



SOW THE SEEDS OF LOVE

January 14, 2003

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

The Princeton Club – 15 W. 43rd Street

PHILIP HOWARD, ESQ.

THE COMMON GOOD



Philip Howard is one of the leading advocates of legal reform in the nation. A prominent lawyer and best-selling author, he is changing the way America thinks about the impact that lawsuits and the regulatory maze is having on our lives.

His first book, *The Death of Common Sense – How Law is Suffocating America*, became an immediate bestseller when it was published in 1995. It chronicles the many ways in which common sense actions have been stifled by a regulatory philosophy that leaves no room for human judgment.

His latest book, *The Collapse of the Common Good – How America's Lawsuit Culture Undermines Our Freedom*, has spawned a national movement. It focuses on the fear instilled by the ability of anyone to sue over almost anything and the paralyzing impact on our common institutions like health care and education.

The national movement, which Philip Howard founded and chairs, is called Common Good. Its purpose is to reform our lawsuit culture, and it has generated broad bi-partisan support. Its board, for example, includes both George McGovern and Newt Gingrich.

Philip Howard grew up in Eastern Kentucky, the son of a Presbyterian minister. He graduated from Yale University and the University of Virginia Law School and began practicing law in New York City. There he founded his own law firm – Howard, Darby & Levin – which later merged with a leading Washington, DC, firm – Covington & Burling – of which he is now Vice Chairman.

Philip has long been involved in civic issues in New York City. He is currently Chair of the Municipal Art Society, the civic group renowned for having saved Grand Central Terminal. He also organized and chaired the committee that installed the moving "Tribute in Light" memorial at the site of the World Trade Center, honoring those lost on September 11th.

Philip Howard is causing America to re-examine its lawsuit culture. His views appear frequently on the opinion pages of America's major newspapers, including *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Wall Street Journal*, and he is a regular guest on CNN's *Lou Dobbs Moneyline*.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

January 14th
Philip Howard, Esq.
The Common Good

January 21st
Joseph Belluck, Esq.

January 28th
Sarah Stranahan
The Need More Fund

February 4th
Hon. Eliot Spitzer
Attorney General

MEMBERS COLUMN

ROSTER PICTURE

In order to complete the roster directory for 2002-2003, we kindly request that you provide us with a photograph of your choice and address changes. Since the deadline for printing is coming up shortly we would appreciate your follow up on this matter by January 21st. You can e-mail a photo in Jpeg format to ny.rotary@verizon.net, or otherwise mail it to the address of the Rotary office.

LUNCHEON COUPONS
\$600

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR!

Advance Luncheon Coupon statements for the second half of the fiscal year 2002-2003 have been mailed. Please make your payment as soon as possible.

You are required to pay for six months' worth of 20 luncheon coupons for \$30 each, coming to a total of \$600. Please remember that once you use all 20 coupons you must pay \$30 at the door.

If you have any questions about your membership status, please call the office. For your convenience, we do accept credit cards by fax.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE DIVISION

The next meetings of the International Service Division of the RCNY will be on Wednesday, January 15, at the German Permanent Mission to the UN, at the top floor restaurant on First Avenue (between 48th and 49th Streets), from 8:30 to 9:45 a.m. The topic will be: "Partnership with the Private Sector." Our guest speakers is: Mr. Amir Dossal, Executive Director, United Nations Fund for International Partnership (UNFIP).

The registration is at 8:30 and the meeting will start at 8:45 a.m. Kindly let us know if you would like to attend our breakfast by sending an e-mail to the Rotary Club of New York at ny.rotary@verizon.net copy to Ms. Allison Alessi, International Events Coordinator at aealessi@aol.com or send a fax to (212) 633-1954. The cost of the breakfast is \$15 payable directly to the Maitre d'.

Yours in Rotary,

Sylvan M. Barnet, Jr.	Giorgio H. Balestrieri
Chair RCNY Intl. Service Div.	Director and Board Liaison
Rotary International	International Service Div.
Alt. Representative to the UN	The Rotary Club of New York



Happy Birthday Fellow Rotarians

Rev. John Smith	Jan. 13 th
Takako Johnson	Jan. 15 th

Reporter of the Week January 7, 2003

The meeting was opened by President Silvio and the singing of the Star Spangled Banner, led by Bernie Wytko. Gamal Badr gave the invocation. Paul Caruso introduced the visiting Rotarians, two from two countries, and seven from the U.S. Our speaker was Lionel Barber, the U.S. Managing Editor of *The Financial Times*. He stated that it is time to stop pretending that Americans and Europeans share a common view of the world. Europeans see the U.S. as "isolated, insular, and self-centered." Europe has progressed beyond each country's self-interest and has ceded national sovereignty to form an economic and political union and it prizes diplomatic persuasion. America favors coercive persuasion.

Europeans saw September 11 as an attack on civilization, not just on America, and it is naive of Americans to think they must fight terrorism alone. Whereas America feels it is necessary to retain the right to attack preemptively, Europeans generally favor an international coalition and to fight when provoked. Europeans generally favor an international coalition and to fight when provoked. Europeans are not comfortable with President Bush's "axis of evil" position. However, for Americans to think that Europeans are complacent about terrorism is absurd. We should remember that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was nearly assassinated by the IRA, and the French recently thwarted an attempt to destroy the Eiffel Tower. But Europeans have considerable "queasiness" about toppling Saddam Hussein. They feel that America has decided to attack Iraq with or without Europe's help; they disagree that toppling Hussein will have a "domino" effect and pave the way for democracy in the Middle East.

However, ultimately, Europe will probably help the U.S. attack Iraq. Tony Blair of the U.K. is firmly behind Bush, although the British public is less supportive of the U.S. than Mr. Blair is. Germany is being more neutral in its stance regarding Iraq than Gerhard Schroeder was during his recent campaign when he was definitely against Bush and the invasion of Iraq. Spain and Italy will ally themselves with the U.S. and the French will be "difficult" but will ultimately come along. The two big unknowns are Russia and China. Putin will probably eventually join the West. But many Europeans fear that America wants to wage the war and claim the victory, then allow Europe to maintain the peace and provide the post-war aid; essentially, "America will cook the meal and Europe will do the dishes."

In the end we must remember that although allies can be a nuisance, it is a blessing to have countries that share our values.

Rotarian- Ann Creo

MEMBERSHIP PROPOSALS

The Board of Directors has approved the following applicant. Any written objections must be received at the Club office by January 14, 2003.

Erden Arkan	President
Company:	Kiska Construction Corp.
Classification:	Heavy Construction
Sponsors:	Atila Macun Barbaros Karaahmetoglu