



## SOW THE SEEDS OF LOVE

September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2002

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

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

# ADI ROCHE



Born in Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, Ireland, in 1955, Adi Roche has spent the majority of her life campaigning for peace and justice. In 1990, she became the first Irish woman to be elected to the Board of Directors of the International Peace Bureau (IPB), based in Geneva. Adi is also responsible for creating the Peace Education Program that is taught in

schools throughout Ireland. In 1997, she was chosen by an alliance of broad-spectrum political parties to run for the country's highest political office, President of Ireland. However, it is her work with the 3-4 million children the United Nations recognizes as affected by the world's worst nuclear disaster that has won her international recognition. As the founder of the Chernobyl Children's Project, Adi has worked tirelessly for the past 15 years to provide humanitarian aid to the all-but-forgotten children of Belarus, western Russia, and Ukraine. Under her leadership, the project has initiated 16 aid programs and delivered medical aid valued at over \$28 million to the areas most affected by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. The Rest and Recuperation Program established by the project has enabled almost 10,000 children affected by the disaster to come to Ireland for vital medical treatment and recuperation over the past 11 summers.

Adi works closely with the United Nations to highlight the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster with the mission of preventing a recurrence of such an environmental catastrophe. The UN asked the Chernobyl Children's Project to mark the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster for the world with an exhibition held at the UN in New York City in April 2001.

Her incredible efforts on behalf of these children and her unique understanding of the Chernobyl accident's aftermath have brought her international acclaim. She has been honored with the European Person of the Year Award, European Woman Laureate Award, Irish Person of the Year, and the Paul Harris Fellowship Award for exceptional service to the community by the Rotary of Ireland. Adi also holds an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from the University of Alberta, Canada. In 2002, she was awarded a Joint Doctorate of Laws with the project's patron, Ali Hewson, for their ongoing humanitarian work by the National University of Ireland, Galway.

In 1993, Adi initiated, researched, and developed an award-winning documentary on the effects of Chernobyl on Belarus, Russia, and Ukraine. The documentary, *Black Wind/White Land – Living with Chernobyl* was followed by a number of other critically acclaimed documentaries on Chernobyl for the BBC, RTE, TV3 (Irl) and currently with HBO (USA). The HBO documentary is scheduled for release in early 2003. She is also author of the moving and powerful bestseller *Children of Chernobyl*.

As Executive Director of the Chernobyl Children's Project Adi Roche continues to have a large number of public engagements both nationally and internationally in her efforts to raise awareness of the Chernobyl disaster. Her focus, as always, remains the children of Chernobyl.

# MEMBERS COLUMN

## 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 PAST DUE. IF YOU HAVE NOT YET SUBMITTED YOUR PAYMENT, PLEASE DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR QUICK FOLLOW-UP.

### REPORTER OF THE WEEK

Tuesday, September 3, 2002

President Silvio Amori opened the meeting with the singing of "The Star-Spangled Banner," and the most Reverend Laurent Deneux delivered the invocation. President Silvio introduced four visiting Rotarians.

President Silvio announced that the Rotary Club of Rome South, Italy, offered vacations to several New Yorkers affected by September 11.

Immediate Past President Helen Reisler presented a check for \$10,000 from District 7230 for our 9/11 vacation fund.

At the luncheon, there was a tribute to honor all those missing at Ground Zero in this week of National Memorial leading up to September 11. Rotarian Bill De Long distributed bits and pieces of collected debris to remind us "may this never happen again." Bill was the first New York senior citizen to volunteer at the Salvation Army canteen on day 3 of the disaster at Ground Zero. He volunteered up until he left for Mongolia to represent the New York Rotary Club on December 1, 2001.

Bill will represent the Rotary Club of New York at the NYC & Company Convention honoring the men and women, for their tireless volunteer service, in the immediate aftermath of the city's darkest hour, made history.

The Memorial service is to be held at the Regent Wall Street Hotel, 55 Wall Street, followed by a breakfast and live broadcast.  
*Andreas Runggatscher*

### Happy Birthday Fellow Rotarians

Josef Klee – September 15<sup>th</sup>

Silvio Amori – September 19<sup>th</sup>

Katsuhito Matsubara – September 20<sup>th</sup>



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

September 10<sup>th</sup>  
Adi Roche  
Chernobyl Children Project

September 17<sup>th</sup>  
Christine Scornavacca  
Metropolitan Art Museum

September 24<sup>th</sup>  
AUSTRIA DAY

October 1<sup>st</sup>  
FELLOWSHIP DAY

October 8<sup>th</sup>  
JJ. Goldberg  
The Jewish Forward

October 15<sup>th</sup>  
Tom Lipscomb  
Political Commentator, Journalist

October 22<sup>nd</sup>  
GERMANY DAY

October 29<sup>th</sup>  
James Goodale, Esq.  
Debevoise & Plimpton



RCNY Board member Giorgio Balestrieri sends his regards from the Rotary Club of Monza Ovest, District 2040, in Italy.