

T ROTARY CLUB OF THE BRONX, NY, INC. TUESDAYS

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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
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Bronx, New York 10475
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LOOKING AHEAD

- 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.

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 is finally home from the hospital after 4 weeks of difficulties. He will need to have intravenous treatments to boost his immune system every 3 weeks for the rest of his life.

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.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"Individual commitment to a group effort - that is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work."

-Vince Lombardi

REPORT ON THE NOVEMBER 17, 2009 MEETING PUERTO RICAN HERITAGE CELEBRATION



Photos courtesy of Jim Romeo and Walter Pofeldt

President Cheryl Simmons-Oliver (r.) introduced the evening's organizers Miguel Santiago, Elizabeth Toledo and Luis Torres.



Key note speaker Francisco Gonzalez, President of "Our Culture, Our Heritage".

The theme for the evening was set by President Cheryl Simmons-Oliver, who asked us all to sit back, relax, feel the breezes wafting through the palm trees and imagine ourselves in Puerto Rico. The Harbor Restaurant was transformed with hand-made palm trees and coconuts, scenes of Puerto Rico decorating the walls and Latin music filling the air.

Elizabeth Toledo welcomed us and Miguel Santiago led the Pledge of Allegiance. Nancy Wallace gave the invocation, including prayers for three-year old Austin, our Gift of Life child from



The national anthem of Puerto Rico, "La Borinquena" was sung by Ernesto Rosario. His daughter, Tatiana Rosario, Miss Puerto Rico was also present.

Nigeria, and for little Cole, 21months old, Jim Romeo's grandson, who has been battling meningitis and an impaired immune system. A group of singers from the Bronx Puerto Rican Parade, Inc. sang "La Borinquena", the Puerto Rican National Anthem, then led us all in "The Star Spangled Banner".

Luis Torres introduced distinguished guests and Keynote Speaker, Mr. Francisco Gonzalez, Chair of the Bronx Puerto Rican Heritage Committee and District Manager of Community Board 9. Mr. Gonzales spoke about his childhood growing up in the Bronx, where he attended DeWitt Clinton High School. He served in the United States Army, where he was a Chaplain's Assistant.

Continued on page 2

THE BRONX OPERA COMPANY AT BRONX ROTARY!

12/15 - Don't miss our annual holiday celebration with our friends from the Bronx Opera Company! It is always a treat and their wonderful performances will fill you with the spirit of the holidays.

PUERTO RICAN HERITAGE

Continued from page 1

After the Army, he returned to the Bronx, attending Lehman College and the College of New Rochelle, where he earned a B. A. degree in Psychology, with minors in Health Services Administration and Secondary Education. He found his calling in working in the field of economic development for the Upper Bronx Revitalization Corporation and at BOEDC, where he has assisted in the development of many Local Development Corporations and Business Improvement Districts, as well as many local merchant's associations in the Bronx.

Mr. Gonzalez talked about the wonderful diversity of the Bronx, which is represented in the Bronx Rotary Club, and about the strong sense of community that unites us. He spoke about how important it is to work together to help each other and to solve problems, and ended by asking each of us to give our



Everyone got in on the dancing fun, including (no surprise), Mr. Fling a Hoof himself, Ed Hicks.





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The dancers of "Cultura & Tradicion" posed with honored guests against a festive tropical backdrop.



neighbor a hug. There were hugs and smiles all around.

Dinner was a generous buffet of Puerto Rican dishes provided by Joe's Place, followed by songs from Puerto Rico, performed by Miss Puerto Rico, who will be featured in the 2010 Puerto Rican Day parade, and by her father. The evening ended with music and dancing for all.

Many thanks to the Bronx Rotary Puerto Rican Heritage Celebration Committee, chaired by Luis Torres, with committee co-chairs Elizabeth Toledo and Miguel Santiago, for putting on this festive event, which was attended by 79

people. It was a night to remember.

This was a Sunset Meeting of the Bronx Rotary Club, which are held once a month in the evening. In December there will be no Sunset Meeting, since the special meeting will be a presentation of music by the Bronx Opera Company at 12:15 at the Harbor restaurant. Those attending are asked to bring unwrapped toys to be donated to needy children.



Cosmo and Gil served up the many delicious offerings at the buffet.

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OPENINGS...

President Cheryl Simmons-Oliver opened the meeting and Rev. David Michel gave the Invocation. Dr. Glen Nygreen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CHUCK-A-BUCK

David Michel was the lucky winner of \$35 in the 50/50.

DR. HAPPINESS

Miguel Santiago collected \$41 from happy Rotarians and guests.

MAKE UPS

None Today

VISITORS & GUESTS

Ted Nygreen visited from the White Plains Rotary Club. Guest speaker David Carr, Vivian Holmes and Steve Nowakowski were guests of the Club. Erica Sterling was a guest of Luis Torres.

