



# Rotary Review

The Award Winning Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Plainfield and North Plainfield

Volume 8 Issue 10

April 2009

## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

Linda Persichino	President
Addy Bonet	President-Elect
Vicky Griswold	Vice-President
Michael Townley	Secretary/Treasurer
Thomas Reedy	Sgt. at Arms

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Dave Hollod.....	Service Projects
Marilyn Birnbaum.....	R.I. Foundation
Paul Henry .....	Club Administration
Michael Townley .....	Public Relations
Vicky Griswold.....	Membership

Editor - Michael Townley

### President, Rotary International DONG KURN LEE

Rotary Club of Seoul, Korea

*"Make Dreams Real"*

### Governor, District No. 7510 JOE SCANDARIATO, SR.

Rotary Club of Hamilton Twp.

### Assistant Governor

**Bev Howard**

Rotary Club of  
Plainfield-North Plainfield

### **What Paul Harris Said...**

***"There are no great fundamental differences between men and Peace between nations. None are entirely good, none entirely bad. The great mischief-maker is misunderstanding." "***

**Paul P. Harris**

**Message to 1944 Rotary Convention, Chicago, IL.**

## What a Wine Tasting!

### Janice Allen Receives Paul Harris Fellow at 10th Annual Event

### \$4,200 Raised for Scholarship Fund

Want a recipe for a successful fund-raiser? Take five great wines, spread them out in a five-course dinner of delicious food, mix in friendly dinner guests and *voila!* you have the 10th Annual Wine Tasting Dinner.

Almost 100 guests enjoyed the fun and fellowship of a great Rotary event. The highlight of the evening was presentation of a Paul Harris Fellow recognition to Janice Allen for her 17 years of service to the Club and for her 16 years of service to North Plainfield as an elected official. (See related article on page 3.)

The combination of ticket sales, donations by friends (including some who could not attend) and by two of our 50/50 winners, and our Silent Auction resulted in \$4,200 being raised for our Scholarship Fund. What a great accomplishment for the Club and what a benefit for the

students at Plainfield High School and at North Plainfield High School!

Leading off the evening, guests enjoyed a selection of hot hors d'oeuvres during the cocktail hour. Pecan chicken, tomato crostini, fried mozzarella, and stuffed mushrooms were accompanied by a Riondo Roset Prosecco that was easily the hit of the dinner. This light and slightly sparkly wine had flavors of sweet cherries and strawberries.

During the cocktail hour, the song and music of Bob Young entertained everyone. Singing hits in a Louis Armstrong-style, Bob favored guests with his

*(Continued on page 5)*



*Bob Young, CEO and founder of Friends of Jazz, Inc., entertained the guests with music and song..*

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



## Who's Who and What's New

**Sandra Carolan-Brozy** is the new chairperson of our Star-Fish Food Pantry Project. Sandra will work to establish regular donations of food from our Club members for the less fortunate in Plainfield.

**Dave and Cynthia Hollod** spent some time in Chicago and the surrounding area last month. Cynthia gave a presentation at the *National Main Street* conference - way to go, Cynthia! While walking about Chicago, Dave saw the Rotary Club of Chicago's building. Significance? It is Club No. 1 - the first club founded by Paul Harris, listed below in this roster.

**Bob Young**, our musician friend who entertained us at the Wine Tasting Dinner, is in Hartwyck at Edison Estates after suffering a slight stroke. His days are long but would be brighter with a card or two. Send them to Bob Young, Room 138, Hartwyck at Edison Estates, 465 Plainfield Avenue, Edison, NJ 08817. He will appreciate hearing from you.

## Meeting at the Mansion

Large, airy rooms. Warm sunlight beaming through tall, double-hung windows. High ceilings, intricate moldings, original panel doors. Period-appropriate ceiling fixtures. Soft, warm colors on the walls and plush carpeting on the stairs in the hallway. Updated bathrooms and kitchen. A beautiful, three-story home on a large, partially wooded lot.

Eight club members had the pleasure of "dining" at Vicky Griswold's childhood home for our weekly meeting on April 8. What a treat it was to enjoy this beautiful, 1892 Victorian.

