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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?

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

<http://www.morristownrotary.com>

THE RAMBLER

August 8, 2007

Do You Have to Be Human to Be A Humanitarian? We Don't Think So...

A Commentary By Frank Alai

My best friend, Leo, the Goodwill Ambassador, and I journeyed on August 1 to Camp Merry Heart, the camp for disabled children out in Warren County, NJ, funded and supported, in large part, by Rotary District 7470.

When I say disabled children, I refer to children with severe handicaps. Some are able to move about independently; many are wheelchair bound. The highest functioning campers can speak. Many cannot. The camp counselors that I met were from all over the world: Wales, Australia, some Americans from Texas, etc. One counselor, the one I met from Wales, was at Camp Merry Heart for her third tour.

This is a sleepaway camp. The importance of this fact is that the parents of the campers devote their lives to their children 50 out of 52 weeks per year. It is a demanding job. Some cannot feed themselves. Even the highest functioning campers could not get along in the world without constant intervention. Communication is a problem. They are among the invisible in our society. It is so much easier not to see them. In not seeing them, we also tend not to see their parents and families whom fate has charged with loving some of the least perfect members of our society.

In talking to the counselors, I learned that the most that any counselor is assigned is five campers. However, there are many counselors who are assigned to a single camper because of the demands that these special campers make. When I say "demands" it is in a sense that is rarely

used. The campers are away from home and away from their comfort zones. Some are frightened. All are used to being ignored. I saw several counselors who were in constant physical contact with their charges and the counselors paid absolute attention to the campers' every movement or sound. It's a tough job. They do this for ten weeks a year, each camper entrusted to their care for a mere two weeks.

A mere two weeks? That could be an eternity.

That ain't nothin', my friend.

Without Camp Merry Heart the parents of these young people, and they ARE people, would devote all 52 weeks a year to their care. The campers need a break from the daily routine. The parents need a break from the constant demands of these special children.

So, we raise money. Once a year, we get several members or our club together to go to the camp before it opens and we clear the grounds, rake leaves, trim hedges. I am privileged to be the Co-Chair of this committee in our club with Terry Gallagher.

Certain clubs have assumed responsibility for a particular bunk house. They keep it in good repair, painted and well stocked.

Also, once a year all of the clubs in the district are invited to the camp for an "In Service" day. Some clubs bring simple activities such as ring toss games. Some bring a popcorn machine and dispense it in paper cones. There are snow cones. There are funny painted sheets of plywood with holes for faces that the campers stand behind and peek through for photographs.

My job was to bring a green salad for 150

See Leo, Page 2

Governor's Visit Aug. 15

Submitted by Dolores Bagish

Our Distract Governor, George Mitola will be visiting us in two weeks, on August 15th, at both the Breakfast and Luncheon Meetings. In honor of his attendance we will be having a little contest! It's the "Ugly Tie, Shirt and/or Scarf Day. Please wear the ugliest your wardrobe has to offer!

For those fashion plates who really have a hard time finding an ugly shirt, tie, blouse or scarf in their collection, we will let you off only if you wear white sneakers. (One can always change in the bathroom coming in and going out!)

If you *CAN'T* make the Rotary meeting at either Breakfast or Lunch that day, please submit your entry to Dolores with your name and she will submit it to the judges.



Send Meeting Make-Ups to:
John Kuschke
26 Lynnfield Dr.
Morristown, NJ 07960

Leo, Continued from Page 1

people. Hell, that was an easy job. Jimmy Mongey's pub supplied the stuff. All I had to do was pick it up and deliver it, mix it up in giant vessels and pour on the dressing from a gallon jug. Initially, I had decided to not bring Leo, the Goodwill Ambassador. Leo is, after all, a dog. While Leo is GREAT with children, whenever there is food around he can be a handful.

Riding with me up to the camp was



Joan Berkeley who has a chocolate lab, Simba. Joan knows Leo as she and Simba have come with us on hikes. On our way out we passed very close by my home and she asked why I was not bringing Leo. I responded that he would require constant attention and that I could not be sure to give him the attention that he needed. She volunteered to "tag team" with me--she would handle Leo when I was busy doing other things. I made a quick U-turn and stopped home to pick up Leo. Upon arrival, Joan created a name tag: "Leo - Morristown Rotary" which stayed glued to his back for most of an hour.

