



## THE ITHACA ROTARY NEWS

October 27, 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 November 2, 2004.

*Name:* Gary Ferguson

*Employment:* Executive Director, Ithaca Downtown Partnership

*Sponsor:* Scott Whitham

Concerns about the following membership application should be received by November 9:

*Name:* Leslie Carrere

*Employment:* Director of Marketing & Development, Tompkins County Area Development.

*Sponsors:* Peggy Haine, John Butler, and Perri LoPinto

Concerns about the following membership application should be received by November 14:

*Name:* G. Walton Cottrell

*Employment:* Retired CFO, Carpenter Technology Corp.

*Sponsor:* Bill Bellamy

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.

- **PANCAKE DAY IS HERE!**

The 31st Annual Ithaca Rotary Pancake Day will take place on election day, Tuesday, November 2 at the Women's Community Building. Please check your calendars, Palm Pilots, cell phones, whatever, to make sure you don't forget what time you signed up to work and get your ticket money in as quickly as possible. We will again be serving pancakes, eggs, etc from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. This is a presidential election year and it will be busier than usual so everyone's help is needed. Ticket prices remain the same this year - \$6.00 for adults, \$4.00 for children.

- **ROUTE 13 HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP COMPLETED**

Noel Desch announced that he and several other volunteers were able to complete the clean-up of Route 13 last Saturday. It was another beautiful day and the volunteers put forth an extra effort to get the job done. Many thanks to Dave Dunlop, Dick Page, Tony Fraboni, Raj Rao, Mary Berens, Mary-Lynn Cummings, and Noel's family - wife Janet and son William. 34 bags! Our thanks to Noel for once again heading up this wonderful project, helping to keep our community looking clean and beautiful.

- **ITHACA ROTARY CLUB RECEIVES AWARD**

At the District 7170 Foundation Dinner last week, our club received a banner in recognition of our club's giving to the Rotary Foundation. Our club finished third in the district last year, leaving us some room for improvement. President Beverly passed the banner along to Foundation chair Janet Steiner in recognition of her efforts. Congratulations to Janet and thanks to all of the club members who donated to the Rotary Foundation last year.

- **CORNELL ROTARACT CLUB DINNER**

Ed Siemon of the Ithaca-Cayuga Rotary club reminded us about last week's visit of Kyle Hengel, President of the Cornell Rotaract Club. Kyle invited all of us to attend a Night of 1,000 Dinners, an international event to raise money for land mine victims and land mine removal, on Thursday, November 4. The dinner will take place in the International Room at Willard Straight Hall at 8:00 p.m. Finger foods and desserts will be provided. Attendees are asked to bring an international dish to share or to make a donation to help out. If you are interested in attending, please contact Ed at 257-1600, or [siemonecs@aol.com](mailto:siemonecs@aol.com) or Kyle at [kah55@cornell.edu](mailto:kah55@cornell.edu).

- **ITHACA-CAYUGA ROTARY COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD DINNER**

Ed Siemon also announced that the Ithaca-Cayuga Rotary club's Community Awards Dinner will take place on Tuesday, November 9 at the Ithaca Country Club. Cocktails start at 6:30, dinner at 7:45. The event will honor an "outstanding member of the community who has given selflessly to the betterment of the community." If you would like to attend, the cost is \$20.00 per person and you can contact Ed for reservations or more information. 257-1600 or [siemonecs@aol.com](mailto:siemonecs@aol.com).

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| ANNOUNCEMENTS <i>(continued)</i> |
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- **DISTRICT FOUNDATION SEMINAR**

This year's District 7170 Foundation Seminar will take place on Saturday, November 13 at SUNY Cortland. The seminar features information and updates on all of the programs of the Rotary Foundation and how they pertain to our district. Anyone interested in or active with international programs in their club should attend and all Rotary members around the district are welcome. More information will be available shortly.

- **CENTENNIAL BICYCLE RIDE COMING TO TOWN**

Scott Russell announced that a group from Germany is planning a centennial bicycle ride next spring to commemorate Rotary's Centennial year. The group will be landing somewhere on the east coast and then cycling to Chicago in time for the convention next June. They plan to pass through Ithaca on their way and anyone who would be interested in joining them for either all or part of the trip should contact Scott who has more information.

