



THE ITHACA ROTARY NEWS

September 15, 2004

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **NEW MEMBER 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 September 21, 2004.

Name: Allison J. Knoth

Employment: Community Executive, American Cancer Society

Sponsor: June Losurdo

Name: Paul Gardner

Employment: Human Resources Manager, Wilcox Press

Sponsor: Barbara Thuesen

Name: Kenneth J. Hancharik

Employment: Plant Manager, Wilcox Press

Sponsor: Barbara Thuesen

Concerns about the following membership nomination should be received no later than October 6, 2004:

Name: Joseph Smith

Employment: Public Events Support Specialist, American Red Cross

Sponsor: Casey Stevens

If you have a prospect for membership in our club or would like to learn more about sponsoring a new member into Rotary, please contact club secretary Scott Russell or Membership Coordinator Don Kompf for a list of steps toward sponsoring a new member.

- **INVITATION FROM WSKG TELEVISION**

We have all been invited to attend a special preview of a documentary on Rotary's efforts to eradicate Polio. The preview will take place on Sunday, October 3 at 3:00 p.m. and the program will air on WSKG on Sunday, October 24 at 7:00 p.m. Contact President Beverly if you have any questions.

- **LANGUAGE TRANSLATORS NEEDED**

Mike McGreevey announced that the International Service Committee is trying to create a club resource by developing a list of foreign language translators who would be willing to offer their skills to guests at our meetings. If you have such skills and would like to help out, there is a sign-up sheet on Barlow's table or you can contact Mike and let him know what language or languages you have to offer.

- **ARE YOU A ROTARY BIG WHEEL?**

Jerry Feist announced a new program in our club called the Big Wheels. Past experience tells us that we often bring new members into our club and then just turn them loose, expecting them to learn as they go and not really offering much support. Big Wheels are volunteer members who will be assigned to new members for about 3 months to ensure that they have someone to turn to with questions and someone to guide them through their first few months as a new Rotarian. Forms will be available on the tables and members are being asked to nominate people (or themselves) to become Big Wheels. If you are interested in participating, you can also contact Jerry to volunteer, nominate someone, or just to get more information.

- **HURRICANE RELIEF FUND**

Roger Pierce, our Rotary friend in Florida, e-mailed us to let us know that his Rotary district in Florida has set up a hurricane relief fund. If anyone in the club would like to contribute to this fund, please make your check payable to Rotary District 6960 and mail them directly to Roger: Roger Pierce, 2450 Shelby Lane, Clermont, FL 34711. Mark your check "Hurricane Relief." Many thanks to all who choose to help out.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS (<i>continued</i>)

- **BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS GOLF TOURNEY**

Big Brothers/Big Sisters is also celebrating their 100th anniversary this year and they will be hosting a benefit golf tournament this fall. The first annual Columbus Day Fall Classic will be held at the Country Club of Ithaca on Monday, October 11. For more information, contact them via e-mail at mjb44@cornell.edu.

- **MEETING MOVING LOCATION ON OCTOBER 6**

Please make note that our regular weekly meeting on October 6 will NOT take place at the Holiday Inn downtown. We will be meeting at the Country Club of Ithaca that day, so do not go to the Holiday Inn. For those unfamiliar with the Country Club, take Route 13 North to the Triphammer Road exit. Turn right at the top of the ramp and proceed on Triphammer Road to Community Corners. Turn left at Community Corners and then take the third right onto Pleasant Grove Road (across from the Mobil station). The Country Club is located on your left, just opposite the Cayuga Heights Fire Department. We hope to see you all there. For those that work downtown, carpooling from the Holiday would be a great way to save time and energy - think about it, call a friend, have some extra fellowship time in the car!

- **PROSPECTIVE NEW MEMBERS DAY**

On October 20, we will be having a special day devoted to prospective new members for our club. The speaker that day will be the lead Cornell scientist on the Mars Rover mission, so the talk will be extra special. During the weeks leading up to that day, there will be a number of events and presentations geared toward helping everyone talk to potential new members about Rotary in general and specifically why they should join our club. The club will also pay for the lunch of any true prospect that you invite to the meeting. Please keep the Four Way Test in mind when inviting guests as we need to build our membership level up again in order to maintain the levels of service to our community that we all value. If you have any questions in the meantime about proposing new members or the membership process in general, you can speak to secretary Scott Russell or Membership Committee Chair Rich Spingarn.

