



THE ITHACA ROTARY NEWS

November 3, 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 14, 2004.

Name: G. Walton Cottrell

Employment: Retired CFO, Carpenter Technology Corp.

Sponsor: Bill Bellamy

Concerns about the following membership application should be received by November 23:

Name: Stephanie J. Benner

Employment: Administrator, Reconstruction Home

Sponsor: George Schneider

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.

- **SHARE THE WARMTH KICKOFF**

Dick Page announced that this year's Share the Warmth program will officially start on November 15 and run through December 11. Each year club, along with Cornell University, Ithaca College, Trumansburg Rotary, and the Samaritan Center of Catholic Charities work together to collect warm clothing to help those in need through the cold Ithaca winters. This is our 12th annual Share the Warmth program and, once again, we have expanded, adding new collection locations at P&C at Triphammer and at The Rink in Lansing. Volunteers are needed now to take responsibility for cleaning out the collection boxes on a regular basis and dropping off the clothes at the Samaritan Center where they will be sorted and then distributed in December. Sign-up sheets will be available at the next few meetings, so please bring your calendars and be prepared to help out with this wonderful program. Drop off locations this year also include Borg-Warner, Center Ithaca, NYSEG, Pyramid Mall, Tops Markets, Wegmans, The Rink, P&C grocery stores, and Kendal at Ithaca.

ROTARY FOUNDATION MONTH

November is Rotary Foundation month and to celebrate, our club Foundation chairs Janet Steiner and Scott Heyman will be presenting a little information about the Foundation at each meeting. This week, Dave Dunlop spoke to us about giving - why we give and how we decide how much to give. Each person has their own comfort level when it comes to giving and Dave asked us all, when asked to donate to the Rotary Foundation, to consider what that comfort level is and perhaps to think about exceeding that level, even if only by a little bit. As always, every gift is important and, especially with the Rotary Foundation, any level of giving is greatly appreciated. Whatever your level of comfort or ability might be, please consider giving to the Rotary Foundation when our club's annual campaign begins soon.

- **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE**

Mr. Membership, Rich Spingarn, reported on our membership efforts to date. At the New Member Day, nine potential new members attended the excellent presentation by Jim Bell, and all of them look to be solid prospects. There are currently about 12 new members in the pipeline and we are well on the way to our goal of net 25 new members this year. So far, we are doing great! Don't forget - the first time you bring a new prospect to lunch, the club pays for the prospect's lunch and, if the prospect joins the club, then you will get a free lunch. Keep up the great work everyone!

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.

- **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.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

- **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.

- **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.

FEATURED ROTARIANS

- **NEW ROTARIAN INTRODUCTIONS**

Pat Vaughan introduced Arpi Hovaguimian as our first new member for today. Arpi is the Executive Directive of the Alcohol and Drug Council. She was born in Kuwait to Armenian parents who were from Jerusalem and she spent much of her youth living in the Middle East. Syracuse University attracted Arpi to the U.S. and she earned a bachelor's and three master's degrees - economics, philosophy, and social work. It was after earning her MSW that Arpi came to Ithaca and has been here for the past 8 years. For those with an interest in foreign languages, Arpi speaks fluent English, Arabic, and Armenian. Welcome to our club, Arpi, we all look forward to meeting and getting to know you.

Dave Flinn and Jean McPheeters introduced our newest member, Lizette Odfalk. Lizette found our Rotary club through our web site and she contacted Dave to let him know she was moving to the area and was interested in Rotary. She was very busy when she got here and didn't have time for Rotary yet. Jean met Lizette at Laser & Brewer and eventually Lizette found more time to consider joining Rotary. She was born in Mexico City of Spanish parents, but a man from Sweden whom she met while in college in Houston. They moved back to Sweden where she first got involved in Rotary, even becoming a charter member of a new club there. From Sweden, they moved to Gainesville, Florida and then Mansfield, Texas. Lizette is married - her husband works for Borg-Warner Morse Tec - has two children in the Dryden schools and lives in Freeville. Her background is in hotel management and event management, but she is currently running her own business, Micro Marketing, a marketing company for small businesses.



Welcome to Lizette, we look forward to meeting and getting to know you too!

FEATURED ROTARIANS <i>(continued)</i>
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- **REPORT FROM YOUTH EXCHANGE STUDENT IN FRANCE**

The following is a letter received from one of our Youth Exchange Students, Adrienne Clermont, who is spending the year in France. Adrienne writes:

Dear Ithaca Rotary Club:

"Bonjour tout le monde" from the southwest of France!! I am here in Brive-la-Gaillarde, a beautiful city of about 50,000 people in the Limousin region, and everything is absolutely fantastic. My "two month anniversary" here is rapidly approaching, and I already feel that I am making progress in leaps and bounds in speaking the language and feeling comfortable in my new culture and school system.

