



THE ITHACA ROTARY NEWS

December 31, 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 January 16, 2004.

Name: Joanne S. Farbman

Position: Executive Director

Company: Advocacy Center of Tompkins County

Classification: Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Victim Advocacy

Sponsor: Nancy Potter

- **DUES Notice**

Dues (\$85.00 + \$40.00 Fair Share) were due by December 31 and any payments received after that date must include a \$10.00 late payment fee. Dues notices, which have been mailed out to members who did not pick them up at the meetings, also include a line for a tax-deductible donation to the Ithaca Rotary Charitable Trust. The Charitable Trust funds the James Gibbs Scholarship among other things in the community, so please consider adding a donation to your dues payment. Please get your dues payments to secretary Scott Russell as soon as possible. Thank you.

- **Rotary Foundation Giving**

The Rotary Foundation Annual Fund Committee recently sent letters to all members of the club requesting donations to the Rotary Foundation. 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 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**

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 as our Rotary Centennial Tree Project. 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.

- **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.

- **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

- **Rotarian Ambassadors**

12/04: Phil Meyer, George Gull (Ithaca Sunrise)
 12/12: Phil Meyer, Barb Caldwell, Peg Hendricks (Ithaca Sunrise)
 12/16: Jessie Ripple (Fremont, Las Vegas, NV)
 12/18: Paul Steiger (Ithaca Sunrise)

- **Visiting Rotarians**

Art Muka (Ithaca-Cayuga)

- **Visiting Exchange Students**

Esteban Campos-Hernandez (Costa Rica)
 Michal Sykora (Slovakia)

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

<i>Esteban Campos-Hernandez (Costa Rica)</i>	<i>Michal Sykora (Slovakia)</i>	<i>Jose Salcedo-Martin "Pepe" (Mexico)</i>
Host family Mike and Joyce Billing	Host family John and Ann Costello	Host family Amdrea Parrot & Steve Allen
6 Pheasant Lane, Ithaca, 272-9208	8 Winthrop Place, Ithaca, 257-0919	8 Legrand Court, Ithaca, 277-1695

PROGRAM NOTES “Membership Feedback on the Ithaca Rotary Club”
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Heidi Goldstein

A short time ago during a club assembly Heidi Goldstein led us through a data-collecting exercise to help give us a better sense of who we are and where we want to go as a Rotary club. Today we heard a little about the results of that exercise and added more specific ideas for the club's leadership use as a guide for the future.

First up, Heidi shared with us some of the things that our members listed as positives and negatives about our club. Many are actually the same! Happy Dollars, fellowship, the programs, the food - all came up as both good and not so good. The second part of the exercise asked us to think about how to make our club better and bigger. Note the order there as Heidi specifically worded the question that way in order to leave our answers open to the idea that bigger isn't always better, but better is almost always, well, better!

From this information, we then spent some time brainstorming. Again, there were pluses and minuses about almost every issue, but there were a couple of underlying themes that kept coming up. One of the most important ideas to come out of our discussion today is that we need to work on marketing - whether it is marketing our club to prospective new members or marketing our fund-raising efforts to the community. Some new fundraising activities and some new and interesting activities to help make our club and/or our meetings more fun and interesting were discussed. More off-site events (business visits, picnics, etc) was one idea; various fun nights or events were also suggested.

Heidi will be collating all of this information and giving it to our club leaders to help them make decisions and she will share more with the club in the future. Finally, Heidi introduced Mary-Lynn Cummings who has agreed to take on the responsibility of maintaining a Rotary calendar. This large-format calendar will be set up at the meeting each week and have a detailed listing of two months of programs and events as well as listings for other important items in the months to come. If you have any information that needs to be placed on the calendar, you can contact Mary-Lynn.

Thank you to Heidi for all of her hard work on behalf of the club and we look forward to hearing more about the results of these brainstorming sessions. Thanks also to all the club members who attended the meeting and participated in this important program.

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:* Ross Lynch :: *Greeter:* Karl Kayser :: *Thought:* Mary Benetti

Introductions: Steve Magacs :: *Music:* Jack Burns :: *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.