New Scotland Kiwanians Improve Historic Cemetery

The Kiwanis Club of NEW SCOTLAND, Capital Division – members have engaged in a unique community service project- repairing and up-righting damaged or toppled headstones at the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery in the hamlet of New Salem.

Participants Bob Stapf, Herb and Rich Reilly, Jim Hadun, John Zongrone, John Folios, Bill Childs, Dave Hopper and Dave Moreau, periodically gather early on a Thursday evening and determine headstones needing attention. Using crowbars, spades, gravel, lumber, caulkings and sheer strength, they perform their labors until just before darkness sets in.

Pausing after a period of hard work, the Kiwanians sate their appetites by picnicking amid the gravestones. Utilizing a member-provided grill, they feasted on hot dogs, potato salad and cookies, plus all the trimmings, before resuming.

The Mt. Pleasant Cemetery was established in 1864 under the auspices of the Dutch Reformed church in New Salem for several years and afterwards by boards of directors. The current board members are Bill Childs, Sandy Carl, Ron Pearce, and Don Meacham, with Herb Reilly as president.

Several Kiwanians remarked on the longevity of many of those buried at Mt. Pleasant. One said “They probably worked so hard on their farms and on other laborious trades they didn’t have time to worry about cholesterol levels, obesity and other modern ailments”.

By DFLS Sal Anelli
Victor Allegretti Joined the Bensonhurst & Bay Ridge Kiwanis Club in 1971 and was a Distinguished President 1977-1978. For the past 25 years Victor has been fundraising chairman. He was very instrumental in raising hundreds of thousands of dollars in the name of Kiwanis. Victor’s efforts raised over $100,000 for earthquake victims in Japan. The money eventually built homes for 4 displaced families in the area of the earthquake. He was very instrumental in raising funds to purchase 5 new ambulances for Bensonhurst Volunteer Ambulance. In 1991, the BVA’s headquarters roof caved in. Within 3 weeks, Victor helped to raise $25,000 to help rebuild the headquarters. Victor was a man of action.

Victor was the chairman of the board of the American Legion Youth Recreational Facility which turned a tract of land cluttered with junked cars and garbage, into four baseball fields for kids of all ages to enjoy. Needless to say he raised a tremendous amount of money for that to come true.

Victor started a long term fundraiser called “Project Dawn” when approximately 30 years ago one of his employees gave birth to a little girl with a heart defect, he raised money to help the mother offset costs that the insurance would not cover. Today Dawn is married with her own child thanks to Victor’s fundraising.

Countless of Kiwanis fundraisers would never have materialized without Victor’s leadership. Most of all, his leadership and unpretentiousness made him respected and loved by every member of our club and anyone who knew him. He always led by example and can-do attitude at all times.

We, the members of the Kiwanis Club of Bensonhurst & Bay Ridge, know that our club will never be the same without Victor and we also recognize that we have been very lucky to have known Victor. We will go on in his memory and when a problem arises on which we would normally ask for Victor’s advice, we can possibly remember four simple letters, “W.W.V.D.” What Would Victor Do.

We love You Vic, you’ll forever stay in our hearts.

“Flags Of Onondaga” Capture Onondaga Hill Spirit & Patriotism

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Christine Paulsen, Immediate Past President of the Wynantskill Kiwanis Club, has sadly informed us that Lt. Governor Sylvia Morin has passed away. Wynantskill Kiwanians gathered at the Connolly Funeral Home to pay their respects to Sylvia. Anyone interested in sending condolences please send them in care of FF Christine Paulsen, 3 Douglas Avenue, Rensselaer NY 12144.

Seyfried
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the back identifying the photo in case it becomes separated from the release.

7. End the release with a sentence such as for further information about Kiwanis or becoming a member, please call 222-1234.

Good luck getting started. The goal is to create public awareness by getting your Kiwanis club’s name in the newspaper as much as possible (at least once a month if not more) so that the community will know that we are in sync with community service. For more information see the Kiwanis Public Relations Handbook (which can be downloaded or the Kiwanis Insider/ newsletter).

Next month we will discuss the other ways to build interest and attract attention for your Kiwanis club and discuss internal public relations. If you need help with a press release or have any questions, please contact me at JanSeyfried @prodigy.net or 516-826-6344.