

## SOW THE SEEDS OF LOVE

August 20, 2002

Office: 322 8<sup>TH</sup> Ave., Ste. 1701, NY, NY 10001

Phone: (212) 633-1311 Fax: (212) 633-1954

Web Site: [www.NewYorkCityRotary.org](http://www.NewYorkCityRotary.org)

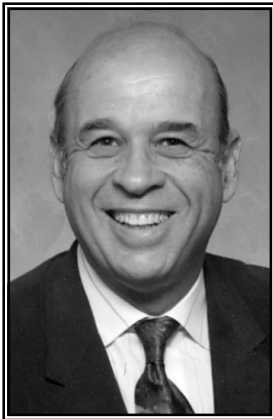
E-Mail: [ny.rotary@verizon.net](mailto:ny.rotary@verizon.net)

Luncheons: Tuesdays, 12:15 – 1:30 p.m.

The Princeton Club – 15 W. 43<sup>rd</sup> Street

# BOB BENSON

## District Governor 2002-2003



*District Governor Robert O. Benson in his own words.* As Rotarians, we are all dedicated to expanding and improving the programs for which Rotary is justifiably noted. The size and quality of the Rotarian membership in District 7230 should enable it to expand its reach. As Governor, I will place additional emphasis on safeguarding the natural environment and on increasing the involvement of our clubs in the international community.

Let me tell you a bit about myself. It all began in Baltimore, MD, where my father was a naval officer. Since we were moving around the country every two to three years, with one new assignment after another, I had the opportunity to meet

new people, adapt to different situations, and learned to be flexible in making new friends and settling into new communities and cultures.

I graduated from the University of North Carolina and subsequently served my Naval ROTC obligation with two years in Japan. Upon leaving service I joined IBM my only employer, where I spent the next thirty odd years in sales, both in the United States and abroad (including five years in Germany).

The first contact I had with Rotary was through my father who was a Rotarian for 50 years both overseas and in Carlisle, PA. My father's example instilled in me the importance of public service, and in both Baltimore and Bronxville, I became involved in numerous community activities:

- President, Stoneleigh Neighborhood Association
- Toastmasters International
- Reformed Church project for food delivery to AIDS patients
- Reformed Church Ecology Group
- Project Selection Committee, Community Fund
- I joined Rotary in Bronxville in 1993 and have held numerous offices, both at the local and district levels.
- Secretary, Bronxville Rotary 1993-94 & 1994-95
- President, Bronxville Rotary 1995-96
- Area Representative, 1996-97
- Chairman of the district World Community Service committee
- Assistant Governor, 1997-2001
- United Nations Committee
- Planned and executed one week of activities for the Group Study Exchange from Denmark

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR



August 20<sup>th</sup>  
Robert Benson  
District Governor's Day

August 27<sup>th</sup>  
David Roosevelt

September 3<sup>rd</sup>  
FELLOWSHIP DAY

September 10<sup>th</sup>  
Adi Roche  
Chernobyl Children  
Project

September 17<sup>th</sup>  
Christine Scornavacca  
Metropolitan  
Art Museum

# MEMBERS COLUMN

## LUNCHEON COUPON PAYMENTS

THE ANNUAL DUES AND ADVANCE LUNCHEON COUPON PAYMENTS FOR THE FIRST HALF OF FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003 ARE NOW PAST DUE. IF YOU HAVE NOT YET SUBMITTED YOUR PAYMENT, PLEASE DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR QUICK FOLLOW-UP.

## GIFT OF LIFE

Things have been relatively quiet of late in New York City for Gift of Life children. Many children have been coming into the New York area but very few into Manhattan in the past couple of months. That should change as the summer draws to a close.

Our very special child Tatiana Porushnik went home healthy and happy on June 20th after almost two years in New York. Her surgery for scoliosis was a true miracle. Many doctors had refused to operate on Tatiana because they felt her chances of survival were very low and because of the expense of post-operative care. Thanks to dedicated Gift of Life people like John Tucciarone and Pat Coulaz on Long Island, Tatiana got her operations at Columbia and is now back in Russia. Thanks also to Nadia Kovarskaya for all of her support during this healing process.

