Nominating Committees
- Chaired 1997-1998 District Conference
- Host to Foreign Exchange Students
- Member, Rotary Foundation Educational Awards Committee
- Member Rotary District 2000 Committee
- Producer of 'Rotary In Your Community' Video Program
- Assistant District Governor: 1997-1998 and 1998-1999.

Profession: Teacher of Occupational Cosmetology at Hawthorne Cedar Knolls Union Free School District.

Family: Married to Robert Di Benedetto; Two children: Joanne and Danielle.

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To Rotary Activities In Bronx – Croton – Elmsford – Harrison Katonah – Larchmont – Mamaroneck New Rochelle – Pelham – Riverdale – Rye Upper Manhattan – White Plains



THE BRONX ROTARY CLUB ...has again handed various toys to the THE CHILDREN of the Piagenti and Jones Intermediate School 192. in the Bronx. The event took place on Dec. 31, 1998. The Club was. represented by Past Presidents Edgar Cornell and Rev. Wm. Kalaidjian and his wife, Valerie, Jim Romeo and Mary Gembecki.

THE CROTON ROTARY CLUB.....spread the holiday spirit by donating 50 TURKEYS to the Cortland Food Bank for the holidays. The Club also made donations to the Croton Caring Committee to assist in the care of the elderly resulting in 38 families being given FOOD BASKETS costing approximately \$2,000.

THE ELMSFORD ROTARY CLUB.....is getting ready to celebrate its' 40th ANNIVERSARY in April. PDG Governor Alan Nemlich is requesting ads for the souvenir journal to commemorate the event. Join the celebration of Elmsford's 40th by taking an ad in their commemorative journal. Contact PDG Alan Nemlich at 914-725-3267.

THE HARRISON ROTARY (and Rye) CLUB.....on Oct. 14, 1998 hosted THE HARRISON-RYE SPORTSMANSHIP LUNCHEON. The Harrison and Rye Clubs take turns hosting this luncheon. This year its was Harrison's turn. Among the 60 people in attendance were the Harrison and Rye Superintendent's of Schools, principals, coaches and cheerleaders. The guest speaker was Maury Allen, Gannett Suburban Newspaper Columnist. He spoke of the spirit of sportsmanship and fair play. The luncheon has been held annually for almost 30 years. Its purpose is to emphasize the importance of 'playing' the game not just winning the game. Two Sportsmanship Trophies are awarded after the game has been played. The Harrison High School football team selects the player on the Rye High School team who was the most sportsmanlike. The Rye team, likewise, selects the most sportsmanlike player on the Harrison High School team.

THE KATONAH ROTARY CLUBhas presented to the Community Center of Katonah \$11,000 raised in memory of the late PDG Jack Ruger. THE JACK RUGER MEMORIAL FUND was established in 1997 by the Katonah Rotary Club to accept donations from individuals and area Rotary clubs in honor of Jack Ruger, who was active in both the White Plains and Katonah Rotary Clubs and served as our District Governor. The Community Center is a not-for-profit volunteer organization created in 1992 by local religious and civic groups. It provides food, clothing, employment counseling and referrals to appropriate agencies, organizations and professions.



Mrs. Frances Dowling, president of the Community Center in Katonah, accepts a check for \$11,000 in memory of PDG Jack Ruger. From left, Katonah Rotarian William O'Neill, who led the Ruger Memorial Fund Drive, Mrs. Dowling, Jennifer Ruger, daughter of the late Jack Ruger, and Katonah Rotary President Frank Watson.

