

# ROTARY CLUB OF THE BRONX, NY, INC.

# TUESDAYS

PUBLISHED BI-WEEKLY

Demetrio "Jim" Romeo  
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Editor

MEETS EVERY TUESDAY AT 12:15PM

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Rotary Theme 2009-2010:  
**"THE FUTURE OF ROTARY  
IS IN YOUR HANDS"**  
Volume 93 • Number 18  
November 3, 2009

#### President

Cheryl Simmons-Oliver  
4120 Hutchinson River Parkway East  
Apt. 15A  
Bronx, New York 10475  
718-320-0632

## LOOKING AHEAD

- 11/16 Kate Adamson, Award-winning Author of "Paralyzed but Not Powerless", will be speaking at the Burke Rehabilitation Hospital, 785 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains, NY, in the Rosedale Room, Billings Building #4. Reservations are required as seating is limited. Call Mary Springman at 718-617-1600 to reserve a seat or email [jastc@optonline.net](mailto:jastc@optonline.net).
- 11/17 Celebration of Puerto Rico Sunset meeting. \$40 per person Keynote speaker Francisco Gonzalez and entertainment by the K Dancers and Cultura & Tradicion Dancers. 6 p.m. at the Harbor Restaurant RSVP to Jim Romeo at 718-617-1600.
- 11/24 Steve Nowakowski and Dave Carr from the Foundation for Sight and Sound. Board meeting.
- 12/8 Club Assembly and Board Meeting.
- 12/15 Bronx Opera Company's Annual Musical Gala.
- 12/29 No Meeting.
- 1/4 PDG Bob Cucinell will speak about the Rotary International Foundation.
- 1/12 Club Assembly and Board Meeting.
- 1/26 Mark Bones from VISIONS.

## REPORT ON THE NOVEMBER 3, 2009 MEETING

### SPEAKER ~ NANCY WALLACE



Photo courtesy of Jim Romeo

*PP Nancy Wallace discussed the clean up of the Bronx River.*

In the absence of a scheduled speaker, Nancy Wallace came prepared to speak about the Bronx River which has been such a big part of her life.

The idea for cleaning up the river initially came from police Commander Anthony Bozza. He had the vision of putting youth to work to do the clean up. This would accomplish 2 things: prevent juvenile delinquency and clean up the river. The river was a complete mess and he recruited Ruth Anderberg who had been with the Women's Army Corps to do the job.

At that time, no one went near the river except to dump their trash. There were junked cars, washing machines, refrigerators, sewage and other pollutants and more in the river.

The first clean up in 1974 was a massive effort requiring bulldozer and heavy equipment that Ms. Anderberg begged and borrowed from local contractors. The National Guard and off-duty police also donated their time. They cleaned up the worst of the river which was just below the Zoo.

When they were done with that section, they realized that they needed to think about a long-term plan for the river. They worked with the City Planning Department to come up with a plan that encompassed *restoring* the river, not just cleaning it up. They used youth and the community to transform the river along which they built a park and an art center.

In 1983 Ms. Anderberg retired and the board asked Nancy, who had just finished a stint on the City Council of White Plains, to step in. She initially thought she would only be involved for a couple of years to get the project moving into the next phase, and then she would move on. She became hooked, however and stayed on as Executive Director of the Bronx River Restoration Project, Inc. for 22 years.

Nancy gave us a bit of the history of the river starting with the Native Americans who lived along the river and in harmony with it because they understood that the health of this resource directly affected them.

The problems started with the arrival of the Europeans. Twelve mills were built along the river to utilize the river as a power source.

Along the riverbanks, Inwood marble could be quarried and during the 1840's-50's it was in great demand for the construction of the buildings in Washington, D.C. The easiest way to transport the marble was by rail, and so the railroad came to the Bronx. With it

*Continued on page 2*

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## NANCY WALLACE

*Continued from page 1*

came more people and increased industrialization. All their waste went into the river. It became an open sewer. By the 1890's no one wanted to even go near it because it smelled so badly.

