

ROTARY CLUB OF THE BRONX, NY, INC. TUESDAYS

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

Volume 94 • Number 40
April 12, 2011

President

Barry Fitzgerald
530 Riverdale Avenue #6H
Yonkers, NY 10705
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LOOKING AHEAD

- 4/26 - Samuel Enders from African Dream Academy.
- 5/3 - Jewel Moolenaar-Marsh will speak about literacy projects and presentation by Ambassadorial Scholar Goldy.
- 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. Sister Sylvia gave the Invocation.

MAKE UPS

Barry Fitzgerald, Debby Appel and Ed Hicks had make ups at the District Conference in Ossining.

VISITORS & GUESTS

GSE Team Leader Achille Cusani and GSE Team Members Flora LaTorre, Umberto Berardi, Daniele Palumbo, Valeria Schiralli were guests of the Club. Sister Sylvia and Sister Mary Rita from Sisters, Servants of Mary were guests of the Club. Alec Diacou with Yes, The Bronx, Inc. was a guest of Barry Fitzgerald. Bharati Kemraj from BronxNet was a guest of Ed Hicks. Tony Mignardi and Debby Moore visited from the Mt. Vernon Rotary Club. PDG Bob Benson and his wife Doris Benson visited from the Bronxville Rotary Club and DGE Greg Arcaro visited from the East Yonkers Rotary Club.

REPORT ON THE APRIL 12, 2011 MEETING GUEST SPEAKERS ~ GSE TEAM FROM BARI, ITALY



PDG Bob Benson presents Barry Fitzgerald with his second Paul Harris Fellow pin.

An action-packed meeting was started off by PDG Bob Benson who presented President Barry Fitzgerald with his second Paul Harris Fellow pin.

Next, Barry brought Sisters Sylvia and Mary Rita from Sisters, Servants of Mary forward to accept a donation of \$1,000 from the Bronx Rotary Foundation.

Barry also related that the Bronx Rotary Club was presented with an Outstanding Club Award at the District Conference.



Photos courtesy of Jim Romeo

Achille Cusani (l.), GSE Team Leader from D2120 in Italy, exchanges Club flags with President Barry.



Daniele S. Palumbo



Valeria Schiralli



Flora La Torre



Umberto Berardi

Debby Appel added that it was one of only 14 given out in the District. The Club also won for Best Club Bulletin or Newsletter for a Mid-sized Club.

Barry introduced GSE Team Leader Achille Cusani from Rotary Club of Trani, which is the oldest Rotary Club in District 2120. The Club is large, with almost 100 members. His father was President of the Club in 1966/1967.

Achille studied engineering at Politecnico di Milano who had a demanding, whirlwind career and currently he is a self-employed consultant for wind and solar farms investments and exportation of gourmet foods.

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SAVE THE DATE!! CELEBRATION OF MEXICO

Come celebrate a belated Cinco de Mayo with the sounds and savory flavors of Mexico! This sunset meeting is on May 17th, so save the date! Details will be forthcoming.

www.bronxrotaryclub.org

GSE ITALY TEAM

Continued from page 1

He introduced the GSE team from Bari, Italy which consists of four young and talented professionals who are excited to learn the field in their specialties, meet established professionals, and experience American culture. Next year, he explained, a team of 4 professionals from our District will then go to Bari, Italy to be hosted by the Rotary Clubs there.

Umberto Berardi has a degree in Building Engineering and Architecture and he specializes in "green" buildings. He spoke briefly about his involvement with the 3H program which is a cooperative program between several Rotary District in Europe whose mandate is healthy water for Africa. They are currently involved in building latrines and clean water facilities for a small village in Africa.

Next, Flora La Torre has a degree in Economics and Business Studies. She is a self-employed property manager. Her business is called Studio La Torre. She is sponsored by the Rotary Club of San Giovanni Rotondo. The area is best known as the area where Padre Pio came to reside in 1916 until his death. He was a Capuchin priest most famous for his stigmata.

Daniele Palumbo is a doctor specializing in Cardiology. He is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Taranto. He began by sharing that he just had a niece born that very day.

Mr. Palumbo moved to Rome to study medicine and then went on to Milan to finish his studies in Cardiology. He says he is particularly keen on emergency room procedures and implanting pacemakers.

He is soon to be married and has decided to settle down in his hometown of Taranto.



Photos courtesy of Jim Romeo

Sisters Sylvia and Mary Rita from the Sisters, Servants of Mary accepted a donation from the Bronx Rotary Foundation from President Barry Fitzgerald.



Barry presented an award for Best Newsletter from a Medium-sized Club to Jim Romeo and Marguerite Chadwick-Juner. Barry accepted the award on behalf of the Club at the District Conference.

Valeria Schiralli is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Bari Ouest. Some of the projects the Club has been undertaking are a puppet theatre for the pediatric ward of a hospital in Bari and purchasing computers for a school in Nazareth.

Ms. Schiralli is a lawyer specializing in international contracts. Her hometown is Bari which is an important commercial port for Eastern Europe.

Many thanks to the GSE team and to all our guests who made for a very lively and interesting meeting.

CHUCK-A-BUCK

PDG Bob Benson was the lucky winner of \$31 in the 50/50 which he donated back to the Club.

DR. HAPPINESS

Jim Romeo collected \$63 from happy Rotarians and guests.



