



# Rotary Review

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

Volume 10 Issue 3

November 2009

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Rotary Club of  
Plainfield-North Plainfield

## Dictionary Project Concludes

### Club Members and Friends Hand Out Hundreds of Books

Smiling faces everywhere...excited children cherishing their new books...pencils working furiously to scribe a name in a new treasure.

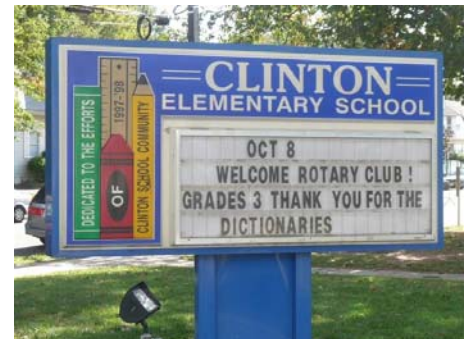
Scenes like this were repeated time and again as Rotarians and friends swept across North Plainfield and Plainfield to personally deliver brand new dictionaries to all third grade students in both communities..



Dictionaries are purchased from The Dictionary Project, a non-profit organization dedicated to getting dictionaries into the hands of students throughout the country. At a cost of \$1.50 each, they are a bargain and a treasure at the same time.

The Plainfield Foundation

generously supported our project with a \$1,000 grant. And thanks to the generosity of Valley National Bank, each student also received a new pencil.



Plainfield Superintendent of Schools Steve Gallon led the third graders at Stillman School in a rousing cheer to acknowledge the



part Rotary plays in fur-

thering their education. And we offer our thanks to everyone who participated in this project. Over 800 dictionaries are now in good hands, thanks to you.



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

## Giving Garden Project

After a few false starts, we held our garden party on Saturday, November 7 up at the Wagner Farm Arboretum.



Despite a low turnout, we managed to build a four foot by forty foot raised bed for our little garden plot.

*Last season's bed suffered from a case of too much water early in the season. Our plants were slow to develop but did produce peppers.*

Working with the help of two volunteers from Citi Financial Services, and under the guidance of Ernie Cottrill, resident Mr. Everything, our box took shape in about an hour's



*Our two-section raised bed lies straight and true, with topsoil added to await our Spring plantings.*



time. But that wasn't all! We then shoveled soil into wheelbarrows (many times!) and half-filled the bed. Soon we'll add manure and leaves and then let the ground rest until Spring planting. We know- you just can't wait.



*Brendan and Randy, two volunteers from Citi Financial Services, assisted in building and then filling our raised bed..*

## Polio Piggy



*Don't forget to feed your blue piggy bank. We have it on good authority that they are fond of folding money, too!*

## Thanks!

Many of our little friends in the third grade thanked us for their new dictionaries by sending us cards and letters. Here are a few of their comments.

*"Thank you very much for the diction and the pencil...And I love sign language. It will help me with Spanich class."*

*"Thank you for the dictionary and pencil...I appreciate the gifts so much. You are so generous to me."*

*"...And thank you for the map of the United States of America. That was so cool I almost jumped up and down. And I hope you like my note, guys."*

*"I appreciate all that you did for us, especially when you gave us the pencils."*

Coming soon

### YMCA Dinners -

Dec. 7 - Bev , Michael and Linda

### Rutgers Basketball -

Nov. 22 - \$996

Dec. 3 - 7:30 PM Thurs.

Dec. 9 - 7:30 PM Wed.

Jan. 23 - 2:00 PM Sat.

Feb. 1 - 7:30 PM Mon.

Feb. 10 - 7:30 PM Wed.

Feb. 24 - 7:30 PM Wed.

Work the concession stand with us at RU basketball games. It's fun, it's work, it's a fundraiser. Sign up now - email [RotaryPNP@verizon.net](mailto:RotaryPNP@verizon.net)

### Jack Townley's Corner



Mom and Dad bought Jack some new clothes, including a flannel shirt.

When complimented on his appearance, Jack said "This is a nice shirt. It looks like it came from Macy's."

## Students of the Month

Working hard... leadership... dependability... participating in all activities... We recognize these characteristics of a great club member in the people around us at our own weekly meetings.



*Max Torres, Sara Merendino, and Katie Fellin are flanked by President Vicky Griswold and Interact Adviser Alexandra Pereira..*

But we also see them in the young people who will be our fellow Rotarians some day, but who are now our Interact Club members at North Plainfield High School.

We had the opportunity to rec-

ognize three such leaders at our meeting on November 18 when we presented "Student of the Month" awards to Max Torres (September), Sara Merendino (October), and Katie Fellin (November).

If these names sound familiar, it's probably because you saw them in the article about Interact on page 4 of this issue. Or perhaps your memory is sharp and keen, and you recall that they have each received this award previously.

Alexandra (Alex) Pereira, Interact adviser, spoke highly of all three students as she presented them for their awards. Each of them volunteers for projects, helps lead the way, mentors the younger members, and generally prove themselves time and again as the backbone of the Interact Club.

## Star Fish of Plainfield



One hundred and fifty families will enjoy a Thanksgiving dinner this year, thanks to the volunteers at Star Fish Food Pantry and to the people who donate food to help others.

Our Club took on Star Fish last year as a little project, bringing canned food and pasta and

other items to our weekly meetings for distribution to the needy. This year, we added a Thanksgiving Dinner project, with each member purchasing 12 items from Star Fish's Thanksgiving list. We then packaged the various items for twelve families, brought them to Star Fish, and helped distribute them. Our bags included a little note, wishing the recipients a Happy Thanksgiving from the Rotary Club.

