

ENGAGE  
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# District 7230 ENGAGELETTER

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District Governor

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Rotary International



## Greetings from DG Matts Ingemanson

This Engageletter has been put together by our Engage Team under the leadership of Marguerite Chadwick-Juner. It tells about inspiring things that our Rotary Clubs do.

You can read about the Tastes of Northern Westchester and how District Interact Chairman John DeAmicis lost his hair. You can also read about when District Rotary Foundation Committee Chair Janet DiBenedetto visited the Bronx Rotary Club and how the Briarcliff Rotary Club is going full steam ahead. There is also Friendship & Family Exchange News. The Yorktown Rotary Club looks back on a successful year of projects and the Rotary Club of White Plains launches a Facebook Page.

We can learn a lot by reading about other Rotary Clubs. You can also make sure that the successes of your Rotary Club are told to the rest of our Rotary District, by submitting your own stories. The Engageletter is meant for you to be engaged in your Rotary Passions and let everybody else know about



*Two fellow Rotarians are having fun, while engaged in Rotary.*

Please keep sending your Rotary stories. We will publish a new Engageletter every month!



## Buzzed for Building Supplies

District Interact Chairman, John DeAmicis, made what some people would consider "the ultimate sacrifice" by buzz cutting his long and stylist tresses! Out of the goodness of his heart, and for Rotary and Hurricane Sandy Relief, John challenged fellow Rotarians to contribute money to the cause. The challenge was if \$10,000 was raised, he would cut off his hair! Before he knew it, so many Rotarians stepped up to the plate for this worthy cause, John raised over \$13,000 with more pledges coming in.

Thank you John, for your initiative, for thinking outside the box and giving us all a bit of pleasure for your unique idea and execution of the same!



*John DeAmicis before.....and after.*



## Bronx Rotary's President's Dinner: A Celebration of Promise

The Rotary Club of the Bronx held their annual President's/Paul Harris Dinner Dance at the Marina Del Rey on June 27, 2013.

The theme of the evening was "Promise" in celebration of the wonderful promises made by 3 of our Paul Harris Fellow Honorees and the promise represented by the futures of the 15 Gift of Life children that Bronx Rotary has so far sponsored in whole or in part.

The first Paul Harris Fellows were Louise and Louis DiMeo who have pledged to sponsor 1-2 children a year for the Bronx Club. Unfortunately, due to a last minute family emergency, the DiMeos were not able to attend. They were sorely missed as most Bronx Rotarians have never met these friends of Bea Castiglia-Catullo, and were eagerly awaiting the chance to express their thanks in person.

The next remarkable Honoree was NYS Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj. Mr. Gjonaj has also promised to sponsor 1 child a year for Gift of Life surgery. His commitment to the Bronx community and to the Gift of Life program shone through in his keynote speech for which he was rewarded with a standing ovation. Mr. Gjonaj and his family just the week before suffered the loss of his father, and the Bronx Club is very grateful to him that even in this time of sadness, he made the effort to attend the dinner.

The remaining Paul Harris Honorees were hard working Club members: Outgoing President Bill Gouldman, Rick Sherman, Mary Springman and Geoffrey Ukekweh.

Bea Castiglia-Catullo was surprised by a Governor's Citation for active commitment to Rotary and a beautiful bouquet of roses, a token of appreciation from her Club members. Bea is proud to tell you she is 96 years young and still going strong.

Former News12 reporter Bharati Kemraj was the emcee for the evening and 2 students from her dance academy performed a Bollywood number during dinner service. Leslie Swanson of the Bronx Opera Company also graced the evening with her immense talents, starting with the National Anthem and then a second piece later in the evening. Anthony Radice provided the dance music and broke the ice by getting a crowd up on the dance floor with "The Stroll".

The evening was enjoyed by all and the Rotary Club of the Bronx wishes to thank all their friends who came out to support them.



**PDG Janet DiBenedetto did the honors of presenting the Paul Harris Fellows and installing the Officers and Board. Here she is with keynote speaker and new Paul Harris Fellow Mark Gjonaj.**



**Outgoing President Bill Gouldman presented Bea Castiglia-Catullo with a bouquet of roses.**



**The Board and Officers for 2013-14.**



**Incoming President Ralph Scottino is fitted with his President's pin as Outgoing President Bill Gouldman looks on.**





## Briarcliff Rotary Club: Full Steam Ahead!



*The New Officers and Board for 2013-14 (l. to r.): (L to R): Rachel Leihbacher, Lee Carozzi, Bob Maher, Eric Lebenson, Jeffrey Taylor, Anne Cargill, Scott Lanoff, and Kris Chittur*



*Newly installed President Anne Cargill and Immediate Past President Kris Chittur.*

### **Briarcliff Rotary Club Installs New Officers and Board**

The Rotary Club of Briarcliff Manor had its installation dinner on Monday, June 24, 2013. The Club installed its new officers, and the new Board of Directors for the Rotary year 2013-2014.

