

THE ROTARY CLUB OF NEW YORK

June 19, 2001



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TRANSITION DAY

SERGE HADJOLIAN

87TH President, Rotary Club of New York

THE FIRST TRANSITION DAY OF THE THIRD MILLENIUM

The Sixth club in the world of Rotary, the Rotary Club of New York has been going strong. What do we learn from our history? On September 14, 1909 the club was incorporated in the State of New York. The following month club member John Frick designed and made the first Rotary pin, in 1914 club member August Jassen, created the first club banner, a forerunner of the Rotary tradition, initiated by us in 1919 by presenting a new banner designed by a member to the Rotary Club of London. PP of our club, Ray Knoepfel was heavily instrumental in the creation of the R.I. Constitution and by-laws adopted in 1922. A concerted membership drive, in the words of club Historian, PP Richard B. Sainburg, almost quadrupled the membership of the club: from 65 to 240 between February and October 1914. By May 1922 the club had reached 542 members. We have a successful model, clearly, we were much more liberal on classifications in those days! During the Depression the membership declined to the 350-380 range and peaked in the 1960's to 536. On May 22, 2001 the club's Luncheon Meeting was dedicated to an Open Forum on Classifications and on June 5, 2001 the club's Luncheon Meeting was dedicated to Discussion on Classifications. The Board heard loudly and clearly the voice of the membership: **DO NOT TURN AWAY QUALITY MEMBERS BASED ON CLASSIFICATIONS.** During my tenure as President, it has been my responsibility to the club to bring to resolution significant issues that affect the integrity and the future of the club. The leadership of Board Director James Bryan has been immeasurable in this regard. Both attorneys on the Board James Bryan and Greg Lynch have voiced consistently their fiducial stands toward securing the prosperity of the club. The same fiducial responsibility rests upon each individual Board member and I expect the Board to correct previously made membership decisions based on "filled" classifications.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

June 26th
BOARD MEETING
The Princeton Club –
10:30 a.m.

June 26th
Gerald Zelikovsky, M.D.
Urologist

July 3rd
NO MEETING

July 10th
PRESIDENT'S DAY

July 17th
Frank Branconi,
Citizens Housing Planning

July 24th
Elaine Berg –
NY Organ Donor Network

July 31st
FELLOWSHIP DAY

August 7th
Gary Shapiro

August 14th
Richard Matasar
New York Law School

In compliance with the request of the incoming President of R.I., Richard King, our incoming President Helen Reisler and Club Secretary Greg Lynch will be meeting with him in Evanston on July 14, 2001. Our June 26, 2001 Board Meeting has to empower President Helen Reisler to raise our club like a phoenix above the current classification ashes and to allow her administration to restore our past glory, **AS IN THOSE GLORIOUS DAYS WE WERE MORE LIBERAL ON CLASSIFICATIONS THAN TODAY.**

We compare our deeds to R.I. with those of the Founding Fathers of our country: the Rotary pin, the Rotary banner and their exchange, the R.I. Constitution that originated from the RCNY. **OUR LEADERSHIP REPRESENTING US AT R.I. ON JULY 14, 2001 MUST BE PROUD OF THE RESOLUTIONS AND POLICIES CARRIED OUT BY OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**

In my office, I use my experience and knowledge of the application of psychodynamic principles and techniques to issues arising in individual careers, professional, or business settings. I furnish management consulting services to my clients generating solutions for those people issues that result in business issues; management of personality dynamics in business strategies; communication modalities; action-planning and implementation; product presentations and assessment of financial alternatives; forging alliances and maintaining alignments when priorities change; coaching of corporate culture toward business expansions. Applying these strategies to our club dynamics triggered of the brewing of club culture. We had aspiring presidents, not yet members of the Board, attempting to run the club. The ensued chaos gave opportunity to a handful of troublemakers to disqualify themselves, created friction, that washed away apathy and strengthened the determination of the membership to bring unity and avoid fragmentation of the club.

I have served with no interruption on the Board since 1987 and have not seen a higher level of cohesiveness in the name of the well-being of the club within the membership, as during this year. No initiatives were rejected, except those serving secondary gains or religious discriminations. All members were assigned to committees and most served with enthusiasm, commitment and dedication. Some, due to unavailability of time, or other limitations were unable to deliver. Since we are a voluntary organization and this year, being the turn of a new millennium, all members were mailed a Presidential Citation commemorating their participation in the leadership of the club. On behalf of the Board, I do thank you for being members of the RCNY.

