

# KIWANIS CLUB OF RIDGEWOOD, NY 3-2-1

## THE TRIPLE CROWN NEWSLETTER

Meets 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday @ GRYC Clubhouse at NOON, 59-03 Summerfield Street, Ridgewood, NY 11385

[www.ridgewoodkiwanis321.org](http://www.ridgewoodkiwanis321.org)

718-456-5437 - Ext 221



**RESULTS OF MEET FOR: March 19, 2025**

**VOLUME 8 Number 14**



### 3 – 2 – 1 ... AND THEY'RE FF



**Race One:** Today we celebrated our St. Patrick's & St. Joseph's meeting and what a day it was with EIGHTY-FOUR (84) members and friends in attendance. It was a great lunchtime meeting as President Bob hit the gong at 12:10 PM and asked all present to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag, followed with a beautiful grace given by Father Mike Lopez, one of our Sky Pilots. Fr. Mike thanked the Club for the honor of giving a heartfelt and awesome reflection of our blessings for the service that we do as Kiwanians, remembering those who are less fortunate. Bob then welcomed everyone to the meeting and after telling everyone that our special guest would arrive in about 20 minutes, invited those present to dig in and start to eat their \$15 meal. On the menu was Corned Beef, Cabbage, Potatoes, Irish Soda Bread & a tray of Eggplant Parmigiana and a full tray of Salad. The Irish portion was prepared by our partners Hans and Werner Lehner from Zum Stammstisch and the Italian portion by our partner Richie at Grace Pizza and EVERYTHING was delicious, as always. Thanks, guys, for always being there for us. What a great community partnership!!



**Race Two:** Our Club, once again, welcomed as our guests, Super Distinguished Immediate Past Lt. Governor Janice Bar; DPG Joe Corace and DPLG Nydia Corace, DPG Joe Ruggiero, DPLG Antoinette Cantone, DPG Joe Aiello, DPLG Tom Poccio, DPP Sal Anelli, our own Past Presidents: DPP Liz Fitzgerald, DPP (3x's) Gino Ancona, DPP Janine Mahon, DIPPY Danielle Kleiman, DPP Maricelis Romero, DPP Hank Kraker and our very special guest NYC Mayor Eric Adams. Along with those members and friends, we had some of our Corporate Sponsors in attendance: Michael Addeo who donated all the St. Joseph's Pastries and gave a beautiful description of the Feast Day, Tom Rudzewick President/CEO of Maspeth Federal Savings Bank, David Schwartz of Game Truck fame, Alan Bellone and Nick Melillo of T-Shirts fame and Hans Lehner from Zum Stammstisch fame. Four of the Five candidates running to replace NYC Council Member Bob Holden were in the house: Alicia Vaichunas, Phil Wong, Fr. Mike Lopez and Paul Pogozeleski.



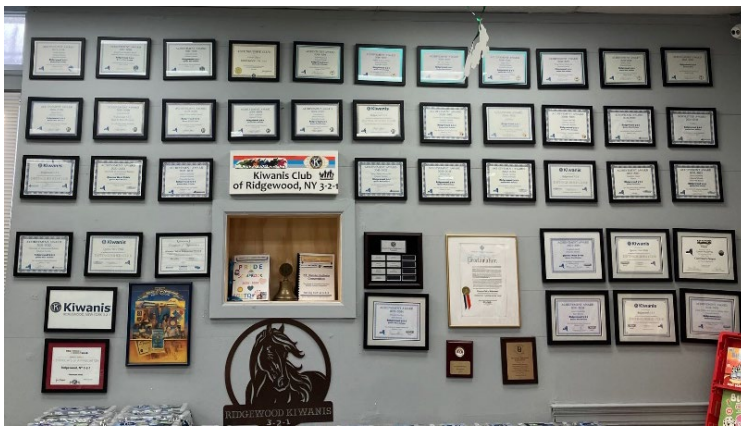
**Race Three:** St. Joseph's Day Pastries were off the charts phenomenal, thanks to Corporate Sponsor Michael Addeo and his Sicilian Godmother, President Elect Diane Cusimano. Chief of Staff, Gino Ancona went ALL OUT with the tablecloths & room décor for our St. Paddy's and St. Joseph celebration and to say that there was a festive atmosphere doesn't do justice to his House Committee's work to make this all happen. Thanks to all who worked so hard to make the Clubhouse a warm and welcoming place for our members and partners and for our huge overflow crowd. We had a wonderful presence from our Partners in Crime(fighting), the NYPD PBQN and local Precinct. Captain Karam Chowdhury was joined by several of our 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct partners; Detective Mike Berish, P.O. Dilsia Bonilla, P.O. Pat Nessler, P.O. Natiel Diaz, P.O. Stephen Schneidawin and P.O. Cesar Guardado. PBQN had P.O. Angelo Reyes, Sgt. Michael Murphy and Retired Lt. Kevin Donnelly, not to mention the Officers on the Mayors' Security Detail. To really round out this incredible day, Hans and Werner made so much food for our event that we were able to send TWO FULL TRAYS of Corned Beef, Cabbage and Potatoes over to the Precinct for the whole command to enjoy. What a blessing that was.