REPORT ON THE NOVEMBER 24, 2009 MEETING
GUEST SPEAKERS ~ STEVE NOWAKOWSKI, VIVIAN HOLMES & DAVE CARR



Photo courtesy of Jim Romeo

Speakers Steve Nowakowski, Vivian Holmes and David Carr visited to tell us about the Foundation for Sight and Sound.

Marguerite Chadwick-Juner introduced Steve Nowakowski, a member of the Freeport, L.I. Rotary Club and board member of the Foundation for Sight and Sound.

Mr. Nowakowski is the owner and founder of Inter-Med Technologies located in Freeport. It is in this capacity that he was first introduced to the Foundation for Sight and Sound (FSS) by board member David Carr.

Steve introduced Executive Director Vivian Holmes who told us that the FSS is about 5 years old and is just now starting to hit its stride.

It was founded by Mitch Shapiro who has Usher's disease - profound deafness and retinitis pigmentosa (loss of peripheral vision and eventual blindness).

Ms. Holmes said that FSS was created to address issues that "fall through the cracks" of other disabilities organizations. For example, their Library Project provides assistive technologies to libraries that do not have the resources to purchase them for their communities. This includes equipment, such as CCTV's and computer soft-

ware programs like ZoomText that enlarge type so people who are visually impaired can read.

Another program is called Help America hear. It is designed to provide hearing aids to men a women of all ages as well as children, who do not have the financial resources to acquire them. The cost of hearing aids is not covered by insurance or Medicare. Working in partnership with manufacturers and providers, FSS is able to offer up-to-date hearing aids to these individuals, allowing them to leave their soundless world.

A 2 year old program called Help America See is designed to provide eyeglasses and examinations to people not covered by insurance or who have exhausted their coverage. Working in partnership with participating eye wear professionals, FSS provides quality eye care to visually challenged people.

Ms. Holmes then introduced David Carr who elaborated on the Help America Hear program. He is a hearing instrument specialist who comes from 3 generations of hearing care professionals. He has 4 offices on eastern Long Island and runs the hearing aid program at Montefiore in the Bronx.

He spoke about his experience taking a group of audiology professionals to southern China about 7 years ago. They spent 10 days in 4 villages, tested 300 children and fit 298 with hearing aids.

Some of these children were identified in advance by Rotary International, but all had grown up in silence and endured a diminished status. After testing it was found that only 2 children were profoundly deaf and that the rest only had hearing loss that could be amended with hearing aids. The children then had the ability to go to aural rehab and speech therapy.

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RAM P. GUPTA '87

DAVE CARR

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Mr. Carr said that the experience changed them all and that he was then inspired to do more mission work with the Starkey Hearing Foundation, the largest of its kind in the world. Over the last 3 years he has been a part of giving the gift of hearing to 600 children in Mexico.

Ultimately, however, it was his goal to do this work on his own home turf of Long Island and the Bronx. His friendship with Mitch Shapiro of FSS helped him achieve that goal. Mr. Shapiro's sight was rapidly degenerating and he wished to travel less and do more locally. This dovetailed neatly with Mr. Carr's desires. They worked together, built up FSS and kicked off a program at Montefiore Children's Hospital in January 2009 by funding and fitting 20 children with hearing aids.

News 12 covered the new program and Montefiore was so pleased with its success that they came onboard as partners to accomplish this work every year.

Members present unanimously voted to put partnering/funding FSS in some measure before the board.

Thanks to all our guest speakers for an enlightening program and for the good works they do.

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GIFT OF LIFE UPDATE

Ed Hicks gave an update about our 3 year old Gift of Life child Austin.

Although he is now doing very well, up and walking about his room a bit with IV bottles in tow, he had a few complications from his corrective heart surgery at first.

Ed explained that when a child's heart does not function properly, not pumping enough blood for example, the rest of the organs adapt to that lower level of blood flow. Once normal flow is restored, there can be complications, particularly with the lungs as they suddenly try to accept



Photo courtesy of Ed Hicks
Austin Egberuare.

the increased flow.

This was the case with Austin and he needed a second surgery to his pulmonary system. He had intravenous feeding and induced sleep for 5 days following the surgeries so that his body could heal.

During those anxious days, Austin's mom had lots of support from Rotarians, clergy and friends.

As of Wed., Nov. 24, Austin was released from the hospital and went to his host Megan Charlop's home with his mom.

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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MEETING TIMES & PLACES of ROTARY CLUBS in DISTRICT 7230

Day	Time	Place
SUNDAY		
Central Bronx	7:30p	Jol Khabar
MONDAY		
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
TUESDAY		
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
WEDNESDAY		
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
THURSDAY		
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
FRIDAY		
Briarcliff	12:15p	Briarcliff Recreation Center
Larchmont	12:15p	Larchmont Yacht Club
Rye	12:15p	Coveleigh Club