



# MANKIND IS OUR BUSINESS

April 23, 2002

Office: 28 W. 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)

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

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

## 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 chair people to meet with their  
committees and report committee progress at the microphone!!

## LOOKING BACK AT FIREFIGHTERS RECOGNITION DAY



### WTC Hero Firefighters

John Jonas and Buddies:  
Bill Butler, Matt Komorowski, Mike Meldrum,  
Tom Falco, Sal Dagostino, and  
President Helen Reisler



Anna Heifetz, Music Director; Giorgio Balestrieri, Chair of the International Service Division; and our speaker New York Fire Commissioner, Nicholas Scoppetta.



The Ambassadors of Peace Youth Orchestra together with Carlos Bergantiños, Commissioner Scoppetta, Helen Reisler, Anna Heifetz Giorgio Balestrieri, and WTC Firefighter Heroes.

## MEMBERS' COLUMN

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

**THE TWO SPECIAL MEETINGS, APRIL 23<sup>RD</sup> AFTER FELLOWSHIP DAY AND APRIL 24<sup>TH</sup> 8:30 A.M. ON WEDNESDAY AT THE YALE CLUB, HAVE BEEN CANCELED.**

### **ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 7230 CONFERENCE PAUL HARRIS LUNCHEON**

The Chairman of the 7230 conference, New York Rotarian Edward Gray, invites you to the Paul Harris Luncheon on Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, at the Crowne Plaza Manhattan Hotel (1605 Broadway at 49<sup>th</sup> Street).

Please join fellow Rotarians from the district. Scholars are invited and pay only \$30 and members pay \$65. If you have any questions, please contact the Rotary Club office for more details about the conference.

### INTERNATIONAL SERVICE DIVISION BREAKFAST MEETING

The next breakfast meeting will be on Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, at 8:30 a.m. The topic will be "A Society for All Ages," a report from the Second World Assembly on the Aging in Madrid from April 6 to 10.

### **REPORTER OF THE WEEK**

**Tuesday, April 16, 2002**

The program began with music and singing by the children of the Ambassadors of Peace Youth Orchestra. Their instrumentals added a melodic tone to a day of presentations and appreciation.

Our annual Firefighters' Recognition Day honored "The Chinatown Six," heroes of the September 11 tragedy, along with Fire Commissioner Nicholas Scoppetta. President Helen presented a plaque to Chief John Jonas, the Chief of the Chinatown Firehouse, expressing the New York City Rotary Club's appreciation to the six firefighters being honored, and their families, who were also present.

Giorgio Balestrieri, Chair of the International Service Division, and Carlos Bergantinos presented a special fire helmet to Commissioner Scoppetta, donated by Madrid's Fire Department. Gene Gottesman presented the Commissioner with a certificate from the Boy Scouts of America.

Giorgio and Commissioner Scoppetta presented Anna Heifetz, Music Director of the Ambassadors of Peace Youth Orchestra, with a beautiful sculpture, donated by the Mayor of the City of Madrid, for their outstanding work done in the east Harlem program together with Fraternite Notre Dame.

Chief Jonas gave us his personal account of the events of September 11 in vivid and moving detail. Please check out the Rotary web site, where his comments are included in full.

We've all heard and read these stories, but to be told firsthand of the experiences was chilling. The stark realities that these men faced as they realized that New York City was under attack, not knowing by whom, and wishing each other "good luck," knowing they might not live through this – they did what they knew they had to do. These heroes came across Josephine Harris in the North Tower as they felt the South Tower collapse and began evacuation. They were on the fourth floor when they began to feel the tower collapsing, and the description of what they heard, saw and felt was combined with their commitment to getting Josephine Harris out with them. After 3½ hours of darkness, a ray of sunshine showed other firefighters searching for survivors, and they were rescued.

When Chief Jonas expressed his gratitude to each of his men and spoke of the honor he felt in being their captain, there wasn't a dry eye in the house. He expressed how they are all dealing with survivor's guilt and the loss of close friends, and how their comrades and families were supporting one another, even in wanting to show up as a unified group to today's program.

Rotarian Dr. Jeffrey Burkes introduced Fire Commissioner Scoppetta. The Commissioner expressed gratitude to President Helen and the Rotary Club for consistently honoring the FDNY, and the profound sense of sadness when reflecting on 9/11 and the loss of 343 men, noting that the Fire Department played the biggest role in a successful rescue operation. The Fire Department and Rotary share the service-above-self philosophy. He spoke of the political and budgetary challenges facing his department in very clear and concise terms, and closed by celebrating the miracle of the six surviving heroes with us – a truly happy story.

– Rotarian Lillian Coury