

THE ROTARY CLUB OF NEW YORK



JULY 17, 2001

MANKIND IS OUR BUSINESS

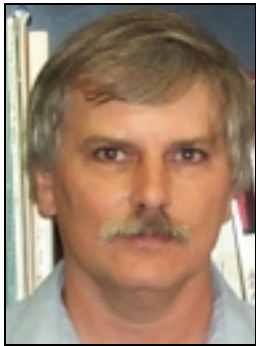
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Web Site: www.NewYorkCityRotary.org E-Mail: nyrotary@banet.net Luncheons: Tuesdays, 12 noon

FRANK BRACONI

CITIZENS HOUSING AND PLANNING



Frank Braconi is Executive Director of the Citizens Housing and Planning Council, a nonprofit policy research organization concerned with the physical and economic development of the city. He has written numerous reports and articles dealing with housing, community development, and the urban environment. He teaches urban economics at NYU's Real Estate Institute and housing economics at Hunter College. He holds a masters degree in economics from NYU and has recently completed his doctoral studies at the CUNY Graduate Center.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



July 17th
Frank Braconi,
Citizens Housing And Planning

July 24th
Elaine Berg –
NY Organ Donor Network

July 31st
FELLOWSHIP DAY

Aug 7th
Gary Shapiro

Aug 14th
Richard Matasar
New York Law School

Aug 21st
Theodore Forstmann
Gary Ackerman Rafael
Scheduling

Aug 28th
FELLOWSHIP DAY



REMINDER

**PLEASE MAKE YOUR LUNCHEON
RESERVATIONS TOGETHER WITH YOUR MEAL
PREFERENCE IN ORDER TO ENSURE TIMELY AND
EFFICIENT SERVICE FROM THE PRINCETON**

MEMBERS' COLUMN

Fellow Rotarians,

I want to thank all of you who showed your overwhelming support at my inauguration on Tuesday, July 10th.

I am honored to have been elected your president and will do my very best to help you steer our club in a positive direction.

Yours in Rotary,
Helen Reisler

Edwin Futa, General Secretary of Rotary International, has forwarded a list of the members of the committee for the development of Rotary in Vietnam. With great pleasure we would like to announce that two past presidents of our club, Edward W.T. Gray III and Lewis T. Kulik, are going to be part of this important R.I. committee. Congratulations.



IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR!

Annual dues and advance luncheon coupon statements for the first half of the fiscal year 2001-2002 are included in this mailing. As per the by-laws, statements are now PAST DUE. If you have any questions about your membership, please call the office. For your convenience, we do accept credit cards by fax at (212) 819-0763.

READ THE JULY ROTARIAN

- Profile on R.I. Pres. Rick King
- 20 Reasons to be a Rotarian
- Mankind Is Our Business Programs
- Global Quest for Members
- President's Conferences Schedule
- Books to the World
- PolioPlus Update

CLUB NEWS

EXHIBIT TO HONOR BEN CUTLER '26

The musical scores and treasured saxophone of renowned band leader the late Ben Cutler, who was a New York Rotarian, will be on view in the Library from July until September at the Yale Club, along with other memorabilia. The exhibit will reflect his more than 60 years of performing at cotillions, weddings, clubs, and dance halls. It will also portray his earlier career as an opera singer and Broadway star.

REPORTER OF THE WEEK

PRESIDENT'S DAY, July 10, 2001

On July 10, 2001, an overflow crowd of Rotary Club members and guests (200 attended) met on the third floor of the Princeton Club to install and celebrate Helen B. Reisler as the First Woman President of the RCNY. The occasion brought together an impressive collection of Rotary Club members, the Reisler family, and guests of the Rotary Club.

Greg Lynch served as Master of Ceremonies. The New York City Police color guard marched Helen in, followed by the Board of Directors. The invocation was given by the Rev. John Smith. Many Rotary visitors from foreign countries were all greeted by our welcome song. Special introductions were given to Pierre Lelong, the Ambassador from Haiti, and to Fred Howard, CEO of Howard International, a nonprofit organization promoting Jewish-Arabic relations.