Soon the City acquired 2 large estates which became the Botanical Garden and the Bronx Zoo. The river ran right through both and the condition was deplorable. One of the directors of the Zoo was former State Senator William Niles. He had the connections to get the state to put in a sewer pipeline. But, most people didn't want to hook up to it because of the expense. So it was determined that the state should acquire the lands along the river and create the Bronx River Parkway. It was the first parkway in the nation and provided a beautiful scenic drive through th Bronx into lower Westchester. During the Depression, budgets were cut and the Parks Department could no longer maintain the land. This was when the river really became a dumping ground.

Nancy recalled her time with Bronx River Restoration and said how wonderful it was to see so many people get behind the restoration project. She told the story of how the sewers at Woodlawn were still dumping directly into the river when she first came on board in 1983. When they were finally connected to the sewer system, they had a river festival in celebration.

She has too many stories to recount here, so if you want to know more, you'll have to ask her. But watch out, you may be drawn in! Just ask Bruce who never knew that Nancy's new job would include him too!

When Nancy retired in 2005, the Bronx River Alliance was created to carry on the work of keeping the river clean and viable. Now there are lots of organizations that are involved with utilizing/preserving the river and even creating a "greenway" along it. Take her advice and enjoy a walk along this now healthy, restored river!



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## OPENINGS...

President-Elect Barry Fitzgerald opened the meeting, Nancy Wallace gave the Invocation and Luis Torres led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## CHUCK-A-BUCK

Bruce Wallace won \$17 in the 50/50 which he donated to our water project.

## DR. HAPPINESS

Maurice Nwokolo collected \$27 from happy Rotarians and guests.

## MAKE UPS

None today

## VISITORS & GUESTS

Amir Asadi and Charles Cele were guests of Maurice Nwokolo. Ejelis Hauman was a guest of Barry Fitzgerald.

## OFFERING PRAYERS

For Donald Arthur whose surgery for spinal stenosis was postponed pending review of his EKG.

For Jim Romeo's 20 month old grandson, Cole who contracted a bacterial form of meningitis due to an immune deficiency disorder called Bruton's agammaglobulinemia. He responded well to treatment for the meningitis, but is now fighting pneumonia.

For Jim and President Cheryl Simmons-Oliver who are both down with the flu.

For Taylor Eskew's step-daughter who is battling breast cancer.

For Maria Staniorski who is taking treatment for lymphoma which has manifested in a tumor near her spine.

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Rotary Theme 2009-2010:  
**"THE FUTURE OF ROTARY  
 IS IN YOUR HANDS"**  
 Volume 93 • Number 19  
 November 10, 2009

## OPENINGS...

President-Elect Barry Fitzgerald opened the meeting and Rev. Susan Chadwick gave the Invocation. Dr. Arthur Wolstein led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## CHUCK-A-BUCK

Barry Fitzgerald was the lucky winner of \$21 in the 50/50.

## DR. HAPPINESS

Mary Springman collected \$28 from happy Rotarians and guest.

## MAKE UPS

Barry Fitzgerald and Ed Hicks had a make up at the New York Rotary Club's Centennial Gala.

# REPORT ON THE NOVEMBER 10, 2009 MEETING CLUB ASSEMBLY

PP Nancy Wallace made the announcements about upcoming events.

First is the speaking engagement by Kate Adamson at Burke Rehabilitation Hospital, 785 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains, NY, in the Rosedale Room, Billings Building #4, on November 16th. She is the award-winning author of "Paralyzed but Not Powerless" and will be speaking about stroke. Our Club has partnered with Elmsford Rotary to host the event and has contributed \$500 towards her speaker's fee. Reservations are required as seating is limited. Call Mary Springman at 718-617-1600 to reserve a seat or email [jastc@optonline.net](mailto:jastc@optonline.net).

On November 17th the sunset fellowship meeting, "Puerto Rican Heritage Celebration" will take place at the Harbor Restaurant on City Island starting at 6 p.m. Delicious Puerto Rican cuisine will be provided by Joe's Place Restaurant and the keynote speaker will be Francisco Gonzalez.