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To Rotary Activities In (cont'd)

THE ROTARY CLUBS OF LARCHMONT, MAMARONECK, NEW ROCHELLE and PELHAM.....

have joined together to participate with the Niteroi-Norte Rotary, District 4750, of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in an educational project to provide school furniture and equipment for a LITERACY PROJECT. Casa da Amizade-Niteroi, a non-profit institution, has been established and is supported by Rotary Clubs in Niterio. It provides social services for poor communities. One of these services is the Literacy Project for illiterate young adults who live in nearby slums ("favelas"). The project aims at improving the participants' ability to engage in programs of self-development, as well as enhance their understanding of their own rights and duties as citizens. The items to be purchased are: 1 blackboard; 1 teacher's desk and chair; 30 students' desks; books and school supplies; 1 overhead projector with screen; 1 TV set; 1 VCR; 1 bookshelf. The four Rotary Clubs (Larchmont, Mamaroneck, New Rochelle and Pelham) are contributing \$450.00 each for a total of \$1,800. The Niteroi Rotary Club will, in turn, contribute \$1,800 making it a subtotal of \$3,600. The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International will match the \$3,600 for a grand total of \$7,200. (Editor's Note : For more information on how to obtain a matching grant from The Rotary Foundation, please contact District Governor Pat Anderson or District Trainer Andrew Morzello at 914-422-2361.).

THE ROTARY CLUB OF RIVERDALE.....

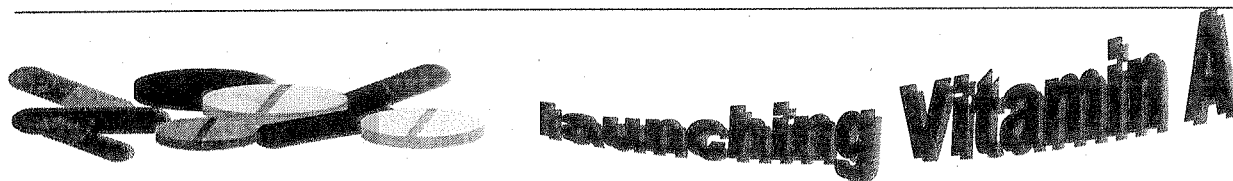
has been active in Community, Vocational and International Service. In COMMUNITY SERVICE, the Club drafted a letter to send out to business people and professionals in the immediate vicinity to encourage them to come and see what Rotary is. Members used a local phone directory, and are now monitoring their mailings by telephone follow-up. The Club also is planning a major FOOD DRIVE FOR THE HUNGRY. The Club drafted a letter to the major food chains in the Riverdale area (D'Agostino, Fine Fare, Key Foods) to see if they will accommodate the Club and allow the Club to set up a solicitation for food in their stores. The Club is planning a very fine VOCATIONAL SERVICE project which will offer scholarships to students for their community involvements and/or their contributions to their schools. In the area of INTERNATIONAL SERVICE, the Club is encouraging other Rotary clubs to help support students in Africa. At this time, the Bronx Rotary Club has responded. In addition, the Riverdale Rotary Club is in the process of encouraging the village of Kituwi in Africa to establish a Rotary club.

THE ROTARY CLUB OF UPPER MANHATTAN.....

has been endeavoring to increase its' membership. The Presidents of our clubs in Area 7 have been meeting periodically with Area 7 Representative Arcadio Casillas to share achievements and concerns. This has led to a welcome infusion of energy. The Club has undertaken several projects this year: 1. Awarding a monetary SCHOLARSHIP to a deserving high school student in the Harlem area. The Club sought candidates from three high schools: George Washington High School, A. Phillip Randolph and Rice High Schools. The finalist and recipient of a \$500 scholarship was a young lady from A. Phillip Randolph High School. She is now attending Cornell University. 2. Working with a COMPUTER EDUCATION project for disadvantaged youth on Roosevelt Island. 3. Helping with the JAIPUR LIMB REPLACEMENT PROJECT, initiated through Rotary in Great Britain, in Uganda where one of Upper Manhattan's members has been doing field work. 4. Hosting the SENIOR'S HOLIDAY LUNCH at the Canaan Baptist Church in Harlem. 5. RINGING THE BELL for the Salvation Army during the holiday season. 6. Supporting the BOOKS FOR GHANA project. In the Fall, the Club conducted a membership drive by honoring their newest Paul Harris Fellow, Mary Williams, at International House. Mary has been a faithful Upper Manhattan Rotarian for 11 years. She has served the Upper Manhattan Club as both secretary and treasurer. She is currently the Club secretary.

