



## THE ITHACA ROTARY NEWS

December 17, 2003

The official bulletin of the Rotary Club of Ithaca, NY  
Chartered in 1915 :: District 7170

Read this newsletter online with pictures and more at <http://www.ithacarotary.org>

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **New Member Proposal**

The Ithaca Rotary Club Board of Directors will be considering the membership application(s) from the person(s) listed below. Any concerns about these membership proposals should be made in writing to the Secretary of the Club by December 28, 2003.

*Name:* Robert "Buz" Boothroyd

*Position:* Insurance

*Company:* Brown & Brown

*Sponsor:* Barlow Ware and Roger Barnard

- **New Member Nomination**

Beverly Baker placed the name of Lenore Schwager in nomination for membership in the club. After being seconded, the nomination was approved by vote of those members present. Congratulations to Lenore! Please welcome her to our club and say hello when you get the chance.

- **Rotarians in Action**

Congratulations to Tony Pesco who has moved his barber shop to the Buttermilk Falls Plaza on Route 13 across from Home Depot. He has expanded a bit and will now be open six days each week. Good luck, Tony!

Also congratulations to Larry Baum on his new job as a video producer! For those of you who have seen the new Cayuga Wine Trail DVD around the area, if you look closely at the label, you will find Larry's name there.

Thank you to June Losurdo and David Cook for coordinating the Salvation Army Kettle drive and bell ringing. The Army still needs help ringing bells at their kettle locations, especially on The Commons. You can contact the Army at 273-2400 if you have a spare hour or two to help out.

- **Two important meeting reminders!**

There will be no meeting on December 24, but there will be a meeting on December 31! Mark your calendars now so that you won't be there on the 24th and that you will be there on the 31st.

- **Dues Notices Now Available for Pick-up**

Dues notices are out for the second half of the 2003-2004 Rotary year. Please pick up your dues notice and save the club the postage necessary to mail the notice to you later. Dues are due by December 31 and any payments received after that date must include a \$10.00 late payment fee. Please get your dues payments to secretary Scott Russell as soon as possible. Thank you.

- **Learn more about the Rotary Foundation**

Brian Wilbur announced that letters from President Jeff and the Rotary Foundation Annual Fund Committee are also out on the tables and asks that everyone pick up their letter. If you are looking for something to perk up your day and don't know where to turn, look in the Rotarian magazine or on-line at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) and you will find numerous stories about the great works of the Rotary Foundation throughout the world. Through your contributions to the Rotary Foundation, you become part of those great works - whether it is a well for a dry village or volunteers administering polio vaccine, the Rotary Foundation is helping people all over the world every day. Without your help, the Foundation could not continue its mission. Please consider this request for your help and give whatever you feel you can. Every dollar helps and no gift is too small. Thank you.

- **Rotary Centennial Project Update**

Beverly Baker announced the beginning of our Rotary Centennial Tree Project. Our Rotary club will be donating a total of 190 trees to the City of Ithaca (one for each year since Rotary was founded and one for each year since our club was founded -- 100 and 90 respectively) over the next year and a half. In cooperation with the City Forester, a map showing the location of all the future plantings and describing the types of trees to be planted has been created and Rotarians can purchase a tree as a gift or memorial and choose where it will be planted. Trees are \$79.00 each and make great gifts. Please contact Beverly Baker if you would like to purchase a tree and help support this wonderful project.

ANNOUNCEMENTS <i>(continued)</i>
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- **Ithaca Rotary Community Grants**

Once again the Ithaca Rotary club will be presenting worthwhile organizations in the community with small grants to help them achieve their goals. Requests for Rotary Grants are now being accepted and any organization with a need can apply simply by making a request to the Community Grants Committee. A letter detailing the request should be sent to either President Jeff True or Secretary Scott Russell care of the Ithaca Rotary Club, P.O. Box 306, Ithaca, N.Y. 14851. Letters may also be addressed directly to the committee via chair Jessie Ripple, 57 Highgate Circle, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850 If you have any questions about the Small Grants Program you may also call Jessie at 257-6454 or 254-2372. Deadline for requests will be January 31, 2004.

- **A New Holiday Tradition**

The Family Reading Partnership is trying to create a new holiday tradition of reading. Their hope is that every child will wake up Christmas morning with the gift of a book waiting at the foot of their bed. Not only will it be a gift of reading for your children or grandchildren, but it might actually keep them in bed a little longer! For more information you can visit the partnership's web site at [www.familyreading.org](http://www.familyreading.org) and to share your holiday reading traditions you are invited to send an e-mail to [katrina@familyreading.org](mailto:katrina@familyreading.org).

