



# MANKIND IS OUR BUSINESS

April 9, 2002

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

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



## Anne Williamson

Anne Williamson began covering perestroika and glasnost, Gorbachev's policies of "restructuring" and "openness," which were initiated in the film industry and which spread quickly to theater, music, journalism and the literary world, for the *Wall Street Journal* in 1987.

From 1989 forward, Ms. Williamson continued to work for the Journal as a resident of Moscow while accepting assignments from a broad range of publications that included the *New York Times*, *Art and Antiques*, *Film Comment*, *Premiere*, *Lear's Magazine*, *Travel and Leisure Magazine*, *Mother Jones*, *Details*, *Business in the USSR*, *World Net Daily* and *SPY Magazine* where she was a contributing editor and Moscow correspondent. She is the author of the forthcoming *Contagion: The Betrayal of Liberty; Russia and the United States in the 1990s*, which tells the story of the West's misguided and self-serving strategies and policies which brought Russia to its ruin. Ms. Williamson testified before the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Banking and Financial Services in September 1999, in hearings on the Bank of New York money laundering scandal, which she maintains was a predictable result of US and multilateral policies.

Ms. Williamson will be speaking to Rotarians about what she maintains is the great harm and destruction multilateral institutions' debt merchandizing and structural adjustment programs have wrought not only in Russia, but throughout the world. She will further address the IMF-proposed national bankruptcy option for collapsing nations, and the Bush administration's drive for increasing foreign aid through World Bank grants in addition to the IDB's traditional lending programs.

### CALENDAR



April 9<sup>th</sup>

Anne Williamson

April 16<sup>th</sup>

FIREFIIGHTERS  
RECOGNITION  
DAY

April 23<sup>rd</sup>

Fellowship Day

April 30<sup>th</sup>

Jeanine Pirro  
District Attorney

May 7<sup>th</sup>

Dick Morris  
*Vote.com*

May 14<sup>th</sup>

ITALY DAY

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# MEMBERS' COLUMN

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

I have been thinking and reflecting where I came from and why Rotary made a difference in my life, and this thought is always there, present in my mind day and night, every time I see a child in distress, roaming the street hungry.

The reality of life, of our life in America, brings vividly back to my mind my early days after the W.W.II and that difference, like a still photo of that special moment, that instant when Rotary made a difference in the life of a child. And this is the reflection, the thoughts; I would like to share with you my fellow Rotarians. The reflection on the moment when a great man met with his friends in that little town and gently put into the ground the seed of a Rotary free of credos and classes, a Rotary Club made by individuals with the same vision, men and women full of wisdom and care.

I am afraid to tell you that today there are times I feel very skeptical about our Club. I strongly believe that it is very important to focus and stay close on what Rotary is all about.

Most of the time a simple action in favor of a child brings that difference in his life. With the Gift of Life we give them a new hope, a new life. With the Ambassador of Peace Youth Orchestra we give the gift of love and care, music makes that difference.

The results that you will see are going to touch your hearts, as Rotarians, we were, we are going and we must continue to be that important moment in the life of a child. Heart surgery gives them back a life. In teaching them music instead of roaming the streets and fighting for a short survival, they learn how to live, love and care one for another, to communicate and respect each other in the harmony of music.

The other day one of our heroes, a fireman, told to the Assistant District Governor of District 7250, a great fellow Rotarian: "we have enough money and support, just give to those less fortunate, to those that did not receive anything, we've been taking care of....."

As your fellow Rotarian I invite your committee and our foundation to consider the forgotten ones, people still suffering, and we should try to make a little difference in their lives. Some children of forgotten victims of 9-11 are being struck twice, first they lost their father in the terror of September 11 and now the mother in the horror of cancer (story reported on the New York Times while ago). Some are in foster homes of unqualified foster parents addicted to alcohol. Some are now, in this precise moment, roaming the streets for that short survival.....and again I see myself at the end of WWII when Rotary made that difference in the life of a child.

Allow me the following comment, a comment not a criticism. I do not mind at all and enjoy when our distinguished guests come to lecture us on politics, economics, business, the stock market etc., but before that, we have to understand that Rotary is a philanthropic organization. We should discuss where we are coming from, our history, reflect and take example from the great thing the Rotary has done and does, and will do, because mankind is our business.

To make a difference is to care - Carlos Bergantinos

## REPORTER OF THE WEEK

April 2, 2002

The meeting was opened by President Helen Reisler, followed by the singing of "The Star-Spangled Banner" led by Scarlett Pildes. Jim Thompson gave the invocation.

Foundation Chairman, Werner Kobelt distributed large grants from the WTC Disaster Relief Fund. Jim Quinn, Director of Camp Programs at The New York Mission Society received \$50,000; Sarah Weiss, Director of Development at The Council of Churches of The City of New York, received \$5,000; Ina Labiner, Executive Director of Helpline received \$25,000; Karen Jerro, Director, and Maggie Owen from The 9/11 Children's Fund, received \$100,000; Carol Ann Herman, Manager of Major Gifts of City Meals on Wheels, received \$25,000. The members giving service were recognized. Richard Sainberg introduced eight visiting Rotarians, five from abroad and three from the United States. They were greeted with our welcome song.

Larry Parks introduced the speaker of the day, Dr. Walker Todd. Dr. Todd's topic was free trade from its history in the days of the Greek Republic to the contrasting protectionist system of the present day, starting about 1840. Today, the closest thing to free trade are bilateral trade agreements in a regulated trading economy. The tariff system is so ingrained that it would be very difficult to go back to the good old days of ancient Greece.

*Rotarian- Art Auslander*

## LETTER FROM GRANT RECIPIENT

Dear Helen Reisler, Jim Thompson and The New York Rotary Foundation of Rotary Club of New York:

Thank you for your kindness and support during this most difficult time. You and your staff consist of a group of very special, caring, and wonderful people. I know that my wonderful husband Peter, looking down upon us brought us together because he knows how very special Jim Thompson and your staff is.

Your wonderful group will always be in my prayers. I can't thank you enough for your kindness, generosity and support. The good work you do to help so many will never go unnoticed and your families will always be in our hearts forever.

Thank you and May God bless you.

Sincerely,  
Lenora Raimondi and Boys.