- **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION OPEN**

Registration forms for the 2005 Centennial Rotary International Convention in Chicago, Illinois are now available. The convention runs from June 18 - 23, 2005 and the Ithaca Rotary Club has secured a block of rooms and set aside money in this year's budget to help club members attend this grand affair. Jeff True will be providing more details soon, but mark your calendars now and save these very important dates. Planning decisions will be needed sometime in September, so please give this convention serious consideration and make a commitment to attend.

FEATURED ROTARIANS

- **NEW MEMBER NOMINATION**

Kelly Damm nominated Diana Cramer for membership in our club today. After being duly seconded, the nomination was approved by a majority voice vote of those members present. Congratulations and welcome to Diana!

- **NEW MEMBER INTRODUCTION**

President Beverly introduced our newest member today, Nina Miller. Nina is the Executive Director of Hospicare and Palliative Services in Ithaca and has lived here for the past 40 years. She is married with three children and a slow, willful and loveable terrier named Trotsky. Welcome to Rotary, Nina, we look forward to meeting you and getting to know you.

If you have a prospect for membership in our club or would like to learn more about sponsoring a new member into Rotary, please contact club secretary Scott Russell or Membership Coordinator Don Kompf for a list of steps toward sponsoring a new member.

- **NEWS FROM THE ITHACA COLLEGE ROTARACT CLUB**

Hello! Just a few notes from Rotaract for the Ithaca Rotary newsletter:

1. We are no longer meeting on Mondays. Our new meeting day is Thursday. We will continue to meet every week at 7. Our location may change from time to time, so interested Rotarians can check out our NEW website to see where we'll be for any given week. The URL is www.ithaca.edu/orgs/rotaract
2. Between now and the end of November, we will be having a fundraiser to give some support to the recent victims of Hurricane Ivan. We'll start out with having a table in our Campus Center building and may include other small fundraising projects as we see necessary.

For all other updates, you can simply visit our website; our announcement page will be updated every week.

Thank you, Biankah Bailey (President, Rotaract Club of Ithaca College)

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FEATURED ROTARIANS (<i>continued...</i>)
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- **SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

Membership Chair Rich Spingarn introduced this year's membership campaign and presented our first two "free lunch" coupons to George Schneider and Jean McPheeters for bringing in the first two new members of the Rotary Centennial Year.

Every member who brings in a new member will receive a coupon good for one free lunch at our weekly meeting. Members may also bring a prospective new member to any club meeting and the first such visit will be free lunch for your guest. Of course, October 20 is Prospective New Member Day and all new, prospective members will be given a free lunch that day, but prospects can be invited to our meetings at any time.

Paul Steiger then spoke to us for a few moments about the importance of our upcoming membership campaign. First some numbers: Our club currently stands at 186 members, down from an all-time high of 250; Our fundraisers - Chicken and Ribs BBQ, Pancake Day, Rose Sale, and Rotary Foundation Annual Fund Drive - raise more than \$40,000 annually to help support our community and the world at large. Beyond money, we contribute to our community in many ways - the Route 13 clean-up and beautification projects, the Pride of Workmanship Awards and the Pride of Ownership Awards, Share the Warmth, and the James Gibbs Scholarship. The more members we have, the more work we can do and the more money we can raise, all of which adds up to a greater impact at all levels - from our local community to the entire world. Our goal this year is a net increase of 24 new members by June of 2005. In order to achieve this goal, we will probably need to bring in close to 50 new members this year. Membership proposal forms are available at the secretary's table each week and secretary Scott can either answer any questions you may have about the process or direct you to someone who can help you. Think about your friends, your relatives, your neighbors, the people you do business with or do business with you. Would any of them make good Rotarians? Why not ask!

- **SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY NOV. 7, 2 P.M. STATE THEATRE, THE McPHEETERS ROAST** To benefit the American Red Cross of Tompkins County Disaster Services Fund.

On Nov. 7, join a talented roster of local celebrities and musicians at the State Theatre who will pay homage, sort of, to Jean McPheeters, Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce president and all-around swell gal. Roasters on board at this early going run the gamut from Peggy Haine to Casey Stevens from John Gutenberger to Rick Manning to "Mother Superior," with special skits, songs and surprise guests in the offing. The McPheeters Roast will benefit the American Red Cross of Tompkins County Disaster Services fund. Tickets are \$12 and will be on sale in the near future. For update developments on the roast between now and Nov. 7, visit <http://www.tompkins-redcross.org>

HAPPY DOLLARS

Jerry Feist one for the six members who placed themselves or others in nomination for the Big Wheel program.

