



THE ITHACA ROTARY NEWS

June 2, 2004

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **New Members Proposals**

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 June 9, 2004.

Name: Joe R. McAfee

Employment: President, Somark Corp.

Sponsor: George Schneider

- **Lost and Found**

Someone, perhaps a Rotarian, left behind a couple of video tapes last week. They are labeled as "NAIDC Competition" and Scott Russell has them should you wish to claim them.

- **New Roster Photos**

It's time to prepare next year's Rotary Member Roster! if you want your beautiful mug shot updated this year, see John Ziegler very soon at an upcoming meeting.

- **It's Time to BBQ!**

The Ithaca Rotary Chicken and Ribs BBQ is coming up on Sunday, June 20. Tickets and sign up sheets for volunteers will be available at our meeting starting June 8. Please mark your calendars now and plan to help out with this very important fundraising activity.

- **Changes to Student and Exchange Visitor Information System**

Proposed changes in the SEVIS system - Student and Exchange Visitor Information System - are going to have a huge impact on Rotary's Youth Exchange Program. The new J-1 Visa requirements would prohibit any inbound exchange students who have graduated from school in their home country from participating in the Rotary Exchange program here in the U.S. Some of the countries currently participating in the Rotary program have already indicated that they will no longer participate in the Rotary program should these rules be put in place. Rotary requires that any country that wants to participate in the Youth Exchange program must both send and accept students in order to be part of the program. These rules could seriously compromise the value and success of this program. Rotarians are encouraged to contact their government representatives and urge them to oppose these changes. The easiest way to reach your representative is via e-mail at www.house.gov/writerep/ or www.senate.gov. There is a sample letter available should you wish to send a hard copy, see President Jeff for more information. It is recommended that snail mail letters be sent to the local offices rather than the Washington offices.

- **Ithaca Sunrise Garage Sale!**

Ithaca Sunrise Rotary is holding their annual Garage Sale on Saturday, June 19. Proceeds from the sale help support the club's Youth Exchange program and other projects. Donations of goods will be accepted until June 18 and pick up is available. The sale will take place at Locke Woods Interiors on Route 13 just across from NYSEG. For more information or item pickup, contact Roni Mays or Kathy Larson at 277-8067 or roni@retirementessentials.com

- **Call for Meeting Setup Volunteers**

Dave Flinn, John Hays and Mike Billings have been sharing the meeting setup chores on a monthly rotation basis for the past three years and have done an admirable job. Dave and John have announced their need to participate in other ways and will be phasing out of service this year. So, this is a call for any interested Rotarian to serve the club in this necessary and important activity. It requires that the individual be available from approximately 11:45 to 12:15. (Earlier is acceptable) The tasks include preparing the podium and sound system, putting up flags and banners and assisting the President and program speaker as required. Service will continue to be rotated based upon the number of volunteers, i.e. three volunteers equals one month of service out of three. It is desirable but not required that the setup person be available for the entire meeting. Please see Scott Russell if interested. For further, first hand information, talk with Dave, John or Mike. Jim Showacre has joined the triumvirate, starting in July. Catherine Stulir is already on board, but more help would be appreciated.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS <i>(continued...)</i>

- **District 7170 to Offer a Rotary Foundation Cultural Ambassadorial Scholarship**

For the first time, in the Rotary year 2005-2006, Rotary International District 7170 will offer a 3-month Rotary Foundation Cultural Ambassadorial Scholarship, in addition to an academic year scholarship. The Cultural Scholarship is for 3 months of intensive language training and cultural immersion abroad while living with a home-stay family and has a maximum of \$12,000 including transportation. The language training can take place in fifteen languages in more than twenty countries. The three-month scholarship, as well as the academic year scholarship, will be awarded for the Rotary year 2005-06, but the applications are due to the District Rotary Foundation Scholarship Sub-committee Chair by June 30, 2004. Applications should be sent to Peter Brellocks, DGE, 1405 Ellis Hollow Road, Ithaca, 14850. Information and application forms are available on the web by using the following links:

<http://www.rotary.org> >> click on 'downloads' >> 'The Rotary Foundation' >> 'Educational programs' >> 'Ambassadorial Scholarships'

Use the Ambassadorial Scholarship Application Form (the information on the Cultural Scholarships begins on page 13; to apply it is easiest to print all twenty pages, although some of them refer only to the academic year scholarship) or you may contact either PDG Clayton Alcorn, at 607-753-8187 calcorn@twcny.rr.com, or DGE Peter Brellocks at 607-272-3848 or peterbrellocks@aol.com.

FEATURED ROTARIANS

- **Rotarians in Action**

Congratulations to Alan Cohen who was honored by the Baden Powell Council this week as their Citizen of the Year.

- **Our Juggling Students**

One of our Youth Exchange Students, Esteban, has taken very well to juggling during his stay here in Ithaca and, as a result of that new interest, he will be performing at the Ithaca Festival this weekend. He will be in the parade Thursday night and will have his own performances on The Commons Friday and Saturday. Check the Festival program for times and locations.

- **June Birthdays**

Robin Korherr presenting

6/1: Josephine Allen

6/5: Mike Billing, Harlin McEwen

6/12: Steve Froehlich

6/15: Skip Carmichael, Rich Farr, Heidi Goldstein, Harriet Peters

6/17: Ted Hendricks

6/19: Bill Edelman

6/22: Bill Cowdery, Ken Horst, Pete Scala

6/24: Russ Sprague

6/25: Audrey Edelman

6/30: Dick Charsky

A special birthday wish to our exchange student Pepe who will turn 18 on Thursday, June 3!

Happy Birthday to all of our June Rotary babies!

