

KIWANIS CLUB OF RIDGEWOOD, NY 3-2-1

Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesday @ GRYC Clubhouse, 59-03 Summerfield Street, Ridgewood, NY 11385

www.ridgewoodkiwanis321.org

718-456-5437 Ext 221

The Triple Crown Newsletter



RESULTS OF MEET FOR: *October 9, 2024*

VOLUME 8 Number 1



3 – 2 – 1... AND THEY'RE



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Race One: This was the Installation Meeting for the 2024 – 2025 Administrative Year and what a crowd packed the Clubhouse to share in the festivities. Distinguished Immediate Past President Danielle Kleiman opened the meeting by asking all present to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag. Danielle then asked DPP Bob Monahan to say a blessing. It was a heart felt reflection of thanks and service. Then DIPPY Danielle invited President Bob up to receive his gavel and he hit the gong to officially open his year. Bob mentioned that he has chosen to use his sponsor's original gavel, the one used by Mickey Ennis (1987 – 1988) during his reign over the Glendale Club. Danielle simply expressed the joy and elation of being finished with her year making her the Distinguished Immediate Past President of the Year. Congratulations on a job magnificently done.

Race Two: Then Bob began some introductions as there was a long and distinguished list of Kiwanians, Partners and Friends in attendance. DPG Joe Corace and First Lady Nydia Corace, DPG Steve Sirgiovanni, DPG Joe Ruggiero, SDPLG Carol Verdi, DPLG Janice Bar, QWLG Melissa Verdi-Montes, First Gent, Victor Montes, DPP Joan DeCamp and DPP Janet Harmeyer. Now add NYPD Partners; Chief Victoria Perry, Inspector Louron Hall, P.O. Claudio Diaz, D.I. Greg Mackie, P.O. Joseph, Captain Karam Chowdhury, Community Affairs Officers Detective Mike Berish and Detective Malik. How about Ridgewood 3-2-1's Distinguished Past Presidents; Gino Ancona, Janine Mahon, Bill Rennison and Danielle Kleiman, not to forget, Hank Kraker. Liz Fitzgerald has been hospitalized for a week and Maricelis Romero's significant other is in the Hospital recovering from a burst appendix. Let us keep them in our prayers. OK, enough for the introductions, it's time to eat our dinner.

Partnership: working together for the good of the communities that we serve. This is the CULTURE of the Ridgewood 3-2-1 Club and its members. For the CAUSE and not the APPLAUSE!!

Race Three: The menu included: Rigatoni Carbonara with Chicken, A Big Ass Tray of Penne ala Vodka, Eggplant Parmigiana, Penne/Garlic & Oil with Broccoli, Full Tray of Salad, Full Tray of Chicken with Potatoes, Full Tray of Meatballs, Full Tray of Sausage and Peppers, Full Tray of Garlic Knots, Two – Three Foot Heroes and a variety of homemade desserts and a fanny kicking cake, donated by Michael Addeo, to honor our buddy, Bernie Zablocki.



Papi Chulo leads the food line along with President Elect Diane, "get your bucket list things done NOW!!"



Race Four: As everyone was enjoying their culinary delights, Queens West Lt. Governor Melissa Verdi-Montes was called to the podium to begin the Installation of Officers for the Ridgewood 3-2-1 Board. After speaking about her fondness for the Club and most especially for her Godfather, DPP Bill Rennison, Melissa asked the One, Two, Three Year Board Members and Past Presidents Panel to rise and be installed. Present were: Tom Wilk, Joan Hoffmann, Jayne Wadhawan, Fredric "JR" Velepec, John Hennessey, DPP Janine Mahon, DPP Bill Rennison and Chief of Staff, DPP 3x's Gino Ancona. Then it was on to our Secretary DPP Hank Kraker, DIPPY Danielle Kleiman, 1st VP Paul Hoffmann, President-Elect Diane Cusimano and finally President Bob Monahan. Each of the Officers were presented with their "K" pins and Little Survival Bags and what an original and fun time everyone had. Thanks, LG Melissa for your candor and well wishes. Ridgewood 3-2-1 is ready to serve and partner with you this year. Bob then gave a short reflection and spoke about his sponsors; DPP Mickey Ennis and DPP Gene MacQueen who invited him to join the Glendale Club back in October of 1983 and how 16 years later he became the 56th President of that club for the 1999 – 2000 Administrative Year. Fast forward TWENTY-FIVE Years to 2024 and Bob will hope to follow in the footsteps of the Distinguished Presidents of the Ridgewood 3-2-1 Club. If you were one of the 70 folks in attendance, you know exactly what the following quote is about. If you couldn't make it, you will have an opportunity to learn about this saying at each meeting.

