

ROTARY CLUB OF THE BRONX, NY, INC.

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Rotary Theme 2010-2011:
"BUILDING
COMMUNITIES, BRIDGING
CONTINENTS"

Volume 94 • Number 20
November 9, 2010

President
Barry Fitzgerald
530 Riverdale Avenue #6H
Yonkers, NY 10705
718-548-7732

LOOKING AHEAD

- 11/23 - Andrew Deutsch - motivational speaker.
- 12/14 - Bronx Opera Company holiday celebration.
- 12/21 - No Meeting.
- 12/28 - No Meeting.
- 1/10 Club Assembly & Board Meeting.
- 1/18 ML King - Black History Sunset Meeting.
- 1/25 - Dr. Christine Walsh from Montefiore Hospital.
- 2/15 - Celebration of Dominican Republic Sunset Meeting.
- 3/13 - Celebration of Greece Sunset Meeting.
- 4/19 - Celebration of Persia Sunset Meeting.
- 5/17 - Celebration of Mexico Sunset Meeting.
- 6/28 - President's/Paul Harris Dinner

OPENINGS...

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

REPORT ON THE NOVEMBER 9, 2010 MEETING

GUEST SPEAKER ~ ROB RAYLMAN

President Barry Fitzgerald introduced Rob Raylman, Executive Director of Gift of Life International (GOLI).

He briefly described the 4 main missions of GOLI. The first is to maximize the capacity of individual GOL programs to help children. The second is to add new programs to GOLI. Over the last year there have been 12 new GOL programs added around the world. New Orleans, Kosovo, Bangladesh, Trinidad and Tobago and East Florida are among the new programs.

Brett Halverson, who was brought to the U.S. on Airforce One by the Reagans for his GOL surgery when he was a child, started a GOL program in his homeland of Korea. As with many of the GOL children, he has become an "ambassador" and advocate for GOL and was recently in the Philippines with Lou Del Rosario to attend the opening of a new hospital there that will be doing 15 GOL surgeries a year.

The third initiative is to develop a partnership with other non-governmental organizations (NGO's) that do similar work. Everything is focused on helping more children.

The final mission is to tell the "collective story." D 7230 GOL has helped over 250 children over the years, but combined with all the programs under GOLI, the number is over 11,500. That's pretty impressive. This is important in terms of getting recognized for significant funding from other organizations around the world. In the past year, GOLI was able to raise \$500,000 to support the initiatives, missions and "Our Hearts Are In ..." programs. GOLI has become a significant force in the world in terms of taking care of children with congenital heart defects.



Photo courtesy of Jim Romeo
President Barry Fitzgerald presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Guest Speaker Rob Raylman, Executive Director of Gift of Life International.

50/50 FUNDRAISER

Tickets are now available for the 50/50 fundraiser. President Barry reminds Bronx Rotarians to be responsible for 2 raffle tickets @\$50 each. Please try to sell more as this is a major fundraiser. Checks are to be made payable to the Bronx Rotary Foundation. Drawing will be at our holiday luncheon on Dec 14.

NEW GIFT OF LIFE CHILD

The Gift of Life Committee is excited to announce that our Club will be co-hosting a little boy from Kosovo with the Yorktown Rotary Club for Gift of Life surgery. He will be arriving on November 24th. Please contact Ed Hicks or Jim Romeo for more details. Contributions should be made out to the Bronx Rotary Foundation earmarked Gift of Life.

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www.bronxrotaryclub.org

ROB RAYLMAN

Continued from page 1

Mr. Raylman said that when he first started getting involved with GOL, friends and family asked him why they didn't attend to children in the U.S. The truth is that in the U.S., these children are taken care of by the health care system by the time that they are 6 or 8 years old. The knowledge, skills and health care are available to children here, where it is not the case in these other countries. He also said that even though there are GOL programs in other countries, it is the GOL programs in the U.S. that drive the success of those in other countries. Each one of those programs was sponsored by a GOL program in the U.S.

Mr. Raylman said that his travels for GOLI have driven home the point that for all its success, GOL surgeries are just a drop in the bucket. Four and a half million children are born each year with heart defects in countries that can't take care of them. In some cases, the opportunities to take care of the children are closing down. Some hospitals may no longer be able to do the number of children that they have taken care of in the past and the sheer number of children in need is far out-weighting the GOLI program's abilities to bring kids to the U.S. for surgeries. So, in the 1990's medical missions were developed wherein teams of doctors and nurses are sent abroad to operate on children in their own countries. In this way, they are able to help 20-25 children per mission.

Mr. Raylman works closely with Mr. Rob Donno and the two brainstormed and idea in 2008. The "Our Hearts Are In ..." program coordinates the efforts of all the GOL programs, focusing on one country each year. Children will be identified who need help, some going to different GOL programs around the world, and others being attended to by U.S. surgeons and staff who travel to that country. The added feature is that now these surgeons are training doctors in those countries to do the surgeries themselves.

The countries targeted by the "Our Hearts" program are chosen based upon the belief that ultimately, a sustainable pediatric cardiac surgery program can be set up there.

