

# ROTARY PRESS

THE ROTARY CLUB OF SYRACUSE • CLUB #42 • ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 7150 • CHARTERED 1912 • FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2017

## A Look Ahead

### NOVEMBER 17

**11:10 am**

Syracuse Rotary Foundation  
Trustee November Meeting

**12:00 pm**

RCS Club Meeting

**Program**

Ronald Bagliere  
Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation

### NOVEMBER 24

**NO CLUB MEETING**

### DECEMBER 1

**12:00 pm**

RCS Club Meeting and  
Annual Christmas Party

**COME EARLY AND STAY LATE**

### DECEMBER 8

**11:10 am**

Rotary Club of Syracuse  
Board of Directors Nov. Meeting

**12:00 pm**

RCS Club Meeting

**Program**

Van Robinson

### DECEMBER 15

**11:10 am**

Syracuse Rotary Foundation  
Trustee November Meeting

**12:00 pm**

RCS Club Meeting

**Program:**

SU Chancellor Kent Syverud

## This Week: Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation Ron Bagliere will educate Syracuse Rotary about Nepal's Sherpas



### Program Committee

Sir Edmund Percival Hillary (1919 – 2008), was a New Zealand mountaineer and explorer. On May 23, 1953 at the age of 33, he and Sherpa mountaineer Tenzing Norgay became the first climbers known to have reached the summit of Mount Everest. They were part of the ninth British expedition to Everest, led by John Hunt.

Hillary became interested in mountaineering while in high school, making his first major climb in 1939, reaching the summit of Mount Ollivier. He served in the RNZAF as a navigator during World War II. Before the successful expedition in 1953 to Everest, he had been part of a reconnaissance expedition to the mountain in 1951 and an unsuccessful attempt to climb Cho Oyu in 1952. As

see **HILLARY** page 2 >>

## Scene & Herd ~ Reboot: Recap of November 10

### Anonymous Syracuse Rotarian

**November 10, 2017** ~ What a difference a day makes. Yesterday was balmy compared to today's freezing temperatures. But it was warm inside Drumlins for yet another Friday Syracuse Rotary meeting. Prez Marilyn presided, deftly leading us through the pledge, God Bless America and a solid salute to veterans invocation given by PP Bob Sherburne.

Kiki White was enthusiastically introduced as a guest and prospective Club member, there being no other guests or visiting Rotarians except for our pro-

gram guests from the Syracuse Seeds of Peace Program.

Mary Lou Thompson was introduced for her five minute member profile and we learned a lot. Born, raised and educated through high school in Syracuse, Mary Lou left the area for a while to attend St. Joseph College in Maryland, graduating in 1954 when she went to work in Maryland as a social worker. Among her many other talents we found out that while living in Maryland, Mary Lou learned to ride a bull from one of her clients (and that's no bull...). Returning home to Syracuse, despite her

see **MARY LOU** page 2 >>



PRESIDENT  
MARYLIN GALIMI

PRESIDENT-ELECT  
KEVIN VISCONTI

SECRETARY  
MICHAEL GEORGE

TREASURER  
DAN MORROW

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS  
JAMES MORROW

## MaryLou presents her five minutes and the Seeds inspire

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SEEDS: Bhadra Mishra of ITC, Richard Spence of Corcoran, Kofi Addai of IFW, Dyna Umutoni of Henninger, and Zareyah Brown of PSLA.

initial misgivings, she succumbed to her mother's entreaty that she meet the boy next door who turned out to be none other Rotarian Extraordinaire Dr. Stew Thompson. She and Stew quickly fell in love and were married in 1972. With Stew, Mary Lou has one son, Peter, a local attorney, and several step children from Stew's prior marriage. Having been exposed to Rotary through Stew's long time membership, on his passing Dr. Al Falcone invited Mary Lou to join the Club, and the rest is history. We're grateful to Mary Lou for her extensive Rotary service including shepherding our annual Christmas Party for disadvantaged kids for so long. She in turn expressed gratitude to her fellow Club members for

making her an honorary SRC member where she continues to practice service above self.

Freshly back from Paris, Dr. Al drew a 50/50 ticket which turned out to belong to John Marsellus. Sadly John's quest for the Red Queen was defeated by a lowly club, leaving the \$5 to Kiki. Lots of happy dollars today including one from PP Volker who happily thanked P&C for its good work in recommending the grants approved today by the Rotary Board, another from PP Denny welcoming the Seeds and two more from the Seeds themselves, happy to be with us today.

PP Denny introduced Kofi Addai, Dialogue Coordinator for InterFaith Works and IFW's liaison to the Seeds of Peace Program in Syracuse. Founded in 1993, the Syracuse Seeds program cultivates and supports outstanding student leaders in each of the five Syracuse high schools who, along with their adult allies, establish and promote a climate of non violence, cross cultural understand-

ing and peace. Seeds is largely funded by Say Yes, the Syracuse School District and the County and over the years has enabled over 200 students to attend a summer camp in Maine where they live their mission.

During the year the Seeds actively engage in dialogue and other service activities to foster their objectives including peace and building bridges of understanding. Following Kofi's brief description of the Seeds program, a short video was shown and then each of the four Seeds in attendance enthusiastically stepped up to the podium to share their respective Seeds stories such as, "It helps me to be a better person", "I'm better equipped to be a change agent", "I learned to speak up for myself and be a better listener", and "Seeds is inspirational, opened my eyes and has changed my life."

