

## **FARMINGDALE ROTARY CLUB MEETING – WEDNESDAY, 2 NOV 2005**

The Farmingdale Rotary Club held its weekly luncheon meeting at Annabella Restaurant in Farmingdale, New York. President Ruth Betz opened the meeting at 12:10 p.m. Invocation was given by Kevin Bagnasco, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Secretary Robert Diaz calculated today's attendance at 84%. Guests included Cathleen Callahan, Margie Sinclair and Cathy Firetog. Lee Feigenbaum was the visiting Rotarian from Melville club.

Frank Bondietti collected the happy bucks. Bill Carman, Yesh and Ruth were happy about Jerry Levine's 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Bill Carman led the group in singing happy anniversary to Jerry.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **GENERAL:**

**Lenny will chair** the Salvation Army fund raising efforts this year from our club. "Ring the Bell", 1<sup>st</sup> weekend after Thanksgiving weekend.

**Our Board of Directors** meeting was held at Edward Jones Office (Bob Diaz's office) on Oct 27 at 6pm. October 2005 minutes were approved.

**GSE out going team Interviews** were conducted and a group leader was selected for visiting four Central African countries including Rwanda, Zaire, Cameroon. Team members interested in the program can contact Barry/Mike/Yesh. Non Rotarians between the ages of 25 and 40 are eligible.

**GSE incoming team from India** will arrive on 9 Apr 06. Yesh is looking for volunteers to host the members.

**Lenny and Yasuo** are running a membership drive campaign to increase the membership of our club. Lenny requested all the members to provide suggestions and leads to identify suitable members.

**Lenny distributed the "Emergency call list"** to the members. If you need a copy please contact Lenny.

**Bill Metzendorf was honored as the "small businessman of the year"** by the Chamber of Commerce.

**Schools in Mississippi needs text books (K -12):** Eileen Gentlecore has 1400 school bags. Need supplies to fill these bags. The New books need to be grouped by category and they should be in bunches of 10. Ronald McDonald house is setting up Libraries. The project is going well. Contact Ruth if you can donate books.

#### **FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES:**

**KATRINA: Our district is seeking donations** to help the hurricane victims. The people are in dire need of help. The District 7250 Foundation is raising funds for the relief effort. All checks should be made to 'District 7250 Foundation'. All donations over \$100 will be acknowledged in writing by the Foundation. Bring the checks to Ruth.

**Yasuo has the history of the Ford motor company books** for sale for \$25 Ea. This collectors edition would normally cost at lease \$50. More volunteers are needed to sell these beautiful books, which actually sell themselves. We will donate the unsold books to the district book project.

**Casino Night : Early April 2006 on a Thursday evening.** Tickets will include chips to play. Volunteers are needed for the Committee. Contact Ted Firetog.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**9 November 2005. 6:30 pm. (Wednesday) : Paul Harris Service Above Self Dinner Dance:** Special Guest: Carolyn Jones: First Woman Trustee of the Foundation. Location: Westbury Manor, Westbury NY. \$75 Ea. Time: 6:30pm. Proceeds will go to Rotary Foundation. Contact: Kevin Bagnasco.

**10 November 2005. 7pm to 9 pm (Thursday) : Community Summit Dinner** at Stewart Manor. RSVP by 11/3 to Ruth.

**16 November 2005, 6pm. (Wednesday) : Board meeting** at Howitt Middle School. East entrance.

**19 November 2005 (Saturday): Rotary leadership classes** at Islandia Marriott. Register with Jim Anderson.

**20 November 2005. 8 am to 12 noon. (Sunday): Annual Pancake breakfast** on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. It will be held at the Farmingdale Firehouse/Village Hall, 361 Main St. Adults - \$6. Children 6 to 12 - \$4. Children under 5 – Free. Contact Lenny for tickets.

**5 December 2005. 6:30pm (Monday) : Daleview Nursing Home Sing-a-long .** First Monday of every month at 6:30pm.

## PROGRAM

Ted Firetog introduced the guest speaker David Mercaldo, Ph.D. Author – Playwright. ( [www.davidmercaldocom](http://www.davidmercaldocom) ) . Ruth Betz invited the speaker.

**David's new book "FERRY", the story of a shoe shine man, captures a unique season in America when an individual's integrity could not be bartered or compromised; a time when men and women would die before dishonoring their family name! *FERRY is an exciting and sobering "trip!"***

David wrote FERRY as a tribute to those great men and women of a generation ago... for the people we called, PAPA and MAMA!"

David recited some exciting excerpts from the Ferry and enthralled the audience.

Local publications gave rave reviews to David for his book Ferry:

"FERRY is a true depiction of family life as I know it to be. Angelo Marullo, Mercaldo's main character, pays homage to those of Italian descent and dispels the common misconceptions associated with Italian Americans."

- Carol Ann Benanti, The Staten Island ADVANCE

Bob Callahan responded for the club and thanked David for the very interesting story.

We closed the meeting with the singing of "God Bless America".