Leo and a ball is a force of nature. We had Leo on a 20 foot Flex lead. I had a ball and I gave it to the kids. The kids threw the ball, Leo ran and jumped and twisted and turned and snatched the ball. Then, magically, Leo brought the ball back to whomever threw it and dropped the ball at his or her feet. The result was miles of smiles.

It was hot and humid and a few times I had to retire Leo from the fun to allow

him to cool off in the shade. Then we would rejoin the fray. A few of the campers started to follow us whenever we were around. Most said nothing, but some knew how to position themselves so that they would be in close proximity to the ball when Leo brought it back and would pick it up and throw it again. And Leo would, again, run, jump, twist, turn, snatch and return the ball.

The field had a slowly sloping grade. Leo had 20 feet of lead. I'd ask the kids not to throw the ball downhill as the ball would travel far more than the 20 foot lead would allow. No way, baby. When Leo was around the kids were in control and I would run in the sweltering humidity so that Leo would not go "SPROING!!!" as he ran out of lead like in a cartoon. What's that I saw on the face of that kid? Happiness! Hey, let's do it again! And again. And again.

I'd love to report that Leo was the Pied Piper Doggie and that all the kids swarmed after him to follow wherever he went. Well, that did not and could not happen due to the severity of the challenges that some--no, most--of the campers live with every day. However, for about twenty five or so special kids, they got to have fun with a special dog.

A big "thanks for coming" to President Dolores as well as Dave Bagish, Denny Morrison, Jimmy Mongey and Paul & Elsie Bangiola. Also, PDG Dick Druker volunteered to pitch in to tend to Leo when both Joan and I were otherwise engaged.



Rotary Golf Outing

The Morristown Rotary Golf Outing will be Monday, September 17th this year. This is truly a fun event (even if you don't play golf!) that helps support the many programs the Club sponsors. If you have a four-some together for the event, or are planning to put one together, please contact Liz Colquhoun with the names of your group. Also, if you would like brochures to hand out to prospective golfers please see Liz or P.J.

If you can volunteer for all or part of the day at the event please contact P.J. Thurkauf. Keep in mind we welcome spouses, friends, and associates to help out as volunteers!

Liz: Elizabeth-Colquhoun@burgdorff.com

P.J.: turk11042@hotmail.com

Baseball Night

Submitted by Michael Elms, Sports Chair

The new date for the Rotary Baseball Outing is this Tuesday, August 7th. Game time is 7:05 pm. It is my hope that we will have additional Rotarians that will attend who could not make the original date of July 18th. We have a total of 46 tickets, and more can be made available to us if necessary.

Please take a quick moment to email Mike (me@michaielelms.com) with your response as to whether you plan to attend. If you plan on attending please include the number of tickets you will need.

Directions from Morristown:

Take Rt. 287 South to exit 13. Go straight thru the 1st traffic light (past Applebee's and Home Depot). At end of road Baseball Park is straight ahead of you. Distance is approx. 19 miles (for Mike Franchino).

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)

Calendar of Events

Aug 15 District Governor's Visit - Both Meetings

Aug 16 Japanese Exch. Students Arrive

Rotary Friends & Family Picnic

Submitted by Helen Wronski

Our annual Rotary Friends and Family Picnic will be held on Saturday, August 18th at the Jockey Hollow Girl Scout Camp in Mendham. The time will be from 10:30am to 1:30pm. The camp has facilities for swimming, hiking, horseback riding, and pavilion to protect us from the weather (the picnic is rain or shine). This has always been a fun event for all Rotarians, and their friends and families; and this year we encourage you to use this event to invite prospective members and show them the Fellowship of Rotary! The cost for the event is \$5 per person (checks should be payable to Morristown Rotary Club) and **the deadline for registration is this week!**

Directions to the camp will be emailed to you once you are registered.

Direct any questions to Helen Wronski: 973-248-8200 ex: 22 or Chris Flanagan: 973-795-2287.

From The Sunshine Committee

Submitted by Dolores Bagish

Congratulations to Brian and Heather Harrigan, who got "hitched," okay, married, last week!! All the best!

Also congratulations to P.J. and Jennifer Thurkauf on the purchase of their first home! If you run into a strange bald Rotarian covered in paint and sawdust, fear not, it's just P.J.!

UPCOMING LUNCH PROGRAMS

At the Spring Brook Country Club, Morris Township.

This Week:

Circle of Life Children's Center

UPCOMING BREAKFAST PROGRAMS

At the Morris Center YMCA, Cedar Knolls

This Week:

Circle of Life Children's Center



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 12/31/2006 is \$134,600