Maria Cavales presented a special citation from Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer. Helen gave a gracious welcome to guests and Rotarians who attended. She noted that many had traveled long distances and interrupted their work to attend.

Helen then gave a brief history of the Rotary Club noting that we are busily changing the world in our daily activities. Rotary founded 96 years ago by Paul Harris, has grown to 30,000 clubs in 163 countries with 1.2 million Rotarians throughout the world. She pointed out that the new technology backed by an active public relations program was enabling the Rotary Clubs to conduct the "Business of Mankind."

Helen quickly named at least 15 programs, some new, and some active programs, which we will continue to improve.

She introduced the 25 young violinists who were gathered at the rear of the room and they demonstrated their musical skills with a few selections taught to them by Ana Heifetz, grandniece of Joseph Heifetz, renowned violinist. Thanks goes to Carlos Bergantinos for bringing this group as well as his beautiful 10-year-old daughter Soli, a child prodigy, who is the soloist.

Arcadio Casillas officially inducted Helen after a laudatory review of her background as a successful businesswoman, family person, and activist in many areas including extensive Rotary activities.

Bob Mutchler, a polio victim who had ridden a motorcycle with his wife, Patti from California, to be at Helen's inauguration, presented the Paul Harris Award to Helen's husband, Mel Reisler. Bob is a Rotary Spokesman all over the U.S. for the elimination of Polio. The award to Mr. Reisler was accepted by Helen's two daughters. Her son, a doctor, was detained by sick patients.

Greg Lynch then led the group in the song "Hello Helen" sung by all to the tune of "Hello Dolly."

A letter of congratulations from Mayor Guilianni was read.

The young violinists played a number followed by an appreciative standing ovation.

A letter from Bill Currie describing the benefits of the Rotary's "Gift of Life" was read and his extensive work acknowledged.

The new board members were invited to the front of the room and Helen formally swore them in.

Champagne was poured all around and a toast made to Helen's continuing leadership, and to the success of the Rotary Program, to peace, goodwill and understanding around the world. The amazing young violinists played "peace in the world."

Rotarian - William Hall

INAUGURATION SPEECH

Helen Reisler

Since a lonely lawyer, named Paul Harris, formed a humanitarian group with three local businessmen in Chicago 96 years ago, Rotary has grown into an international organization of 30,000 clubs in 163 countries.

I am only one of 1.2 million Rotarians, consisting of business and professional men and women of all colors, creeds, cultures, and religions, who are dedicated to reaching the same goal-----to create peace, good will, and greater understanding throughout the world.

Fellow Rotarians, honored guests, friends, and my family---- thank you for taking the time from your hectic New York schedules to share with us, the 92 year old Rotary Club of New York, a new beginning ----- our entrance into the 21st century, where we will be zooming, faster than ever, towards that goal. Technology, and a new philosophy of active public relations and publicity is changing our image, communicating our amazing global and local accomplishments to the outer world and increasing our ranks. I assure you, we are much, much more than "just a bunch of old guys sitting around having lunch."

Rotary has been eradicating disease, addressing natural disasters such as earthquakes and tornados, educating the illiterate, feeding and clothing the homeless, developing future leaders through cultural exchange programs, preventing crime, and saving lives every single day. Our motto is, "Service Above Self," and no matter what else each of us, individually, does for a living, in Rotary ----- "MANKIND IS OUR BUSINESS."

How do we accomplish such an awesome task -----the "business of mankind?" It starts with the local clubs. Each one chooses local community projects as well as one or two international projects, thus meeting the needs of communities around the world. I might add that we have fun working together and we develop business relationships, as well.