**(Truth be told, I borrowed this from Past International President Tom DeJulio)**

## **Kiwanis Is Wherever A Need Is Served**

**Race Four:** There were lots of stories and happy dollars flying around the room and we had Joseph Then as our Sheriff. Some of the GRYC and Business partners were at the meeting to enjoy their afternoon; Paul Hoffmann, Shiv Ramsamooj, Tracy Rodriguez, Carlos "Papi Chulo" Rodriguez, JoAnn Siegel, Jayne Wadhawan, Henrietta Maier, Joan Hoffmann, Joan Smith, Mary Benitez, Mary Miller, Xiomara Pina, Alan Bellone, Master Beekeeper Tom Wilk, President Elect Diane Cusimano, Jon Kablack, Alfred Ziegler, Rozario Sylvain, Diane Marzuillo, Michelle Butala, Linda Monte, Mirko Chandler, Dave Schwartz, Joseph Alfano, Dan Solo, JR Velepéc, Linda Manetta, Eleanor Poppe of the NY Racing Chaplaincy, Dan Endinino, Anthony Sarno, Walter Welsh, Tommy Torres, Hercules Reid, Colonel William Woods from Metropolitan HS JROTC, Connie Altamirano, Elvira Rodriguez, Denise Torres, Sabrina Sierra, Jaimyline Echevarria, Teagen Brown, Noel Cordero, Mary Benitez and DPP Bob Monahan. FUN and LAUGHTER all around and happy dollars kept rolling. All together, we had 84 folks there to enjoy the food, fun and frivolity and hear the many, many accomplishments of NYC Mayor Eric Adams. Our friend shared an impassioned history of the past few years as Mayor, post COVID and praised the NYPD Officers present for their dedication and hard work to protect and serve. He threw in some lighter moments and then went up to the ROOF to see our multiple beehives and observed them in action. The Mayor promised to come back and assist our Master Beekeeper, Tom Wilk with some harvesting of the honey. It was an incredible visit that doesn't get much better than that, and Ridgewood is one club that continues to pack the house and all for a \$15 fanny kicking meal. Bob thanked our 35 actual members (70%) of the Ridgewood 3-2-1 Club for their incredible commitment to service and highlighted their "Wall of Fame" boasting 40 NYD Achievement Awards in only 6 years. Super cool to have a clubhouse to display them.





At this meeting, everyone got to see our NEW and IMPROVED "Wall of Fame" that highlights the 3-2-1 and PRIDE Clubs NY District Achievement Awards for the last SIX Years. The saying, "Many hands, make light work", is really true for this amazing group of hard working members. Eleanor Poppe from the NY Racing Chaplaincy took nearly 50 packs/boxes of diapers, wipes and other baby essentials to the Backstretch Families at Aqueduct, Belmont and Saratoga. That was coupled with DPLG Tom Poccio bringing back a car load of games and sporting goods for Kamp Kiwanis.

**Race Five:** After everyone had enjoyed their meal and heard the Mayor's sharing, the floor was open for questions and comments. In a very candid moment, the Mayor told the crowd to ignore Bob's direct request to be polite and respectful and let it all go. Seems too much of today's politics is dressing things up and that marginalizes truth and honesty. Mayor Adams recognized the 3-2-1 Club for all or their service to the City and especially during COVID and providing 35,000 individual meals to First Responders and spoke about service organizations that were instrumental in helping HIS family when he was growing up. Bob thanked him for his kind words and showed the cases of diapers and baby products that the Club was giving to the Racing Chaplaincy for the Backstretch families. Bob introduced Eleanor Poppe and Eric told everyone that when he was a NYS Senator he was the Chair of the Racing & Gaming Committee and spent a lot of time with the Backstretch families and offering his support. What a great dialogue we had kicked off with Bob introducing Diane Cusimano who was showing off her Eric Adams campaign button (that he had signed for her) when he was running for Brooklyn Borough President many years ago. Then DPG Joe Corace spoke about Eric Adams as BP and how he had all the Brooklyn Kiwanis Clubs to Borough Hall for a dinner to thank them for all of their service, followed by Tom Rudzewick addressing banking and credit/debit card issues for college students and young people. The Mayor promised to make this an ongoing dialogue between banking and the City to address their concerns.



