

# Middle Village Club Chartered

The Middle Village Kiwanis Club received its charter in a ceremony on Dec. 7, 2011.

Tina Di Troia was installed as president, Al Gentile as treasurer and Blanca Ilanos as secretary.

Joining the 30 Charter Members were members of other area Kiwanis Clubs, Queens West Lt. Gov. Mike Terry, Queens East Lt. Gov. Carson Johnson and distinguished Immediate Past Lt. Gov. Joe Aiello, who played a major role in the club's formation.

The club, which was organized Sept. 22, 2011, didn't wait for its charter to

begin its work. The club gave out more than 30 turkey dinners to the needy, had a tree lighting in town with more than 100 children participating in the event, and its members were instrumental in working with the Middle Village Chamber of Commerce in getting holiday lights up on Metropolitan Avenue.

The new Kiwanians also have raised money for Kiwanis International's Eliminate Project.

At right, Queens West Lt. Gov. Mike Terry pinning President Tina Di Troia at the charter event.



**Pediatric Lyme Disease**  
**DPG John Gridley**



A new Lyme related infection has been discovered by Yale University scientists who have found the disease causing microbe in ticks on Long Island.

Yale epidemiologist Durland Fish said the corkscrew shaped bacterium, *Borrelia miyamotoi*, is a distant cousin of Lyme causing *Borrelia burgdorferi*.

Compared with Lyme, *Borrelia miyamotoi* causes higher fevers, he said, and has a tendency to cause so-called relapsing fevers. For instance, in about 10 percent of cases. Fish said, fevers disappear, but return about a week later. "We have a lot of patients who are complaining of a lot of Lyme like disease and post Lyme diseases"

said Dr. Ben Luft, an expert in Lyme disease at Stony Brook University Medical Center. "And the question is, which of these organisms play a role in this?"

The newly identified agent may help explain the complexity of tick-borne illnesses while offering more evidence that ticks, though tiny, can carry a multitude of infectious bacteria. Luft said his team has also identified a Lyme related bacterium, but he is uncertain if it differs from the one isolated by Fish. "We need testing that is specific to this organism itself so we can say how clinically important it is", Luft said.

Fish, who analyzed ticks from Long Island, Westchester, New Jersey, and Connecticut, received a grant from the National Institutes of Health to develop a diagnostic test for the microbe. "If you get infected with this organism, the Lyme disease (diagnostic) tests will all be negative," he said. "You won't have a diagnosis, and you can't get treated."

Dr. David Hirschwerk, an infectious disease specialist at North Shore Uni-

versity Hospital in Manhasset, said Fish's discovery requires more research. "It is interesting, but not surprising," he said. The discovery of a new tick-borne infectious agent was announced in the current edition of the journal *Emerging Infectious Diseases*. The report was written in collaboration with a Russian team. Fish said he actually discovered the infectious agent a decade ago, but was denied a research grant until the Russians proved it does cause human infections.

Lyme Disease sufferer Eva Haughie, who heads the Empire State Lyme Disease Association, said she would like to see all controversy surrounding Lyme and related diseases end. "This has consumed 20 years of my life," added Haughie, who said she has been bitten by ticks on 54 different occasions. "The suffering is unbelievable."

As always, if you or someone you know suffers from Lyme Disease and needs financial assistance please contact me or any member of the Lyme Foundation board, and we will help.

**KPTC Albany**  
**Rick Sturm**



It's a wonderful life!

Little did we realize just how successful the Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Program would be at the Albany Medical Center Children's Hospital! K family members have gone from the ill fated duck race in the Hudson River to providing actual cash payments to the hospital totaling more than \$480,000. Kiwanis, Circle K, Key and Builders Clubs in the Capital and Van Rensselaer Divisions continue to

support this worthwhile project.

Genesis - NE Children's Hospital In Boston - Past International President Anton Kaiser. One cold and snowy Sunday, Tony approached capital district Kiwanians in the hopes of realizing a dream of creating trauma coverage for all of New York State's children.

Founding Chairman KTPC Campaign, E. Kenneth James, a past Lt. Governor from the Van Rensselaer Division, and many other Kiwanians from the Van Rensselaer, Mohawk and Capital Divisions adopted Tony's goal and planned the OVIDE Fund raising Duck Race in Hudson River. On September 11, 1993, more than 15,000 plastic ducks raced down the Hudson River to raise funds for KTPC.

The race spawned many other fund raising efforts for the benefit of KTPC. These included three Black and White Balls, a children's day at the Great Escape Amusement Park in Lake George

and many individual club projects. The program has also benefitted from donations arising from Convention basket sales and from the receipt of contributions by our District Governors.

These efforts morphed into the Bells of Life Program. The Bell originator, Dominick DeCecco, Past president of the Delmar Kiwanis Club and past Lt. Governor, approached me with the idea that people would donate \$1 to see their name on one of the Bells. What a successful program! In addition, this program has been run for all these years with little or no administrative costs.

Since 1994, It has been an honor and a pleasure for me to have teamed with so many New York District Governors and K Family heroes who have worked so hard to see this program through!

Let's keep the program moving at all locations and associate Pediatric Trauma Coverage with the Kiwanis organization!