

# SOW THE SEEDS OF LOVE

JULY 16, 2002



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Luncheons: Tuesdays, 12:15 – 1:30 p.m.  
The Princeton Club – 15 W. 43<sup>rd</sup> Street

## Kerry Kennedy Cuomo

Kerry Kennedy Cuomo started working in the field of human rights in 1981, when she investigated abuses committed by U.S. immigration officials against refugees from El Salvador. Since then, her life has been devoted to equal justice, to the promotion and protection of basic rights, and to the preservation of the rule of law. She established the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Center for Human Rights in 1988 and she has worked on diverse human rights issues such as child labor, disappearances, indigenous land rights, judicial independence, freedom of expression, ethnic violence, impunity, the environment, and women's rights. She has led over 40 human rights delegations to over 30 countries. At a time of diminished idealism and growing cynicism about public service, her life and lectures are testaments to the commitment to the basic values of human rights.

Kennedy Cuomo is the author of *Speak Truth to Power: Human Rights Defenders Who Are Changing Our World*, which features interviews with human rights activists ranging from the famous (Helen Prejean, Marian Wright Edelman, the Dalai Lama, Desmond Tutu, Elie Wiesel, and Oscar Arias to name a few) to lesser-known stories of courage. The book is accompanied by a major photographic exhibition, a play based on the book, a PBS television program, an education and advocacy packet being distributed to 10,000 high schools and universities, legislation, and the award winning Speak Truth To Power Web site which received over 2 and a quarter million hits in its first three months.

Kennedy Cuomo served as Executive Director and is now on the Board of Directors of the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial, a non-profit organization that addresses social justice. She ran three programs: The National Juvenile Justice Project, which helps cities create more effective and less costly programs for dealing with young offenders; The RFK Journalism and RFK Book Awards, known as the "poor people's Pulitzers," which recognize authors who prod our conscience and expose the problems of the dispossessed; and the RFK Center for Human Rights.

Kennedy Cuomo established the RFK Center for Human Rights to ensure the protection of rights codified under the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights. The center provides an on going base of support to leading human rights defenders around the world. The center uncovers and publicizes abuses such as torture, disappearances, repression of free speech, and child labor; urges Congress and the U.S. administration to highlight human rights in foreign policy supplies activists with the resources they need to advance their work and creates other programs to advance respect for human rights.

Kennedy Cuomo has served in numerous political campaigns, and she is a member of the Massachusetts and District of Columbia bars.

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR



July 16<sup>th</sup>  
Kerry Kennedy  
Cuomo, Esq.

July 23<sup>rd</sup>  
Bill Berkeley  
Staff Reporter  
*New York Times*

July 30<sup>th</sup>  
FELLOWSHIP DAY

August 6<sup>th</sup>  
Michael Cardozo, Esq.  
NYC Law Department

## MEMBERS COLUMN

We welcome Past President Edward W.T. Gray, III, in his role as newly elected Trustee for the Rotary Club of New York for a three-year term.



### ANNUAL DUES AND LUNCHEON COUPON PAYMENTS

THE ANNUAL DUES AND ADVANCE LUNCHEON COUPON PAYMENTS FOR THE FIRST HALF OF FISCAL YEAR 2002-2003 ARE NOW DUE. IF YOU HAVE NOT YET SUBMITTED YOUR PAYMENT, PLEASE DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR QUICK FOLLOW-UP.

*YOUR LUNCHEON COUPONS ARE NOT AVAILABLE AS OF YET. THEY WILL BE MAILED AS SOON AS WE RECEIVE THEM.*

### POSITION WANTED

Rotarian Steve Goldberg is a tax attorney and corporate executive seeking a full-time, part-time, or per-project position. Please call (212) 772-0776 or (212) 996-0700.

### COMMITTEES

Please let the office know of your interest in joining any existing committees or if you have a concept for forming a new committee, which we would kindly ask you to submit it in writing. Please participate as an active member.

### Happy Birthday Fellow Rotarian

Kurt Leopold -- July 11<sup>th</sup>



### REPORTER OF THE WEEK

President's Day  
Tuesday, July 9, 2002

An overflow crowd of Rotary Club members and guests met at the Princeton Club to install and celebrate Silvio Amori as the 89<sup>th</sup> President of the Rotary Club of New York and the first President from Italy. The occasion brought together an impressive collection of Rotary Club members, friends of the Amori Family, and guests of the Rotary Club.

Greg Lynch served as Master of Ceremonies. He gave a brief description of Silvio Amori's interesting background. The singing of "The Star-Spangled Banner" was led by Allison Alessi, followed by the invocation by Giorgio Balestrieri. Many Rotary officers and visitors were present and introduced. Lynch officially introduced Amori, our Past Presidents, the Past District Governors of D 7230, and several Italian dignitaries. Journalists from the Italian television channel RAI International and America Oggi daily newspaper.

President Silvio was officially sworn in by Dick Sainburg. President Silvio then swore in all the Board Members for the new Rotary year.

Claudia Massimo Berns, Assistant to Governor Pataki, was called to the rostrum to give special congratulations and greetings from the Governor of New York and a citation. Amori thanked the Governor, then gave a gracious welcome to all friends and Rotarians who attended the luncheon. He noted that his father had been a staunch Rotarian in Italy and would have been proud to see Amori as the new President of the Rotary Host Club of America. 60,000 people have visited NYC Rotary over the years.

President Silvio then gave a brief history of the Rotary Club, noting that the Club was busily changing the world in its activities. Amori had recently attended the International Rotary Convention in Barcelona. He reported that 19,000 visitors attended. He pointed out that the Rotary Club continues to fight polio, major catastrophes and illiteracy.

President Silvio listed his goals for the year as threefold: friendship, membership growth, and a financially sound Club. He furthermore would like to work closely with our Foundation and the Rotary Club of Milano Aquilea to fight the Buruli disease.

President Silvio ended by announcing that a musical tribute commemorating the events of 9/11 would be given free at Lincoln Center on July 22<sup>nd</sup> with musical artists from around the world performing together under the leadership of the famous Italian maestro Riccardo Muti. The tickets are available free of charge. He urged all to attend.

A champagne toast was offered to Silvio Amori as the new President.

*Rotarian – William Hall*