

# THE ROTARY CLUB OF NEW YORK

October 16, 2001



Office: 28 West 44<sup>th</sup> St. Ste. 1508, NY, NY 10036

Phone: (212) 819-0809 Fax: (212) 819-0763

Web Site: [www.NewYorkCityRotary.org](http://www.NewYorkCityRotary.org) E-Mail: [ny.rotary@verizon.net](mailto:ny.rotary@verizon.net)

# GERMANY DAY

**JOHANNES K. GÄBEL, ESQ.**

*THE TRADITION AND CELEBRATIONS OF OKTOBERFEST*



Johannes K. Gäbel is a partner in the New York office of Clifford Chance Rogers & Wells LLP where he concentrates on international corporate, securities, finance, and tax matters for German corporate and financial clients. Mr. Gäbel also serves as a member of the Board of Directors of many corporations in the United States and in Germany. He is a frequent lecturer and has published many articles and books on international securities, tax, and corporate matters.

Mr. Gäbel was born in Munich, Germany, and graduated from the School of Law of the University of Munich, with highest honors. He then practiced law in Munich until 1980. In 1982, he graduated from Cornell University School of Law, which he attended as a Fulbright Scholar.

Mr. Gäbel resides with his wife, Lauren, of 15 years and his two children Courtney and Kyle, in Brooklyn. In their spare time he and his wife concentrate on renovating their 19<sup>th</sup>-century brownstone in Park Slope.

Mr. Gäbel is a recognized authority on the celebration and history of Oktoberfest, which he attends every year, and on all aspects of brewing and consuming beer.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



October 16<sup>th</sup>  
GERMANY DAY  
*Johannes Gäbel*

November 6<sup>th</sup>  
Jim McKloskeys  
Centurian Ministries

October 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Larry Parks  
FAME

November 13<sup>th</sup>  
Tom Mellins  
Author

October 30<sup>th</sup>  
Fellowship Day

November 20<sup>th</sup>  
Fellowship Day

# MEMBERS' COLUMN

## CLUB NEWS

On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Gamal Badr and I talked for a half hour with the Salem, Oregon, Rotary Club. We discussed the September 11<sup>th</sup> disaster, the activities of the New York Club, the work at the U.N. Most importantly, Badr answered their many questions on Islam and outlined its peaceful tenets, its legal and moral codes, and the "unfaithful" terrorists. Together we discussed changes in U.S. foreign policy, now becoming evident in the U.N. and in the Middle East.

Barney Barnet

## REPORTER OF THE WEEK

Tuesday, October 9, 2001

President Helen Reisler opened the meeting with the singing of "America the Beautiful" by Scarlett Pildes and Bernie Wytko. President Helen gave the invocation. Fran Monaco introduced the visiting Rotarians three from the U.S. and one from abroad.

Larry Parks, Chair of the Programs Committee, introduced our guest speaker, Stephen Kagann, Chief Economist to the Governor for the Office of Economics Affairs. Mr. Kagann began with advising us of the economic problems we are likely to face in the aftermath of the World Trade Center terrorist attack. Having looked at other areas in recent times that have suffered major economic disasters, he explained the anticipated one-year aftermath and the expected decline and recovery period. He stressed that in order to return to normalcy, it is of the outmost importance for us to retain businesses in New York City. We will expect to see an immediate decline in the economy due to the loss of lives, jobs, income, and government funds.

Unlike similar disasters, ours has contributed to a national recession, in part due to the fact that the city has a huge amount of travel-related services that have suffered. Many New York businesses also serve national markets.

We can expect the recovery after one year will be fueled by a return to normal behavior. The government and utility Corp's will move quickly to repair the damage. Normally a surge in household spending helps the economy, but because damage to housing was not widespread, this will be absent in our recovery.

Mr. Kagann felt that the federal government could help New York in the long run by cutting capital gains taxes and by accelerating the decline in the income tax rate. Mr. Kagann felt strongly that if the City Government eliminated the commercial rent tax, this would be a strong step.

Rotarian – James Thompson

## MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

Today we begin a new series, at the request of President Helen, focusing on getting to know new members. We begin our report with a look at Steven Brock, one of our newest members. Please take the time to learn about Steven, introduce yourself at a meeting, and welcome him into our family of Rotarians.

### Lieutenant Commander Steven Brock- United States Navy

Lieutenant Commander Brock, born on October 20, 1968, is from Hudson, Ohio. Lieutenant Commander Brock currently serves at the United States Mission to the United Nations as a military advisor to the United States Ambassador to the United Nations as the U.S. Navy representative to the UN Military Staff Committee. As a CJCS liaison, he advises the U.S. Permanent Representative to the UN on a portfolio including peacekeeping and JCS/OSD military equities in Europe, the Middle East, South Asia, and the Americas.

Upon graduation from the United States Naval Academy in 1990, he was commissioned an Ensign in the United States Navy. In his first operation assignment, he was the naval intelligence officer for Sea Control Squadron Thirty-Three in San Diego, California. As part of Carrier Airwing Nine, he deployed aboard the USS NIMITZ (CVN-68) in 1992 and 1993. During these deployments, Lieutenant Commander Brock served as the Nimitz strike plot watch officer, Carrier Airwing Nine mission briefer and debriefer, and as an Airwing Nine liaison officer to Operation Southern Watch in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

In 1994, Lieutenant Commander Brock was assigned to the NATO Combined Air Operations Center, Vicenza, Italy, as the Senior Indication and Warning Watch Officer for Operations Deny Flight and Provide Promise. He also served as the Joint Forces Air Component Commander's threat briefer for humanitarian air-drop missions in UN declared safe areas throughout Bosnia-Herzegovina and air-land missions to Sarajevo.

From 1995 to 1998, Lieutenant Commander Brock was assigned to the Office of Naval Intelligence in Washington D.C. While assigned as the Navy representative to the National Imagery Requirements Subcommittee, he brokered the Navy's daily overhead imagery collection requirements through the interagency process. Lieutenant Commander Brock also represented ONI at the DCI's Nonproliferation Imagery Working Group and the intelligence community's global Integrated Intelligence Requirement Reviews.

In the fall of 1998, Lieutenant Commander Brock was deployed to Commander U.S. Sixth Fleet to provide national - level intelligence support for NATO contingency planning in Kosovo.

A distinguished graduate of the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, Lieutenant Commander Brock holds a Master of Arts degree in National Security Studies. He also holds a Bachelor of Science in Marine Engineering with Merit from the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.