

ROTARY FOCUS



ON
DISTRICT 7230

VOL. 2 ROTARY DISTRICT 7230 NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2003

Trials & Triumphs

Building Bridges between Club & District

There was a time, not too long ago, that relations between the District and the Rotary Club of New York were not great. Rotarian Greg Lynch joined that Club in 1994, but was oblivious to the strains. Greg, an attorney and health entrepreneur, was serving his Club as Chair of its Community Service Committee, when Chuck Katze tapped him as District Parliamentarian. During Chuck's second term, Greg served as Chair of the District UN Committee. At the time only he and District Treasurer, PDG Lou Mahler, had any history both with the District and the New York Club. The next year Greg served as both Legal Advisor to Governor Pat Anderson and Co-Chair of the District Conference in Bermuda. That year, 1998, the New York Club held a Bermuda Day to promote the Conference. The healing had begun.

By the time Paul Caruso became Governor, the New York Club was experiencing a change of heart. Governor Paul decided to host his Conference in Manhattan. Greg chaired the 2000 Conference, and the New York Club went all out to support the effort. Then NYRC President Ed Gray hosted a gala reception for the Conference attendees and the New York

"Trials &..." con't on page 2

Kudos to Bronx Rotary

For Its Aid in Education

Greetings from the students, from Africa, Bronx Rotary has assisted with tuition.

We take this opportunity to thank you all for assisting us through Fr. Julius to pay our school fees. We are very happy and impressed by your enthusiasm to help us in our secondary education. We cannot express our gratitude in our words. We find ourselves very lucky in that we are able to continue with our education, without any disturbance and we thank you for that. We believe by working hard we will achieve our goals.

Through Fr. Julius, we are going to keep in touch with you and may be, through a group like yours, our younger brothers and sisters may benefit from your kindness as we continue benefiting.

We begin our year in January and we are looking forward to getting our assistance this time. God Almighty bless you all!



The Guv's Corner

My fellow Rotarians, there is good news from around the District. All the clubs are pursuing projects which are in the Rotary spirit of "Service Above Self." Several are mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter.

The African Friendly School Project has been submitted to Rotary International for a matching grant. If approved, we will be able to put just short of \$90,000 to work in that part of the world to give kids a decent place to learn. Over 800 school desks will very soon be on their way to add even more substance to your efforts to achieve that goal, along with twenty five computer systems, to establish their first computer learning center. I wish to thank all of you who participated in this significant effort. I would certainly be remiss if I didn't say that several other Districts contributed as well to make this a success. District numbers would mean little to you, so suffice it to say that Rotarians from all over New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey have given to this project, and I am truly grateful.

For the remainder of the year my focus is on Polio Plus, the drive to eradicate Polio throughout the world by 2005. Also be on the lookout for upcoming seminars; The Rotary Leadership Institute scheduled for April 12th, and a membership seminar in the Spring.

All in all the year has been a success with membership increasing, and Rotary work being accomplished. Fear not, spring will arrive in all its glory before you know it and we all can be warm again.

Yours in Rotary,

Robert O. Benson, District Governor 7230

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Kimatu (Muthethei Girl's),
Victor Waweru (Mang'u High School),
and Musili Muthoka (Muthale Girl's
Secondary).

Written by Fr. Julius Mutua Mwau

FOCUS *The Rotary Club of The Tarrytowns*

The Sleepy Hollow Chamber of Commerce held their annual Honoree of the Year Award Dinner Ceremony at the Tarrytown Hilton on Monday, January 27th. This year's honoree was the Rotary Club of the Tarrytowns. They were honored for over 80 years of support to the communities of Tarrytown, Sleepy Hollow and Irvington by presenting a donation to the Club's Breithbarth

Scholarship Fund. The Tarrytown YMCA presented an award to the Club for their annual support of the YMCA programs and their generous donation to new Arts Center. The Villages of Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow presented proclamations to the Club commending their long term service to the communities. The Warner Library thanked the club for their support.

