

TUESDAYS

ROTARY CLUB OF THE BRONX, NY, INC.

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Rotary Theme 2009-2010:
"THE FUTURE OF ROTARY
IS IN YOUR HANDS"

Volume 93 • Number 22
December 1, 2009

President

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

LOOKING AHEAD

- 12/8 Club Assembly and Board Meeting.
- 12/15 Bronx Opera Company's Annual Musical Gala.
- 12/22 No Meeting.
- 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.
- 2/2 Miquela Craytor, Executive Director of Sustainable South Bronx
- 2/9 Club Assembly and Board Meeting.
- 2/23 Younhee Shin to speak about Korea.

QUOTABLE QUOTES

The fact is, that to do anything in the world worth doing, we must not stand back shivering and thinking of the cold and danger, but jump in and scramble through as well as we can.

- Robert Cushing

If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.

- John Quincy Adams

REPORT ON THE DECEMBER 1, 2009 MEETING SPECIAL GUESTS ~ AUSTIN EGBERGUARE & GLORIA IFEOMA



The mutual admiration between PDG Gilda Chirafisi and Gloria Ifeoma was evident in their emotional hug.

Photos courtesy of Jim Romeo

President Cheryl Simmons-Oliver (L.) presented Austin with a gift from the Bronx Rotary Club and mom, Gloria looks on.

President Cheryl Simmons-Oliver introduced our latest Gift of Life child, Austin Egberguare and his mother Gloria Ifeoma. He was presented with a gift of a motorized truck from the Bronx Club.

Cheryl then read an email of thanks from Austin Paul, Austin's father in Nigeria. The content follows:

"Thank you all over there. May God bless you all for the way God is using you all over there to give hope to the hopeless. May God continue to be with you all in Jesus Name ..Amen.

I was afraid to open my mail not to see... but I can now open the box to tell you all I love you all after hearing from my son Austin Junior, he is my life my wife can tell of that.

The good God will not leave you all, He will be with you all in all your endeavour, words are not enough to express my appreciation to you all. How I wish I am there to hug each of you for the Gift of Life to my family.

I will begin to make preparation to come down to see face to face these wonderful people who

has giving me my life with the help of God. I say May God bless you all

My best regard to my greatest mum/dad PDG Gilda C., the loveliest of love to Meg Charlop who communicated to me with my son on the computer. I say you are too much. God has good things for you in store. The sky is the limit to your endeavour."

Cheryl then asked for a round of applause for PDG Gilda Chirafisi who has been so instrumental in the Gift of Life program in our District. Then she brought Austin's mom Gloria forward to talk about her experience with Gift of

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.

AUSTIN EGBERUARE

Continued from page 1

Life.

Gloria said she first noticed a problem with Austin when he started trying to walk at 9 months old. He kept falling repeatedly, more than would be normal. He was late in finally walking, but then could not progress to running about as other toddlers would. His coloring would also be alarming at times.

She took him to the doctor who scheduled many tests and a chest x-ray. Although everything about the results seemed normal, Gloria knew something was wrong. Austin was also experiencing frequent bouts of malaria at this time. She was finally referred to a hospital that eventually diagnosed a heart defect.

Gloria said that when the doctor informed her of the cost of an operation to repair Austin's heart, she knew there was no way they could afford it. She was desperate and in tears one day at the hospital when a Rotarian friend approached her.

That friend brought her to her Club meeting where she met the director of a private hospital who assured her that Austin would be taken care of. She was shown a calendar with a photo of Chizaram Chibueze the child our Club gave the Gift of Life last year. She was heartened, but also half afraid it would not be true.

There were many more rounds of tests and doctor's visits, but finally word came that Austin's surgery was set to be performed at Montefiore hospital in the U.S., that all the costs were covered and that their accommodations would also be taken care of. Her joy and excitement could not be contained.

Gloria thanked everyone over and over and shared a very emotional hug with PDG Gilda.

Gilda reminded everyone that the Gift of Life fund raiser will be on February 4, 2010 and will have a unique Mardi Gras theme. Tickets will only be \$100.00 and she promises many surprises are in store.



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OPENINGS...

President Cheryl Simmons-Oliver opened the meeting and Rev. Susan Chadwick gave the Invocation. Sal Mastrocola led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CHUCK-A-BUCK

Little Austin Egberuare was the lucky winner of \$28 in the 50/50.

DR. HAPPINESS

Maurice Nwokolo collected \$65 from happy Rotarians and guests.

MAKE UPS

None Today

VISITORS & GUESTS

Gift of Life child Austin Egberuare and his mother Gloria Ifeoma were guests of the Club. PDG Gilda Chirafisi visited from the Riverdale Club and Bill Russonello visited from the South Shore Club. Eric Bredhoff and Rick Sherman were guests of Iam Amritt, Amir Asadi was a guest of Maurice Nwokolo and Marie Salomon was a guest of Jim Romeo.

Counsellor at Law Maxwell S. Pfeifer

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OFFERING PRAYERS

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

For Bea Castiglia-Catullo's companion Ted Trotta who has bone cancer and is currently receiving hospice care.

For Jim Romeo's 20 month old grandson, Cole who has an immune deficiency disorder called Bruton's agammaglobulinemia. 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.