THE ROTARY CLUB OF WHITE PLAINS.....

in cooperation with The Habitat for Humanity recently helped to construct a new affordable home on Fairview Avenue in White Plains. White Plains Rotarians swung hammers, drove nails, raised sheet rock, and sawed two-by-fours in a wonderful and worthy 'hands-on' project.



On November 18, 1998, the Vitamin A Supplementation Project was officially launched at the Angeles Elementary School Pulung Bulu, Angeles City in the Republic of The Philippines. Our District, along with Districts in the Philippines and The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International are sponsoring this project aimed at eliminating Vitamin A deficiency among pre-schoolers and Grade 1 pupils in the Philippines. Vitamin A deficiency is the leading cause of childhood blindness in the Philippines. Our own PDG Charles Katze and PDG Ruben Henson of Philippine District 3790 were on hand to launch the National Day of Vitamin A Supplementation in Angeles City. The Clubs of our District contributed \$25,000 toward the project costs to provide supplemental Vitamin A capsules, to educate parents to serve foods rich in Vitamin A, to provide seeds for crops which families can raise and to provide medical checkups for the affected children. This is the first year of the 3-year nation-wide project which aims at providing Vitamin A supplementation to over 400,000 children ages 12-59 months and 6-7 years old. PDG Chuck Katze is available to speak on The Vitamin A Supplementation Project. Please call him at 914-834-8977 to make arrangements for a presentation to your Rotary Club.

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OSSINING ROTARY

On June 1, 1921, the proposed Ossining Rotary Club made application for membership in the International Association of Rotary Clubs. Included with the application was a remittance fee of \$25 and a list of twenty-five Charter Members. The application listed Dr. Amos Squire as President and stated that the group met every Wednesday at 1:00 P.M. The charter was received in September of that year.

Dr. Squire had met Paul Harris while in Chicago as a speaker at the Chicago Rotary Club. Back east, he met with the Peekskill Club, which has been formed in 1919, and that young club agreed to sponsor a club in Ossining in spite of the relatively small size of the community. In 1981, under the leadership of George Weeks as the District Governor's representative, Ossining in its turn sponsored the Briarcliff Manor Rotary Club.

For most of its 77 years, the Ossining Club's major fund raiser has been an Ad Journal. These ads have been printed as part of the program for a charity function or have appeared as special sections in local newspaper type publications. The proceeds have gone to support local charities or respond to emergency needs. The Ossining Rotary was an initial supporter of the D. A. R. E., a drug awareness program, and continues to aid this program through grants and by providing and serving food at the D. A. R. E. Halloween Party. The Club was the first contributor to the new headquarters for the Ossining Ambulance Corps with a donation of \$10,000 over a four year period. During the past five years, over \$75,000 has been donated to various charities. Two years ago, in honor of its seventy-fifth birthday, the Ossining Rotary raised an additional \$25,000 to construct a pavilion at the Town's new Cedar Lane Park. Recently, and largely through the efforts of President-elect Mary Ryback, the Club has been very involved in the international sector co-sponsoring and hosting a Gift of Life child and initiating disaster relief to St. Kitts and Honduras.

The Ossining Rotary also raises money for scholarships and holds an annual scholarship fund raiser. At the Ossining High School graduation last June, four \$1,000 scholarships were awarded, three in memory of past Rotarians: Dr. Cassius Byington, Howard Pinkus and Albert Moses. The fourth scholarship was in honor of Robert Huntz and was awarded to a student entering the field of education. At the scholarship fund raiser, Employee of the Year awards were given out. These awards have become a popular way for local businesses to recognize employees who have given "Service Above Self."

The Ossining Club has always been especially interested in the youth of the area and supports an Interact Club at Ossining High School. The Ossining Interact sponsors parties for seniors and assists the club in its various projects. The Club has also participated in the student exchange program largely through the efforts of Michael Sterlacci, and has entertained students from several countries including Scotland, England, Argentina, Peru, Brazil, Sweden and Japan.

In 1988, the Ossining Rotary opened its doors to women members and I served as its first woman president in 1992-93. The current president, Virginia Ward, is the fourth female to serve in this capacity. The Ossining Rotary Club looks for members who are interested in serving the Ossining community and its people.