What time is it?

It's time to Serve!

Race Five: Did you know that Ridgewood 3-2-1 has already begun its SERVICE PROJECTS by partnering with IPP Ingrid Huber and DPP Richie Huber of the Glendale Club by donating items for the victims of Hurricane Helene in Asheville, NC. Yes, the tires on her vehicle were mighty, mighty low as she pulled out of our driveway. Couple that with our support of the Harvest Festival at the Onderdonk House by donating games, arts & crafts, raffle prizes and more for Ridgewood 3-2-1 members, President-Elect Diane Cusimano and Linda Monte to offer fun activities to the youth and families that attend the event. And let's not forget that, last week, we just sent 10 Large Pizzas out to Ronald McDonald House to feed the families and have been asked to support the Golf Outings for Kamp Kiwanis and for the Avenue's Marcus Kotnik Fundraiser. George Silkes paid us another visit and was given sports balls, accompanied by another 100 baseball jerseys for his event to service young people with special needs. And if that was not enough, we donated \$ 500 towards the cost of having the KPTC medals framed and gave cases of youth masks to Ronald McDonald House. Howard Beach is looking for some donations to use at their Halloween Parade on the 26th of October. That just happens to be the same date as our AKTION Club Halloween Party where we will be serving 100 Aktion Clubbers to Chinese Food, goodie bags and treats. We also have a best costume contest and medals are given to all who dress up for the event. And to think this is only MONTH # ONE.

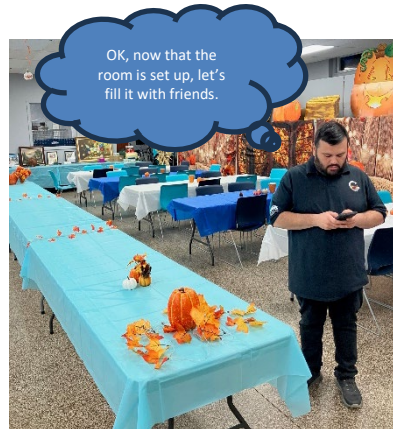


***People may doubt what you say,
but they will ALWAYS believe what you DO.***

Race Six: Enjoying this wonderful feast (ALL for only \$20) were: Carlos "Papi-Chulo" Rodriguez, Tracy Rodriguez, Joseph Alfano, Eudis Batista, George Silkes, Claire Mahon, Jed Santiago, Diane Cusimano, Michael Addeo, Tom Wilk, JR Velepec, Chris Jardin, Paul Hoffmann, Joan Hoffmann, Henrietta Maier, Linda Monte, BettyAnn Monahan, Mary Miller, Jayne Wadhawan, Karamjit Dhaliwal, Manpreet Dhaliwal, Ewelina Pukliewicz, John Hennessey, Chris McDougall, Jr., Fernando Soto, Clark McKinney, Rafal Ziolkowski, Shiv Ramsamooj, Rozario Sylvain, Nicole Papapietro, Marybeth and Mike Reynolds with 3 of my grandsons, Sean, Liam and Owen Reynolds and Sara Grote. We were joined by a delightful group of Glendale Kiwanians, IPP Ingrid Huber, DPP Steve Hansen, DPLG Debbie Kueber and DPP Teresa Donohue. Thanks, neighbors, for supporting our Installation night.

There is an incredible advantage to having a partnership with the Greater Ridgewood Youth Council, and that is the use of our Clubhouse, our HOME. This awesome space is adorned with our many, many, many District Awards, our Banners filled with patches and our special "TIES" and our very own PRIDE Club and AKTION Club banners.

We have had as many as 100 members, friends and partners using this space at one time and can keep our food costs at an incredibly low number. Stop by and join us for a TRUE taste of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and a TON OF FUN. See ya, soon!