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Rotary Theme 2009-2010:
**“THE FUTURE OF ROTARY
 IS IN YOUR HANDS”**
 Volume 93 • Number 23
 December 8, 2009

OPENINGS...

President Cheryl Simmons-Oliver opened the meeting and Rev. Susan Chadwick gave the Invocation. Dr. Arthur Wolstein led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CHUCK-A-BUCK

Rev. Susan Chadwick was the lucky winner of \$22 in the 50/50.

DR. HAPPINESS

Sal Mastrocola collected \$30 from happy Rotarians and guests.

MAKE UPS

None Today

VISITORS & GUESTS

Walter Pofeldt was a guest of Dr. Arthur Wolstein and Hedy Marin-Manzke visited from the Riverdale Club.

Birthday Babies

DECEMBER

Albert Ferro - 1st

Debby Appel ~ 11th

Rev. William G. Kalaidjian - 17th



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 Andy Pane '72

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**REPORT ON THE DECEMBER 8, 2009 MEETING
 CLUB ASSEMBLY**

President Cheryl Simmons-Oliver opened the meeting by showing a certificate that was recently awarded to our Club for our participation in Every Rotarian Every Year (EREY), by Rotary International. These funds are being used by RI for the eradication of polio and to help meet and match the funds put up by Bill Gates for that same purpose. The certificate is in recognition of our \$2,000 Club contribution during PP Taylor Eskew's term.

Taylor went to Itzhak Perlman's concert to end polio on Dec. 2, 2009. She said the concert was packed, energized, inspirational and moving. The following is an excerpted bio from the Rotarian magazine.

“I play, I conduct, and I teach, so I'm having a good time,” observes Itzhak Perlman. Of course, when the violin virtuoso uses the word play, that's an understatement.

Born in Tel Aviv in 1945, Perlman debuted at Carnegie Hall at age 17. Today, he's one of the world's best known and most honored classical musicians, often described as a “superstar.” He's garnered four Emmy Awards and 15 Grammy Awards, and a Lifetime Achievement Award in 2008.

At age three, Perlman heard a concert on the radio and asked his father for a violin. Months later, he contracted polio and lost the use



Photo courtesy of Jim Romeo
Debby Appel holds her creation for the December birthday babies.

of his legs. He walks with crutches and performs while seated. Throughout his career, he's maintained a rigorous travel schedule, appearing at venues far beyond the concert halls of the United States and Western Europe. In 1987, he joined a ground breaking tour with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra in Hungary and Poland, and three years later performed in the orchestra's first concert in the Soviet Union. He toured China and India in 1994.

Perlman's instrument of choice is the Soil Stradivarius violin, made in 1714. He enjoys the “social” aspect – the portability – of stringed instruments, he says. While conceding the tremendous repertoire of the piano, he jokes that if you want to play one, “you have to go where there is a piano.”

Perlman doesn't always don formal wear for his performances; he's comfortable bantering with

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RAM P. GUPTA '87

CLUB ASSEMBLY

Continued from page 3

David Letterman and has appeared on Sesame Street . He was also a soloist on the Oscar-winning score of Schindler's List by John Williams and played at the Academy Awards.

Along with performing, another aspect of Perlman's self-described "three-pronged" musical career is conducting. He has wielded the baton with the Philadelphia Orchestra and the National Symphony, among others.

But teaching holds a special attraction. He and his wife, Toby, founded the Perlman Music Program in 1993. Seven years later, they purchased an old 28-acre resort and made it into a campus on the shore of Shelter Island, N.Y., USA. (When the wind is right, the sound of music carries across the channel to Long Island's North Fork.)

Between tours, Perlman teaches at the Juilliard School in New York, where he and his wife studied violin, and during the summer at Shelter Island.

On 2 December, he will perform at the Concert to End Polio with the New York Philharmonic, at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. All proceeds will go to Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge.

Sal Mastrocola, who works with the St. Brendan's Senior Lunch program, wants members to know that they are all



Photo courtesy of Walter Pofeldt

Rev. David Michel.

invited to attend lunch with the seniors on Saturday, Dec. 11 at 12 p.m. The address is 333 East 206th Street in the Bronx.

Ed Hicks spoke about the importance of attending meetings and events of other Clubs. This is the way that we show our support for other Clubs and their programs and garner their support for ours, not to mention making new friends and all the benefits that go along with that.

President Cheryl brought David Michel up to speak about his new position.

David said he first came to New York to work in advertising, but got into the

Lay Pastor Program in 1998. He has recently been ordained and will be the new pastor at Mount Washington Presbyterian Church in Inwood starting on Jan.1, 2010.

He is very pleased to be called to this church and finds it very rewarding already, even though he is not officially the pastor there yet. The congregation is small and all Dominican.

Taylor Eskew reminded everyone about the Rotary Convention in Montreal. The deadline for the best price is fast approaching. It is Dec. 15th. After that the registration price goes up. The Rotary train trip costs only \$142 for a round trip, but there are only 70 seats available, so sign up soon. All the information can be found at: www.rotary.org/en/Members/Events/Convention/Pages.

President Cheryl pointed out that we are a very fortunate Club indeed. We never have to buy cake, we have two talented baker members, Taylor Eskew and Debby Appel.

THE BRONX ROTARY OFFICERS

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MEETING TIMES & PLACES of ROTARY CLUBS in DISTRICT 7230

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

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