We expect Nancy Rosario from the Dominican Republic in October. Nancy was here several years ago but will need some additional surgery on her heart since she is now almost 9 years old. THE BIG NEWS is the Gift of Life's "Sail for Life Regatta" to take place Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, on Long Island. This event will be a wonderful, fun event for the entire family. There will be a sailboat race, but for us "landlubbers," a fun day of entertainment, food and drinks, and games can be yours for just \$10 per person. See the attached flyer that tells more about the event or contact me. Hope to see many Rotary Club of New York members at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point (only about 20 miles from Manhattan).

Yours in Rotary, Bill Currie

## BICYCLE RIDE 4 THE CURE

*COAST-TO-COAST 2002*

*Children's Leukemia Foundation*

On August 25<sup>th</sup>, Steve and Stephanie Mountford, two retired British police officers, will start their bicycle ride from coast to coast, 100 days, 60 miles each day, to raise monies for the National Children's Leukemia Foundation. They will start in Central Park and finish their ride on December 7<sup>th</sup> in San Francisco, CA. If you are a biker and/or would like to support their worthy cause, please go to [www.coasttocoast2002.com](http://www.coasttocoast2002.com) for more information.

## Happy Birthday Fellow Rotarians

Virgil Wenger – August 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Evan Linchon – August 25<sup>th</sup>



## REPORTER OF THE WEEK

Tuesday, August 13, 2002

President Silvio Amori opened the meeting, with Bernie Wytko both singing and playing the piano for "The Star Spangled Banner." David Zeller gave the invocation. Mrs. Joseph Sullivan gave a short, energetic speech in Joe's honor, bringing a picture of him as a much younger man, and reading from the obituary in the *New York Times*. She expressed gratitude for having shared her life with him.

Larry Parks introduced Beth Gilinsky of the Jewish Action Alliance, and who is a strong advocate of Jewish issues and rights. Beth's talk focused on the challenge of freedom versus the Jihad, and why we have to win the conflict. Being well traveled, Beth has seen and known that good and decent people live in peace, tolerance, and brotherhood in every country, but there is also so much that is ignored by the media: oppression of women, slavery in Sudan, killing of Christians in Pakistan, oppression of Hindus in Bangladesh – and the media put their focus on more popular causes. She said Islam is not a "bad" religion, but the religion has problems with people exploiting it for their own political ascension. Islam leadership has not stood up, and by its silence, is perceived to condone it. Jewish leadership has and taken a stand against any terrorism, and therefore they send a clear message of condemnation to the world. Beth holds the United Nations to blame for their silence, turning a blind eye to suicide bombings. Israel has taken a stand: the Jews in Israel are in the Middle East and on the front line. Beth is more concerned about America, as we don't "get" the seriousness of the situation. We are facing a very real threat, and as a political analyst with an excellent track record, she believes that there will be more terrorism before we do fully grasp the seriousness of this conflict: that our basic respect for what's great about America is at stake. America is with Israel on the front line against the Islamic Jihad. The U.S. must look forward beyond the events of September 11, and not think that the Jihad is finished. There is a huge industry in getting papers to allow illegal immigration, and there is corruption in the very agencies that are meant to protect us.

Beth loves this country and hopes we work to protect ourselves in this is a war against our freedoms. She said Israel is in a sad place now, perceived to be a violent oppressor, and it is a victim of a hoax: that evil Europeans came in after World War II and took land illegally. But Jews have had a connection for thousands of years to this land, in prayers and in history, the every right to settle that land and be sovereign. They are not usurping anyone else's land, including the West Bank.

Beth maintains the fight for the U.S. and Israel is the same: to protect our freedoms. And we must stand fast and win.

President Silvio opened the floor to questions, and closed the meeting promptly.

*Rotarian - Lillian Coury*

## Change in Speaker schedule:

Please note that on the hard copy of your bulletin the speaker for 8/27 appears as Lisa Evers. Ms. Evers is unfortunately not able to join us for this Event. Larry Parks has arranged for author David Roosevelt to be the speaker that day.