In our earlier days, (please see club Roster pp. iv – ix) of November 1914 the club began its commitment to underprivileged children. During the past year, the club extended that commitment to an orphanage for abandoned children in Romania, not run by the government. Studies by international monitoring agencies have denounced the government of that country for encouraging women to abandon their children for adoption in the care of government orphanages. These studies have documented the inhumane conditions in the government run orphanages and the direct placement of children for adoption abroad, bypassing the internationally authorized agencies, with the ultimate goal of getting monetary benefits. Instead, the aims of the Missionary Sisters of Saint Joseph of Aosta, in cooperation with the Rotary Club of Aosta, are, first: to fight the culture of abandonment by extending every possible assistance to the single mothers considering to keep their babies; second: when the first solution can not be pursued, to explore the possibilities of a Romanian adoption in order to keep the children in their own culture; third: as a solution of last resort, to assure the child an international adoption in full compliance with The Hague Convention. No money is exchanged in any step of the way and no religious indoctrinations is conducted. The International Chair of President Frank Devlyn's Children at Risk Task Force, the Honorary President of the club Shigemi Morita, together with the Co-Chair of the Task Force, the Immediate Past President of the club, Edward W.T. Gray, III made very significant contributions toward the accomplishment of a Matching Grant Project with R.I. of \$100,000. This was a club Task Force project. The NYRF did not contribute to it monetarily, nevertheless the Chair of the Foundation, Werner Kobelt and the Co-Chair Hans Belcsak remained consistent supporters of the major international club fundraising project, which took resources away from the membership for the NYRF's own fundraising later on.

During World War I, the club donated a number of ambulances to the U.S. government for use by the Army in France. In April 1918, the club raised \$700,000 for the War Camp Community Fund and that autumn \$2,100,000 in Liberty Loans. In 1939, the club formed the New York Rotary Foundation. During the post World War II period the club continued its aid to the underprivileged youth. One of the projects raised \$1,000,000 for renovating an old courthouse and a jail building for Clinton Youth Center. This year Norman Cohen, Past Trustee of the NYRF (1997-1999), chaired the club Fundraising Division and provided inspirational leadership unifying the efforts of the Club and its Foundation to the ultimate principles of R.I. locally and worldwide. The NYRF's major project with enormous success and publicity of the club's deeds, was the creation of the Taller Boricua Electronic Learning Center in Spanish Harlem for which the Foundation contributed \$50,000, the Foundation contributed \$31,575 to Gift of Life, \$20,000 for running the soup kitchen in East Harlem to Fraternite Notre Dame, \$5,350 for Adis East-Ethiopia, \$5,000 for eye-sight testing to

Prevent Blindness America, \$1,000 in matching funds of \$1,000 to be contributed by a club member to the Young Girl School in Thailand and a number of other projects.

THE CLUB MEMBERSHIP MUST BE KEPT ABREAST WITH THE PROJECTS CONSIDERED BY THE FILTERING COMMITTEE OF THE NYRF, IF THE FOUNDATION EXPECTS TO MEASURE UP TO THE PAST MAGNITUDE OF CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS ACHIEVED BY OUR CLUB.

During 2000-2001, the club expanded the Rotary Avenues of Service to eight divisions within which 64 committees were formed. The Alfred D. Furth International Service Division, chaired by Giorgio Balestrieri conducted an outstanding array of successful activities. Giorgio's enthusiasm and delivery of service has proven far beyond any club member's record of club service expectancy. In addition to the functioning of all of the Division's committees, we owe Giorgio the creation of FORUN, the "Ambassadors of Peace Youth Symphony," the fundraising for the Mongolian Children's Aid and Development Fund, for which Honorary President Shigemi Morita raised independently from the NYRF \$25,000 and the latest undertaking, Giorgio's Chairmanship of the Rotary Information Committee, which will disseminate information of R.I. to our entire club membership. Within Giorgio's Division we have moved forward with reestablishing Rotary in Vietnam, spear-headed by PP Horst Schneider and establishing a Rotary Club in Romania, just recently initiated by Clarence Plummer and Lou DiPaolo. His Chair of the Rotarians on the Internet (ROTI) Technology Task Force Mats Ingemanson developed further our web site communications and is implementing the improvements of the club office technological base. Sylvan Barnet and Natalie Hahn expanded under Giorgio's leadership the club relations with U.N. Agencies and the Diplomatic Core for humanitarian work for Children at Risk, Polio Plus and Avoidable Blindness.

