



SOW THE SEEDS OF LOVE

January 28, 2003

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

The Princeton Club – 15 W. 43rd Street

SARAH STRANAHAN

The Needmor Mission Statement

The mission of the Needmor Fund is to work with others to bring about social justice. They support people who work together to change the social, economic, or political conditions which bar their access to participation in a democratic society.

The Needmor Fund envisions a nation committed to democracy. They believe that citizens should be free and equal to determine the actions of government and the terms of public policy and thus assure their right to:

- ?? justice
- ?? political liberty
- ?? the basic necessities of life: food, shelter, access to health care, and safety
- ?? an education which enables them to be contributing members of society
- ?? the opportunity to secure productive work with just wages and benefits and decent working conditions.

The Needmor Fund believes that all citizens should be free to exercise these rights regardless of race, ethnic origin, gender, sexual orientation or religious persuasion.

Their grant making philosophy fosters a spirit of individual and collective responsibility. They strive to remove systemic barriers to the practice of democracy by encouraging the efforts of people who have come together to work for justice and the common good. They seek always to engage those whose participation in the affairs of their community has been systematically denied, because they believe this nation will operate most equitably when all of its citizens can be actively involved in crafting the vision, values, and specific policies that guide its operation.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**January 28th
Sarah Stranahan
The Needmor Fund**

**February 4th
Hon. Eliot Spitzer
Attorney General**

**February 11th
Julie Stewart
Families against
mandatory minimums**

**February 18th
SPAIN DAY**

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 20 luncheon coupons, at \$30 each, amounting 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.

NEWS FLASH From Rotary District 7230 NYC/WTC Disaster Relief Fund, Inc.

The Rotary District 7230 NYC/WTC Disaster Relief Fund, Inc. Board of Directors reviewed five applications totaling over \$590,000 on Friday 1/17/2003. Of this amount, \$15,128 was approved for education, daycare, and special therapy for 12 children of the deceased victims of the WTC 9/11 disaster, sponsored by the Rotary Club of New Brunswick, NJ. \$104,000 was approved in principle for an educational program sponsored by the Friendship Ambassador Foundation, pending confirmation of a co-sponsor club. Two other applications are subject to further review upon submission of further materials. Of the remaining proposals, one application did not qualify as it was a for-profit corporation, and the others required additional information.

In addition, on December 10, 2002, \$15,000 was approved for the Rotary Club of Hartsdale for their sponsorship of the Westchester Bereavement Program for Children/Families of the 9/11 deceased victims. In July 2002, \$35,000 was granted to the Summer Dance Educational Therapy Program sponsored by the RC of Upper Manhattan. This program was cancelled due to insufficient registration. The board is currently in communication with the Rotary Club of Upper Manhattan regarding this project.

Applications received after the January board meeting will be reviewed in February and every month thereafter.

Applications for funding are available on the website:
www.rotary7230WTCfund.org

MEMBERSHIP PROPOSALS

The Board of Directors has approved the following applicants. Any written objections must be received at the Club office by January 28, 2003.

Takasaki Yasuhiro- President
Company: YT Resolution Services, LLC.
Suggested Classification: Construction/ Finance
Sponsors: Takako Johnson
Louis DiPaolo

Giovanni Ciuffo- Assistant Professor/ Attending surgeon
Company: NYU Cardiothoracic Surgery
Suggested Classification: Cardiac Surgeon
Sponsors: Anders Eggen
Silvio Amori

Reporter of the Week

January 21, 2003

President Silvio Amori opened the meeting and introduced Allison Alessi, who led the club in singing the "Star-Spangled Banner," accompanied by David Dingle at the piano. Bernhard Fabricius gave a very thoughtful invocation related to the lessons learned in the Vietnam war and the present threat of war with Iraq.

Andreas Runggatscher, our Executive Director, introduced the guests, mentioning two guests from Ireland and one from NYC. Three guests of Scarlett Pildes were also introduced. President Amori introduced a new member, Erden Arkan, along with his sponsor, Atila Macun, who gave him the official Rotary label pin.

President Amori then named the new slate of officers nominated by the Committee with Greg Lynch as the new President. One vote was cast to unanimously elect the entire slate for 2003-2004.

Bill Currie, the Chairman of the Gift of Life Committee, presented the "Save a Child" award for a second time to Ed Gray, who graciously accepted it with the grateful thanks from the parents of a child from Ecuador.

Larry Parks introduced the day's speaker, Joseph Belluck, Esq., a partner in the law firm of Belluck & Fox. Mr. Belluck specializes in consumer, environmental, and defective product litigation. Mr. Belluck had been instrumental in settling New York State's tobacco lawsuit for \$25 billion. Mr. Belluck also served as Director of Attorney Services for Trial Lawyers Care, an organization dedicated to providing free legal assistance to victims of 9/11 terrorist attacks. Mr. Belluck gave the opposite side of the story from that taken by Mr. Philip Howard at last week's meeting, when he advocated legal reform. Mr. Belluck defended the expensive lawsuits, citing a few of his cases, in which he represented victims of medical malpractice who did not survive.

He disagreed with President Bush's plan announced last week of limiting malpractice awards to \$250,000. Mr. Belluck defended the peoples' right to sue. He noted that 100,000 people die every year from medical malpractice. He believed the insurance company lobbyists and heavy contributors to political campaigns are the force behind the President's support of putting a cap on payment for medical malpractice.

A lively question and answer period followed Mr. Belluck's presentation with both support for and disagreement with his position being voiced. He noted that he only take cases on a contingency basis and weighs each case carefully before representing his clients in malpractice litigation.

Rotarian – William Hall

READ THE JANUARY ROTARIAN

- ?? Rotary Crossword Puzzle
- ?? Club efforts for Polio
- ?? New District Leadership Plan
- ?? Rotary Youthlink Overseas
- ?? Books For Africa
- ?? Avoidable Blindness- Int'l Vision 2020
- ?? Brisbane Convention Preview June 1-4