The first year, Uganda was chosen. They had been given all the proper cardiac care equipment, had a heart institute, but did not have the skilled personnel to utilize it. So, 66 Ugandan children were sent to 33 GOL programs in 13 countries that year. The result was a conference in Kampala,

Uganda in October of 2009 where 75 people from 4 continents got together to develop a strategy. It is a 5 year plan, 4 missions a year will visit the chosen country to train doctors and get the hospitals up and running to a standard where they can perform the surgeries themselves. As of Dec. 2010, the hospital in Uganda will have successfully operated on their 62nd child.

While he feels that this is the future of GOLI, he stresses the importance of continuing to bring children to the U.S. for surgeries because it motivates and engages the Club members to be in direct contact with a child they have raised funds to help.

This year began the "Our Hearts are in El Salvador" mission with similar positive results.

On a note closer to home, Mr. Raylman commended our Club for being very active regarding GOL and noted that we will soon be co-hosting our 12th child with the Yorktown Rotary Club.

Thank you very much, Mr. Rob Raylman, for your insights into the workings of Gift of Life International.

THANK YOU

To Debby Appel who purchased a digital recorder for our Club and opened a free web account where I can pick up recordings of our meetings. Thank you for facilitating the publication of this newsletter!

VISITORS & GUESTS

Guest speaker Rob Raylman was a guest of the Club.

MAKE UPS

Debby Appel had a make up at the Midwest City Rotary Club.

DR. HAPPINESS

Sal Mastrocola collected \$40 from happy Rotarians and guest.

CHUCK-A-BUCK

Ed Hicks was the lucky winner of \$22 in the 50/50.

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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Rotary Theme 2010-2011:
**“BUILDING
 COMMUNITIES, BRIDGING
 CONTINENTS”**

Volume 94 • Number 21
 November 16, 2010

OPENINGS...

PP Cheryl Simmons-Oliver opened the meeting and Jim Romeo led the Pledge of Allegiance. Rev. Sue Chadwick gave the Invocation.

CHUCK-A-BUCK

Mary Springman won \$92 in the 50/50.

MAKE UPS

None today

VISITORS & GUESTS

Guest speaker Robert Sancho was a guest of the Club. Elizabeth Roth, Verna McDavid, Zenaida Roger, Margarita Riviello, Jose Martinez, Elizabeth Padilla, Flor Lopez, Arlene Reyes, Louie Vazquez, Grace Fontinez, Maria Lopez, Manny Munoz, Pauline Munoz, and Joe and Jane Castiglia were guests of Bea Castiglia-Catullo. PDG Gilda Chirafisi visited from the Riverdale Rotary Club and Bill Ruffanello visited from the South Shore Rotary Club.

OFFERING PRAYERS

For Barry Fitzgerald who fell and got a concussion which led to him being kept in a hospital for observation for 4 days.

For Dr. Arthur Wolstein’s wife Diane who suffered a stroke.

For Bea Castiglia-Catullo’s son and daughter, both of whom are battling cancer.

**REPORT ON THE NOVEMBER 16, 2010 MEETING
 CELEBRATION OF PUERTO RICO SUNSET MEETING**



Photos courtesy of Jim Romeo

Guest speaker Robert Sancho.

Let’s start out with big kudos to Bea Castiglia-Catullo for taking the reins and pulling together a wonderful program! At the eleventh hour, our scheduled keynote speaker, Lorraine Cortes-Vazquez, was not able to attend, so Bea started to line up RAIN Board member Zenaida Roger to pinch hit. Almost simultaneously, Robert Sancho, longtime friend of Bea’s, visited Louie Vazquez, Lorraine’s husband, and he agreed to be the speaker. Bea went the whole nine yards to make the evening a success, also bringing 2 tables of friends from RAIN to the meeting. Thanks also go to Ralph Scottino and Priscilla Fichera for providing the sumptuous Puerto Rican cuisine. Cookies were generously provided by Mary Springman and Jim Romeo.

PP Cheryl Simmons-Oliver introduced the guest speaker, Robert Sancho. He is a former Deputy Superintendent of Community School Board #4 in East Harlem and is currently the Vice President of Governmental Affairs for Bronx Lebanon Hospital. Mr. Sancho was born in the Bronx, but comes from a Costa Rican and Puerto Rican heritage. He studied in Puerto Rico and started his family there.

Mr. Sancho distributed

a history of Puerto Rico to everyone and spoke about the highlights. Columbus went to the island in 1493 and named the island San Juan Bautista, in honor of Saint John the Baptist. Eventually, traders and other maritime visitors came to refer to the entire island as “Puerto Rico”, and “San Juan” became the name of the main trading/shipping port. In 1508, Spanish conquistador Juan Ponce de León became the island’s first governor to take office. Soon thereafter, The Spanish began to colonize the island.

In 1779, citizens of the still-Spanish colony of Puerto Rico fought in the American Revolutionary War under the command of Bernardo de Gálvez, named Field Marshal of the Spanish colonial army in North America.