Highlights of the evening included an address by Past President Bob Maher about "the year in review," and a short talk by Sam Lanoff, the 12 year old son of Rotarian Scott Lanoff, about the inspiration he drew from attending Rotary's UN Day last November. The outgoing President Krishnan Chittur pointed out the need for the Club to get more involved internationally and in the District, and the opportunity Rotary presented for everyone wanting to make the world a better place through programs such as Youth Exchange, Peace Scholarships, and Friendship Exchange. Past President Paul Rosen awarded the honors and various Club awards, and the evening concluded with an address by the incoming President Anne Cargill.

The new board comprises of Anne Cargill (President), Jeffrey Taylor (Secy.), Robert Maher (Treasurer), Krishnan Chittur (Immediate Past President and Director), Eric Lebenson (Director), Rachel Leihbacher (Director), Scott Lanoff (Director), and Lee Carozzi (Director). The officers and the Board hold a one-year term commencing July 1, 2013.

The Club thanks the past year's officers and directors, and congratulates the incoming officers and the board, and wishes them a highly successful year.



*Sam Lanoff spoke about his experience at UN Day last November.*



*Past President Bob Maher gave an overview of the past year.*

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*Rotarian Zen Eidel and President Kris Chittur making cotton candy for eager children.*

## **Briarcliff Rotary Participates in "School's Out for Summer" Party**

The Rotary Club of Briarcliff Manor participated in "School's Out for Summer" Party organized by the Briarcliff Manor Public Library on June 21, 2013. This is an annual event to celebrate the onset of summer vacation, and the Briarcliff Rotary has been an enthusiastic participant in the event.

This year, in addition to the Rotarians from the Briarcliff Manor Club, visiting Youth Exchange Student Vibhuti Desai also attended the event. Ms. Desai had just finished her year as an Exchange Student at Valhalla High School, and was headed back to her home town of Silvassa, India.

The party featured games and entertainment for children such as face painting, ring toss, bean bag toss, and craft table. Rotarians manned the popcorn and the cotton candy booths, distributing freshly made popcorn and cotton candy to children bubbling with enthusiasm.

*Children standing in line for cotton candy.*



*Rotarian Zen Eidel and Youth Exchange Student Vibhuti Desai.*



*Rotarians Marc Seiden and Rachel Leihbacher at the popcorn stand*







## Friendship & Family Exchange News



*At the farewell reception.*



*The Friendship Exchange Team exchanged flags with the Mt. Kisco Rotary Club.*

### **Friendship Exchange Team from Bangalore Visits New York**

The Friendship Exchange team from Bangalore visited our District for a week between June 4 - June 11, 2013. The team, headed by Rotarian Zarir Batha, Secretary of the Rotary Club of Bangalore, included two other Rotarians, Malini DCunha and Sandhya Mendonca, and a non-Rotarian, Aditya Mendonca, the 21-year old son of Ms. Mendonca.



*Malini and Kris Chittur took in "The Jersey Boys".*



*Malini and Zarir at the Highline.*

While here, they were hosted by members of the team that went to Bangalore earlier this year. They attended a joint meeting of the Mt. Kisco and the Briarcliff Manor Clubs, where Rtn Batha made an impressive 15 minute presentation about the Rotary Club of Bangalore. The presentation left local Rotarians awe-struck at the scope, number, and kinds of projects that the Bangalore Club has been running on a regular basis. The visiting Rotarians distributed drawings made by the school children of the Nagadevanahalli School, which is run by the Bangalore Club.

Rtn. Batha enjoyed the all-American pastime, a baseball game between the New York Yankees and the Colorado Indians. The team visited the Westchester Hospital, a care facility for school children, the historic Phillipsburg Manor, West Point Military Academy, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Ground Zero, Times Square, Croton Reservoir, and Woodbury Commons, amongst other area attractions. They had a dinner meeting, hosted by the Rotary Club of Chinatown, with DGE Matts Ingemansson, Asst. DG Frances Wong, in Chinatown. The visiting Rotarians were also taken to some Broadway shows, such as Jersey Boys, Blue Man Show, and Chicago. The visit culminated with a farewell dinner reception attended by District Governor Greg Arcaro and several other Rotarians.

