

Rotary Review

The Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Plainfield and North Plainfield

Volume 7 Issue 6

December 2007

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

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Addy Bonet	President-Elect
William Parenti	Vice-President
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"ROTARY SHARES"

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Rotary Club of New Brunswick

What Paul Harris Said...

" Rotary has differed from other organizations in that it has not inherited a system of cut and dried policies rendered sacred by tradition. ... With so many capable, devoted friends feeling responsibility for the future of Rotary, we may reasonably expect to turn out a twentieth century mechanism which will constitute an agreeable surprise to ourselves and the rest of the world".

from *The Rotarian*, Nov. 1911

Have a Happy, Helping Holiday !



Help *StarFish* This Holiday Season

For nearly forty years, men and women from Plainfield and the surrounding area have collected and distributed food to the needy in Plainfield through an organization known as *StarFish*..

Founded as a cooperative effort of the Jewish and Christian communities (hence the "Star" and the "Fish"), these volunteers initially worked out of members' homes. Food was collected, sorted and stored in basements for later delivery to

those in need.

Using social service agencies as clearinghouses, *StarFish* met all requests for food. Members packed the bags of groceries, then delivered them to the needy.

Times have changed, but the need has not diminished. Now, food is collected at the Covenant United Methodist Church. *StarFish* has a storage room in the basement where volunteers still gather to sort, bag, and deliver food twice a week.

We can help! You can help!

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Need more information? Have comments, questions or suggestions? All are welcome. Contact the Editor at 908-822-1441 or at RotaryPNP@comcast.net.

Why I Am A Rotarian

At one time I belonged to APEX, a marvelous service club that was founded in Australia in the thirties. APEX was based on almost the exact foundations of Rotary. I became a national leader in that organization and that enabled me to regularly have contact with the leaders and members of other service organizations.

APEX members had to leave when you reached 40 years of age, and promoted the idea that you could move on and make your mark in the community in other ways.

I was so impressed with the caliber and friendship of the service club people I had met that I was determined to continue in the broader movement.

The local Lions club insisted I join them and a PDG promised to take me along. Guess what? in eight months, he never did!

My dentist, an outstanding Rotarian, Richard Kleine, knowing of my passion and record of community service one day asked my wife whether I was still in Apex. She told him "No". Richard invited me to Rotary the next Monday night.

Rotary has now been an integral part of me for over 20 years. It has allowed this very ordinary man to be involved in extra ordinary experiences and achieve amazing things.

I have chaired the District 9810 Youth Exchange committee and, in eight fun-filled years, have seen that marvelous program change the lives of families and especially the young people involved.

I have seen the smile on a blind lady's face after we totally repainted her house and she was so grateful.

I have taken a team of amazing young women to Colorado as part of a GSE team and seen the results of

that life changing experience. I have developed life -long friendships from that GSE experience and have been back to Colorado twice as a result. Coloradans have also visited my home in Melbourne, Australia.

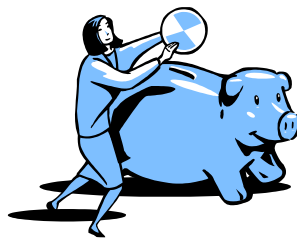
I have wept at four international conventions as speakers have outlined Rotary's achievements in attempting to make a better world. I shed tears at Columbine High School exactly one year after the shooting.

I have a passion to make a difference. Rotary is so diverse and can put up so many varied challenges that the organization continues to excite me.

The Foundation, that has as its aim to do good in the world, fits so comfortably with my beliefs.

In truth, I am a Rotarian because of the quality of friendship that has been shown to me. Yes, I am a Rotarian because it makes my life more complete and it provides wonderful challenges that are often missing in our daily existence.

PP Stuart Williams
Rotary Club of Forest Hill, Dist
9810
Melbourne, Australia



**Feed your Polio Piggy
every day!**

Who's Who and What's New



Bill Parenti bought a ticket in the Watchung Hills Youth Benevolent Association's recent Reverse Raffle, and was rewarded with the top prize! He reported at a recent meeting that the prize money will help him with his daughter's coming college bills.

Janice and Harry Allen celebrated Thanksgiving with their son Harry, daughter-in-law Herodia, and their new granddaughter Sophia in Oakland, California.

Tom Reedy is in Overlook Hospital in Summit. Admitted on December 4, Tom is undergoing tests for an apparent gall bladder problem.

Addy Bonet has led the YMCA through major renovations, and she is not finished yet. Read all about the Y's changes, programs and activities in their newsletter, available at our regular weekly meetings or at the Y, 518 Watchung Avenue.



Have a Helping Holiday!

(Continued from page 1)

A small bag of groceries for a single person, a couple of bags for a family are all it takes to give them that boost they need to get from paycheck to paycheck.

The lists of food below are typical of the assistance *StarFish* provides to the needy. As you can see, these are simple but nutritious foods - nothing extravagant.

