



# DISTRICT 7230 EMBRACELETTER

Rotary International

Volume 1 Number 8

Helen M. Lynch  
District Governor

February 2012

## Embracing The Rotary Club of New York

### Israel Day Celebration on January 9, 2012

On Monday, January 9th, 2012, the New York Rotary, the "Host Club of America", held its annual fundraiser, "Israel Day". The afternoon at the Harvard Club began with the singing of the United States and Israeli National Anthems by renowned vocalist Laura Rosen Puzio with a beautiful accompaniment by the club's own Audrey Levine. President Giorgio Balestrieri formally opened the meeting while President Elect Sheri Best named the nominations for the Board of Directors. Rabbi Joshua Katzan of Congregation Habonim gave a riveting invocation to start the meeting formally.

After the singing of "Jerusalem of Gold" by Laura Puzio, the Club was entertained over a three course meal by the The Clarion Music Society directed by Steven Fox. The troupe of opera singers sang a collection of three sacred Jewish works by the late Salomone Rossi of Italy. The crowd of around 100 gave a raucous applause when all works were finished, really a great treat that the Club is not accustomed to.

Todd Horwath, director/organizer of the event and new inductee to the board of directors, hushed the crowd with a riveting account of his experiences in a bomb shelter during the second Lebanon war in 2006. Audible gasps could be heard around the room as Todd described the sounds of the Katusha rockets as they hit the city of Tiberius, Israel.

Todd then introduced the main speaker Gil Lainer, the Consul for Public Advocacy at the Consulate General of Israel in New York. Gil brought a very jubilant and comedic tone to ease the crowd with a descriptive account of the amazing projects that Israel does all over the world. He specifically touched upon "Israel's best kept secret": a long time government funded program that connects Israel to all over the world with "tikun olom" or giving back through the sharing of ideas and innovations for the betterment of people worldwide. The event ended with a raffle and auction, a great day for all involved!



Rotarian Todd Horwath recounted his experiences in a bomb shelter during the second Lebanon war.

### Important Dates

#### 2012

- March 16.....March 16-18, 2012 - Multi-District PETS - Marriot Hotel, Islandia
- April 20.....Paul Harris Luncheon
- April 20.....April 20-22, 2012, District Conference, Renaissance Hotel, White Plains
- April 28.....RLI in White Plains, White Plains High School

### Newsletter Schedule

#### Attention all Assistant Governors and Club Presidents:

Content for the District 7230 EmbraceLetter will be invited monthly from each Area in turn. Please submit your article and/or photos with captions at least 2 weeks before the first of the month according to schedule below. Contact Newsletter Chair Marguerite Chadwick-Juner at: m.juner@verizon.net, (718) 885-0993 or (646) 201-3625.

March: Area 4

April: Area 6  
May: Area 5

June: District

## Embracing Metro NYC Rotary

### Holiday Party and Toydrive

The Metro NYC Club organized and hosted their annual holiday party toy drive to benefit the children of Fraternite Notre Dame's soup kitchen. Attendees and friends were from the Metro NYC Club and the following Rotary Clubs: Midtown NY Club, Rotaract at the UN, White Plains, Chinatown, Wall Street, Harlem, and Riverdale. The event was a huge success with a great turnout. Approximately 300 toys were collected for the children of the Fraternity Notre Dame's soup kitchen which they support monthly through their volunteer efforts! Everyone was requested to donate a toy that evening yielding a van full of toys for the children fed by Fraternite Notre Dame.

### Rotary International United Nations Day at the UN

Rotary's relationship with the United Nations dates back to 1945 when some 49 Rotary members acted as delegates, advisors, and consultants at the United Nations Charter Conference. Today, Rotary holds the highest consultative status possible with the United Nations as a non-governmental organization.

Each year, at Rotary UN Day, over 1300 Rotarians including many Rotary International Directors, Foundation Trustees, past Senior Leaders, and guests come together at UN Headquarters in New York. The program was designed to inspire and educate all participants as well as provide insight into the relationship between Rotary and the United Nations.

Several members from the Metro NYC Club attended Rotary International UN Day to help celebrate the anniversary of the Rotaract Club at the UN (RCUN), founded in 1995. Many of their members have previously been members of RCUN.

RCUN is an outstanding group of young professionals who either work or live in the greater NYC area and are interested in making a difference in their community. Our

### St. Francis Xavier Welcome Table Soup Kitchen

January 22, February 19, and March 18, 2012

Rotary of Metro NYC participates in its monthly event to assist at St. Francis Xavier Mission's soup kitchen on February 21st. Parishioners of St. Francis Xavier Church took the initiative to start St. Francis Xavier Mission's Welcome Table soup kitchen in 1982. This evolved as a response to the needs of the homeless population in our Manhattan neighborhood of Chelsea at that time. Every Sunday, a day when most other soup kitchens in NYC are closed, approximately 700 meals are served to people in need.

There are two shifts of volunteers. They will be helping in the second one from 11.45 am - 3.30 pm. The tasks include: Putting hot meal items on plates and trays, working at the food stations giving out extras (coffee/ bread, water, etc), washing & rinsing trays, general clean up after the distribution.