Last year, the Club donated over \$34,000 to community organizations. In addition, the Club awards, averaged (6) \$1,000 scholarships to local high school students from their Breithbarth Scholarship Fund. The club includes 55 members who actively participate in service projects, such as Bell ringing for the Salvation Army, assisting with the Multiple Sclerosis Swim across the Hudson River Fundraiser, Sportsmanship Awards for local schools.

by Gisele Candella

FOCUS *New Rochelle HS Interact Club*

The Rotary Club of New Rochelle is the sponsor of a new **Interact Club at the New Rochelle High School**. The Charter Ceremony took place on February 5, 2003 at the Davenport Club. Dinner and the ceremony was held at 6:30 PM. This was the first Interact club sponsored by New Rochelle in their 80 year history. There are 24 students already busy at work on international and community projects.

Congratulations!

World Community Service

Chuck Katze was, "*Highly impressed*" with the choices made for the GSE team and leader while visiting with DG Doug Thistlewhite in Pretoria. After Q&A and fun, Chuck and Chris continued their visit by touring the District and visiting the schools.

The longest spell in travel was to Selebi Pkwe in Botswana and crossing to Nelspruit approximately 550 kilometers. On the evening of February 5, 2003, Chuck addressed the Nelspruit Club and visited the school there and spent a day in the Kruger Park returning to Pretoria visiting with Doug Thistlewhite, District Governor of 9250.

"Trials &..." *con't from page 1*

Club walked away with the Paul Harris laurels, having 46 new Fellows that year. Yes, the Club and the District had both reached out to meet one another, each drawing strength from strength.

It hasn't all been easy. On Tuesday, September 11, 2001, Greg walked for almost two hours through smoke and chaos to chair his weekly Rotary meeting. Under the leadership of then RCNY President Helen Reisler, Greg volunteered to help families of victims and later to serve on the Club's 9/11 Committee. Together with other Club leaders, including Helen and Mats Ingemanson, he appeared in an article in the November 2001 Rotarian on the extraordinary response of the New York Club to its community in the wake of one of the most infamous pages of our Nations proud history.

In spring 2002, Greg Lynch was selected as the GSE Team Leader and took his team to District 4490 in the extreme North-East of Brazil. Although Greg is fluent in Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese was a challenge for both himself and his Team. Yet in the 5-week exchange, both the Team and its Leader made some 50 presentations to club's over some 5,000 kilometers, all in Portuguese. At the conclusion of the exchange, District

4490 awarded Greg its Distinguished Service Medal. Recently, the busy Mr. Lynch graduated from the Rotary Leadership Institute and received his RLI pin from incoming RI Director Dave Linnett.

We know that Greg is spear-heading Governor Bob's District Conference in May, 2003. This year there will be more New York Rotarians helping out than ever before. We asked Greg what else he's up to. His response was brief: "I'm going to be serving as President of the New York Club next year, and I'll do whatever is asked of me, to make our club stronger, our membership more active, and Rotary a more vital force in our community. After that, we'll see what's needed." Good luck to you next year, Greg. And Mazeltov on the strong partnership forged between the New York Club and the District.

President Elect Training

The P.E.T.S. Seminar is scheduled for March 15th through 17th. It will be held at the Tropicana Hotel in Atlantic City. Presidents elect & Secretaries are urged to attend. **All Rotarians are invited.** For more information please call Armand Siconolfi at 914-834-3442.



ROTARY DISTRICT 7230
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We welcome your comments and submission of articles to be published in future newsletters. We reserve the right to select the materials to be published as well as to make any necessary grammatical changes.

Birthday Celebration! "Gift of Life" Theme

Jim Morita of the Rotary Club of New York, wanted to celebrate his 70th birthday in a special way, and so he did. He chose "The Gift of Life" as the theme for his party and suggested that guests make contributions to this worthy cause in lieu of gifts.

On Dec. 21st, 2002, Rotarians and Jim's personal friends, came together by invitation to enjoy a most elegant celebration at the Metropolitan Club in NYC.



The Ambassadors of Peace Youth orchestra sponsored by the Rotary Club of NY, serenaded us

on their violins. We enjoyed a sumptuous gourmet dinner. An atmosphere of warm fellowship prevailed.