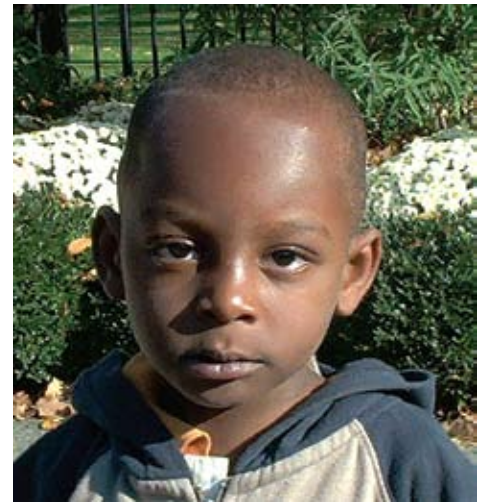


Photo courtesy of Ed Hicks

*Austin Egberuare is our newest Gift of Life child which we are co-sponsoring with the Rotary Club of the Pelhams.*

is accompanied by his mother, Gloria and will be staying with Megan Charlop and Richard Powers. We are partnering with the Rotary Club of the Pelhams for this sponsorship.

Barry Fitzgerald, Ed Hicks and potential new member Charles Soleil attended the New York Rotary Club's Centennial Gala. Barry said that the event was a smashing success, so full of programming that he didn't get his dinner until 10 p.m.!

Auction items such as a Vespa, a trip for 2 to Italy and a stay for 2 couples at Chateau Caisny raised a lot of money for the Club and provided winning bidders with great deals.

Nancy Wallace also announced that we were close to our goal of \$1,000 for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer with a total of \$935. Elizabeth Toledo came forward with a donating to make up the shortfall, so now we have met our goal! Thanks to everyone who participated.

Dr. Arthur Wolstein reminisced about his military service for us in recognition of Veteran's Day.

He remembered listening to the Giants football game on the radio on the day that Pearl Harbor was bombed in 1941.

*Continued on page 4*

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RAM P. GUPTA '87



Photo courtesy of Mary Springman

*This mouth-watering cake was the creation of Debby Appel to celebrate November's Birthday Babies.*

Traditional and modern Puerto Rican dance will be performed by the K Dancers from Kips Bay Boys and Girls Club and by Cultura and Tradicion.

Los Dos Potrillos Sports Bar Corporation has donated \$500 towards the Puerto Rican Heritage Celebration. We thank them for getting the event off to a great start. Tickets for this extravaganza are only \$40 each, so call Mary Springman to make your reservations for yourself and your friends at 718-617-1600.

Our latest Gift of Life child, Austin Egberuare has arrived from Nigeria. He

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Jim Romeo,  
 Bronx Rotarian  
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# CLUB ASSEMBLY

Continued from page 3

He recalled hearing an announcement asking Col. Doolittle to report to the front office and then, of course, finding out what had happened later.

He said that 6 months later he was in uniform. He asked everyone to visualize what that was like...leading an average, normal life and then, suddenly, your whole world changes.

He went to Fort Bragg in North Carolina for his training where it was so hot that soldiers were passing out all over the place. From there he went to Springfield, Missouri to complete medical training to treat combat casualties.

He also recalled being on the original Queen Mary which was being used as a troop ship. There were so many soldiers aboard that not all had a cot or hammock and troops had to sleep in shifts. Arthur volunteered to work in the infirmary onboard, and was lucky to have his own bed as a result.

He said when they landed in Glasgow, Scotland, the people cheered them. From there they went to London, England where their reception was different. He

said the men hated them and the women loved them. The common saying was that the Americans were over-paid, over-sexed and "over there".

Arthur decided to visit Oxford University and a soldier volunteered to drive him there. Because he forgot to drive on the left side of the road, they had a head-on collision and Arthur was knocked unconscious. He woke up in a hospital with his jaw broken and wired shut. Because it happened at the same time as the Battle of the Bulge, the hospital was over-crowded and he had to sleep on the floor. He was sent back to the States where he was stationed in Camp Edward on Cape Cod, Massachusetts. He served in the military from 1942-1946.

Arthur wanted to stress the point of how uncertain the future can be and that one's life can change in mere seconds, so be sure to savor and enjoy each moment.

At the end of the meeting everyone got to put Arthur's parting words into

action as they enjoyed a sumptuous cake baked by Debby Appel for the November Birthday Babies. Savor the moment, carpe diem indeed!