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Rotary Theme 2010-2011:
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Volume 94 • Number 41
 April 19, 2011

OPENINGS...

President Barry Fitzgerald opened the meeting and Jim Romeo & Ed Hicks led the Pledge of Allegiance. Rev. Bill Kalaidjian gave the Invocation.

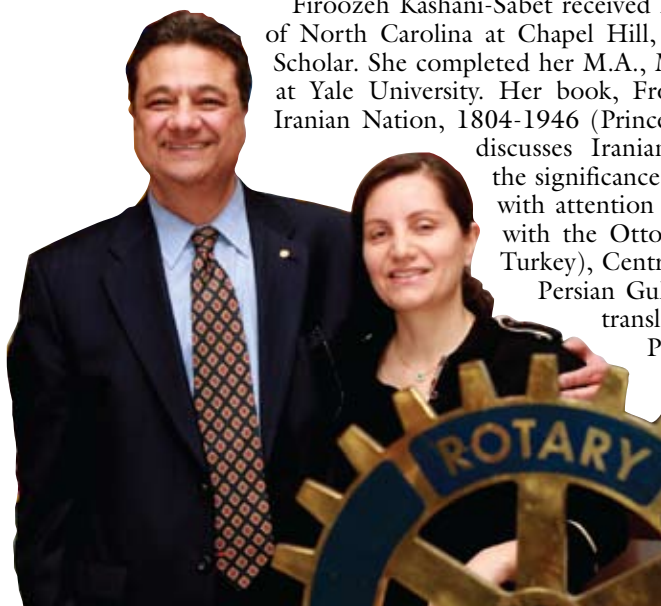
CHUCK-A-BUCK

Pat Fichera won \$91 in the 50/50 and generously donated it to Gift of Life.

VISITORS & GUESTS

Guest speaker Firoozeh Kashani-Sabet and her husband Alizreza Javahiri were guests of the Club as was Walter Pofeldt. Musician Raef Fraih was a guest. Ann Ward was a guest of Rev. Susan Chadwick, Arthurine Carter was a guest of Lt. Col. Floyd Carter, Pat Fichera was a guest of Ralph Scottino, Jacob and Sarah Bobson were guests of Igina DeMichele-Bobson, Brandon, Cameron and Angela Asadi were guests of Amir Asadi, Nellie Aviles was a guest of Miguel Santiago and Bharati Kemraj was a guest of Ed Hicks. PDG Gilda Chirafisi visited from the Riverdale Rotary Club and Bill Russanello visited from the South Shore Rotary Club.

**REPORT ON THE APRIL 19, 2011 MEETING
 CELEBRATION OF PERSIA SUNSET MEETING**



Photos courtesy of Walter Pofeldt

Amir Asadi and guest speaker Dr. Firoozeh Kashani-Sabet

Firoozeh Kashani-Sabet received her B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she was a Morehead Scholar. She completed her M.A., M.Phil., and Ph.D. in history at Yale University. Her book, *Frontier Fictions: Shaping the Iranian Nation, 1804-1946* (Princeton University Press, 1999) discusses Iranian nationalism and analyzes the significance of land and border disputes, with attention to Iran’s shared boundaries with the Ottoman Empire (later Iraq and Turkey), Central Asia, Afghanistan, and the Persian Gulf region. Her book is being translated into Persian by Kitabsara Press, Tehran, Iran and will be released in paperback by Princeton in 2011.

Professor Kashani-Sabet teaches courses on various aspects of modern Middle Eastern history, including ethnic and political conflicts, gender and women’s issues, popular culture, diplomatic history, revolutionary ideologies, and general surveys.

Political relations between Persia and the United States “began when the Shah of Persia, Nassereddin Shah Qajar, officially dispatched Persia’s first ambassador, Mirza Abolhasan Shirazi, to Washington D.C. in 1856.” In 1883, Samuel Benjamin was appointed by the United States as the first official diplomatic envoy to Iran, however; Ambassadorial relations were not established until 1944.

The first Persian Ambassador to the United States of America was Mirza Albohassan Khan Ilchi Kabir. Americans had been traveling to Iran since the early-to-mid 1880s, even before political relations existed between the two. Justin Perkins and Asahel Grant were the first missionaries to be dispatched to Persia in 1834 via the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.

Amir Kabir, Prime Minister under Nasereddin Shah, also initiated direct contacts with the American government in Washington. By the end of the 19th century, negotiations were underway for an American company to establish a railway system from the Persian Gulf to Tehran.

Until World War II, relations between Iran and the United States remained cordial. As a result, many Iranians sympathetic to the Persian Constitutional Revolution came to view the U.S. as a “third force” in their struggle to break free of British and Russian dominance in Persian affairs. American industrial and business leaders were supportive of Persia’s drive to modernize its economy and free itself from British and Russian influence.

In 1909, during the Persian Constitutional Revolution, Howard Baskerville, an American, died in Tabriz while trying to help the constitutionalists in a battle against royalist forces. After the Iranian parliament appointed American financial consultant Morgan Shuster as appointed Treasurer General of Persia in 1911, an American was killed in Tehran by henchmen thought to be affiliated with Russian or British interests. Shuster became even more active in supporting the Constitutional revolution of Persia financially. When Iran’s government ordered Shu’a al-Saltaneh, the Shah’s brother who was aligned with the goals of Imperial Russia in Persia,



Raef Fraih introduced us to the beauties and intricacies of the oud.

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