- **TRUMANSBURG ROTARY MEETING UPDATE**

Tom Overbaugh reports that our club's web site is out of date re the Trumansburg Rotary club's meeting place. Tom says, "We meet Thursday at 6:30 in The American Legion. Reservations are appreciated as we 'bring food in.'" If you would like to make up at the Trumansburg Club, please contact Tom at 387 8881. Thanks, Tom.

- **COMMUNITY GRANT APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED**

Jessie Ripple announced that the Community Grants committee is now accepting applications for this year's annual Ithaca Rotary Community Grants. These grants are funded primarily by money raised during our annual Rose Sale and are given to non-profit organizations throughout the county. Any non-profit organization may apply for a grant by simply submitting a request to the grant committee or to the club. Deadline for applications/proposals is January 28, 2005. If you know of any organization that would like to apply for one of these grants, please let them know that applications/proposals should be sent to: Beverly Baker or Scott Russell, Ithaca Rotary Club, P.O. Box 306, Ithaca, N.Y. 14851 or to Jessie Ripple (Chair - Ithaca Rotary Community Grants), 57 Highgate Circle, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850-1487. Any questions, please contact Jessie at 257-6454 or 254-2372.

- **CENTENNIAL TREE PROJECT UPDATE**

On November 13, trees purchased by our Rotary club as part of our Centennial Celebration will be planted around the city of Ithaca. Our goal is to plant 100 trees in honor of Rotary's Centennial and another 90 trees in honor of our club's 90th Anniversary. Members and friends who would like to purchase a tree can do so by contacting Peg Hendricks. A map of locations where trees are to be planted will be available at next week's meeting for those who would like to have a tree planted in a specific location. Anyone who has purchased a tree and would like to participate in the planting should also contact Peg for more details. Trees are \$89.00 each and there are several varieties that you can choose from. Please help us celebrate these important anniversaries and make our city more beautiful.

- **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.

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| FEATURED ROTARIANS |
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- **NOTES FROM THE ROAD**

Our friend Russ Sprague reports in again from the road. He and partner Kelly have been living in their RV the past year plus and are currently spending a fair amount of time in Colorado. Since there, they have found Sprague Lake, been to the top of Pike's Peak, visited the Air Force Academy and Colorado University, visited Estes Park twice, and observed the Elk herds in their rut. Russ continues his bicycling, 14+ miles one day alone, though not as often as he would like due primarily to the weather. Thanks to Russ and Kelly for their continuing updates and we hope to see them in Ithaca again soon.

- **SAVE THE DATE: SUNDAY NOV. 7, 2 P.M. STATE THEATRE, THE McPHEETERS ROAST**

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>

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| <b>FEATURED ROTARIANS</b> <i>(continued)</i> |
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- **Our Rotary Ambassadors**

10/14: Scott Heyman (Ithaca Sunrise)

- **Our Visiting Rotarian**

Rick Basile (Ithaca Sunrise)

Ed Siemon (Ithaca-Cayuga)

Clayt Alcorn (Cortland)

- **SPECIAL PRESENTATION: PRIDE OF WORKMANSHIP AWARDS**

Joanne Lamoreaux introduced our Pride of Workmanship Awards today. This year, we are doing something a little different and this presentation was focused on our local educational institutions. Nominations were solicited from Cornell, Ithaca College, TC3, and the Ithaca City School District. Despite numerous attempts to encourage participation, no nominations were received from TC3 or the Ithaca schools. Joanne also mentioned that one nomination from Ithaca College deserved special mention. The late Norman Wall was nominated for his tremendous contribution to the safety of the IC campus during his 30 years of service. The committee felt that this award would not be appropriate for Norm, but that he deserved to be recognized in some way. Two recipients were honored today, one from Cornell and one from IC.

Bill Hawley presented the Ithaca College award to Mark Darling. Mark was nominated by Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Peter Bardaglio for being the "environmental conscience" of the college. The multi-page nomination letter was written by Special Assistant to the Vice President for Academic Affairs, Marion Brown. Mark is the Supervisor of the Recycling and Resource Management program at IC and he has been there for 18 years. He has instituted a variety of recycling initiatives across the campus and created a nationally-recognized composting program for the school's dining facilities. The latest effort to eliminate non-biodegradable, petroleum-based plastics from the campus has Mark and students working on replacing all the plastic ware used by dining and catering on campus with corn-starch based, biodegradable products. Guided tours of the compost facility are available to community and educational groups and, as a master composter, Mark often runs composting classes through Cornell Cooperative Extension. For all of this and much more, the Ithaca Rotary club is honored and happy to present Mark with our Pride of Workmanship Award.