From painting, electrical, plumbing to plaster wall and ceiling repairs; from totally new bathrooms to retained built-ins to new closets where none previously existed; from rebuilt exterior porches to new roof and removal of overgrown shrubs, the home has been re-made but remains an old, warm

and inviting home.

As we walked through her late parents' home, we were amazed at this beautiful gem and how much it has to offer. The renovated kitchen, with new cabinets and stainless steel appliances, soapstone counters and porcelain tile floor is large and open, with room for a table and chairs in the center.

The dining room where we ate our lunch has a very pretty wallpaper and complimentary accent trim, natural wood floors and

painted trim. Large windows at the north side overlook the side yard and driveway.

The rest of the downstairs consists of a music room in the front, a front parlor and a large



*Clockwise from left: Linda Persichino, Bev Howard, Michael Townley, Vicky Griswold, Dave Hollod, Tom Reedy, Darlene McWilliams, Sandra Carolan-Brozy*

living room with working fireplace. The living room has French doors to a rear porch, private and secluded from the street and from neighbors.

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Coming soon

**YMCA Shelter** - Quarterly dinner schedule dates remaining: 6/1, 9/14, 12/7. Sign up now!

**Track and Field Meet - June 3 - Wednesday** - at the Hub Stine Athletic Field on Randolph Road. Junior high

school students from Plainfield and surrounding area will be invited to participate. The event is from Noon to 4:00 PM. Mark your calendars and save the date - this is our BIG youth service event of the year, and we need every member to help.

### Jack Townley's Corner



Wendy's even."

"I thought we were going to have a special dinner on Easter. You know, like Burger King, or MacDonalds, or

## Meeting at the Mansion

(Continued from page 2)

Some of us sat for a few minutes in the brightly-lit living room and could feel the warm sun streaming through the windows, making for a great place to take a cozy nap.

Onward and upward, we were shown the four bedrooms on the second floor, with a full bath off the center hall and a full bath off the master bedroom. The bathrooms have new tile walls and floors and fixtures, but they retain an "old" feel.

Lending to that feeling is the old dresser in the master bath that was converted into a vanity. The dresser belonged to her father, and now stands proudly in the bathroom, with a soapstone top and new basin. It is a piece of Vicky's past left to serve the home's future owners.

Three more bedrooms are on the second floor, the largest having been Vicky's room for many years. It sits at the back of the house, with multiple windows and plenty of light.

The third floor also has four full-sized rooms and a full bath. The bathroom has a claw-foot tub, the original oversized basin, and new toilet and tile floor.

Vicky's contractor is credited with a number of features that help bring out the charm of this grand home. For example, he constructed closets in the third floor bedrooms where none existed before, and they blend in seamlessly. He also selected light fixtures that compliment the home.



*The front porch is just one of three that adorn the outside of this grand Victorian. The property is large, open, and well-suited to a growing family.*

This project was obviously a labor of love, with a grand home now ready for new owners.

Vicky is hoping a new family will enjoy this home as she, her sister and brother, her mom and dad enjoyed it for many years.

If you know someone who could fall in love with this beautiful home, contact club member Darlene McWilliams. She will be listing the home on April 15 - darlenemcwilliams@comcast.net

## Janice Allen Honored

### Receives Paul Harris Fellow Recognition

Twelve years of service as mayor in North Plainfield, coupled with a four-year stint as councilwoman, plus serving a term as president of the Rotary Club earned Janice Allen special recognition by her fellow Rotarians.

Honored at the 10th Annual Wine Tasting Dinner, Janice became a Paul Harris Fellow with the presentation of her medal, pin and certificate.

Rotary International established the Paul Harris Fellow as a way to recognize significant contributions to the Rotary Foundation.

Paul Harris, the founder of Rotary, is memorialized in these

fellowships. Each person or Club contributing \$1,000 or more to the Rotary Foundation is entitled to receive, or designate someone to receive a PHF recognition.

While Rotary International considers the PHF a form of recognition, our Club has presented it to members and non-members

for their significant achievements in service to others.

Using donations to the Foundation made by the Club, the Board of Directors was able to re-

quest the PHF in Janice's name.