The Avoidable Blindness Task Force, chaired by Dr. Rosemary Clemens conducted a very successful event promoting this cause and the International Rotary Foundation had just forward it a citation to our Club for these efforts. Bill Currie and Phyllis Arnold co-chairs of the Gift of Life Committee of the Public Relations Division, mobilized all members of the Committee in the processing of twelve children: five from Russia, and one each from Antigua, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Mongolia, the Philippines, Trinidad and Yugoslavia. Frances Vieta, Chair of the Weekly Vocational Briefs Committee, of the Club Service Division, consistently did an outstanding job. Incoming Board Director, Karen Furey worked hard editing the Weekly Bulletin. Board Director, Bernhard Fabricius restructured the table arrangements of the luncheon meetings. Program Chair, Larry Parks and his committee created a rostrum of excellent speakers. Larry Parks persevered very hard, off the limelight, in coming up with the highest level of speakers from public and business life. He has already almost completed the speaker schedule for the upcoming year and I assure you that you are in for a real treat. PP Richard B. Sainburg, Chair of the Constitutional Privileges Committee worked tirelessly on defending our non-standard constitutional privileges with R.I. together with the Chair of the Council of Past Presidents, Joseph A. Sullivan. Club Treasurer, Virgil Wenger, who is currently in Ireland for two weeks, assured me last Tuesday, June 12, that the club is ending the year very close to break-even and meal costs and dues will remain unchanged. They will be reviewed for the second half of the incoming year. This year, the incremental increase in membership has been 7 members, with 3 more to be presented to the Board for consideration for admission at the June 26, 2001 Board Meeting. Full credit for our good financial status goes to the management skills of our Executive Director, Andreas Runggatscher, who joined us in December 2000. The Committee for selecting our new Executive Director did achieve the best possible recruit for this position. Club Treasurer, Virgil Wenger and the Committee determined the finances and President Emeritus Leo Fromm absorbed the difference between the salary of the previous Executive Director and that for Mr. Runggatscher's caliber.

Our Executive Assistant, Ana Rivas is reliable not just as an assistant, but as an executive and she proved her capabilities during the transition period between Executive Directors.

The widow of our late President Al Furth passed on to me Al's Past President's Medal and Past President's Diamond Pin. Mrs. Beatrice Furth also made a generous donation to the NYRF, dedicated to the programs of the Alfred D. Furth International Service Division.

The President of R.I., Frank Devlyn sent a citation for the avenues of service conducted by the club.

You have given to my efforts unconditional trust and support. Let us expand on our club's constructive strength and benevolent service during President Reisler's administration and help her hold the torch higher and with brighter light, made of our united efforts in Rotary Service! Thank you. **SERGE HADJOLIAN**

MEMBERS' COLUMN

Fellow Rotarians,

We have been planning a very special day for my inauguration as your 92nd President, on July 10th. It will not be the usual luncheon meeting, but much more elaborate with interesting "festivities." As you can imagine, this has been taking up quite a bit of my time, considering the fact that there are many "deadline forms" the President-Elect must fill out, committees to form, meetings, travel for training and the convention in San Antonio. I have also been receptive to quite a few phone calls from members who call to suggest, complain or just "vent." (Remember- this is all volunteer)

I enjoy doing all these things for you and the club but I am sure many of you don't realize that you are hampering me in my plans, for you, BY NOT RETURNING THE WHITE RESPONSE CARDS that were enclosed with your invitations, whether or not you are coming on July 10th. Do not assume that because your luncheon tickets are paid up that you can walk in at the last minute. As many of you, who are experienced at running affairs know--It is impossible to plan an event like this without knowing who is coming. A seating arrangement must be planned, the hotel must be notified.

I had hoped we could work as a "team" this coming year. Your lack of response for this important day is disheartening, especially since so much personal effort is being put into it. I hope this was just a misunderstanding and that the office will receive your replies ONE WAY OR ANOTHER--immediately. The card did say "by June 15th."

This is also a perfect day to bring those potential members and special guests you want to impress with New York Rotary --even some members of your family who never really understood why you are so involved. I will be highlighting many of our important projects in an interesting way. Send back your cards!!!!

HELEN

REPORTER OF THE WEEK

UN DAY (Tuesday, June 12, 2001)

The meeting was opened with an invocation given by Art Auslander. Sylvan Barnett introduced several guests from the UN, UNICEF, and UN USA. Mats Ingemanson introduced four Rotarians visiting from four countries and seven visiting Rotarians from six states. After lunch Sylvan Barnett introduced Paul Hoeffel, Chief of the NGO Section of the Department of Public Information, who spoke briefly about the conference his department will be convening in September entitled The Diversity of the Volunteers Experience. He encouraged participation by Rotarians and UN affiliated NGOs.