## ROTARY FUN FACTS

The world of social networking is complex and constantly evolving. Here's a look at it by the numbers:

1. As of 10 February 2009, Rotary International had 18,113 fans on Facebook.
2. Of the 40 million Americans who regularly log on to social networking sites, 60 percent use Facebook, 63 percent use MySpace, and 34 percent use both.\*
3. In a typical week, social networkers on Facebook and MySpace connect one-on-one with an average of 18 people, usually by sending personalized messages to friends, leaving comments on friends' pages, or sharing pictures.\*
4. The most common type of U.S. social networker is a single woman in her 20s who is either a student or employed.\*
5. "Tweets" are Twitter posts of 140 characters or less.

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**Birthday Babies**

**NOVEMBER**

Beatrice Castiglia-Catullo - 1st  
Cheryl Simmons-Oliver - 4th  
Rev. Andrew M. Pane - 10th  
Ram P. Gupta - 12th  
Dr. Ian Amritt ~ 21st  
Arthur Wolstein, D.P.M. - 22nd

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Andy Pane '72

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**MEETING TIMES & PLACES of ROTARY CLUBS in DISTRICT 7230**

Day	Time	Place
<b>SUNDAY</b>		
Central Bronx	7:30p	Jol Khabar
<b>MONDAY</b>		
Bronxville	12:15p	Town Tavern
Chappaqua	12:15p	Crabtree's Kittle House
New York	12:15p	Harvard Club
St. George's	6:30p	The George & Dragon
<b>TUESDAY</b>		
Bronx	12:15p	The Harbor Restaurant
Chinatown	1:00p	Hop Lee Restaurant
Croton-on-Hudson	12:15p	Just-In-Time
East Yonkers	12:00p	Luciano's Restaurant
Hamilton	12:15p	Royal Hamilton Amateur Dinghy Club
Hastings, Dobbs Ferry, Ardsley & Irvington	6:15p	Doubleday's
Northeast 1st & 3rd Tues	6:15p	Katonah Memorial House
Westchester 2nd & 4th Tues	12:15p	Katonah Memorial House
Mount Pleasant	12:15p	Casa Rina Restaurant
Port Chester-Rye Brook	12:05p	Villaggio Trattoria
Somers	6:30p	Pinnacle Restaurant
Staten Island	12:30p	Ligreci's Staaten Restaurant
Upper Manhattan	6:00p	International House
White Plains	12:15p	Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>		
Armonk	6:15p	Beehive
Eastchester	12:15p	CIAO Restaurant
Gateway	7:15p	Lake Club
Harrison	12:15p	Emilio's Restaurant
Hartsdale	12:15p	Alaroma Restaurant
Inwood Manhattan	7:00p	Park Terrace Bistro
Metro NYC	7:30p	Trattoria Dopo Teatro
Mid-Island	7:30a	Dakota Diner
Mount Kisco	12:15p	Mt. Kisco Holiday Inn
Mount Vernon	12:15p	Bona Sera Restaurant
New Rochelle	6:15p	Davenport Club
Ossining	12:30p	Isabella's Restaurant
Pelhams	12:15p	Rockwells
Sandys	6:30p	Henry VIII Restaurant
Scarsdale	12:15p	Scarsdale Metro Restaurant
Tarrytowns	12:00p	Kendall on Hudson
Yorktown	12:15p	Murphy's Restaurant
<b>THURSDAY</b>		
Elmsford	12:15p	Rinis Restaurant
Mamaroneck	12:15p	Chef Antonio Restaurant
North Shore	7:00p	LiGreci's Staaten Restaurant
Peekskill	12:15p	Cortlandt Colonial Restaurant
Pembroke	7:30a	Royal Bermuda Yacht Club
Pleasantville	12:15p	Riviera Restaurant
Riverdale	6:30p	The Riverdale Greentree
South Shore	12:15p	Marina Grand
Yonkers	12:00p	Ramada Inn
<b>FRIDAY</b>		
Briarcliff	12:15p	Briarcliff Recreation Center
Larchmont	12:15p	Larchmont Yacht Club
Rye	12:15p	Coveleigh Club