- **Visiting Rotarians**

Judy Eissner (Danvers, MA)

- **Exchange Students**

Esteban, Pepe, Michael

HAPPY DOLLARS

Ralph Jones (host) one for a great time at the Baden Powell Council dinner last night honoring Alan Cohen.

Mary Kane Trochim one borrowed dollar to announce a farewell party for our Youth Exchange Students which will be held at Mary's house in Forest Home on Wed. June 16 from 5:30 - 8:30. Invitations have been sent, but if you would like to attend the dish-to-pass event, please contact Mary.

Larry Robinson having spent a couple weeks in Japan with 22 MBA students, Larry had one for the group of Rotarians he saw in Kyoto (obviously coming over from the International Convention in Osaka) and one for the manager of the Kirin brewery they visited because he spoke excellent English in part because of his participation in the Rotary Youth Exchange program and his year in a small town in Iowa.

Jim Vorp three for the photo in the latest Rotarian magazine of folks curling. Harold Schantz, who is in the photo, was the man who taught Jim to curl in Simcoe, Ontario.

Rob MacKenzie five dollars, one in thanks for each \$100,000 in contributions received so far towards their goal of \$1 million for the Radiation Oncology campaign. A recent check from the Hospital Auxillary for \$25,000 has put them over the half million mark.

Brenda Dalmida one for the wonderful team at Cayuga Medical Center who took her through breast cancer surgery on May 7 and one for the outstanding team at Ithaca High School who embraced her and opened their hearts to her. Her message to everyone is to maintain your health, keep up your doctor's appointments, and don't take your health for granted.

Mike Billing one for his youngest son who completed hie Eagle Project a couple of weeks ago - putting in a half-mile trail in the new Tutelo Park off Bostwick Road, and one for his second daughter who graduated from Cornell this past weekend as a hotel major and she has a job!

Ross Lynch one for being a slap-happy 91-year old grandfather, and one for his first granddaughter who graduated from Nazareth College in Rochester recently.

Carm Hill 50 for having joined this Rotary club 50 years ago this month, and 50 more to grow on!

Beverly Baker 10, one for each decade as her guest Harry heads for his 50th college reunion at Hamilton and Beverly heads for her 50th at Ithaca College!

PROGRAM NOTES “ Education in a South African Township ”
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Steve Weissburg, Ithaca High School

Brenda Dalmida introduced our speaker today, Steve Weissburg who is a math teacher at Ithaca High School. Steve recently spent a year teaching in a black township in South Africa as a Fulbright Scholar. Steve shared his experiences in South Africa, many beautiful photographs of the country, and some ways that people can help out in South Africa.

First, Steve focused on the differences and similarities between South Africa and the U.S. in terms of racial issues. While only 13% of the population of South Africa is white, blacks still face extreme discrimination and lack of resources. In the U.S., although the percentages are much closer, similar discrimination exists. Perhaps his most telling example was the response he received from the innkeeper where he stayed his first night in South Africa. When he told the innkeeper that he was going to be teaching in a black township, she asked him why he was "wasting his time" in the black township and not teaching in one of their better (white) schools.

Steve was the first white person and the first white teacher to ever set foot in the school where he worked. The students he taught had to scrape for every bit of pencil, scrap of paper, and space at their desks. There are no computers, very few text books, and only a few calculators to share among 40-50 students per class. While we consider 20 a large class here in the U.S., 50 was closer to normal in South Africa with each teacher being responsible for a total of 250-300 students. The students, because they were black, all had to be at least tri-lingual as they needed to know their native language, English, and Afrikaans - the primary language of white South Africans. Finally, Steve has found that his experience as the only white person in the community has made him more aware of differences, tensions, and conflicts here at home. Racial undertones are more pronounced and the problems associated with discrimination are clearer.

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PROGRAM NOTES (<i>continued...</i>)

What can be done? There are a number of opportunities for interested parties to help improve the educational opportunities for these children. Steve has gathered a list of ideas and is working hard to provide some solutions. There is an effort to collect computers and other school supplies, a scholarship fund is being created to help promising high school graduates continue their education when they otherwise could not afford it, and to support and encourage future exchanges. To that end, a high school administrator from South Africa will be visiting Ithaca for six weeks this fall and there is hope that student exchanges can be arranged as well. Our thanks to Steve for his wonderful talk and his excellent insights into another needy part of the world. If you have any questions or would like to help Steve out, you can contact him via e-mail at: sweissbu@icsd.k12.ny.us

CALENDAR

June 9: *Meeting*: Family & Children's Services Marketing Director Jessica Ryan: "Marketing on a Shoestring Budget"
 June 11-13: District Conference, Binghamton, NY Celebrating the Family of Rotary
 June 16: *Meeting*: YEP Students - Pepe, Esteban & Michal: "Reflections on the Past Year in Ithaca"
June 20: Ithaca Rotary Chicken & Ribs BBQ at Stewart Park
 June 23: *Meeting*: Don Alhart, PDG 7120: Title TBA
 June 25: District Pass the Gavel Celebration
 June 27 - July 2: RYLA 2004
 June 30: *Meeting*: Pass the Gavel Ceremony

CREDITS & CONTACT INFO

Program Chair: Jeff True :: *Kettle Watch*: Dale Baker :: *Greeter*: Mary Berens :: *Thought*: Don Hinman :: *Introductions*: Ken Horst
 :: *Happy Dollars*: Ralph Jones :: *Music*: Don Hinman and Bill Cowdery :: *Photography*: John Ziegler :: *Setup*: Mike Billing, John Hays :: *Editor*: Dale Flinn :: *Website*: Matthew Dearing

Please address all correspondence to the club to:
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 Attn.: Scott Russell, Secretary

For Newsletter comments, questions or corrections, and subscription requests please contact the Editor at bigd@starflinn.com.