My host family here is the absolutely fantastic. I have four younger host "brothers and sisters." They have taken me on several day trips to surrounding towns and villages, and I have had lots of opportunities to experience the culture of the region. Our house is just across the street from the hospital, where my host father is a doctor, and a short and pleasant 15-minute walk away from the historic centre ville and my high school, Lyce Arsonval.

The high school ("lyce" in French) is an amazing learning experience, because the scholastic system here is extremely different from that of the U.S. Even though I have already studied almost all of the material we are doing here (I am two years older than all of my classmates), there are so many things to observe, question, and understand that I am always busy! I have been very happy to find that my level of French comprehension is high enough to understand everything that goes on in class and to do all the work of the French students -- including taking tests, writing essays, and even reading Voltaire in French! Even though I can understand everything the teachers say, understanding the fast-talking teenagers is a whole different story. I am hopeful that by the end of the year I will be completely fluent!

The Rotarians here have also been extremely helpful and welcoming to me. The Rotary Youth Exchange coordinator in my club, Monique, is extremely nice and has already taken me on various trips, including a train trip to Toulouse and a weekend at her country house. As I am a big fan of rugby, and Brive-la-Gaillarde happens to be a national rugby powerhouse, another Rotarian with season tickets took me to see my first ever rugby match! I look forward to participating in various excursions and community activities with my Rotary club in the year to come. I am also happy to say that many of my French classmates have asked me lots of questions about the Rotary exchange, so I am glad to be "positive publicity" for the exchange program!

As I can't say often enough, thanks again to the members of the Ithaca Rotary Club – being here is my lifelong dream come true!

- **NOVEMBER ROTARIAN BIRTHDAYS**

Bill Bellamy presenting

Casey Stevens - 11/6
 Will Cooke, Dave Flaccus, Carm Hill - 11/7
 John Vineyard - 11/11
 Peg Hendricks, Karl Kayser - 11/14
 Jack Carpenter, Bill Downing - 11/15
 Chris Bragdon - 11/16
 Neil Tarallo - 11/20
 Jim Showacre - 11/22
 Bob Sprole, II - 11/23
 George Gull - 11/26
 Paul Grennell - 11/27

Happy Birthday to all of our November babies!

- **Our Rotary Ambassadors**

10/30: Gene Erickson, Faculty of Rotary Leadership Institute (Lewisburg, PA)

- **Our Visiting Exchange Students**

Audric (Belgium)
 Lookhaew (Thailand)
 Zoltan (Hungary)

PROGRAM NOTES "Phi Theta Kappa at TC3"

Keri Szymanski of TC3, International President of Phi Theta Kappa Honorary Society

Alan Cohen introduced our guest speaker this week, Keri Szymanski who is the 2004 - 2005 International President of Phi Theta Kappa. Phi Theta Kappa is the honors society for two-year colleges and Keri shared with us the many parallels between PTK and Rotary. Both recognize significant achievement in many ways and both emphasize service to the community and to the world.

For Keri, her experiences with Rotary started when she was chosen to attend RYLA in Oneonta at age 15 where she became interested in public speaking and won the speaking award her first time out. This was quite an accomplishment considering that the only thing she had excelled at up to that point was trouble. Then, as a Rotary Youth Exchange student, Keri spent a year in France where she started to finally understand how she learned and it turned her life around. Keri currently is finishing up at TC3 with a 3.8 GPA and she is hoping to transfer to either Cornell or Harvard. Building bridges between PTK and Rotary was also part of her talk today.

PTK has several programs that have great similarities to Rotary programs - their bi-annual service project and their continuing commitment to help find a cure for cancer. Their current bi-annual project is focusing on Pop Culture with everything from reading programs to a series of lectures around the country. PTK also offers scholarships and qualified students receive a number of recognition materials upon graduation including the PTK key, a special stamp on their diploma, and a special colored stole. Our thanks to Keri for sharing her story with us and starting to build that bridge. She is great example of the power of Rotary and the ability of people to overcome the odds and become successful.

If you would like more information about PTK, you can contact Keri at Keri.szymanski@ptk.org or you can contact the Center for Excellence in Jackson, Mississippi at (601) 984 - 3504.

CALENDAR

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