Don Hinman one for hurricane Ivan missing Florida.

Rob Koll one for his assistant coach who wasn't introduced as a guest today!

Jean McPheeters one for hosting our newly-arrived Youth Exchange students at her home this evening for a welcome picnic.

Lisette (guest) one for being back at a Rotary meeting. She helped charter a new club back in 1997, but has not been in Rotary for the past two years.

George Gull (host) one for hearing a preview of our October 20 program on the Mars Rover Project and the presentation is going to be outstanding.

Matthew Dearing five to make up for missing so many meetings this summer as he and his wife bought their first house in July and he has continued to teach at TC3 while picking up another teaching job at Wells College too!

Dave Flinn one for Lisette who snuck in without letting him or George know!

Dave Cook one for Ivan missing him while he was in the Caribbean recently and, more importantly, the Salvation Army is starting to look for bell ringers for the upcoming holiday season. Call and sign up if you can!

Beverly Baker one for being re-appointed as a trustee of TC3 by Governor George Pataki last Monday.

PROGRAM NOTES "US and the Middle East"

Nimr Ibrahim, Director of Development for the American University of Beirut

Our guest speaker today was Nimr Ibrahim, recently retired Director of Development for the American University of Beirut in Lebanon. Nimr gave us a broad look at U.S. - Arab relations from his many years of interaction on both sides of the pond as well as his experiences living through many of the important events that have shaped these relations.

While the perception is that the U.S. and Arab countries have many areas of conflict and misunderstanding, it has not always been so, nor is it necessarily as bad as it sometimes may seem. In the early part of the 20th century, it was the missionaries who, although primarily interested in evangelization, brought with them American educational systems, American customs, the American way of life, and medicine (the first college of medicine in Lebanon opened in 1867).

U.S. - Arab relations began to strain when oil was first discovered in Saudi Arabia (1938) and with the founding of the Israeli state in 1958. A previously passive relationship with the region developed into a very active relationship, causing an increasing rift between the United States and the Arabs. Strong support of Israel, militarily, financially, and politically, treatment of the Palestinian problem as a refugee/humanitarian problem, not as a people with political and national rights problem, undisputed control of the oil fields, containment of the Soviet Union, hostility to the new class of Arab leaders who were viewed with great suspicion (Trojan horses who would bring the Soviet Union and communism to the area), and the failure to promote any reforms of human or democratic rights in the region up until the 1980's have been the key elements to this increasing strain on relations.

Is there any hope, then, for better relations between these two worlds? Yes, there is. Arabs are not generally opposed to American values, American technology, and American education, the problems lie with American Foreign Policy, a distinction that Arabs will readily make. Nimr feels that there are two primary issues which, once resolved, could ease the current strain on U.S. - Arab relations. The first is a just resolution to the Palestinian - Israeli situation and the second is strong American support for genuine democratic movements within the Arab world.

Our thanks to Nimr for his insight and opinions on this very interesting and complex issue.

CALENDAR

September 19: Friends of Ithaca College annual concert, 2:00 p.m. Dewitt Park, dedicated to Rotary!

September 22: *Meeting* John Schwartz, Co-Chairman of the Acoustics Committee and a retired physics professor at Ithaca College, to speak on the process involved in the major renovation of the First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca.

September 29: *Meeting* Reed Smith, Executive Director of Tri-Cities Opera in Binghamton.

October 6: *Meeting* Weekly meeting at the Ithaca Country Club - NOT at the Holiday Inn.

October 20: *Meeting* Jim Bell on the Mars Rover Project *and* Bring a Prospective Member Day.

October 26: Eastern Cities Dinner, Rochester Rotary Club with RI President Glenn Estess.

November 7: Jean McPheeters Roast to benefit the American Red Cross

November 15: District Rotary Foundation Seminar, SUNY Cortland

November 17: *Meeting* Dr. Benny Widjono, a visiting fellow at the Cornell UN SE Asia Program - "The United Nations and Post Conflict Peacebuilding: Comparing Cambodia and Iraq."

February 2005: Ithaca Rotary Club's 90th Birthday Bash at Ithaca College - stay tuned for details!

June 18-23, 2005: Rotary International Centennial Convention, Chicago, Illinois

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