



# THE RAMBLER

January 4, 2005

## Morristown Rings in The New Year!



Photo Courtesy of  
The Daily Record / Danielle Austen

Onlookers marvel at the fireworks display during the half-time show on the Morristown Green during First Night<sup>®</sup> Morris County in Morristown on Saturday night. The non-alcoholic New Year's Eve celebration of 'the arts and community' included music, dance, juggling, and fireworks. 🌟

## Saudi Arabia Contributes US\$2.66 Million to Fight Polio

By Vukoni Lupa-Lasaga  
*Rotary International News*

At an early December pan-Islamic conference in Mecca, the Muslim world's holiest city, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia announced a contribution of US\$2.66 million toward the polio eradication effort.

According to a news update on the Global Polio Eradication Initiative's Web site, previous Saudi support included mediation to help end an oral polio vaccine boycott in northern Nigeria and a decision to verify that visitors to the kingdom are immunized against polio.

The Extraordinary Session of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Summit, hosted by the Saudi government, also focused attention on the effort to rid the world of polio in a communiqué is-

sued on 8 December. Saying that the OIC was painfully aware that five of the six remaining polio-endemic countries in the world are its members, the statement highlighted the significance of the international efforts to eradicate the crippling disease.

The wild poliovirus still circulates in OIC member countries Afghanistan, Egypt, Niger, Nigeria, and Pakistan. Polio-endemic India isn't a member but boasts a Muslim population of more than 100 million, many of whom live in states where the virus still circulates.

Saudi Arabia's donation marks a trend of increased support for anti-polio efforts among OIC member states. In November, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative partners announced the first-ever contribution from Turkey, another OIC member, of \$500,000 to the worldwide war against polio.

The partners explained in a press release that Turkey's leadership role within the OIC was critical in securing strong political support for polio eradication at previous meetings of the pan-Islamic organization. 🌟

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**OUR WELCOME SONG**

We welcome you to Morristown  
Where freedom's wars were fought.  
We welcome you to Morristown  
Where liberty was wrought.  
Come join our age old comradeship,  
Break bread with us today.  
In real Rotarian fellowship  
Our greetings we convey.

**THE 4-WAY TEST**

Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

## Happening In Morristown!

### *The Christmas Drawings of Thomas Nast on Display*

Macculloch Hall Historical Museum will exhibit more than twenty holiday images in *Nast's Christmas Drawings* from November 20, through January 16, 2006. Thomas Nast was America's most important illustrator during the nineteenth century. Beginning with the Civil War Nast created America's icon of Santa Claus. Santa Claus in Camp appeared on the Harper's Weekly front page on January 3, 1863. This elfish figure of Santa Claus was the first of its kind in the United States. By the 1880s Nast had evolved his image of Santa Claus to the present American icon with Merry Old Santa Claus. The earliest Nast images of Santa Claus are political rather than Victorian sentimentality. Defense of the Union soldiers and Congressional political posturing during this tumultuous period made Santa Claus a key public image in addition to his Republican Elephant, Democratic Donkey, and Uncle Sam. From the influential pen of Nast, Santa Claus evolved from a political figure to an image of Victorian America.

For more information, please call (973) 538-2404. ☺

Send Make-Ups to:

John Kuschke  
26 Lynnfield Dr.  
Morristown, NJ  
07960

## A History of New Year's Day

The celebration of the new year on January 1st is a relatively new phenomenon. The earliest recording of a new year celebration is believed to have been in Mesopotamia, c. 2000 B.C. and was celebrated around the time of the vernal equinox, in mid-March. A variety of other dates tied to the seasons were also used by various ancient cultures. The Egyptians, Phoenicians, and Persians began their new year with the fall equinox, and the Greeks celebrated it on the winter solstice.

The early Roman calendar designated March 1 as the new year. The calendar had just ten months, beginning with March. That the new year once began with the month of March is still reflected in some of the names of the months. September through December, our ninth through twelfth months, were originally positioned as the seventh through tenth months (septem is Latin for "seven," octo is "eight," novem is "nine," and decem is "ten").

The first time the new year was celebrated on January 1st was in Rome in 153 B.C. (In fact, the month of January did not even exist until around 700 B.C., when the second king of Rome, Numa Pontilius, added the months of January and February.) The new year was moved from March to January because that was the beginning of the civil year, the month that the two newly elected Roman consuls - the highest officials in the Roman republic - began

their one-year tenure. But this new year date was not always strictly and widely observed, and the new year was still sometimes celebrated on March 1.

In 46 B.C. Julius Caesar introduced a new, solar-based calendar that was a vast improvement on the ancient Roman calendar, which was a lunar system that had become wildly inaccurate over the years. The Julian calendar decreed that the new year would occur with January 1, and within the Roman world, January 1 became the consistently observed start of the new year.