Jim was presented with a humanitarian award by the Ambassador from Mongolia and was feted by his two sons who extolled his parental virtues. Bill Currie, with his wonderful sense of



humor and his own enthusiasm for the "Gift of Life" made a perfect Master of Ceremony.

A good time was had by all and some very sick, but very lucky children will benefit as well...Many more Happy Birthdays Jim!!

by Helen Reisler

Edward Berger Remembered

It is with sadness we inform that Past District Governor, Edward Berger passed away on Saturday morning, February 8th, 2003. He was a true Rotarian and even in his later years was always available to do, "Service Above Self".

Eddie's 91st birthday was celebrated on November 13th at Casa Reina Restaurant in Thornwood and

many happy dollars were given for many memories.

A memorial service was held at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church at 292 Elwood Ave. Eddie will be missed.



Recognized Rotarians PDG Chirafisi & PP Gray

PDG Gilda R. Chirafisi and Edward Gray, Past President of the Rotary Club of New York have received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Polio Eradication Private Sector Initiative in recognition of their commitment and dedication to the promise of a world without polio.

With the certificate came the following words: "We are pleased to present you with this certificate of appreciation in recognition of your participation in the Polio Eradication Private Sector Initiative. Due to the world team efforts, this initiative served as a catalyst for identifying new partnerships and funding opportunities for polio eradication. Thank you for being a part of this "once in a life time" experience." Signed. Dr. Richard F. Slager, M.D., Task Force Chairman and Stephen Strickland United Nations Foundation.

Special Announcement Don Lee in 2004-2005

I am pleased to announce that Don Lee is officially DGN and will become District Governor in 2004-2005. My congratulations to Don and best wishes to him for a most successful term in office.

Bob Benson, District Governor

Good News World Trade Center Fund

There is good news on the World Trade Center issue. In short, the Board of The WTC Fund has agreed to negotiate the implementation of the recommendations as adopted by the District Assembly. I am certain that these negotiations will be successful and we can move forward to accomplish the work of Rotary.

Bob Benson, District Governor



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 7230 EIGHTIETH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

May 2 to May 4, 2003 • Tarrytown Hilton, Tarrytown, New York

Registration Request Form (Please Print or type all information)

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Badge Name _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone (Day) _____ (Evening) _____ Email _____

Rotary Partner's Name _____ Rotary Club of _____

Rotarian's Club Title _____ Rotary Partners Titles _____

Are you interested in the Spouse Program? _____ Fri., May 2, afternoon _____ Sat., May 3, morning

PROGRAM TICKET ORDER FORM (All Program Ticket Must Be ordered Before April 25, 2003)

Paul Harris Fellows Luncheon Friday, May 2, 2003 12:00 noon	# _____ @ \$45= _____	Governor's Awards Luncheon Saturday, May 3, 2003 12:00 noon	# _____ @ \$40= _____
Dinner Theater "Singin' In The Rain" Friday, May 2, 2003 6:00 pm	# _____ @ \$65= _____	Governor's Banquet & Ball Saturday, May 3, 2003 7:00 pm	# _____ @ \$65= _____
Memorial Breakfast Saturday, May 3, 2003 8:30—9:30am	# _____ @ \$20= _____	GSE Sendoff Breakfast Sunday, May 4, 2003 8:00—10:00am	# _____ @ \$10= _____

_____ Check Here, if you want more information about playing golf on Thursday, May 1, 2003.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS - Hotel Reservations due before April 18th, 2003 to secure special rate!

The Tarrytown Hilton in Tarrytown is offering Conference attendees a special rate for \$109 per night, single or double occupancy. All rooms are deluxe and include Hilton amenities. Room taxes are not included in the special room prices.

For information, registration, and reservation Call DGN Don Lee at 718-273-0529 or Fax above application to 718-273-0011 and mail above registration and payment to: DGN Don Lee, 291 Hillbrook Drive, Staten Island, NY 10305.

Make checks payable to Rotary International District 7230



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