Joining Bev Howard and Michael Townley, Janice became the third active Paul Harris Fellow in the Club, and one of only eighteen since 1971.

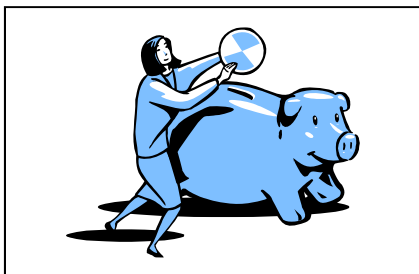


*Janice and Harry Allen, right, with their daughter Betsy and son-in-law Fernando Gomes*

## April and May Meeting Schedule

- ◇ Apr 1 - Club Assembly
- ◇ April 8 - Linda - meeting at Vicky's House
- ◇ April 15 - Farrah Stephenson, spkr by Darlene
- ◇ April 22 - Speaker by Annie
- ◇ April 29 - Speaker by Paul
- ◇ May 6 - Club Assembly
- ◇ May 13 - No speaker
- ◇ May 20 - Track Meet Training, spkr by Michael
- ◇ May 27 - Speaker by Marilyn
- ◇ [Note: Please let Michael know your speaker so a Certificate of Appreciation can be prepared.]

## Polio Piggy



Time to empty out your Polio Piggy, the blue one with all the quarters and dimes and nickels (and a few pennies.) Get your coins to Linda Persichino and she'll run them through the counter at Valley National. Or feel free to keep the change and just send your check to Marilyn Birnbaum. Make that check payable to the Rotary Foundation, and Marilyn will forward it for you. She needs them by April 15, so hurry!

## StarFish Food Pantry Project

New member Sandra Carolan-Brozy has agreed to chair our StarFish Food Pantry Project.

Each week, members are asked to bring food items to our meetings. Michael Townley will take these items to the StarFish Food Pantry on Fridays, assuring they are promptly put to use.

Here are the basic food items that are distributed to the needy, three days a week. Bring what you can - every can helps!

Frozen hot dogs\*

Frozen ground beef \*

Whole Eggs\*

Margarine

Loaf of bread

Pasta

Pasta Sauce

Canned Soup

Canned Pasta

Canned Chili

Beef Stew

Macaroni and Cheese

Small box of tea bags

Jar Peanut Butter

Jar Jelly

Can of Fruit

Jar of Applesauce

Canned Vegetables

Canned Tuna

Canned Pork and Beans

Box of cereal

Instant Breakfast Cereal

Oatmeal envelopes

\* - purchased by StarFish

If you would like to assist the Club, call Michael at 908-822-1441.

## Why I Am A Rotarian

Rotary has enhanced our family's life.

One of my daughters was a summer exchange student in Germany. A young lady student from Germany first came to our home and my daughter returned to Germany with her. We stay in contact with the family.

We also hosted a young Rotary exchange lady from Belgium in our home and have stayed in contact with her. One of our daughters visited her in her home in Brussels.

I am a Past President of my club and Chairman of Rotarians for Hearing Regeneration. Most of my family members are Paul Harris Fellows and hopefully all will be one day.

The friends made and kept, the opportunity for service and personal fulfillment being a Rotarian are reasons to stay and to continue as a member of this great organization.

Gene Pankey  
Rotary Club of Clover Park  
Lakewood, Washington.  
District 5020



## District Governor

The district governor performs a very significant function in the world of Rotary. He or she is the single officer of Rotary International in the geographic area called a district, which usually includes about 45 Rotary clubs.

The district governors, who have been extensively trained at the International Assembly and regionally at the governors-elect training seminar, provide guidance and leadership to the more than 31,000 Rotary clubs of the world. They are responsible for maintaining high performance within the clubs of their district.

The district governor is a very experienced Rotarian who generously devotes a year to the volunteer task of leadership and makes at least one official visit to each club in the district. The governor has a wealth of knowledge about current Rotary programs, purposes, policies, and goals, and is a person of recognized high standing in his or her profession, community, and Rotary club.

The governor must supervise the organization of new clubs and strengthen existing ones. He or she performs a host of specific duties to ensure that the quality of Rotary does not falter in the district, and is responsible for promoting and implementing all programs and activities of the RI president and Board of Directors. The governor plans and directs a district conference and other special events.