Bill Rusen presented the Cornell University award to Donna Wierniecki. Donna has been in the Department of City and Regional Planning for 28 years and she was nominated by Dr. Michelle Thompson. She is currently a graduate field assistant and has worked tirelessly through major changes in the department, constantly going above and beyond her job description to get the job done. She has become a mother figure for many students, staff, and faculty throughout those 28 years and many of them return to visit her often. Even her husband, who runs his own business, admits that she is the ideal employee as she sees the overall picture and, in her job, she never gets to the line and says that's the end of her job - she always steps over the line and gets the job done. Dr. Thompson then shared a few thoughts on why she nominated Donna. She told us that Donna is one of those people who shine and yet are often looked over for all of the little things that they do. Donna is a great friend and constantly takes pride in herself and her work. For all of this, and more, we are honored and happy to present Donna with this Pride of Workmanship award. Congratulations to both of our recipients this year and thanks to the people who took the time to nominate these special individuals.

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| <b>PROGRAM NOTES "Rotary Individual Grant Trip to Ghana"</b> |
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*Dale Flinn*

Our guest speaker today was our own Dale Flinn. Dale was a Rotary Foundation Individual Grant recipient and traveled to Ghana for two weeks this past April. Dale and PDG Marie Lusins and Gary Herzig, Oneonta Rotarians, were in Ghana to follow up on our district's recent Rotary Foundation Matching Grant which will be used to purchase insecticide-treated mosquito nets for Ghana and Mali in an effort to control malaria. Malaria is the number one killer in Ghana, killing more than 3 million people each year. While in Ghana, Dale also visited slave castles along the coast and some of the beautiful parks and botanical gardens. Ghana is a very beautiful country with both a great deal of natural beauty and personal beauty. The people are very beautiful as well.

The problems the country faces are numerous, yet it has been a stable democracy for many years and has a lot to offer. Although poverty and unemployment are certainly major issues, one rarely sees people on the streets simply begging. Everyone finds something useful to do in an effort to provide whatever income they can. You can virtually do all of your shopping from your car as people will come up to your car offering almost any possible goods one might need. Pollution and environmental issues are also important and Dale spoke about a particular instance where he learned about the logging industry in Ghana and how the foreign logging companies refuse to replant the trees they are harvesting, believing it should be the government's responsibility. The government, meanwhile, has other problems, and the end result is that the forests are being stripped of all the old-growth trees and nothing is being replanted. Dale finished off his talk with some pictures from the children's block of Korle Bu Teaching Hospital in Accra. This is the premier hospital facility in Ghana, yet they have very little to work with. Only one portable suction unit in the children's ICU for instance. The day the team visited the hospital, 51 babies were delivered. Finally, a very sad statistic from the children's block - 70% of the children who come into the facility have malaria, only 40% of them leave. There is a lot more for our district to do in Ghana and efforts continue. Soon we may be receiving the donation of a portable MRI unit which we intend to deliver to Ghana. Our thanks to Dale for his interesting and moving presentation.

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| CALENDAR |
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October 27: District 7170 Annual Foundation Dinner with RI President Glenn Estess

November 3: Keri Szymanski, from TC3, elected earlier this year as the International President of Phi Theta Kappa Honorary Society.

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

November 10: *Meeting* Van McMurtry, VP for Government and Community Relations at CU

November 13: District Rotary Foundation Seminar, SUNY Cortland

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

November 24: Official visit from District Governor Peter Brellocks.

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

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>

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| CREDITS & CONTACT INFO |
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*Program Chair:* John Barradas :: *Kettle Watch:* Jim Fogler :: *Greeter:* Diana Kramer :: *Thought:* Matt Braun :: *Introductions:* Noel Desch :: *Music:* Jack Burns and Bill Cowdery :: *Photography:* John Ziegler :: *Setup:* Phil Snyder :: *Editor:* Dale Flinn :: *Website:* Matthew Dearing

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