Some of the projects the Rotary Club of New York will be focusing on this year are:

- Our "Gift of Life" program
- Our "Electric Learning Center" in Spanish Harlem
- Our "Soup Kitchen" in East Harlem
- A reading program in a NYC elementary school
- A vocational program in a high school
- Ambassadorial scholarship exchange programs with foreign countries
- NYC cultural events for kids
- An Environmental project
- Habitat for Humanity NYC
- Keeping young Thailand girls in school to prevent them from being sold into prostitution
- A program in Ethiopia for "Vitamin A Deprived Children."
- A "Santa Clause" project where our members create miracles in response to letters sent to "Santa" by impoverished kids who still dream and hope.
- A program to teach underprivileged children, in Harlem how to play the violin.
- Policemen and Firemen "Recognition Day."
- We will continue to develop leadership by sponsoring the Rotaract Club, a group of young Humanitarians who have made us so proud with the 3 International awards they won, in recognition of their global accomplishments.
- We will also sponsor the Interact Club, at Stuyvesant High School, children ages 14 to 18 years old, who practice "Service Above Self."

These are all "hands on" projects, many of which are supported by our New York Rotary Foundation -----and , of course, our new fantastic website, managed by Mats Ingemanson, will continue to communicate our activities to the world.

Before I continue with the remainder of my presentation, I would like you to see one of our projects in action-----"The Electronic Learning Center" in Spanish Harlem, that our Foundation has supported with a \$50,000 grant. **Of course, none of this would have been possible without the hard work and dedication of Mort Eydenberg.**

There are many special outside people in the audience today, who have gone out of their way to help our club, and myself, with our goals and I thank you all -----specially Jim Chladek of Metro Access Studio, who sat for months, with me, editing the "New York Rotary" videotapes -----and Dr. Dena Winokur, of the New York Institute of Technology, whose graduate students created the foundation and Rotaract brochures and helped me produce the "Gift of Life" videotape -----James Holzhauser, who volunteered to videotape today's function, my daughter Susan who has been deprived of hours of babysitting, Joan Greve wife of Greg Greve who brought me to my first luncheon, my daughter Karen, who brought many guests today, and my brother Gene, who is a great "fan."

But I would like to stop, for a minute to recognize someone who is especially dear to me ----someone who has had a world of patience as I interrupted all his ball games to listen to my speeches, given me valuable advice, and since the day he accompanied me to NYU Hospital and witnessed the emotional scene when the surgeon emerged from the operating room to announce to a mother that he had just repaired the heart of her child (our Gift of Life child) so she could live her life, my husband Mel has never again questioned my involvement and believes in the ideals of Rotary.

Since I sometimes feel that he is really "the True Rotarian" in our family-today he will become a "Paul Harris Fellow."

Two Rotarians from Sacramento, California, Bob Mutchler and his wife, Patti who are motorcycling their way through the 48 states to campaign for the eradication of Polio, stopped off here today so that Bob could bestow this honor and explain what it signifies.

Now for some of the changes our members have been waiting for:

- We will call two assemblies for members only
- We will have one "Fellowship Day" each month (no speaker). All other luncheons will have "topnotch" speakers, already set up.
- We will actively recruit "Corporate Membership"
- I will propose "Family Membership"
- Each "Nation Day" will include a speaker with appropriate cultural background, who has improved New York City
- OUR WEEKLY EVENTS WILL BE LISTED IN CrainsNY
- A "Meet Our Members" column, in the newsletter will introduce you to each member's vocation and background
- Announcements will be posted in the weekly newsletter rather than at the microphone
- A "Sunshine Committee" will help us show concern for one another.
- Tim O'Brien will be conducting surveys to address members' needs.
- More Publicity and Public Relations
- More Information and clearer communication
- Closer relationship between the Foundation and the club members
- Last, but not least, ----- a President at the microphone each week who wears lipstick

Now I would like to ask each one of you to lift your champagne glasses and propose a toast, with me:

"To a productive Rotary year resulting in peace, goodwill, and greater understanding throughout the world ----- and to all the children of the world."

SONG

"PEACE IN THE WORLD"