The team thoroughly enjoyed their visit to New York. As Rtn. Malini DCunha wrote in an email to me, "Thank you for the very lovely week we had in New York. I shall forever cherish the memories of that eventful week (one that passed much too fast) and the friends that I have made. I especially appreciate your warmth, dedication, care and attention to detail, excellent planning and realistic rescheduling that made our trip absolutely fabulous and memorable." Rtn. Mendonca, who has written a book on Bangalore, and

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## Exchanges

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plans to write a travelogue about the trip, agreed; "It was one of the most interesting journeys that I have been on," she wrote. Reporting home to his Club Rotarians, Rtn. Batha wrote, "A great experience for us . . . We can look forward to a meaningful association with the Rotary Clubs of New York."

On behalf of the District and the Friendship Exchange Committee, my heartfelt thanks to all those Rotarians who made this visit a memorable success: the hosts Janet Walsh (Bedford-Armonk), Lisa Vickers (Bedford-Armonk), Viktor Solarik (Mt. Kisco), Eva Finkelstein, and all those Rotarians who accompanied them to various events/programs, including Rotarians Taylor Eskew (Chinatown), Tom Reilly (Chinatown), Robert Maher (Briarcliff Manor), Anne Cargill (Briarcliff Manor), Greg Arcaro (Yonkers), and Tony Monteleone (Mt. Kisco). Thanks are also due to the Rotary Clubs of Mt. Kisco and Chinatown for hosting meetings to enable the visitors meet local Rotarians. You have given the visiting Rotarians a taste of New York hospitality at its best, and I am sure I speak on behalf of District Governor Arcaro when I say, "We are proud of you!"

The Rotary Club of Bangalore's new President, Ms. Purnima Ranganath invited our District to send another team this year!



*Malini at Union Square Park.*

### **Family Exchange from Amravati, India**

Rotarian Preeti Daga, of the Rotary Club of Amravati Midtown, India (R. I. Dist. 3030), and her family visited our District as part of a Family Exchange program. They were hosted by Rotarian Past President Eva Finkelstein, and visited the Rotary Club of Briarcliff Manor at its regular meeting on June 28, 2013.

The Family Exchange program is a part of the Friendship Exchange, where a Rotarian and his/her family exchange visits with a willing Rotarian family in a place they seek to visit. This exchange commenced with an inquiry from the Amravati Rotarian to our District. The Finkelsteins volunteered to be hosts, and the parties then set their own schedule at mutual convenience.

Ms. Daga has a small business manufacturing handmade handicraft products such as greeting cards, marriage trays, and wall decoratives items. Her husband, Kamlesh Daga, runs a business manufacturing Medical Disposable and Surgical items.

The Finkelsteins and the Dagas enjoyed the visit, and the Finkelsteins are eager to visit Amravati. Eva Finkelstein and her son were members of the District's Friendship Exchange Team that visited Bangalore in January 2013.

The Friendship Exchange Committee thanks Ms. Finkelstein and her family for this successful program, and encourages Rotarians in our District to participate in such programs.



*Pictured l. to r.: Rtn. Preeti Daga, Kamlesh Daga, Prof. Surendra Kaushik (incoming member of Briarcliff Rotary), Kris Chittur, Anne Cargill (Pres., Briarcliff Rotary), Eva Finkelstein, Kirit and Salone Daga. Seated is Rotarian Don Wilde.*





## Yorktown Rotary Looks Back on a Successful Year of Projects

In 2012-13, the club reached its goal of providing a container of wheelchairs for Mexico. The main fund raiser for this project was the Annual Best of the Wurst beer tasting event, raising a total of \$12,000. This made the club eligible for an open grant and by partnering with a club in California the wheelchairs can be transported to Mexico.

Other projects in which the club members participated were:

- Being Christmas Angels for three local families providing them with clothing, food and other amenities.
- A school, in Nambia, founded by the daughter of an Ossining Rotarian is receiving monthly support donations from the club.
- Two local high school seniors received \$1000 each in scholarship money and the Club is sponsoring an exchange student as well.
- The club continued to support the Putnam Valley Food Pantry and Staten Island victims of Superstorm Sandy.
- The club members have committed to participate in the Food Outreach Program which will meet in October to package 50,000 meals. These meals will be given to local food banks.

In addition to the Best of the Wurst the club supports these endeavors by the sale of Winter Cash Calendar raffle tickets, Lottery Tree raffles and the proceeds from the Annual Installation/Paul Harris Dinner. In addition, several fund raisers have been held with the cooperation and good will of St. George's Winery.