- **Rotary Meeting Make-up Opportunities**

For a complete list of local club meetings where you can make up a meeting, please click on the following link and you will be taken to a comprehensive list. If you are traveling out of the area and would like to attend a Rotary meeting, please see Scott Russell and ask to see the Official Directory. <http://www.ithacarotary.org/ithaca/makeups.html>

FEATURED ROTARIANS
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- **Paul Harris Presentation**

It is always a special occasion when we are able to recognize one of our members for becoming a Paul Harris Fellow. It is not often, however, that we are able to recognize one of our members for receiving a 5-star Paul Harris Fellowship - especially with his mother present! Today we recognized the continuing contributions of George Gull. George's commitment to the Rotary Foundation and its mission of promoting world peace and understanding is most appreciated by the thousands of people around the world whom George will never meet. These people will be able to have fresh water in their village or mosquito nets to protect them from Malaria or meet people from another country on a Group Study Exchange - all due to George's contributions. We thank George sincerely for his contributions over the years and for his support of the Rotary Foundation and its humanitarian programs.

- **Report of the Nominating Committee**

President Jeff, on behalf of the nominating committee, presented the slate of new officers for the 2004-2005 Rotary year to the club for their vote. After receiving a second, the following slate was elected by those members present. Congratulations to our future leaders.

*President:* Beverly Baker

*President Elect:* Brian Wilbur

*Vice President:* Heidi Goldstein

*Treasurer:* Simonetta Antenucci

*Secretary:* Scott Russell

- **Visiting Rotarians**

Andy Zaplatynsky (Syracuse Sunrise)

Barry Downing (Endwell)

Chuck Brodhead (Ithaca-Cayuga)

- **Contact Information for our Youth Exchange Students**

*Esteban Campos-Hernandez (Costa Rica)*

Host family Mike and Joyce Billing

6 Pheasant Lane, Ithaca, 272-9208

*Michal Sykora (Slovakia)*

Host family John and Ann Costello

8 Winthrop Place, Ithaca, 257-0919

*Jose Salcedo-Martin "Pepe" (Mexico)*

Host family Amdrea Parrot & Steve Allen

8 Legrand Court, Ithaca, 277-1695

<b>PROGRAM NOTES “Boots on the Ground - A Month with the 82nd Airborne in the Battle for Iraq”</b>
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<i>Karl Zinsmeister</i>
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Our guest speaker today was Karl Zinsmeister, editor of American Enterprise magazine and the author of a new book, "Boots on the Ground." Karl spent three months in Iraq with the 82nd Airborne Division as an embedded reporter. His book is an account of his experiences during those three months and includes a number of photos he took there as well.

Karl started by telling us a little bit about the people who are serving on today's army. Despite the stereotype of poor, under-educated teenagers joining the military to escape their small towns, most of today's army is comprised of educated, and most importantly, committed individuals who have given up great opportunities at home to serve their country. Two examples he gave are a man who was two courses away from completing his PhD and another man who has a masters degree and is a CPA. The CPA was assigned to be the driver for a Lieutenant Colonel who is younger, and yet the two worked together well as the CPA chose to do something to help his country while he had the chance.

Karl then went on to tell a number of stories about his time in Iraq as he was there for the beginning of the war and was on the front lines. There is not enough room here to share all those stories, but he painted a truly different picture of the war, a viewpoint that we have seldom if ever seen. One of his stories helped us to see how the modern army works, combining discipline, well-defined leadership and a certain amount of democracy as well. Another story gave us some insight into how carefully this war was prosecuted as he detailed an effort to take out two enemy operatives without harming any civilians in the area.

Karl also had copies of his book available which he gladly inscribed for anyone who purchased a copy. This was one of the most interesting presentations we have had this year and we thank Karl for his insights, stories, and his wonderful presentation. Karl will be returning to Iraq in a few weeks where he will watch as the soldiers he was originally embedded with are rotated out and a new unit arrives. Perhaps he will be kind enough to return next spring sometime and share his latest experiences.

- **Special Report from Bosnia**

For those of you who may not remember, Chris Bragdon, who is with the Friends of Bosnia, joined our club last year and almost immediately went off to Bosnia again to continue his good works there. This letter, sent as a request for help from a contact in Bosnia, was sent also to our own Scott Russell and is included here to give you all an idea of what he is working on in Bosnia. We hope to see Chris back in Ithaca again soon and we will include more of his updates as we receive them and have room. This message has been edited slightly to remove unnecessary information:

“This is **Christopher Bragdon** from **Friends of Bosnia** writing you from Tuzla where I am currently implementing our development and humanitarian projects. I am member of the Ithaca **Rotary Club** in central New York.

