

THE ROTARY CLUB OF NEW YORK



Office: 28 West 44th St. Ste. 1508, NY, NY 10036

April 24, 2001

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Luncheons: Tuesdays, 12:15 p.m. The Princeton Club 15 W. 43rd St, NY, NY 10036



FIREMAN RECOGNITION DAY

FIRST DEPUTY FIRE COMMISSIONER WILLIAM M. FEEHAN

Commissioner Feehan has been a member of the uniformed force of the New York City Fire Department since 1959. He has served in all levels of command and management in the Department. His major projects include:

- (a) Realignment and reorganization of the Marine Division.
- (b) Critical involvement in implementing the reorganization of the Bureau of Fire Prevention which resulted in an additional \$20,000,000 in annual funds saved.
- (c) Conceptual and operational management of the Roster Staffing System, which saved the Department more than \$40,000,000 per year.
- (d) Budget consultations with the former commissioner and decision making in this area.

He interacted daily, with all levels of the mayor's staff, especially with the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety Fire Commissioner, all labor relations were within the purview of his authority and responsibility.

His experience at managing emergency operations, includes: the World Trade Center explosion, the LaGuardia air crash, and the 14th Street subway derailment.



******* In addition to our guest speaker's presentation, we will be honoring Firefighter Gerard T. Nevins, one of New York's bravest! Fireman's Recognition Day has always been one of the Club's outstanding programs. What a great day to invite a colleague or a potential new member.**

Dear fellow Rotarians,

It is time to start setting our goals for the coming year (2001-2002).

Many of you have told me of your interest in actively participating in my administration. I am heartened to know that you are "ready for action". With this in mind, we will be forming committees with meaningful and timely goals. I will be appointing various members to chair these committees very shortly.

Since involvement in a committee is a perfect way to use and market your skills, I am interested to know how each of you would like to contribute.

The following form should make it easy for you to respond. Please let me hear from you as soon as possible:

NAME _____

SKILLS _____

I am interested in chairing a committee YES _____ NO _____

I will be a member of a committee YES _____ NO _____

Type of committee that would interest me _____

I am interested only in attending the lunches and have no interest in joining the team, but
pledge at least one new member within the year.

Check _____

OTHER SUGGESTIONS: _____

I am looking forward to working together as a team and having fun as we work.

President-elect, Helen Reisler

Fax # (914) 276-2911 (wed. thur. fri. sat.) (718) 622-3012 (sun. mon. tue.)

E-mail: Helenbreisler@aol.com

MEMBERS' COLUMN

The Board on April 24, 2001 will address the following issues. Please, fax your input to the Rotary office.

1. SIZE OF THE BOARD

The current size of nine Directors and six Officers reflects the days when our membership was more than double. A board Committee will make a proposal to the Board and consequently to the entire membership to adopt a proportionate Board size to the size of the club, namely five Officers and six Directors. If accepted by the membership, the implementation will take place over time. As existing terms expire, some will not be filled.

2. BROADER OUTLOOK ON OUR CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM.

Frank Devlyn announced that we must be more creative in the new millennium toward the preservation and the growth of our clubs. He advised: "Do what works in all situations." It is important that we adopt a broader outlook in this changing world concerning our classification system to strengthen our club with quality members into the future.

3. MEMBERS-AT-LARGE INVOLVED IN FOUNDATION FILTERING COMMITTEE.

The Board will be reviewing alternative procedures for the charitable projects "selection process" that will have the membership and the foundation work closer together.

Dear esteemed member,

Please contact the RCNY office to express your interest for our Annual Golf and Tennis Outing this season. We like to know the potential level of participation as soon as possible.

NORMAN VINCENT PEALE AWARD

Who would like to receive the distinct honor of representing the Rotary Club of New York and present the Norman Vincent Peale Award to the Riverdale Rotary Club (highest per capita giving to the Rotary International Foundation)? The Luncheon will take place on the occasion of this year's Paul Harris Luncheon at the District Conference on April 27, 2001 at 12:00 noon. If you are interested please call the RCNY office.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Apr. 24 th	BOARD MEETING – 10:30 a.m. - The Princeton Club
Apr. 24 th	FIREMAN RECOGNITION DAY
May 1 st	Kent Barwick – Municipals Arts Society
May 8 th	ITALY DAY
May 15 th	William Cope Moyers – Johnston Institute Foundation
May 22 nd	BOARD MEETING – 10:30 a.m. - The Princeton Club
May 29 th	ARMED FORCES DAY – Lt. Gen. C. Norman Wood
June 5 th	Leo Fromm – Rotary Club of New York
June 12 th	U.N. DAY
June 19 th	Transition Day
June 26 th	To be announced
July 3 rd	NO MEETING
July 10 th	PRESIDENT'S DAY

May 18th Foundation Fundraiser at the Union League Club



GIFT OF LIFE

Visit Tarique Stevens – six-month-old from Trinidad, Stephen Budhan – 10-year-old from Guinea, (who just had surgery and is doing well) and Tatiana Poruchnik – 17-year-old from Russia, at the Ronald McDonald House (73rd Street, just east of 1st Avenue.)