Sylvan then introduced Barbara Crossette, chief correspondent for the New York Times at the United Nations. Ms. Crossette spoke about issues at the United Nations and in world affairs:

- The redefinition of national and international security to include issues like disease, migration, and economic questions;
- The redefinition of development theory to recognize issues critical to opportunities for women – economic power, reproductive control and legal rights;
- Recognition of the important role played by Kofi Annan because of the high level of respect with which he is regarded.

She agreed that work is needed to restructure the General Assembly, ECOSOC and Security Council beginning with reorganization into regional groupings, which reflect current economic and political realities. In answer to members' questions Ms. Crossette gave thoughtful insight into the role of the UN Development Program compared with the World Bank to the relationship of the United States and the UN.

Rotarian – Suzanne Sebert

GIFT OF LIFE

The following is the latest information that I have regarding our Gift of Life children:

Evell Fernandez - this 12-year-old arrives this coming Sunday evening, June 17th from Honduras with his mother Olivia. Phyllis Arnold will be picking them up at the airport, but we have not secured housing for them during the period prior to surgery. On Monday, June 18th, Evell is to go to NY Hospital for an evaluation and will not be back at the hospital until June 27th. We need a place for Evell and his mother to stay for those nine days, if you have a place in NYC and can assist-- PLEASE CALL ME RIGHT AWAY at 914-828-8640 or at home (914-769-0469). Ronald McDonald House is full and we are number 9 on the waiting list so we need your help!!

Jose Carlos Flores - Jose is an 18-month-old child due to arrive on July 8th from Honduras. Jose is also on the waiting list for the RMH.

Tarique Stevens - this nine-month-old baby is doing very well. Tarique and his mother Jeanice are scheduled to leave on June 29th. Thanks again to Ed Gray for sponsoring this child.

Stephen Budhan - this 10-year-old left New York this week to return to his home in Guyana with a healthy heart.

Chan Ting Hin - this child is being sponsored by the Downtown (Chinatown) Rotary Club and has been staying at Ronald McDonald House. Chan did very well after his surgery. Chan is expected to return home next week.

IMPORTANT: Next Tuesday at 11:30 AM, we will have a short meeting for all NYC Rotarians interested in the Gift of Life program. We plan to present some new ideas to "re-energize" this program and offer you a chance to bring your ideas and input. I hope to show a short video prepared by the Rotary District 7230 as part of this meeting. Yours in Rotary, Bill Currie



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 payable in full by June 30, 2001. If you have any questions about your membership, please call the office. For your convenience, we do accept credit cards by fax (212) 819-0763.

Dear President Serge,

On behalf of the Rotaract Club at the United Nations I would like to thank you for all your attention, help and support this year. We really appreciated that you always made sure that we were included in activities, projects and events and always felt welcome at the meetings of the Rotary Club of New York.

We would like to acknowledge your great work and congratulate you on all your achievements. Your year certainly was a great success. In particular we would like to thank you for making it possible for members of our club who have outgrown Rotaract to join the Rotary Club of New York by lowering the financial burden for the first two years of their membership.

On behalf of our board I would like to thank you for always inviting us to your board meetings. We believe that this helped grow a stronger relationship between our Rotaract club and our sponsoring Rotary club. I personally would like to add that I could not have had a better counterpart as president at the Rotary Club of New York. It really was a great pleasure working with you.

Thanks for creating awareness and taking action because mankind is our business.

Yours in Rotary,

Susanne Wetzel
President 2000-2001
Rotaract Club at the United Nations

**THE ROTARACT CLUB AT THE UNITED NATIONS
END OF YEAR PARTY 2001
HELP US RING IN THE NEW ROTARY YEAR
SATURDAY, JUNE 30, 2001, 7:00 PM**

MAXMIL CAFÉ & CREPERIE
642 AMSTERDAM AVENUE
Tel. (212) 595-0731

\$25.00 per person for Rotaract Club at the U.N. Members

\$35.00 per person for all others

Checks payable to The Rotaract Club at the UN

Seating space is limited, please reply promptly

PLEASE SEE MENU BELOW AND RSVP WITH YOUR SELECTION
AND CHECK BY JUNE 15TH TO STEFAN JEKEL
(271 West 90th Street, Apt. 8, NY, NY 10024)

Menu Selections

Main Course(please pick one)

___ Turkey, Swiss cheese, spinach crepe

___ Herbed grilled chicken crepe

___ Shrimp crepe

___ Ratatouille crepe(vegetarian)

Dessert (please pick one)

___ Banana Nutella crepe

___ Sundae crepe

___ Mixed Berry crepe

Wine and beer will be available at the restaurant