You can help by providing the items for either a single or for a family and bringing them to the special holiday meeting on December 19th at Snuffy's. Leave them in your car - Michael will meet you in the parking lot after the meeting and will load them in his car to take to *StarFish* on Friday of that week.

Average Family

- 1 Package of frozen hot dogs, or
- 1 Package of frozen ground beef
- 1/2 lb of margarine
- 1 Loaf of bread
- 1 lb of Pasta
- 1 Pasta Sauce
- 2 Cans Soup
- 1 Macaroni and Cheese

- 1 Small box of tea bags
- 1 Jar Peanut Butter
- 1 Jar Jelly
- 1 Can of Fruit or Jar of Applesauce
- 2 Cans Vegetables
- 1 Can of Tuna
- 1 Can of Pork and Beans
- 1/2 Dozen Eggs
- 1 Instant Breakfast Cereal env.

Single Person

- 1 Package of frozen hot dogs
- 1 Stick Margarine
- 1 Loaf of bread
- 1 Can Pasta or Chili
- 3 Cans Soup
- 1 Macaroni and Cheese
- 1 Small box of tea bags
- 1 Jar Peanut Butter
- 1 Jar Jelly
- 1 Can of Fruit or Jar of Applesauce
- 1 Can Vegetables
- 1 Can of Tuna
- 1 Can of Pork and Beans
- 4 Instant Breakfast Cereal env.

In addition to these food items, feel free to add other staples, such as a roll of paper towels, toothpaste, soap, dish detergent, or any other item that might help these families get to their next paycheck.

Let's each do our part and make this mini-project a success!

Interact Club

The North Plainfield Interact Club provided delicious dessert items for our dinner project at the YMCA in Plainfield on December 3rd.

Interact Club members baked cupcakes, brownies (a big hit!), and cookies.

Both the children and the adults were happy with the desserts. Many of those in attendance came up for seconds from the dessert table.



2008-2009

Holiday Meeting - We will meet with the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club at Snuffy's, Rte. 22 and Park Ave., on 12/19 at 12:15 PM. The program will be holiday songs by the Fanwood-Scotch Plains High School chorus.

RU Basketball - The season is well underway, and we have earned just over \$1,000 with our first two games. And the best games are still to come. Mark your calendars for 1/5/08, 1/13/08, 2/5/08 and 2/19/08. You'll have a great time!

Jack Townley's Words of Wisdom



Jack: "Try this popcorn, Mom"
Janet: "Mmm, has a different flavor."
Jack: "It's sweet, just like you."



November/December Meeting Schedule

Rotary Mottoes

The first motto of Rotary International, *He Profits Most Who Serves Best*, was approved at the 2nd Rotary Convention, held in Portland, Oregon, in August 1911. The phrase was first stated by Chicago Rotarian Art Sheldon, who made a speech in 1910 that included the remark, "He profits most who serves his fellows best."

At about the same time, Ben Collins, president of the Rotary Club of Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA, commented that the proper way to organize a Rotary club was through the principle his club had adopted — "Service, Not Self".

These two slogans, slightly modified, were formally approved to be the official mottoes of Rotary at the 1950 convention in Detroit — *He Profits Most Who Serves Best* and *Service Above Self*. The 1989 Council on Legislation established *Service Above Self* as the principal motto of Rotary, since it best explains the philosophy of unselfish volunteer service.

100 Percent Attendance

Regular attendance is essential to a strong and active Rotary club. The emphasis on attendance is traced back to 1922 when Rotary International announced a worldwide attendance contest that motivated thousands of Rotarians to achieve 100 percent attendance year after year. Many Rotarians take great pride in maintaining their 100 percent record in their own club or by making up at other Rotary club meetings.

Although the bylaws of Rotary require members to attend only 60 percent of all meetings, the custom has emerged in many clubs that 100 percent is the desirable level.

Rotary stresses regular attendance because each member represents his

or her own business or profession and thus the absence of any member deprives the club of the values of its diversified membership and the personal fellowship of each member.

Club directors may determine appropriate reasons for excusing absences. From time to time, proposals have been made to give attendance credit for various reasons or to lower the minimum requirement, and some of those attempts have been adopted by the Council on Legislation.

In 2001, the Council approved the creation of a *New Models Rotary Clubs* pilot project to develop up to 200 new clubs that were more responsive to the needs of younger professionals. The new models clubs are allowed to operate outside the Standard Rotary Club Constitution and Bylaws.

Many of these clubs have altered their meeting frequency and relaxed attendance requirements. As a result, the 2004 Council on Legislation did adopt policies making some of these innovations permanent, such as a 50% minimum attendance.