**Race Six:** Having finished our questions and answers, Bob presented the Mayor with some jars of Honey, one harvested by Retired P.O. Darren Mays who was the NYPD Beekeeper and one that was produced by 3-2-1 member, Master Beekeeper Tom Wilk, on the roof of the GRYC building that we were standing in. The Mayor and Tom had a short dialogue and Bob brought the Mayor up to the roof to see the hives in action. When we journeyed to the roof, DPP Gino took over the meeting and Happy Dollars were raised by a number of members and friends. DPP Hank Kraker gave dollars to say that he had a really good Irish Joke, but that he had just gotten into the elevator with the Mayor. DPG Joe Aiello gave an award to the club for their support of the Sayville Club, followed by Jayne, Fr. Mike, Tom Poccio, George Silkes, DPG Joe Corace and Sal Anello. Eleanor had some dollars, as did, Janice Bar, the Colonel and Eudis from DeliLicious. When Bob pressed Eudis if he had anything to give happy dollars for, he replied, “Oh yes, we just had a baby 5 days ago”. Lots of laughter followed as it just slipped his mind.



**Race Seven:** Partnerships at the Ridgewood 3-2-1 Club are critically important to our success. Jayne Wadhawan mentioned that she is also a Rotary Member and that they will be having a Bowling event and the flyer is attached. The funds from this event will benefit Homeless Vets and we immediately donated 24 coats and backpacks to her partner organization. The remaining coats will be distributed by Fr. Mike’s Hungry Monk Ministry. How cool is that?! Do you know what else is really cool; during COVID, the Hungry Monk was the lifeline for thousands of community residents with food distributions, homeless services, soup kitchens and more. All without thoughts of getting COVID themselves. And this was at its’ earliest stages and pre-vaccines. Kudos!! You already know about our commitment and collaboration with the NY Racing Chaplaincy and the Backstretch, the NYPD, the GRYC and it goes on and on.

**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 Eight:** Upcoming Events include:

- ***March 26<sup>th</sup> – Board Meeting at 5:00 PM in the Clubhouse***
- ***April 9<sup>th</sup> – Easter Egg Hunt at Noon in the Clubhouse***
- ***April 12<sup>th</sup> – Easter Celebration with our AKTION Club Meeting from Noon to 2:00 in the Clubhouse. Lots of help needed as we expect over 100 members to attend.***



**Race Nine:** This was a great day as we collected \$1,100 in Happy Dollars, Lunch and VENMO. Now is the time to make all necessary arrangements to get to the NEXT 3-2-1 meeting on Wednesday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. It is our Easter Egg Hunt FUNdraiser.

## ***ALWAYS HAVING FUN AT 3-2-1 !***

**P**assion + **R**espect + **I**nclusion + **D**iversity + **E**quity

3 – 2 – 1... AND THEY'RE



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**venmo**

Ridgewood Kiwanis  
@Ridgewood-Kiwanis



# **INDNESS MATTERS**







Great to have NYC Mayor Adams taking time from his busy schedule to share friendship with us. St. Joseph's Table prepared by Michael Addeo, Diane Cusimano and Gino and his house committee. SDPLG Janice Bar donated a Food Processor for our AKTION Club Meetings. Bob broke out his old hat in response to Hank's lighthearted comments about the Irish. Bob reminded folks that Hank chairs ENGLISH Day. Eleanor Poppe took lots and lots of diapers and baby supplies back to the Chaplaincy and Backstretch families.







I know we have a DEI culture in this club, but really, ST JOSE DAY?



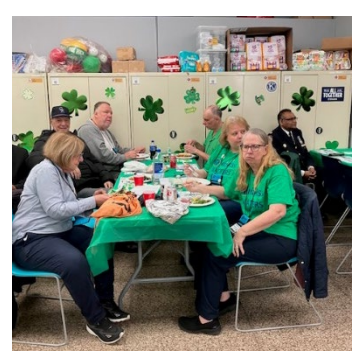
I just took the pictures folks took of the event and put it in the newsletter. I'll look for the PH.



How many calories will that be?



