



First Lady

Debra Fuchs

I want to thank everyone who made it a point during the 2005-2006 year to change their attitudes to those less fortunate than themselves. From those affected in the Gulf Area by Hurricane Katrina, to those in the Binghamton region affected by the heavy rains, and especially close to my heart, those individuals afflicted with physical disabilities. My heartfelt thanks goes out to those of you who participated in this year's Partner's Project. Additionally, I want to offer a grateful thank you to the many who assisted in forming new Aktion Clubs. My ultimate goal this year was to make the NY District more aware of disabled individuals and to establish more Aktion clubs. I hope I have succeeded.

The convention was extremely emotional for me. Honoring Emily Canales of the Wells-Washington Aktion Club for winning the Kiwanis International Aktion Club Speech Contest was amazing. This year's contest theme was "How You Can Give Back To Your Community." Her decision not to read her acceptance speech while she was at the podium brought tears to my eyes. There was really nothing for her to say, the award and her smile said it all.

The musical group, "The Flame" brought to us Friday night by Lt. Gov George Wells was a chance for all of us to see how talented those individuals living with disabilities can be. There was no disability for them that night. Their wonderful performance showed us that nothing can stop anyone from succeeding if they try hard enough. I think we all enjoyed their musical presentation immensely. In fact, I have since gotten several emails requesting information on the group. On Saturday night, I was told that 2 more Aktion clubs were in the works, one being the residence that my brother Richard resides on. I was on cloud nine.

I know that Governor Joe believes in this commitment as strongly as I do, since he has appointed me as Aktion Club Administrator for his year. My upstate counterpart will be Denise Dejaiffe from the Southwestern Division. I hope all of you have had the opportunity to read her "eye opening" article on the Derogatory R Word in the August issue of the ESK. For those of you who attended the convention, Denise is that pretty lady in red, whose winning ticket I picked Saturday night for the NY District Foundation raffle for Kamp Kiwanis. She donated the money back to the camp in memory of her son David.

I hope that during the upcoming 2006-2007 Kiwanis year, we will be able to fill future pages of the ESK with pictures of our Aktion clubs in "action." Please help me fulfill this dream. I have had a wonderful year as your First Lady. Meeting Kiwanians in the best district of the world and sharing so many unforgettable stories of service was very special to me. I will continue to serve you to the best of my ability. I have made so many wonderful friends and I thank you for allowing me to serve as your First Lady.

Young Professional 'Lights The Night' and Creates Blood Cancer Awareness

Kiwanis Club of NYC YOUNG PROFESSIONALS Metropolitan Division – member Jason Steiner, along with his sister Julie, walked in the October Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's "Light The Night" walk over the Brooklyn Bridge. They walked to honor Jason's brother-in-law and Julie's husband, David Korn, who has been diagnosed with and is currently battling non-Hodgkin's lymphoma.

David was diagnosed in January 2005 at the age of 42. After three months of chemotherapy, he went into remission, but a more aggressive form of the cancer returned in October. David underwent another round of intensive chemotherapy from November 2005 through February 2006 to prep his body for a bone marrow transplant. Unfortunately because David possesses a rare haplotype, the National Bone Marrow Registry was unable to find a match for him. As a result, David underwent a stem-cell transplant using his own stem cells on April 19, 2006. After a little over a month in the hospital, David was able to return home on May 12, in time to celebrate his 44th birthday. It has been about five months since his stem-cell transplant and David is still recovering from the procedure. He is currently battling a lung infection which is a side effect of some of the intense chemo drugs used against the cancer. In September 2006, David and my sister will celebrate their 9th wedding anniversary. Hopefully, they will be able to celebrate another 50 anniversaries together!

"Light the Night" is the Leukemia &



David Korn, five months following his stem-cell transplant, and his wife, Julie

Lymphoma Society's nationwide evening Walk to build awareness of blood cancers and raise funds for cures. Walkers carried illuminated balloons - white for survivors and red for supporters - to celebrate and commemorate lives touched by cancer.

Every five minutes, someone is diagnosed with blood cancer and every ten minutes someone dies from these diseases. Please join the effort to cure blood cancers. If you would like to support Jason and his sister with this cause, to help David and thousands of others with blood cancers, please consider making a tax-deductible donation. You may make a secure donation go to <www.active.com/donate/ltnNewYo/1833_jsteinerLTN> or, if you prefer, you may make a check payable to: The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and mail it to Jason Steiner at 68-36 108th Street, Forest Hills, NY 11375.



Hugs Project

RoseMarie Gridley

This year Governor Joe and First Lady Nydia honored me by asking me to serve the New York District and to come up with a "Hand's On Project" for the Midwinter Conference. The project will be called "Pillow Hug's." We will be decorating pillowcases and they will become "Pillow Hug's."

Now you are saying, Okay, what are you talking about? I can't draw, and where does the hug come in? I will explain – you don't have to be an artist all you need is a "big heart," a little imagination, and want to let a child know that you care about them. Joe's Heroes want to send them a hug and that's where the decorated pillowcase become a "Pillow Hug."

So please join me, Gov. Joe and First Lady Nydia and show a child that we care and want to give them a "Pillow Hug." For more information contact me at (516) 352-6105 or email me a Pebble3382@aol.com

Governor David Rothman Given NYS Liberty Award

LEVITTOWN, NY – Senator Kemp Hannon recently awarded David Rothman, Governor of the New York District of Kiwanis International and a member of the East Meadow and Island Park Kiwanis clubs, the New York State Liberty Award. N. Y. State Assemblyman David McDonough made the presentation as the Senator was delayed in travel.

Within 24 hours after Hurricane Katrina hit, Gov. Rothman organized relief efforts in Nassau County and across the state. Using his place of business in Farmingdale as a staging area. David organized the donation and distribution of four tractor trailers filled with food, clothing, sanitary goods and school supplies. Upon arriving in the gulf area, the trailers were unloaded by fellow Kiwanians in the region, who helped distribute the goods. David is proud that the Kiwanis network enabled him to help so many people in such a short time.



New York State Assemblyman David McDonough (Merrick Kiwanian) presents NYS Liberty award to New York District Governor David Rothman. Photo by Janice Seyfried.

Unplanned East Meadow Service Project Earns Parents' Gratitude

The Kiwanis Club of EAST MEADOW, Long Island South Central Division – DIPP Jay Steinmetz met with fellow Kiwanians Norma Gonsalves, President Dr. Alan Alterman and Gary Hudes at the home of a severely handicapped 16-year-old local boy.

They were joined by representatives from Alure Home Improvements of East Meadow and the Town of Hempstead Building Department. The purpose of their meeting was to develop a plan to finish the basement in a manner that would accommodate the necessary therapies this young-



East Meadow President Dr. Alan Alterman (l) and IPP Jay Steinmetz (r) stand on nearly completed ramp during a pause in construction.

ster needs on a daily basis. He is wheelchair-bound, and, understandably, does not want not to be. So, he chooses to crawl on his hands and knees whenever he's not in the wheelchair.

Rothman

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love you! To all our new and old friends, I tried my best and want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent this great District. New York is truly a "Diamond" that sparkles for all of Kiwanis International to see.