

# THE ROTARY CLUB OF NEW YORK



JULY 31, 2001

MANKIND IS OUR BUSINESS

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# Fellowship Day



Our speaker for this day will be each one of you. Speak to each other about yourselves, your businesses, your ideas, and your committees. Speak to a new member.

Bring a guest and let him/her feel the Fellowship and meet our members. This is a perfect opportunity for chairpeople to meet with their committees and report committee progress at the microphone!!

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



July 31<sup>st</sup>  
FELLOWSHIP DAY

August 7<sup>th</sup>  
Ron Insana –  
CNBC Anchor, Author

August 14<sup>th</sup>  
Richard Matasar  
New York Law School

August 21<sup>st</sup>  
Peter Beinart - Editor,  
The New Republic

August 28<sup>th</sup>  
FELLOWSHIP DAY

Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>  
District Governor's Day

Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>  
Barry Mawn  
FBI

# MEMBERS' COLUMN

This is a platform for members to express their views and their stands. We encourage you to send in your comments. Please get yourself in gear and get involved!



## 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.

## GIFT OF LIFE



We still do not have a permanent place for the children to stay in New York City but we are working on that problem.

**Evell Fernandez** - this was one very sick 13-year-old boy when he entered the hospital about 2 weeks ago. Phyllis Arnold left me a message to say that Evell was looking great and feeling very well after surgery. He is staying at the Ronald McDonald House in Long Island with his mother Olivia.

**Jose Carlos Flores** - Jose is 18 months old and arrived with his mother from Honduras. He is having his surgery on Thursday at New York Hospital and it would be wonderful if you could visit sometime in the next couple of days as he recuperates at the hospital. NY Hospital is next to the FDR Drive on 68th Street (east of York Avenue) and the pediatric area is on the 6th floor south.

**Chan Ting Hin** - Chan has done very well since his surgery and will be going home in the next couple of days.

**Sergey Massaev** - Sergey is 11 years old and will probably arrive within the next week. He was here with his father Oleg a little over a year ago and will be having follow-up surgery at NYU/Tisch Hospital on 32nd Street.

**Valentina Knizonosova** - this 16-year-old from Russia is staying with a family from the Russian Gift of Life program. She is expecting to have surgery, also at NYU/Tisch, very soon.

**Tatiana Poruchnik** - Tatiana has been in New York at Ronald McDonald House on 73rd Street for over a year. She is a warm and friendly 17-year-old young woman who is still hoping to have corrective surgery for severe scoliosis.

**OTHER NOTES:** I spoke to Robbie Donno who is Chairman of Gift of Life Inc. He gave me a preview of the Third Annual Gift of Life 1000 Mile Run/Walk that starts at R.I. headquarters in Evanston, Illinois on September 11th and ends on Long Island on September 30th. We hope to raise a significant amount of money this year and are making plans for a special stop at the United Nations that morning. You will be hearing more about this but try and save that date for the special event.

Yours in Rotary, Bill Currie

## REPORTER OF THE WEEK

July 24, 2001

The meeting was opened by Ed Gray, who led the club in singing The Star Spangled Banner. The invocation was delivered by Joseph Sullivan. President Helen presented new member Kamlesh Chandan, with a Paul Harris Fellow Award. Fortunat Mueller-Maerki introduced our visiting Rotarians, two from the U.S.

President Helen introduced the speaker of the day, Elaine Berg. Ms. Berg is the Executive Director, of the New York Organ Donor Network. Club members were treated to an excellent presentation by Elaine Berg that featured both a power point slide show as well as testimonials by two individuals who have been personally saved by organ transplants.

Ms. Berg began her presentation by detailing the demand / supply imbalance that exists in organ transplants and the reasons behind this. In short, demand has steadily increased since the early 1900's, but supply has been relatively flat. A key recent event that has sparked the increase in demand is the introduction, in 1983, of the drug Cyclosporine that is used to inhibit rejection of transplanted organs.

A number of barriers are cited that inhibit supply - including acceptance of mortality, distrust of the medical community, religious prohibitions (not true for any major US religion), etc. In fact, only a small number of people fit the profile of organ donors - a person has to be brain dead and on a respirator to be an organ donor - and only 1.2 percent of individuals who die in hospitals meet this criteria. Hospitals are required to report patient deaths or patient near death to organ donation clearing houses, which then contact family groups to see if they are interested in participating. There is only a 35% participation rate in the NYC area vs. a 50% rate nationwide. While the family groups must make a difficult decision in a time of grief, NYODN has found that 85-98% of families that participated felt that it had a positive impact on their grief and 100% indicated they had no regrets.

Beyond encouraging members of NYRC to become organ donors, the message is that they certainly can use help to get the word out to the NYC population on the positive social aspects of organ donation.

Rotarian – Taylor Gray