By *Natalie Mackintosh*

Past President, Ossining Rotary Club

Things to Do

IN JANUARY – Rotary Awareness Month

- Plan a Club program for ROTARY AWARENESS MONTH. It is a good time to promote Rotary information or activities.
- Plan a Club celebration for the anniversary of Rotary International in February.

IN FEBRUARY – World Understanding Month

- Plan a club program which promotes international or global understanding
- Celebrate Rotary International's Anniversary on Feb. 23.

IN MARCH – Rotaract-Interact Month

- Pro-rated dues for new members (Jan-Mar.) due to R.I. by April 1, 1999
- Submit your Club's Presidential Citation Application to the D.G. by March 29, 1999.

Rotarians In Action:



**DON
HUBERT**

Area 5 Representative

Past President

Rotary Club of Bronxville

by

Irena Choi Stern

As Adapted from

'The Review Press - Reporter'

A MAN OF AMERICANA

Few people can lay claim to a truly "Norman Rockwell" childhood, but Rotarian Don Hubert can. As a little boy, Hubert appeared in a number of Norman Rockwell's paintings, including the one many Americans consider their favorite, "Saying Grace." The painting, which appeared on the cover of the Nov. 24, 1951 *Saturday Evening Post*, portrays a grandmother and grandson saying grace in a restaurant at the Troy, N.Y. train station. Rockwell called it "the most popular and remembered of my Post covers."

"I was 7 or 8 years old," recalled Hubert, "and living in Arlington, Vt., where Rockwell was also a resident." Hubert's father,

Don, was a teacher of industrial arts and music, and leader of the marching band at Arlington High School. "That's where Norman Rockwell got many of his models," said Hubert.

According to Hubert's mother, Mary Kate, Rockwell happened to be looking for a model in the elementary school and chose Hubert. On his first visit to Rockwell's studio, Don wore his "best outfit," a suit with shorts. From then on, whenever Rockwell wanted Hubert to pose, he requested that Hubert's mother "send him over in that suit and old shoes." Hubert is depicted in that very suit in three Rockwell paintings: "Saying Grace," a second Post cover which shows a family walking to church; and in an advertisement painted by Rockwell for the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Co. titled "His First Day at School." Mary Kate Hubert added, "When (Don) came back there would always be a five-dollar bill in (his) pocket," which promptly went into a savings account.

In a 1986 Time magazine article, former President Ronald Reagan proclaimed "Saying Grace" his favorite by the artist, even though the artist had done a portrait of Reagan himself. His admiration for the artist led Reagan to serve as the honorary chairman of a \$5 million fund drive for the Rockwell Museum. In a letter to Hubert from the White House, Reagan notes that the values that Rockwell cherished and celebrated, "love of God and country, hard work, neighborhood and family ---- still give us strength, and will shape our dreams for decades to come."

Rockwell painted from photographs of "human-looking humans" and, during the years he lived in Arlington, Vt. (1939-53), he found his neighbors to be "exactly the models I need for my purpose - the sincere, honest, homespun types that I love to paint." Rockwell would paint the posed figures and create a scene around

them. Hubert remembers the photo session for "Saying Grace."

"I could not keep my feet still, so somebody temporarily Scotch-taped my ankles together," he said.

There was great excitement in the town of Arlington when a Rockwell cover would appear on the Post. "There would be a big run on the covers in the Arlington stores, and people would see who in the town was a model," said Hubert. He remembers Rockwell as a "nice gentleman, and he always had a pipe in his mouth. He had a gravelly voice." The grandmother with her hands clasped in prayer is Mrs. Ralph Walker of East Arlington, who saw the final painting, but died five days before the issue appeared on the newsstand.

Norman Rockwell:

'Exalting the Commonplace'

Hubert, born in Yonkers and a resident Bronxville since 1982, is vice president of Money Mailer, a direct response advertising business. His children, 11-year old Jen and 16-year old Michael, find it interesting that their father's image is a part of Americana. "They are always showing me, hey, there's your picture on that ashtray or that keychain or that postcard," laughed Hubert. If one looks up "Norman Rockwell" in the "Encyclopedia Britannica," "Saying Grace" is the only picture included.