In medieval Europe, however, the celebrations accompanying the new year were considered pagan and unchristian like, and in 567 the Council of Tours abolished January 1 as the beginning of the year. At various times and in various places throughout medieval Christian Europe, the new year was celebrated on Dec. 25, the birth of Jesus; March 1; March 25, the Feast of the Annunciation; and Easter.

In 1582, the Gregorian calendar reform restored January 1 as new year's day. Although most Catholic countries adopted the Gregorian calendar almost immediately, it was only gradually adopted among Protestant countries. The British, for example, did not adopt the reformed calendar until 1752. Until then, the British Empire - and their American colonies - still celebrated the new year in March. ☺

## Want to Add a Great Start to Your Day?

The Breakfast Meeting is up and running, and would love your support! Meetings are every Wednesday morning, 7:30 a.m. sharp, at The Hyatt at Headquarters Plaza. This meeting is a great way to makeup for those times you just can't make the Luncheon Meeting; and an opportunity to invite prospective Rotarians who might not be able to make the Luncheon Meeting. Enjoy breakfast with us and help us build the Club! ☺

Quote of the Week:

**"You cannot do a kindness too soon because you never know how soon it will be too late."**

**Ralph Waldo Emerson**  
*American Poet*

## From The STAR Committee:

Submitted by Esli Badenhorst

For those that marked their calendars for the next up coming STAR Program, please grab your pencil and eraser. The date was mistakenly reported as Saturday, January 21st; however the actual date for the Program is Tuesday, January 17th at 5:30pm. The location is still to be announced.

Also, additional dates for 2/21, 3/21 and 4/25 have been scheduled. All will be evening STAR Program events (5:30pm - 7:00pm) and the locations will be announced prior to each event. 🌀



**SERVICE Above Self**

## Morristown Rotary Bowling Tournament

Sunday, January 29, 2006 - 2pm to 4pm

The Rotary Club of Morristown will sponsor a Bowling Tournament for all ages at Hanover Lanes (East Hanover) to benefit the Jersey Battered Women's Services organization.

- ❖ Unlimited Bowling
- ❖ Prizes for top scores in each division
- ❖ Lunch Included
- ❖ Cash bar

Tickets \$45 per adult (\$25 per child)

Please come for an afternoon of bowling and fun to benefit this important organization!

Please see Walt Taylor, Chris Flanagan or Gary Reppen for Tickets. 🌀

## Calendar of Events

January 13 Presidents/Foundation Ball, Hanover Marriott

January 17 STAR Program Presentation - Evening Program 5:30 - 7:00pm - Location TBA

January 29 Rotary Bowling Event at Havover Lanes, East Hanover

March 7 Intercity Meeting w/ Rotary International President Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar. Details to follow.

## Help Fill These Pages!!

Please send stories, news, jokes, photographs, and gossip for *The Rambler* to:

P.J. Thurkauf at turk11042@hotmail.com or 973.538.2040 (fax)

## Are You Resolving to Lose Weight this New Year?

Lose 10 pounds in 12 weeks! Join Gary Reppen for a Morristown Rotary Club New Year's Weight Loss Challenge!

The proposition is this; a Rotarian states their intent to lose 10 pounds in 12 weeks. The Rotarian then gathers sponsors who pledge an amount of money of their choice for each pound the Rotarian intends to lose. At the end of the Challenge, for each pound lost, the sponsor donates their pledge per pound to the club. For each pound **NOT** lost, the Rotarian must pay \$10 per pound to the club.

So everyone is comfortable, instead of a "weigh in," each participating Rotarian will be responsible on their honor to track results. Start date will be January 11th, contact Gary Reppen for details or join him at this Wednesday's Breakfast Meeting! 🌀

## January Birthdays!



David Walker	1	Carl Badenhausen	24
Paul Bangiola	9	Wm. Bruen Jr.	26
Dennis Morrison	9	Tom Harrigan	29
Wm. Cunningham	16	George Stern	29
Glenn Garth	17		
Jon Notestein	19		

## UPCOMING LUNCH PROGRAMS

**This Week:**  
Chris Flanagan,  
on the Morristown  
Rotary Website

**Next Week:**  
Allan Feehan,  
on the Gift of Life  
Program

## UPCOMING BREAKFAST PROGRAMS

**This Week:**  
Dave Lashel on  
ESRI Satellite  
Technology

**Next Week:**  
Allan Feehan,  
on the Gift of Life  
Program

## UPCOMING STAR PROGRAMS

**January 17:**  
Evening Program  
5:30pm - 7:00pm  
Location TBA



Contributions to the Endowment Fund should be addressed to:

Morristown Rotary  
Endowment Fund  
c/o Jonathan Taylor  
2 Tulip Lane  
Randolph, NJ 07869

Thanks to the club officers for their continued management of this fund. Balance as of 6/30/05 is \$86,631