



DISTRICT 7230 EMBRACELETTER

Rotary International

Volume 1 Number 9

Helen M. Lynch
District Governor

March 2012

Embracing
Port Chester–Rye Brook Rotary

Club Mentorship Program This Club's Flagship Program for 2011-2012

Community, self-respect, dignity, giving back - the words that came up again and again during the five months when the Port Chester-Rye Brook Rotary Club, along with Saving Our Society, ran a mentoring program for formerly incarcerated individuals. Sponsored by the Rotary Club, from which most of the mentors were drawn, the program began in July 2011 and graduated nineteen mentees - fourteen men and five women - in November.

The program was devised by Club Member John Conyers - mentors attended facilitated training on Saturdays. The depth of involvement, the intensity of experience, and the amount of hard work that would be needed, quickly became apparent. But all persevered.

Mentoring sessions each Wednesday evening began with a fellowship meal, shared by all, at Summerfield Church. Food was generously provided by Don Bosco Community Center. The weekly program then alternated between workshops and one-on-one mentor/mentee time. Presentations were designed around the practical needs of the mentees - they included Health Care Representatives, Human Resources, life skills coaches, career counseling and mock interviews.

Accomplishments were incremental but real: six mentees were placed in full and part time jobs; six mentees moved from local shelters to independent living; housing was facilitated for a family; furniture was provided for three families; one mentee logged over seventy-five hours of volunteer time.

A Thanksgiving Dinner celebrated the end of the program, and was followed by graduation and awards. Alongside the guests of honor - the mentees - were State Assemblyman George Latimer, Mayor of Port Chester, Dennis Pilla, Rye Town Supervisor, Joseph Carven and Lieutenant Conway of the Port Chester Police Department. One mentee commented that "I felt like crying at the show of support"; another that this was the first time he sat at a table with such a high ranking Police officer while not being interrogated.

Most inspiring, and relevant, was the partnering of the oldest Service organization (Rotary) with a brand new one (Saving Our Society), and the synergy it produced - business, community and political leaders came together to help the most disenfranchised segment of society. The feeling amongst the mentors was unanimous - all felt that they had learned more, and been given more, than they had taught, or that they had given.

Each mentor was humbled to learn and experience the common humanity that links us all, regardless of race, class, or life circumstance. Club President John Kiyak summed it up



A proud graduating class - at their Graduation Dinner.

when he described how "...we shared and accepted each others faults, feelings, hurts, and dreams...we became a family..."

A lot of interest has been shown by other clubs; several participants are already anticipating the next program; there is a lot of good work still to be done.

<http://www.thedailyportchester.com/news/port-chester-sos-celebrates-mentorship-program>

Continued on page 2

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.

April: Area 6 • May: Area 5
June: District

Newsletter Editor-in-Chief: Marguerite Chadwick-Juner Editors: Vincent Cookley • PDG Don Lee

Visit www.Rotary7230.org for the latest newsletters and information about your District.

Embracing Port Chester-Rye Brook Rotary Continued

Four Holiday Traditions for Port Chester-Rye Brook Rotary Club

This Year, Each Had Its Own Slant:



PCRB Rotary has a long tradition of ringing the bell for the Salvation Army, for a day, at the Holidays - this year, at the suggestion of new Rotarian Michael Goldstein, members rang the bell on two Saturdays in December. Salvation Army Captain Noel Rodriguez is a Rotarian. Michael, and Sal Feranga



Annual visit to Port Chester Nursing Home. Lillian Teska, Director of Rehabilitation at the Nursing Home, became a Rotarian last year



Hundreds of bags of food are collected at local supermarkets for Hope House in Port Chester. Anna Kobelka, Director of Hope House, is a Rotarian.



Scaled-back Holiday Party, with proceeds - \$941.00 - going to EREY. During the party, new members, Claudia Oliva and Michael Goldstein, were inducted into the club.

Four Initiatives Toward International Understanding



PCRB Rotary is proud to sponsor Veronica Medina as a Team Member of this year's GSE program to Bari, Italy. Veronica's passions are teaching, food, and the link between food and farming. Per Rotary tradition, she will carry several of the club's banners to exchange for those of the Italian clubs she'll visit this May



Plans are in place to connect a school in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala (shown), with one in Rye, by video, this Spring. Curriculum for the video-exchange is provided by Jack Zaccara of One World. Jack is a PCRB Rotary member.



PCRB Rotary Club will continue its tradition of celebrating Saint Patrick's Day in true International Style - this year on Thursday March 15th. Please respond early to attend what has fast become a District Tradition



Port Chester Soccer Club held their 7th Independence Cup Soccer Tournament in September. This year, PCRB Rotary was sponsor and played host to underage teams form Colombia and Peru.

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Port Chester-Rye Brook Rotary Club
Saint Patrick's Day Party 2011
 Thursday, March 15th, 2011 at 6:00 pm.
 At Copacabana—29 North Main Street, Port Chester
 6:00 pm cocktails, 7:30 pm dinner
 \$65.00 per person in advance, \$75.00 at the door.
 See menu—includes full banquet, wine list, entertainment, and more
 rsvp: finny.carricorp@optonline.net, John (914) 939-2567

Continued on page 3

Embracing Port Chester–Rye Brook Rotary Continued

...And More In The Community



Each year, with proceeds from their Annual Raffle, PCRBR Rotary provides Scholarships to several local High School Students to help enable them to further their studies. Each receives \$6,000, spread over four years. And they all come back to visit!



Saturday, October 15th was "Make a Difference Day" - Members of Port Chester Rye Brook Rotary Club got together with Saving our Society and volunteers from the Rye Town Hilton – where Rotarian Jeremy Morris is the front desk manager – to make a difference. Together they painted five rooms at Summerfield church to say thank you – which hosted the Mentorship program.

