



THE ITHACA ROTARY NEWS

November 10, 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 23, 2004.

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**

This year's Share the Warmth program will officially start on November 15 and run through December 11 - collection ends on December 5 and distribution will run from the 9th to the 11th. Each year our 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.

- **THE BELLS WILL BE RINGING**

Our annual bell-ringing days are coming up as once again the Ithaca Rotary Club rings bells for the Salvation Army. As in the past, we will be ringing on two days in December, both days at the KMart location on Route 13. On Friday, December 10 and Thursday, December 16, we will be ringing the bell from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sign-ups will start next week, so please bring your calendars with you and be prepared to take a shift. Shifts are one hour each and at least two Rotarians are assigned to each shift. The kettle will also be at our Rotary meeting on Wednesday, December 15 for those who would like to make a donation. If you have any questions, please contact June Losurdo at 255 - 7771 or jml235@cornell.edu.

- **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, Scott shared with us a short video about the great works of the Rotary Foundation throughout the world. The list of projects and ways in which the Rotary Foundation is working with Rotarians to improve the lives of people all over the world is endless and this video was only able to focus on a few, but everyone could get a good grasp of the value of the work being done. All of this is only made possible through your donations to the Rotary Foundation. Whether it is the Annual Fund, the Permanent Fund, or the Polio Eradication campaign, every dollar you give goes towards these wonderful projects and programs.

- **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.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS *(continued)*

• 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 NOMINATIONS

Scott Russell nominated Patrick McKee for membership in our club and, standing in for Barbara Thuesen, also nominated Ken Hancharik for membership in our club. Both nominations were duly seconded and approved by a vote of those members present. Congratulations and welcome to the club, Patrick and Ken, we look forward to meeting you and getting to know you!

• NEW ROTARIAN INTRODUCTION

George Gull introduced the newest member of our club, Mary Mulvanerton. Mary was born and raised in New Jersey and is both an accountant and an attorney by education - working as a controller for a Wall Street advertising agency while attending law school and then spending five years in commercial litigation. Two and a half years ago Mary gave up city life and moved to Ithaca where she started working at Cornell for the Mars Exploration Rover Team as team project coordinator for the rovers and was part of the team that calibrated the PanCam pictures sent by the rovers. As the Mars project is winding down, Mary has taken on a new position taking responsibility for all of the contracts in George's department. She likes to sing and plays several instruments, including the bagpipes. In fact, during the launch of the rover Opportunity, Mary was at the launch site playing "Amazing Grace" on her pipes for the launch ceremony. Welcome to the Ithaca Rotary club, Mary, we look forward to getting to know you.



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FEATURED ROTARIANS (<i>continued</i>)

- **Our Rotary Ambassadors**

11/9: Gene Erickson (Ithaca-Cayuga)

- **Our Visiting Rotarians**

PDG Bob Moppert (Hillcrest)

PROGRAM NOTES “Government & Community Relationships with Cornell”
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<i>Van McMurtry, VP for Government and Community Relations at Cornell University</i>
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Alan Cohen introduced our guest speaker today, Van McMurtry. Van is the Vice President for Government and Community Relations at Cornell University and he talked to us today about his responsibilities and what his office does and plans to do. His office is responsible for directing Cornell's legislative efforts, coordinating the University's associations with local, state, and federal governments, and providing leadership for interactions with community organizations.

First, Van talked about the composition of his office - with John Gutenberger and Gary Stewart helping out, the Government and Community Relations office also has a small office in Albany that works on state matters and a small office in Washington, D.C. that works on federal matters pertinent to the University. At the state level, more than \$250 million comes to Cornell each year and, as one of the top research institutions in the country, more than \$600 million each year comes to Cornell from federal sources. The Washington office has increased importance as a result of 9/11 and the new restrictions on access to facilities and visa applications for many of the foreign students applying to or attending Cornell.

The next part of Van's talk was based on President Jeff Lehman's recent "State of the University" speech wherein he talked about what makes Cornell such a great research institution and what will keep it at the leading edge of research for the next 10 - 15 years. There are three main areas that will drive this success – life in the age of the genome, wisdom in the age of digital information, and sustainability in the age of development. Life in the age of the genome has not only given us a new understanding of life itself, but in the research world, it has opened up new avenues of communication, with various disciplines in the life sciences working together - something that they had never considered in the past. One of his examples of this is the Bridging the Rift initiative in cooperation with Stanford University. This project is building a library on the border of Israel and Jordan in the Negev desert. This library will digitally record all of the life forms on the planet and the information will be arrayed digitally, hopefully leading to new opportunities and understandings of life on earth. Wisdom in the age of digital information embodies the concept of not just how we obtain information, but in how we use that information. Computers, as we all know, are changing the way that people learn in all disciplines and it is important to keep on top of the growth and to maintain an understanding of those changes.

Finally, sustainability in the age of development addresses the continuing expansion of man's use of non renewable resources. Highly populated countries like India and China will not be able to utilize the same economic model as the United States as they continue to grow - the natural resources just do not exist to support that model. Cornell's social sciences, energy, and environmental resources have an important role to play in helping to achieve sustainable development around the world and in developing a successful economic model to help other countries achieve the levels of development we have here in the U.S.

In support of these three areas of focus, Cornell is working on several projects which will bring hundreds of millions of dollars to the University from the both the state and federal governments. Two new research facilities in agriculture, a new veterinary research center that will be at the forefront of identifying potential homeland security issues related to our food supply, and a new super x-ray camera that will allow scientists to actually see molecules in action are just the next few programs in an ongoing array of programs that will come to Cornell over the next 10 - 15 years. Our thanks to Van for his very interesting presentation and for taking the time to speak to us.

CALENDAR

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 23: Ithaca Rotary Board Meeting at the United Way building, 5:30 p.m.

November 24: *Meeting* Official visit from District Governor Peter Brellocks

December 10: Salvation Army bell ringing at KMart, 9am - 9pm

December 15: *Meeting* Salvation Army kettle at our club meeting

December 16: Salvation Army bell ringing at KMart, 9am - 9pm

January 28: Deadline for Ithaca Rotary Community Grant applications/proposals

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>

CREDITS & CONTACT INFO

Program Chair: Alan Cohen :: *Kettle Watch:* Jess Esposito :: *Greeter:* Joan Portzline :: *Thought:* David Squires :: *Introductions:* Kelly Damm :: *Music:* Jack Burns and Bill Cowdery :: *Photography:* John Ziegler :: *Setup:* Jim Showacre :: *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.