Yorktown Rotary Club has had a good year and looks forward to a successful 2013-14.



## Rotary Club of White Plains Launches Facebook Page



Preparing for his July, 2013, induction as White Plains Rotary Club's 97th president, Norm Szymanski convened a series of meetings with his cabinet, and outlined new goals for the club, including a number of items in the area of publicity.

Even before his term began, he asked member Harriet Lerner, a media relations professional (govisiblepr.com) to launch a Facebook page for the club. The page has been up less than a month, and already it has 19 "likes" and club members are beginning to post comments and pictures. Check us out and "Like" us: [www.facebook.com/WhitePlainsRotaryClub](http://www.facebook.com/WhitePlainsRotaryClub).

### Why Facebook?

Though many Rotarians connect through LinkedIn and other means, Facebook is a way to create an open social media presence and, potentially, enhance community among club members. Also, Rotary International has a page: [facebook.com/rotary](http://facebook.com/rotary)

A lively Facebook page allows for social interaction, sharing, and collaboration. It can be a resource for strengthening the club, welcoming visiting Rotarians, and also connecting with potential new members.

### Links of possible interest:

- Check out a 2010 comprehensive introduction to Rotary and Social Media: [www.rotary.org/ridocuments/en\\_pdf/global\\_outlook\\_1011\\_en.pdf](http://www.rotary.org/ridocuments/en_pdf/global_outlook_1011_en.pdf)
- Learn more about RI's social media presence: [www.rotary.org/en/mediaandnews/multimedia/social\\_networking/pages/ridefault.aspx](http://www.rotary.org/en/mediaandnews/multimedia/social_networking/pages/ridefault.aspx)
- Check out the Rotarians on Social Networks Fellowship: [rosnf.net/home/](http://rosnf.net/home/)
- Join Rotarians in discussing social networking on LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=858557](http://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=858557)
- Participate in RI's free social networks webinars: [www.rotary.org/en/MediaAndNews/Multimedia/webinars/Pages/ridefault.aspx](http://www.rotary.org/en/MediaAndNews/Multimedia/webinars/Pages/ridefault.aspx)



## Get Ready for "Tastes of Northern Westchester" Coming in October

The Mt. Kisco Rotary is holding "The Tastes of Northern Westchester, 2013" in which the Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester will be the beneficiary. The Rotary Club will bring major restaurants from the village and beyond together for the third annual "Tastes" benefit which will be held at the Mt. Kisco Country Club October 10, 2013. Throughout the evening, some of the area's finest restaurants will present samplings offering friends and neighbors the opportunity to help support the Boys and Girls Club, while enjoying some of the finest cuisine Northern Westchester has to offer. There will be a silent auction with items including tickets to sporting or theater events, gift certificates for restaurants, stores or service providers, vacation homes, etc.

Tastes of Northern Westchester is a benefit in support of the Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester and other Mount Kisco Rotary philanthropic programs. Approximately a dozen restaurants will be serving samples of their food to an expected 300 attendees. The event will be held at the Mt. Kisco Country Club. Last year the Rotary raised over \$20,000 for its recipient, Northern Westchester Hospital Center.



*A couple enjoying the first "Tastes of Northern Westchester" in 2011.*



## Westchester Industrial Development Chief to Speak at Larchmont Rotary on July 12

Jim Coleman, Executive Director of the Westchester County Industrial Development Agency, will speak at the Larchmont Rotary Club meeting on Friday, July 12 at 12:15pm at the Larchmont Yacht Club.

Jim leads up the county's efforts to provide bond financing and tax incentives to businesses that are seeking to move to or expand their operations in Westchester County. Jim is also responsible for expanding the county's outreach efforts to minority and women owned businesses.

Jim has held executive level sales and marketing positions with several Fortune 500 companies and during the past two years was Chief of Staff for New York State Senator Greg Ball.

The luncheon meeting is open to all. Please RSVP to club President Stephen Bartell at [president@rotarylarchmont.com](mailto:president@rotarylarchmont.com) or 914-833-8683. The cost for lunch is \$20.



## Two New Members for Bronx Rotary

The Rotary Club of the Bronx is pleased to announce that PP Cheryl Simmons-Oliver inducted 2 new members at the first meeting for newly installed President Ralph Scottino. They are Jim Lanfranchi (photo, middle), sponsored by Frank Arcuri and John Civetta (at right), sponsored by Ralph Scottino. Both men have already offered fresh ideas and input and Club members feel fortunate to have them join our ranks.