On July 25, 1898, during the Spanish-American War, Puerto Rico was invaded by the United States with a landing at Guánica. As an outcome of the war, Spain ceded Puerto Rico, along with Cuba, the Philippines, and Guam to the U.S. under the Treaty of Paris.

The United States and Puerto Rico thus began a long-standing relationship. Puerto Rico began the 20th century under the military rule of the U.S. with officials, including the governor, appointed by the President of the United States. The Foraker Act of 1900 gave Puerto Rico a certain amount of civilian popular government, including a popularly elected House of Representatives, also a judicial system following the American legal system that includes both state courts and federal courts establishing a



Dancers Dreamzzz Junior Dream Team entertained guests.

Puerto Rico Supreme Court and a United State District Court; and a non-voting member of Congress, by the title of “Resident Commissioner”. In 1917, “Puerto Ricans were collectively made U.S. citizens via the Jones Act.

Natural disasters, including a major earthquake, a tsunami and several hurricanes, and the Great Depression impoverished the island during the first

Continued on page 4

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Jim Romeo,
 Bronx Rotarian
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CELEBRATION OF PUERTO RICO

Continued from page 3

few decades under U.S. rule. The internal governance changed during the latter years of the Roosevelt-Truman administrations, as a form of compromise led by Luis Muñoz Marín and others. It culminated with the appointment by President Truman in 1946 of the first Puerto Rican-born governor, Jesús T. Piñero.

In 1947, the U.S. granted Puerto Ricans the right to elect democratically their own governor. Luis Muñoz Marín was elected during the 1948 general elections, becoming the first popularly elected governor of Puerto Rico.

In the early 1900s the greatest contributor to Puerto Rico's economy was agriculture and its main crop was sugar. In the late 1940s a series of projects code named Operation Bootstrap encouraged a significant shift to manufacture via tax exemptions. Manufacturing quickly replaced agriculture as the main industry of the island. Puerto Rico is classified as a "high income country" by the World Bank.

Economic conditions have improved dramatically since the Great Depression because



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of external investment in capital-intensive industries such as petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals and technology. Major American manufacturers built important plants in Puerto Rico which contributed to the upward economic surge there.

Thank you to Mr. Robert Sancho for standing in as our guest speaker and providing a colorful view into the history of Puerto Rico.



Rotarians and guests alike enjoyed their taste of Puerto Rico.

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MEETING TIMES & PLACES of ROTARY CLUBS in DISTRICT 7230

MONDAY		
Bedford-Armonk	6:15p	Bedford Presbyterian Church
Bronxville	12:15p	Fogarty's Town Tavern
Central Bronx	7:00p	Jol Kabar Restaurant
Chappaqua	12:15p	Crabtree's Kittle House
New York	12:00p	Harvard Club
Northeast Westchester	6:15p	John-Michael's Restaurant
St. George's	6:30p	Grotto Bay Beach Resort
TUESDAY		
Bronx	12:15p	The Harbor Restaurant
Chinatown	1:00p	Hop Lee Restaurant
Croton-on-Hudson	12:15p	Bella Paula
East Yonkers	12:15p	Luciano's Restaurant
Hamilton	12:15p	Royal Hamilton Amateur Dinghy Club
Hastings, Dobbs Ferry, Ardsley & Irvington	6:15p	Doubleday's
Mount Pleasant	12:00p	Casa Rina Restaurant
Port Chester-Rye Brook	12:10p	T&J Trattoria
Scarsdale	12:00p	Moscato's
Somers	6:15p	Pinnacle Restaurant
Staten Island	12:30p	Ligreci's Staaten Restaurant
Upper Manhattan	6:00p	Gran Piatto d'Oro Restaurant
White Plains	12:15p	Crowne Plaza
WEDNESDAY		
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	Garden Cafe
Metro NYC	7:30p	Trattoria Dopo Teatro
Mount Kisco	12:15p	Mt. Kisco Holiday Inn
Mount Vernon	12:15p	Bona Sera Restaurant
New Rochelle	6:15p	Davenport Club
Ossining	12:30p	The Tuscan Grille
Pelhams	12:15p	Rockwells
Sandys	6:30p	Henry VIII Restaurant
Tarrytowns	12:15p	Westchester Marriott Hotel
Wall Street	5:30p	Downtown Association
Yorktown	12:15p	Murphy's Restaurant
THURSDAY		
Cortlandt Manor	7:00p	Cortlandt Colonial
Elmsford	12:15p	Rinis Restaurant
Mamaroneck	12:15p	Emilio's Restaurant
Mid-Island	7:30a	Dakota Diner
North Shore	7:00p	LiGreci's Staaten Restaurant
Peekskill	12:15p	Cortlandt Colonial Restaurant
Pembroke	7:15a	Royal Bermuda Yacht Club
Pleasantville	12:15p	Riviera Restaurant
Riverdale	6:45p	The Riverdale Greentree
South Shore	12:15p	Marina Grand
Yonkers	12:15p	Luciano's Italian Restaurant
FRIDAY		
Briarcliff Manor	12:15p	Briarcliff Recreation Center
Larchmont	12:15p	Larchmont Yacht Club
Rye	12:15p	Coveleigh Club