## Giving Gardens Project

Our StarFish Food Pantry Project depends on the generosity of many people. Concerned families and individuals, school groups, youth groups, and many others are all a source of food donations.

We ask each member to bring a food item weekly (see article on page 4.) We can also help StarFish by spending a little time up at the Wagner Farm Arboretum, helping with the Giving Garden.

"The purpose of the Giving Garden Project is to produce



vegetables dedicated to feed the poor and needy ... distributed through agencies such as...StarFish... and other appropriate agencies," reads the Arboretum's brochure.

President Linda is arranging a three or four-hour stint at the Gardens. We'll pitch in and help work on the

garden that will generate fresh produce this summer for those in need. Don't worry about getting your hands dirty! Let your inner child do the dirty work.

## Wine Tasting Dinner

(Continued from page 1)

rendition of "Hello Dolly" and "Mack the Knife", among others.

Some lively bidding also took place during the cocktail hour, carrying over into the dinner hour as well. The Silent Auction featured gift baskets and gift certificates, earrings, flowers, and other items that helped raise just over \$1,000 for the scholarship fund.

Dinner was served at 7:00 PM, with penne pasta amatriciana leading off, followed by a crisp salad of mixed greens tossed with lemon vinaigrette. A 2007 Capestrano Montepulciano was a perfect choice to accompany the pasta - it had excellent color with fragrances of black cherries and fudge.

The entrees consisted of chicken Giovanna and vegetables, served with a 2007 Louis Jadot Macon-Village chardonnay. This was followed by Salmon Sausolito, accompanied by a 2007 Universo De Los Andes Reserva Pinot Noir. The chardonnay exhibited flavors of apple and melon, while the pinot noir had hints of clove, nutmeg and paprika, velvety and just a hint of spicy.

Trays of mini-desserts were served to each table, allowing guests to choose among a number of delicious treats. Another very popular wine, the

# 10th Annual Wine Tasting Dinner

(Continued from page 5)

2006 Michele Chiarlo Nivole Moscato d'Asti, was a perfect fit to the desserts. This lightly sparkling wine, sweet but not too much so, closed out the dinner on a perfect note.

While dinner was being served, guests participated in our 50/50 raffle. Hucksters Tom Reedy and Dave Hollod worked the crowd and managed a very respectable \$560 in sales.

Drawing the raffle tickets was our good friend Harry Allen, who Tom described as "honest as the day is long" (or else he said he was the least likely to cheat - no one knows for sure!) No matter - the drawings took place under the watchful eyes of Rotarians and guests, all making sure Tom and Harry adhered to the 4 Way Test.

- First - Jim Townley - \$140
- Second - Holly Tremper - \$85
- Third - Len Lange - \$55

Both the first and third prizes were donated back to the Club's scholarship fund.

Another feature was awarding door prizes. After each course, a ticket was drawn and a bottle of that course's wine was presented to the lucky winners.

Closing out the evening, guests had an opportunity to purchase bottles of wine. A total of nineteen bottles were sold, with the Prosecco and the Moscato d'Asti leading the list.

A warm and sincere "thank you" to all who made this event a wonderful success.



**Current Members and Classifications**

Allen, Janice	Child care administration
Birnbaum, Marilyn	Public education
Bonet, Addy	Social service
Carolan-Brozy, Sandra	Business consulting
Griswold, Vicky	Music retail
Hawkins-Todman, Linda	Real estate
Henry, Paul	Financial planning/CPA
Hollod, David	Public administration
Howard, Beverly	Cardiac care
McWilliams, Annie	Real estate
McWilliams, Darlene	Real estate
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

**Join us for a free lunch!**

Clip this coupon (or bring the newsletter) and use it as your invitation to meet our members and to learn more about our Rotary Club and about Rotary International.

**Any Wednesday at 12:15 PM  
Giovanna's Restaurant  
1462 South Avenue  
Plainfield, NJ**

**THE FOUR WAY TEST of the 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**

**Rotary Club of Plainfield/North Plainfield  
165 Palmer Avenue  
South Plainfield, NJ 07080-2223**

Place  
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**Inside This Issue**

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