Hubert's experience with Rockwell has remained an important chapter in his life. "You're really a part of history and part of a very famous American illustrator who did a lot for this country from the drawings he did," said Hubert. He also noted his serendipitous involvement. "Luck does play a part in life," said Hubert. "Being in the right place at the right time. Certainly, if it wasn't me, it would have been somebody else."

Dear Andy,



QUESTIONS TO

And

ANSWERS FROM

THE DISTRICT TRAINER

by

PDG Andrew L. Morzello

Rotary Club of White Plains

**WHAT CAN WE DO TO
INCREASE MEMBERSHIP ?**

This is the most pressing and important question facing Rotary clubs in our District and in our country.

My answer is very simple :-

BRING A FRIEND TO ROTARY!

I assume that each of us has personal, business or professional friends whom we believe are worthy and decent people who would make good Rotarians. All we need to do is take the time to invite them to Rotary! Using the 'branching' classification technique, we should be able to determine a classification for them.

Yet, membership planning, development and operation require consistent action by a person or committee who plans

and continuously implements membership development and growth. Each Club has its own unique and individual characteristics. So, whatever plan is implemented must take the 'environmental, political, social, economic and demographic' factors of each Club and community into consideration for membership development.

Given the conditions and considerations I have mentioned, here are a number of ideas that have worked for others:

- **SPECIAL MEETINGS.** The Rotary Club of Hamet, California holds a series of special meetings, each targeting a different profession or group in the community as a potential source for members.
- **GOLDEN NUGGET PROGRAM** District 5110 in Oregon has a Golden Nugget Program which provides assistance to clubs with a membership of less than 20.
- **GUEST EVENING.** The Rotary Club of Driffild, England has had excellent results from a Guest Evening. A list of potential members were drawn up and 40 invitations were mailed. 12 new members joined.
- **LIST OPEN CLASSIFICATIONS.** The Rotary Club of Cincinnati developed a 3-page list of open classifications for each member to fill in the names of potential members who were contacted by a 2-person team for invitation to the Club.
- **CELEBRATE PROJECTS.** District 4170 (Mexico) invites community leaders and potential members to ceremonies at the completion of club projects to publicize the work of Rotary.
- **PAUL HARRIS FELLOW AWARD** District 4160 (Mexico) offered a Paul Harris Fellowship award to any member bringing in 5 new members.
- **GOOD ROTARIAN OLYMPICS.** Encinitas, California Rotary Club held a "Good Rotarian Olympics" in which teams of club members competed in Club Service activities earning as much as 100 points for proposing new candidates.

- **FOOTBALL.** District 6580 (Indiana) used football as a inspiration and model. Clubs divided their membership into groups of ten, each group charged with proposing a new member who would be their 11th member (the number of players on a football team). Teams would receive 1 point for proposing a candidate and 6 points if the candidate was inducted. Teams with the most points would advance through a play-off cycle until one Club winner was crowned.
- **ORDER OF THE CHICKEN.** Middletown, Ky. Rotary celebrates the Order of The Chicken. A member wears a rubber chicken around the neck until he/she brings in a new member. The chicken is then passed on to another who has not brought in a new member.
- **FRESHMAN CLASS.** Evergreen, Col. Rotary uses a Freshman Class Program to assimilate new members. Each class selects a project to sponsor as a group activity, guided by two past club presidents. There is a new class every six months.
- **ALUMNI NIGHT.** District 5130 (California) holds an Alumni Night for former club members at which they are encouraged to rejoin Rotary
- **DANCE CARD.** The Mississauga-Credit Valley, Canada Rotary distributes "Dance Cards" to its new members. The names of each club member are on the card and the new member must sit with each Club member during a meeting until he/she has sat with every member..

Please send your questions, news notes, articles, Rotary info, club activities, pictures, upcoming events to:

Andrew L. Morzello
228 Fisher Avenue
White Plains,
New York
10606