I am writing you upon the encouragement of our mutual friend Kevin Kriesel. Kevin just recently left Eagle Base after a year of intensive good will work. One of the last meetings he attended was at the Tuzla Orphanage with me, the current Head of the UNHCR Sub-Office William Tarpai., and 7 of the orphans between the ages of 17 and 20. Kevin, William, and I were all there above and beyond our job requirements doing what we can to help these young adults make the transition from the orphanage into independence. Some of these youth, especially the young women, are definitely at risk and very much in need of acquiring job skills and jobs. We have an opportunity to create a job training program with these young adults if we are able to raise, in a short period of time, from three to four thousand dollars.

There is a local internet business that hosts educational IT classes as part of Friends of Bosnia programs. This business is in need of quality workers. They are also in need of completely revamping there clientel so that the center is appropriate as a community resource center. What we need is funds to reserve the entire center for approximately two to three months during which we would give this group of orphans intensive hands-on job training with at least one or two long term jobs being created for the young people who demonstrate the highest commitment to their own betterment. The funds would pay for the space and the programs as well as initially supplementing the orphans wages as a way of encouraging the host business to give these young people a chance at earning a full time job.

I believe this project is consistent with Rotary's ideals of self-reliance while being of service to others. The orphans who did get jobs would be expected to help the next group of orphans in their job training. Much of this would be teaching, through experiential learning, the core qualities that will lead them to success... initiative, honesty, integrity, hard work. Would you be interested in meeting with Mr. Tarpai and myself some time soon to discuss the possibility of your contributing to this effort?

Unfortunately, the local Rotary Club is not one that I can work with. I have been looking forward to finding Rotarians here to work with and Kevin suggested that I contact you in that you have expressed an eagerness to truly make a tangible difference along the lines of Rotary. (In fact, I have a number of ideas that would be a shoe-in for Rotary-minded people including one that would lead to creating new clubs, committed to Rotary's ideal of service over self, throughout the Tuzla region.) One idea I have is your joining Mr. Philip Egger (SFOR Political Advisor), 1LT Brummond, and MAJ Kristine Shelstad at a major celebration of our World Bank-funded

project this Monday, December 22nd. It also is built upon the ideals of self-reliance while being of service to others and would be an excellent way to introduce you to our approach to humanitarian and development work. William will be there.

I hope we are able to meet soon.

Best Regards,  
Chris”

## CALENDAR

2004

January 7: *Meeting* “Emerson and Local Economic Development” Gene Yarussi

January 14: *Meeting* “Indian Land Claims” Robert Venables

January 21: *Meeting* “The Health Index of our Ithaca Rotary Club & Tompkins County” Donna Rider

January 28: *Meeting* TBA

February 14-22: Rotary International Assembly (Anaheim, CA)

March 19-21: President-Elects Training Seminar, PETS (Syracuse, NY)

March 27: Rotary Leadership Institute, Parts 1-3 (Binghamton, NY)

April 1 – 3: District 9100 District Conference, Bamako, Mali, Africa. Our GSE team will be there!

April 17: District Assembly (Sidney High School)

April 21: 2004 Ithaca Rotary Rose Sale!

May 23-26: Rotary International Convention (Osaka, Japan)

June 11-13: District 7170 Conference: Celebrating the Family of Rotary (Binghamton, NY)

June 20: Ithaca Rotary Chicken BBQ at Stewart Park

June 25: District Pass the Gavel Celebration

June 27 – July 2: RYLA 2004

## CREDITS & CONTACT INFO

*Program Chair:* Jeff True :: *Kettle Watch:* Rich Gallagher :: *Greeter:* Tom Schickel :: *Thought:* Phil Snyder

*Introductions:* Tony Fraboni :: *Music:* Don Hinman and Bill Cowdery :: *Photography:* John Ziegler :: *Setup:* Dave Flinn :: *Editor:*

Dale Flinn :: *Website:* Matthew Dearing

Please address all correspondence to the club to:

Ithaca Rotary Club P.O. Box 306

Ithaca, N.Y. 14851

Attn.: Scott Russell, Secretary

For Newsletter comments, questions or corrections, and subscription requests please contact the Editor at [bigd@starflinn.com](mailto:bigd@starflinn.com).