Race Seven: Really hard to fit all the things that happened at the meeting, but I'll try to consolidate most in this race. Bob asked for Happy Dollars and everyone started pumping happy bucks into the feed bag. Most were about the great work that Ridgewood 3-2-1 is known for and some were congratulating the Officers, especially DIPPY Danielle for an outstanding year. There were some nice things said about the new President and lots of ***prayerful*** dollars that the year goes well. One of the most moving and powerful moments was when Owen Reynolds, Bob's grandson, gave happy dollars to say how he loves his Papa and how he treasures their time together. Owen is Autistic and for him to stand and deliver that emotional sharing in front of 70 Adults was over the edge incredible. I never leave my grandchildren without saying, "Papa loves you". The humor was then kicked up a notch when President Elect Diane told people to check things off their bucket list as the world might be coming to an end, especially with her position on the Board. DPG Joe Corace then mentioned that his new resolution was to spend more time with Diane and less with his original choice. Gino opened the bidding for Bob's TIE and when we got to \$440 and were about to snip it, Michael Addeo threw up \$500 **NOT TO CUT IT**. In all, \$940 was made on Bob's tie. Then DPG Joe Corace presented Danielle with a KPTC Fellow for her leadership and support of the KPTC. Awesome job. In honor of Bernie Zablocki, Gino brought out the cake and desserts for members and friends to enjoy. As if that wasn't enough, Gino then read out the door prize winners and everyone went home happy. Bob thanked everyone for coming and mentioned that his major emphasis will be the Greater Ridgewood Youth Council and hopefully buying a van for the organization. Ridgewood 3-2-1 has multiple Corporate Sponsors to help in that cause. Karamjit Dhaliwal presented his check and joined, Ridgewood Savings Bank, Maspeth Federal Savings Bank, Ridgewood Office Products, The Game Truck business of David Schwartz, Nick Melillo, Alan Bellone, H & M Brokerage and an Anonymous Sponsor as a Corporate Sponsor and Benefactor. Thanks ALL!



Race Eight: Upcoming Events include:

- **October 21st – Queens West Division Meeting at 7:00 in Villa Russo**
- **October 23rd – Oktoberfest Meeting at 12:00 PM in the Clubhouse**
- **October 26th – AKTION Club Halloween Party from 12:00 – 2:00 PM**
- **October 30th – Board Meeting in the Clubhouse at 5:30 PM – Food Served**
- **November & December are attached as a Calendar of Events.**

Race Nine: The meeting was off the charts lucrative. When all was said and done, with Corporate Sponsorship, Food Money, Tie Cutting Money, Happy Dollars and two unexpected donations, the Club raised a bit over \$5,000 for the evening. It doesn't get much better than that. **HAVING FUN AT 3-2-1 !!!!**

Passion + Respect + Inclusion + Diversity + Equity

3 – 2 – 1... AND THEY'RE OFF



John Hennessey of Ridgewood Savings Bank presents Corporate Sponsorship to DIPPY Daniel and President Bob at the Clubhouse.



Each year, NY District awards Clubs for outstanding Service. In ONLY 6 Years, the Ridgewood 3-2-1 Club has won lots of awards for their outstanding Service Projects. Kudos to 3-2-1 members.



Bob hugs his buddy, Michael Addeo, for saving his tie. This "fun"raiser made \$940.



As President of the Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Center Foundation, DPG Joe Corace awards outstanding service to the KPTC with medals and Fellowships. Joe had the opportunity to recognize Immediate Past President Danielle Kleiman and Ridgewood 3-2-1 for their exemplary contributions to the Foundation during the 2023 – 2024 Administrative Year. Congratulations Danielle.



I really love this Club and how they make things happen. And, NO, I don't have Bill's gavel.



DPP Ingrid Huber of the Glendale Club had happy dollars to thank Ridgewood 3-2-1 for supporting and partnering with the Huber's Service Project to help the victims of Hurricane Helene in North Carolina.

DPP Bill Rennison has happy dollars to LOSE the DIPPY title, now held by Danielle. Notice that gavel on the table, well somehow during the evening, that found its way in the possession of the Verdi Family. And to think, he is the "GODFATHER". OUCH!!



President, President Elect, 1st Vice President & Secretary join Queens West Lt. Governor Melissa Verdi-Montes at the podium to accept their responsibilities for the year.