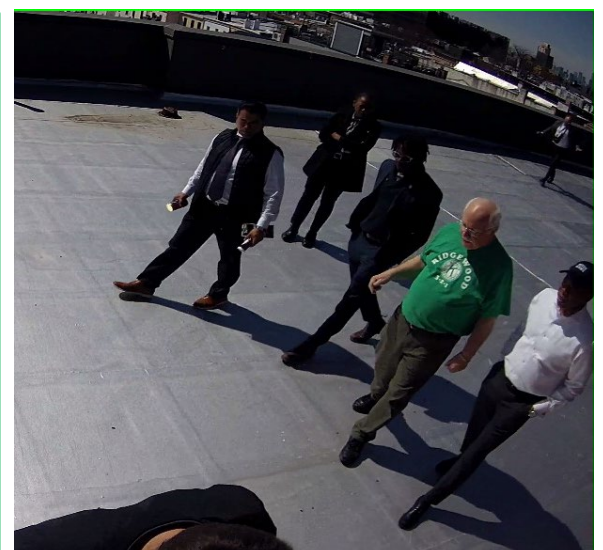




**Delicious Food,  
Good Company,  
Lots of Fun,  
Great Times!**



As I was briefing my buddy about the Club and the members and friends who were in attendance, I told him that I asked everyone to play nice in the sandbox and to be polite. The first words out of his mouth when I introduced the Mayor, were, "Do me one favor, please. Don't listen to Bob and say ANYTHING that you feel compelled to say". That's manning up and so was going up on the ROOF to see our 7 Beehives, up close and personal. He'll be back for more!!







Just be careful with these jars of honey. That guy sitting by the door is from the Bronx!



Oh yeah, did I forget to mention that we had a baby 5 days ago. Emma Rose



*Notice that 3-2-1 Members were wearing a NEW shirt that reads:*  
**Kindness Matters**



I made you a Vegetarian Plate to go. You're a Vegetarian, so am I. I have a son, Jordan, so do you. Both were Film Majors in College. I'm from Brooklyn, you are too! I think we're related!

Everyone is a little Irish on St. Patrick's Day  
Except Italians, We're still Italian.

OOPS Green Shirt







What time is it...

...It's time to Serve!



firstread

Compiled by Sahalie Donaldson  
Wednesday, March 19, 2025

12:15 p.m. – **Adams** delivers remarks at Ridgewood Kiwanis 3-2-1 Club's St. Joseph's and St. Patrick's Day Celebration, no location provided.





# AKTION CLUB PARTY

## ST. Patrick's Day Celebration with PIZZA





**What a great day with over 50 Forest Park AKTION Clubbers in attendance to enjoy Pizza, Arts & Crafts, Snacks and Music. Thanks, Matt Kopetz for getting the members out to celebrate with us. DPP Hank Kraker, JR Velepec, SDPLG Janice Bar, Queens Blvd Prez Janet Harmeyer, DPP Bill Rennison, BettyAnn Monahan, George Silkes, and DPP Gino Ancona made this a great event. We donated our extra Pizzas to the 104<sup>th</sup> Precinct and thanks Richie & Grace Pizza for the meal.**







**There was a bit of trouble with vans and Access-A-Ride today, but we expect to have over 100 members at our April 12<sup>th</sup> EASTER EGG HUNT. Our AKTION Club elected our new Slate of Officers for 2025-2026 and when we complete our roster, The Forest Park Club will be the SECOND Largest Aktion Club in Kiwanis International. Ridgewood 3-2-1 and the PRIDE Club host their monthly meetings.**





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**RACE ONE:** We have some great news!! This year our 3-2-1 member, Claire Mahon has been named an Honoree for the Annual St. Mary's Kids Walk-a-Thon. How amazing, to have Claire recognized for her hard work and dedication to the Children at St. Mary's Hospital. The Big Hearts Walk for St. Mary's Kids will take place at **Crocheron Park on Sunday, May 18th at 10 AM** (please arrive early to allow time for parking and check-in). It would be wonderful if we, as a Club, supported this great event and celebrated with Claire, DPP Janine, Brian and Colin on this special day. It just so happens that Claire is putting together a team to walk on May 18<sup>th</sup> and you can join that team to walk and/or sponsor Claire and her team efforts. I have attached the link for you to become a part of this amazing SERVICE Project. Remember to tell everyone why you are walking and raising funds - to improve the health and quality of life for children with special needs right here in the metro New York area.

[https://secure3.convio.net/smhc/site/TR/WalkforStMarys/BigHeartsWalkforStMarysKids?team\\_id=3870&pg=team&fr\\_id=1270](https://secure3.convio.net/smhc/site/TR/WalkforStMarys/BigHeartsWalkforStMarysKids?team_id=3870&pg=team&fr_id=1270)





**Rotary**  
Club of Southwest Queens



# STARS AND STRIKES

**benefiting Homeless Veterans  
and Other Charities  
Sunday March 23, 2025  
1:00 PM**



*"GREAT FAMILY FUN!"*

**98-18 Rockaway Blvd. Ozone Park  
Adults \$30 Children \$20  
Includes 2 Games and shoe rental  
Trophies for the top Bowlers!  
Raffles**

**Free parking**

**Refreshments available**

← **Use QR Code to Register Today!**  
**Pay via Zelle to the QR Code** →  
**For Information call 914-487-3841 or  
Email SWQRotary@gmail.com**



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