- ◇ Dec. 5 - Club Assembly - Students of the Month
- ◇ Dec. 12 - No speaker
- ◇ Dec. 19 - Joint Meeting with Fanwood-Scotch Plains for a program of holiday songs
- ◇ Dec. 26 - NO MEETING
- ◇ Jan. 2 - Club Assembly
- ◇ Jan. 5 - RU Basketball
- ◇ Jan. 9 - Speaker open
- ◇ Jan. 13 - RU Basketball
- ◇ Jan. 16 - Speaker by Frank
- ◇ Jan. 23 - Speaker by Vicky
- ◇ Jan. 30 - Speaker by Janice

[**Note:** Please let Michael know when speakers are arranged so certificates can be prepared and ready.]

District 7510 Events/News

December	Family Month
Jan. 13-20	Rotary International Assembly, San Diego
Feb. 2	President Elect Training Seminar I, Raritan Valley Community College - 8 AM to 1 PM
Feb 9	PR & Fundraising Seminar, Quality Inn, Somerset.
Feb. 16	New Members' Breakfast
Feb. 23	Rotary International's 103rd anniversary
March	Literacy Month
March 29	PETS II, RVCC, 8 AM to 4 PM
May 2 - 4	District Conference, Mystic Marriott Hotel and Spa, Groton, CT.

YMCA Dinner

Our quarterly dinner project at the YMCA in Plainfield on 12/3 was a great success.

Club members Addy Bonet, Bev Howard, Linda Persichino, Frank Rainear, and Michael Townley served up a delicious meal that received rave reviews.

And who would turn away from chicken marsala, roasted red potatoes, mixed vegetable medley, and delicious bread?



Add to that a nicely dressed salad, a supply of cold soda and juice, and a dessert table courtesy of the Interact Club, and the meal was complete.

Many thanks to Frank Rainear for donating the dinner (prepared by Home Town Heroes in South Plainfield), and to Bev, Linda and to Bill Parenti for the donated salad, bread and sodas.

The Hawaiian Punch, the Orange and the Sprite sodas were the most popular drinks. The desserts? - well, let's just say that cupcakes, cookies and brownies were all a big hit!

Our new schedule for 2008 will be out soon. Three or four members will be assigned to each of the dinners, so everyone has a chance to participate.

Wine Tasting Dinner Raises \$3000

Over 80 Rotarians and their guests enjoyed fine food and wine at our Ninth Annual Wine Tasting Dinner at Giovanna's Restaurant on November 7th.

With silent auction items available during the early part of the dinner, our guests enjoyed the opportunity to bid on gift certificates to local merchants, gift baskets, and other fine selections.

Rotarians and their friends tasted fine wines supplied by Wine Country, located on Route 22 in North Plainfield. This is the fifth year that Wine Country has helped us offer the event.

The favorites seemed to be the *Little Matteo Rosso Toscana*, a blend of Sangiovese and Merlot, and the *Mas de Bazan Crianza*, a red with a combination of grapes that gives great freshness and balance.



Giovanna's food was exceptional, with the flounder Florentine getting rave reviews. The staff was helpful, courteous, and helped everyone have a great time. Michael Townley presented Giovanna's manager, Angelo, with a Certificate of Appreciation for their support of our program of service.

Proceeds from the dinner will help fund the club's scholarship

program for Plainfield High School and North Plainfield High School. The dinner raised just over \$3,000 toward our \$5,000 scholarship program.

The event, chaired by club member Bill Parenti, was a success due in part to the combination of fine wines, great food, and friendly but competitive bidding on the Silent Auction items.



Bob Popola of Berkeley Heights, who effectively worked the bid list to win the VIP Honda auto detailing gift certificate, saw the value in the certificate and in the cause that he supported.

"My wife Terry and I come to this event every year," said Bob. "We enjoy getting together with our friends, relaxing, and supporting the Rotary Club. Getting my car detailed just makes it all the better."



Current Members and Classifications

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Allen, Janice	Child care administration
Birnbaum, Marilyn	Public education
Bonet, Addy	Social service
Burgos, Ivan	Banking
Glock, Jackie	Social service
Griswold, Vicky	Music retail
Hawkins-Todman, Linda	Real estate
Henry, Paul	Financial planning/CPA
Hollod, David	Public administration
Howard, Beverly	Cardiac care
Kosin, Ivan	Chiropractic
Parenti, William	Municipal police service
Persichino, Linda	Banking

Rainear, Frank	Funeral home
Reedy, Thomas	Social service
Townley, Michael	Stained and leaded glass
Honorary Members and Former Classifications	
Harvey, William	Clergy - presbyterian
Gindin, William	General law
Herting, Frank	Public education
Perrone, Ralph	Social service
Ridzy, Edward	Mortgage banking

THE FOUR WAY TEST of things we say and do... 1. Is it the truth? 2. Is it Fair to All Concerned? 3. Will it Build Goodwill and Better Friendships? 4. Will it be Beneficial to All Concerned?



The Rotary Review

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