Joining us today from the Seeds program were: Richard Spence, 11th grade, Corcoran High, Bhadra Mishra, 10th grade, ITC, Zareyah Brown, 12th grade, PSLA and Dyna Umutoni, 12th grade, Henninger High. If you're inspired to offer volunteer and/or financial assistance to the Syracuse Seeds of Peace program simply contact Kofi Addai at 315.449.3552 or [kaddai@interfaith-worksny.org](mailto:kaddai@interfaith-worksny.org). ☸

## Hillary's 1953 Everest Expedition

### 400 people, including 20 Sherpa guides & 10,000 lbs of baggage

[thesiredmundhillaryfoundation.ca](http://thesiredmundhillaryfoundation.ca)

The route to Everest was closed by Chinese-controlled Tibet, and Nepal only allowed one expedition per year. A Swiss expedition had attempted to reach the summit in 1952 but was turned back by bad weather 800 feet from the summit. During a 1952 trip in the Alps, Hillary discovered he and his friend George Lowe had been invited by the Joint Himalayan Committee for the approved

British 1953 attempt and immediately accepted.

Hillary initially considered pulling out, but was talked into remaining. He was intending to climb with Lowe but John Hunt, a British Army officer, named two teams for the assault: Tom Bourdillon & Charles Evans; and Hillary & Tenzing Norgay, a Nepali Sherpa mountaineer. Hillary made a concerted effort to forge a working friendship with Tenzing.

The Hunt expedition totaled over 400 people, including 362 porters, twenty Sherpa guides and 10,000 lbs. of baggage, and like many such expeditions, was a team effort. Lowe supervised the preparation of the Lhotse Face, a huge and steep ice face, for climbing. Hillary forged a route through the treacherous Khumbu Icefall.

The expedition set up base camp in March 1953. Working slowly it set up its final camp at the South Col at 25,900 feet. On May 26, Bourdillon and Evans attempted the climb but turned

see 15 MINUTES page 3 >>

**49**

The number of cards left in the **Queen of Hearts** drawing for Nov. 17



**ROTARIAN BIRTHDAY**



**DR. ALFRED "AL" FALCONE**

Birthday: November 17  
 Joined: April 1962

**THE ROTARY CLUB OF SYRACUSE HAS COUNTED DR. AL AS A MEMBER FOR OVER 55 YEARS.**

**15 minutes at Everest summit**

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Photo of Tenzing on the summit of Mt. Everest taken by Hillary, May 29, 1953.

back when Evans' oxygen system failed. The pair had reached the South Summit, coming within 300 vertical feet of the summit. Hunt then directed Hillary and Tenzing to go for the summit.

Snow and wind held the pair up at the South Col for two days. They set out on May 28 with a support trio of Lowe, Alfred Gregory and Ang Nyima. The two pitched a tent at 27,900 feet on May 28 while their support group returned down the mountain. On the following morning

Hillary discovered that his boots had frozen solid outside the tent. He spent two hours warming them before he and Tenzing attempted the final ascent wearing 30-pound packs. The crucial move of the last part of the ascent was the 40-foot rock face later named the "Hillary Step". Hillary saw a means to wedge his way up a crack in the face between the rock wall and the ice and Tenzing followed. From there the following effort was relatively simple. They reached Everest's 29,028 ft. summit, the highest point on earth, at 11:30 am. As Hillary put it, "A few more whacks of the ice axe in the firm snow, and we stood on top."

They spent only about 15 minutes at the summit. Hillary took Tenzing's photo, Tenzing left chocolates in the snow as an offering, and Hillary left a cross that he had been given. Because Tenzing did not know how to use a camera, there are no pictures of Hillary there. ☘

**Hillary Foundation benefits Sherpas** << from pg. 1

part of the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition he reached the South Pole overland in 1958. He would later also travel to the North Pole.

Following his ascent of Everest he devoted much of his life to helping the Sherpa people of Nepal through the Himalayan Trust, which he founded. Through his efforts many schools and hospitals were built in this remote region of the Himalayas.

The mission of the Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation is simple: To receive and maintain a fund or funds and apply from time to time all or part thereof and/or the income therefrom for the purpose of helping to preserve the heritage and to improve the quality of life of the people of the Solu Khumbu region of Nepal.



Ron Bagliere, speaking Friday at Syracuse Rotary

Ronald Bagliere traveled to Nepal in 2013 and trekked to Everest base camp. Over the course of three weeks and 90 miles of hiking, he had a chance to meet and get involved with Sherpa people of the Solukhumbu region of the Himalayas. It was from

this journey that he saw the educational needs of the bright and gregarious children who make their lives on the rugged foothills of the mountains.

When he came back, he made it a mission to do something about it, so he got involved with the Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation in Canada in their efforts to help the Sherpa people help themselves. Next year Ron will be returning to Nepal to see the people he befriended in 2013, and he'll be bringing with him a financial scholarship fund from the Foundation enabling students of the region to further their education.

A lifelong resident of Syracuse, Ron retired as an Architect in 2015. In his professional career, Ron was involved with many prominent buildings here in the city – The Golisano Children's Hospital being one of many. His focus however through most of his career was predominately in the K-12 market, working with school districts throughout the State to improve the educational experience of students. That focus still remains with him after retirement.

In his private life, Ron is a writer. A published author and photographer, Ron has written extensively on the Himalayan experience. His fictional account of an Everest Summit named, "The Lion of Khumjung" shines a light on the hidden world surrounding an expedition to the top of the world. It has received critical acclaim and was runner up for book of the year here in Syracuse in 2014. When he's not writing and advocating for children, Ron teaches writing here at the Downtown Writers Center and local libraries. ☘



**FRIDAY | NOV 17**  
THE ROTARY CLUB OF SYRACUSE  
**FOUNDATION TRUSTEE**  
NOVEMBER MEETING | 11AM | DRUMLINS

**SYRACUSE ROTARY PRESS**

[www.syracuserotary.org](http://www.syracuserotary.org) | James Morrow, editor

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