President Danielle opened the meeting with the Pledge and Reflection. Then Danielle handed off the gavel to incoming President Bob. After a heart felt hug, the 3-2-1 Club had its new leader for the 2024 – 2025 Administrative Year.

Bob mentioned that the gavel that he used was from his sponsor, DPP Mickey Ennis of the Glendale Club. The jacket hanging from the podium was also Mickey's and simply said, you got this covered.

What time is it..... It's time to SERVE.





Bob had this tie custom made to wear on his talks at the RETREATS that he works. It brought \$940 to our Service Fund. Be assured that it did NOT cost as much as Michael Addeo's tie from VITO's in DA BRONX. Go Figure, lol.

Let's GO METS!!



**Club Banners and Awards
Patches and Pins. And let's not
forget our collection of Ties.**





Distinguished Immediate Past President of the Year (DIPPY) Danielle with QWLG Melissa and Incoming President Bob with his Lt. Governor Melissa.

Thank you, Owen,

Papa Loves You!!



This is 13-year-old Owen Reynolds, the grandson of President Bob and First Lady BettyAnn Monahan. O Dawg, as his shirt says, has autism but got up with Happy Dollars to speak about what his Papa means to him and share his well wishes on his becoming President of the Ridgewood 3-2-1 Club. Owey brought tears to most eyes in the room. Look at the crowd as they ALL applaud his sharing.



Here's Today's Tip... Gratitude.

“If you learn to appreciate more of what you already have, you’ll find yourself having more to appreciate.” — Michael Angier

What if there was something that was both simple AND that could radically transform you, your life, your relationships, and your health?

Would that be something you’d be interested in? We thought so.

Believe it or not, this “something” that we’re talking about is **gratitude**, and yes, it really is *that* powerful. Research has shown that practicing gratitude can:

- Elevate your mood
- Reduce feelings of depression
- Help you feel more connected
- Help you become a better, more likeable, more trustworthy person
- Lower levels of inflammation
- Reduce anxiety
- Boost energy levels
- Reduce the severity/symptoms of illness
- Improve your sleep
- Helps you develop stronger bonds and relationships

Simply put, giving thanks can make you happier, and by helping you get outside of yourself, stop being self-centered, and become other - focused, gratitude can help you get away from ruts, setbacks, and self-pity. It may also make you more successful.

According to legendary pastor and leadership and management expert John C. Maxwell, gratitude, by its very nature, automatically works to eliminate three mental characteristics that most undermine individual success in an interactive world:

- Isolation
- Egotism
- Arrogance

Maxwell also talks about how gratitude can enrich your life:

- Grateful people linger over life’s blessings
- Grateful people live in the moment
- Grateful people leave fear behind
- Grateful people live on purpose
- Grateful people love those beside them

So, how do you put gratitude into practice? Great question. In a *New York Times* article, Arthur C. Brooks, author of *Gross National Happiness*, suggests practicing three gratitude strategies to tap into its powerful benefits:

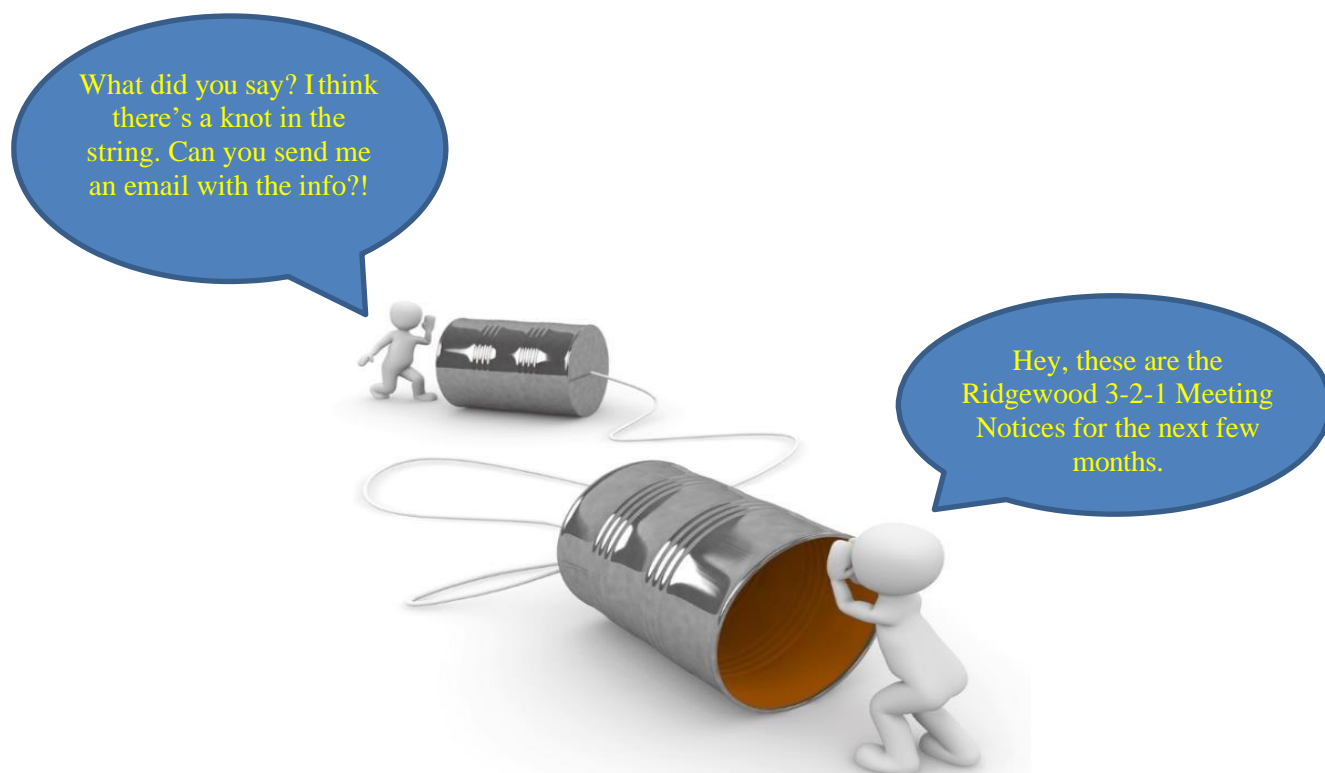
- **Interior gratitude:** Keep a daily or weekly list of the things you are grateful for. For example, each day you might write down 1 - 3 people or things you are grateful for.
- **Exterior gratitude:** Write thank-you notes and share your gratitude with others. These can be hand-written notes, phone calls, emails, or text messages.
- **“Be grateful for useless things”:** Mindfully express thanks for the everyday stuff that we too often take for granted, like running water, air conditioning, washing machines, etc.

Oprah Winfrey, a leader in the consciousness of gratitude, may have said best, *“Be thankful for what you have; you’ll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don’t have, you will never, ever have enough.”*



*If we ALL pull together in SERVICE to OTHERS...
NOTHING is impossible and miracles will happen.*

Ridgewood 3-2-1 Meetings October, November & December 2024



October 9th – Installation Day Celebration at Clubhouse – 7:00 PM

October 23rd – Oktoberfest for 3-2-1 Club @ Clubhouse – 12:00 PM

October 26th - Aktion Club Halloween Party @ Clubhouse - 12:00 - 2:00 PM

October 30th – Ridgewood 3-2-1 Board of Directors Meeting – 5:00 PM

November 6th – English Day Meeting @ the Clubhouse – 12:00 PM

November 20th – Ridgewood 3-2-1 Board of Directors Meeting – 5:00 PM

November 20th – Thanksgiving Meeting @ the Clubhouse – 6:00 PM

December 4th – Toy Drive Meeting @the Clubhouse – 12:00 PM

December 14th - Aktion Club Holiday Celebration @ Clubhouse - 12:00 - 2:00 PM

December 18th – Holiday Party @ the Clubhouse – 5:00 PM



———— Please join ————

**The Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma
Center Foundation**

———— For a night of ————



Candy Cane Bingo



5903 Summerfield Street Ridgewood, Queens

**With Kiwanians from Bronx Westchester
South, Long Island, Queens and Brooklyn.**

Ticket price includes 10 bingo games, coffee and dessert.

Table reservations per club are recommended:

Table of 8: \$250 Singles: \$35 Extra Cards: \$5/ card

Zelle Antoinette at 914-573-2536

Checks payable to Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Foundation

Mail to Antoinette Cantone 319 Cornwall Meadows Lane, Patterson NY 12563



All proceeds go to Kiwanis Pediatric Trauma Foundation