Yours in Rotary, Bill Currie

ATTENTION MEMBERS

President-elect Helen Reisler has asked me to explore the establishment of a Club Education Committee, next year. Its purpose would be to establish some educational programs sponsored by the Club in the city possibly including a read-to-me project for disadvantaged or disabled children. Please contact me if you might be interested in serving on such a committee. Tel. no. (212) 759-4710. Sylvan Barnet

ROTARY CLUB OF DOWNTOWN (Chinatown)

The Rotary Club of Downtown (Chinatown) now meets at the Sweet-n-Tart Restaurant, located at 20 Mott Street in Chinatown, on Tuesdays at 1:00PM. The Restaurant's phone number is 212-964-0380.

A MESSAGE FROM ENID RINGER

A great thanks goes to Herb Missry and Larry Parks for the arrangements for Israel Day including arranging the very moving speaker, Harry Reicher of the Agudath Israel World Organization and the University of Pennsylvania Law School who spoke on the Legal Dimensions of the Holocaust. This profound topic captivated everyone's serious attention -- there were questions until 1:45 pm and many people spoke with him afterwards -- and we are grateful to have such speakers address our club on such important topics that are consistent with Rotary's Four-Way Test.



**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
DISTRICT 7230
DISTRICT CONFERENCE**

**SAVE THE DATES
APRIL 27, 28, & 29**

CROWNE PLAZA, WHITE PLAINS

Paul Harris Fellows Luncheon \$40
Friday, April 27, 2001 12 noon

Clambake
Friday, April 27, 2001 6 p.m. \$50

Rotary Conference Breakfast \$20
Saturday, April 28, 2001 8:30 a.m.

District Awards Luncheon \$35

NYC CHILDREN'S VISION COALITION

and Prevent Blindness New York

Invite you to join us for our Vision for the Future

CHILDREN'S ART EXHIBITION/ COCKTAIL RECEPTION

Richard York Gallery

21 East 65th Street, Manhattan

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

(212) 980-2020, ext. 13 Price: \$25



THE NEW YORK ROTARY FOUNDATION
OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF NEW YORK
INVITES YOU TO THE
FOUNDATION'S ANNUAL BALL
at the UNION LEAGUE CLUB
on May 18, 2001

Reception and Silent Auction at 6:00 p.m., Dinner and Dance at 7:30 p.m.
Invitations will be sent out shortly. Please make your reservations early.

REPORTER OF THE WEEK
Israel Day (Tuesday, April 17, 2001)

Our meeting opened promptly at 12:15 p.m. with Bernie Wytko leading us in a rousing rendition of The Star Spangled Banner. Paul Schneiderman gave us a thoughtful and grateful invocation. David Zeller delivered a summary of Richard King's speech from the March 19th gala dinner in his honor. Jim Morita presented an Outstanding Service Award to our Executive Director Andreas Rungattscher for his exemplary service above self. Camilo Uy presented a Paul Harris Award to Bernhard Fabricius. Jim Thompson introduced 8 visiting Rotarians: 3 from 3 countries, and 5 from 4 states.

Larry Parks gave a brief introduction to our speaker, Harry Reicher, in order to allow maximum time for his topic "**The Legal Dimension of the Holocaust and its Role in the Final Solution.**"

Professor Reicher opened the discussion about the "legal dimension of the Holocaust," calling it the ultimate oxymoron. Our perception of a legal system is that it marks a society as civilized, yet the Holocaust was barbarism at its worst. Holocaust with a capital "H" is a new word, as is "genocide," used to encapsulate the horror of it. So what does law have to do with all that?

Between 1933 and 1945, there were only four laws enacted by the German parliament. However, there were thousands of executive orders made into law by the "Prerogative State" of Nazi Germany. Over 2,000 laws were passed regarding the Jews of Germany, who in 1933 accounted for only 1 percent of the population. By 1939 the number had dropped to 0.4 percent.

The object of this legislative reign of terror was to ostracize and dehumanize the Jews. There were two main ways the Nazis attacked Jews: first by branding them publicly (wearing of the "yellow star") and then by depriving them of their source of livelihood in business and trades. These were enforced by official rules that were designed to systematically deprive people of their humanity.

The judicial system became an active accomplice, such that "normal" courts operated side by side with the courts run under the personal reach of Hitler as the chief executive, the chief legislator, and the chief justice, meting out unrestrained brutality.

Anything "political" was dealt with brutality, and if a Jew was involved, everything was political, from issuing birth certificates, to contractual agreements. So why did the Nazis need this elaborate legal system with a paper trail? They needed guidelines and directives to establish an orderly bureaucracy and make it appear palatable overseas, creating a façade of legality to hide their massive contempt for the law. But on a deeper level, there is something about the nature of law that encourages respect and acceptance, and therefore has the effect of inuring the population to escalating atrocities by giving it the respectable veneer of lawfulness. If you implant ideas of dehumanization, it makes it easier to have one human kill another. Goebbels understood this as Propaganda Minister, and proved that a legal system can be powerful, misused, and can depart from what we think of as law.

Any legal system can be misused, and we should build in warning signs to protect its integrity. Several provocative questions were fielded, and the meeting closed at 1:40 p.m.

Rotarian - Lillian Coury