Thank you to all who supported this worthy project.



## Who's Who and What's New

**Addy Bonet** will join us as a returning member! Addy resides in Plainfield and is now the State Director of the New Jersey chapter of March of Dimes. She will travel throughout the state to supervise three offices, and looks forward to making up meetings as she travels.

Coincidentally, the March of Dimes was initially founded to help combat the scourge of polio in the 1930's. With Rotary's focus on eradicating polio, Addy's new job is even more meaningful. Addy was formerly president/CEO at the Plainfield Area YMCA.

**Bev Howard's mom** is back at home after a stint in the hospital and then in rehab. A heart valve replacement, even on a kind-hearted soul, can have some complications, and this one did. But a good medical team and a trusty pacemaker have helped get her mom back to health and home.

**Tom and Lorraine Reedy** and family traipsed off to sunny Spain to visit daughter Meredith, who is spending her study and leisure time there for one semester. Tom reports with weather was sunny, the trip uneventful, and the food fishy. Not being a fish lover, menus were a little difficult to navigate, but Meredith used her Spanish-speaking skills to make sure no one went hungry. Welcome back, Reeds!



## Every Rotarian an Example to Youth

In 1949, the RI Board adopted the slogan *Every Rotarian an Example to Youth* as an expression of commitment to children and youth in each community in which Rotary clubs exist. Serving young people has long been an important part of the Rotary program.

Youth service projects take many forms around the world. Rotarians sponsor Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, athletic teams, centers for disabled children, school safety patrols, summer camps, orphanages, recreation areas, safe driving clinics, county fairs, child-care centers, and children's hospitals. Many clubs provide vocational counseling, establish youth employment programs, and promote drug/alcohol abuse prevention and AIDS awareness projects.

In every instance, Rotarians have an opportunity to be role models and mentors for the young people of their community. One learns to serve by observing others. As our youth grow to become adult leaders, it is hoped each will achieve that same desire and spirit to serve future generations.

The slogan accepted over 50 years ago is just as vital today.

## World Community Service

World Community Service (WCS) is the Rotary program by which a club *or* district in one country provides humanitarian assistance to a project of a club in another country. Typically, the aid goes to a developing community

where the Rotary project will help raise the standard of living and the quality of life. The ultimate object of World Community Service is to build goodwill and understanding among peoples of the world.

One important way to find a club in some other part of the world that needs help on a worthy project is to use the WCS Projects Exchange, a list of hundreds of worthy activities in developing areas that is published semiannually. It outlines projects, provides estimated costs, and gives names of the appropriate contacts. The WCS Projects Exchange list and the database, which is updated monthly, are accessible via the RI Web site at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org).

Clubs seeking help with a humanitarian project may register their needs, and clubs seeking to assist a World Community Service project may easily review the list of needs registered in the Projects Exchange. Thus, the exchange provides a practical way to link needs with resources.

Every Rotary club is urged to undertake a new World Community Service project each year. The WCS Projects Exchange list is an excellent tool to find a real need, a project description, and cooperating club in a developing area.

The job then is to go to work" to complete the project, and at the same time build bridges of friendship and world understanding.



## December/January Meeting Schedule

- ◇ Dec. 3 - Board meeting 11:30 AM; PHS Students of the Month; Paul Grzella, speaker by Michael
- ◇ Dec. 10 - No speaker
- ◇ Dec. 17 - No speaker
- ◇ Dec. 23 - No meeting?
- ◇ Dec. 30 - Board meeting at 11:30; no speaker
- ◇ Jan. 6 - Club Assembly
- ◇ Jan. 13 - Speaker by Janice
- ◇ Jan. 20 - Speaker by Michael
- ◇ Jan. 27 - Board meeting at 11:30; no speaker.

## Interact



Alexandra Pereira, Interact adviser, and nine club members came out to the Rutgers men's basketball game on Sunday, November 22 to help at the concession stand and food carts.

Pulling double duty in some cases, the students sold popcorn and soda (Sara and Max), chili dogs (Miles) and sausage and pepper sandwiches (Katie) at carts stationed in the Arena.

Four students (Rafael, Melissa, Dorien and Karina) helped by making sodas for the thirsty fans, while Alex and Yamna acted as cashiers. With never having been in the booth before, the two of them did an outstanding job tallying up orders, making change, "swiping" student meal cards.

Many thanks for your hard work - we couldn't have done it without you.

***Current Members and Classifications***

Allen, Janice	Child care administration
Birnbaum, Marilyn	Public education
Bonet, Addy	Infant health
Forbes, Mary	Community leadership
Griswold, Vicky	Music retail
Henry, Paul	Financial planning/CPA
Hollod, David	Public administration
Howard, Beverly	Cardiac care
Persichino, Linda	Banking
Rainear, Frank	Funeral home
Reedy, Thomas	Social service
Townley, Michael	Stained and leaded glass
Young, Robert	Music Mentoring

**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**

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Stamp  
Here

***Inside This Issue***

- ◇ *Dictionary Project Concludes!*
- ◇ *ABC's of Rotary*
- ◇ *Who's Who and What's New*
- ◇ *Giving Garden Update*
- ◇ *Interact Club News*
- ◇ *Star Fish of Plainfield*