The Rotary Metro team is signed on a monthly basis for a group of 5 volunteers under Rotary Metro. The soup kitchen is located at 55 West 15th street, just east of 6th Ave (bet. 6th and 5th) on the north side of the street (This is the entrance to the Church of St. Francis Xavier offices). Those interested should contact our team coordinator Adrienne Copper.



*Metro NYC Rotarians volunteering at St. Francis Xavier's Welcome Table soup kitchen.*



*John Hewko (center), Secretary General of Rotary International, is joined by members of the Rotary Club of Metro NYC (left to right: Stefan Jekel, Martin Nolan, Linda Birta, Clemens Schmid).*

### Metro NYC Event Calendar

**FEBRUARY 2012** - World Understanding Month

**Feb 8** - Club Meeting 4 - Jeannie Joshi (former Rotaracter), Founder of Joshi Design New York.

**Feb 12** - Welcome Table at St. Francis Xavier Mission

**Feb 14** - Valentine's Day

**Feb 15** - Rotary Club of New York - Monthly International Breakfast - 8:30-10:00am (\$20)

**Feb 15** - SAVE THE DATE - social of the Rotary International Area 7 clubs at NYPD Museum

**Feb 19** - Members-only Winter Afternoon Social at Stefan's Place.

**Feb 19** - Rotary International - National Immunization Day (NID) - India

**Feb 21** - Mardi Gras

**Feb 22** - Club Meeting 1 - Matts Ingemansson, Chairman of the Rotary Global History Fellowship

**MARCH 2012** - Literacy Month / World Rotaract Week (March 13)

**Mar 1** - Registration Deadline 2 for Rotary International Convention (until today: \$195 registration)

**Mar 14** - Club Meeting 2 - Guest Speakers: Meet Rotary International's New Generations

**Mar 16** - St. Patrick's Day

**Mar 16** - (until Sun Mar 18) Multi-District President-Elect Seminar (PETS)

**Mar 20** - Deadline for District Conference registration

## Embracing Chinatown Rotary

### Generosity Personified

Congratulations to the Chinatown Rotary Club & Rotarian Antonio Kan. Antonio generously donated \$150,000 to help fund the rebuilding of a playground for Transfiguration School. The project was born out of a collaboration between The Chinatown Club and the Transfiguration School to build a Science Lab. Antonio's moving generosity and dedication truly inspired Rotarians in our club and our district. We are very proud he is one of the members of the Area 7 Rotary Clubs.



*Students at the Transfiguration School in Chinatown.*

## Embracing Multi-Cultures

### The First Annual Rotary Multicultural Gala

On Wednesday, March 7, 2012, the Islandia-Central Islip Rotary Club, in conjunction with Rotary District 7250, presents the First Annual Rotary Multicultural Gala at the Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury, New York. One of the Honorees at the event which celebrates the beauty and necessity of multicultural diversity, will be Area 7 Assistant Governor Frances Wong.

## Embracing Membership Development

### Reach Out to Rotary Alumni in Your Community

What would our clubs look like if we invited every former Rotaractor, Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar, and Rotary Youth Exchange student to join Rotary? Hundreds of talented, dedicated, and energetic young men and women participate in these Rotary programs annually. Yet, less than 3 percent of program alumni are Rotary members.

"We recognized them as exceptional young people — even spent time and money to educate and send them to other countries as Rotary ambassadors. Aren't these the very people we want as Rotarians?" asks Rotary coordinator Judi Beard-Strubing.

Read more at: [www.rotaryleader-en.org/rotaryleader-en/en201201#pg3](http://www.rotaryleader-en.org/rotaryleader-en/en201201#pg3)



### Making Time for Family and Rotary

When Bill Simmermon joined the Rotary Club of Highlands Ranch (Littleton), Colorado, USA, six years ago, he wanted to be an active member without sacrificing time with his family.

So the father of two brought his sons along to lunch meetings and involved them in club activities. His eldest son, Denver, has taken part in community and international service projects, is a member of Interact, and has been the featured speaker several times at the club's weekly meeting. And Simmermon's wife has been an active part of the club.

"My family is all in," Simmermon says. "My involvement with Rotary doesn't conflict with family time. It has actually enhanced our family time, because we are all there together."

On RI's official LinkedIn group, several Rotarians also discussed the benefits of involving their family in Rotary. Henna Budhrani, a member of the Rotary club of St. Maarten, Sint Maarten, says she has included her children in the club's holiday food distribution to the elderly. Her kids will also attend the club's annual Christmas party for children from low-income families.

Read more at: [www.rotary.org/en/MediaAndNews/News/Pages/111208\\_news\\_family.aspx](http://www.rotary.org/en/MediaAndNews/News/Pages/111208_news_family.aspx)

### Work to Keep Your Members



At this year's International Assembly, the annual training meeting for incoming district governors, Monty J. Audenart, chair of the RI Membership Development and Retention Committee, spoke about the importance of retention.

"Not one of us in business is in the business of losing customers. We work to keep them, and we must do so in Rotary. Every Rotarian needs friends, an opportunity to make a meaningful contribution, ongoing Rotary education, recognition, and a sense that belonging brings benefits and value."

Read more at: [www.rotary.org/en/Members/Events/Announcements/Pages/120116\\_annc\\_theme.aspx](http://www.rotary.org/en/Members/Events/Announcements/Pages/120116_annc_theme.aspx)