Connect To Stories In The News About PCRBR Rotary Club

There are nine links as follows:

[Port Chester SOS 'Celebrates' Mentorship Program](#)

[From Incarceration to Employment in Port Chester](#)

[Port Chester-Rye Brook Rotary Inducts Two at Holiday Party](#)

[PC/Rye Brook Rotary Club Serving Up Change](#)

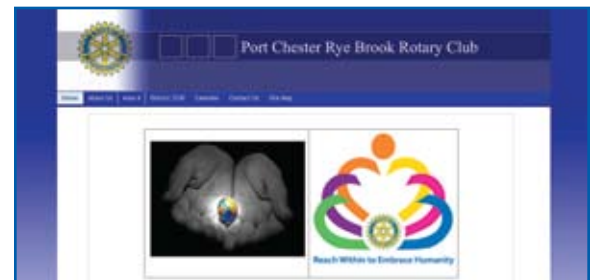
[Port Chester - Rye Brook Rotary Makes a Difference](#)

Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eqwuCcy0Cks>

Fundraiser for Japan: <http://soundshore.lohudblogs.com/2011/04/06/port-chester-rotary-club-to-hold-fundraiser-for-japan/>

Workman's Comp Lecture: <http://www.friedlandergroup.com/news/port-chester-rotar.pdf>

About us: <http://portchesterryebrookrotary.giving.officelive.com/aboutus.aspx>



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
- May 06.....International Convention - Bangkok
- June 02.....District Assembly (2012-2013)
- June 23.....Installation of Greg Arcaro, DG 2012-2013

Embracing Larchmont Rotary

The Rotary Club on Larchmont has devoted it's fund raising efforts towards the End Polio Now challenge. A total of over \$ 6,500 has been raised by events featuring Broadway stars, and comics as well as high profile Rotarian speakers. The club directed all "Happy Bucks" to this endeavor. Since this club goal has been met , The Lungevity Foundation will now be the recipient of the RCL April 29th fund raiser. This Foundation is a non profit organization studying the causes of lung cancer in non smokers.



Embracing Harrison-Mamaroneck Rotary

The Harrison-Mamaroneck Rotary Club has been very busy since our two clubs merged. The Club participated in activities previously supported by the Harrison Rotary Club and the Mamaroneck Rotary Club. In 2011 the members supported the Mamaroneck Shares buy selling Pop Corn and Cotton Candy with half the proceeds going to the local charities.



On Columbus Day, the club participated in the "Great To Live In Harrison Day" activities.

The year culminated with decorating and supporting the Mamaroneck "Tree Lighting Social" at Harbor Island Park.

For 2012, a Wine Tasting Fund Raiser

is in the planning stage for this Spring.

The first meeting of each month is devoted to honoring two "Students of the Month" from the local High School based on Academics and Community Service.

The proceeds from our "Happy Dollars" from the First and Third meeting of each month is donated to the Harrison and Mamaroneck Food Pantries.

Our Club Website - www.hmrotary.org - has been developing rapidly. Our speaker schedule is posted and updated regularly.



The Speaker Schedule for March and April 2012 is:

- March 1st Student of the Month
- March 8th Heartsong
- March 15th Domestic Violence
- March 22nd Southeastern Consort
- March 29th Open
- April 5th Student of the Month
- April 12th Chinese Culture Presentation
- April 19th Information Censorship - China
- April 26th Mamaroneck Food Party
- May 3rd Student of the Month

Embracing White Plains Rotary

Here's How Rotarian Past President Does It All

No, Interior Designer Georgene Mongarella of The Color Schemer would never take credit for being the CEO of November's White Plains Rotary Club fundraiser at the ballroom of the Westchester Renaissance in White Plains. Yet were it not for the single mindedness of her approach to all the components of a grand event, we would not have raised \$25,000 in these lean times. She did agree to lower the admission fee, but that was all she modified or relinquished. For those of you who aspire to work in special events, here is how she did it:

She ran with the theme selected by Club President, Neil Connelly - Military Families. When it was not to be a general-audience famous celebrity, she turned to an honoree that would be a draw. Major General David S.Elmo. Then, through the diligence of the committee, the idea emerged that at least one beneficiary should be homeless veterans, New York being the state with the fourth highest number of homeless veter-

ans. Here Rotarian Evan Delman stepped up, because he knew Dan Griffin from the Westchester Boot Camp. He arranged for representatives to attend, an advertisement appeared in the Journal.

Master of Ceremonies was Channel 12 News Reporter Tim Cassidy.

The changing of the colors was performed by the Fordham University ROTC. This enhanced the military atmosphere.

The DJ was Anthony Radice of Street Life, and one of the best photographers around, Sharpshooter Robert Constantino, took the shots that made everyone look great. Classic Guitarist Mark Ten-Eiken and Singer Victoria Herrmann lent their musical skills. It seemed unbelievable that all the foregoing talent was donated. "I pulled in my favors", said Georgene, who knows how to do that graciously.

Committee members went after sponsorships: Rotarians, Bina Ahmad: Westchester Bank; Wells Fargo, The Bronzo Group, Paul Bronzo: The Cappelli Companies, Carolyn Johnson: Hudson Valley Bank. Westchester Magazine: Georgene volunteers there.

One day we thought we had 100

PP Georgene Mongarella



guests, like other fundraisers might have drawn. But after Georgene worked her magic and called everyone she knew, both friends and family, we had 200 guests. Now that's magic.

Other valuable Rotarian volunteers that were on the "winning team", according to Georgene, were co-chair William Fishman, Esq. and Harriet Lerner, who worked with the local press to make sure many of our color photographs were included in the news of our event.

By Harriet Lerner, Go Visible PR