



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

Meets 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, 12 Noon @ GRYC Clubhouse, 59-03 Summerfield Street, Ridgewood, NY 11385



## The Triple Crown Newsletter

RESULTS OF MEET FOR: January 19, 2022

VOLUME 5 Number 9

**Race One:** What a way to continue the NEW YEAR - 2022. It remains déjà vu all over again as Yogi Berra would say. This time last year we were in the same predicament with COVID going nuts and folks hunkering in to be safe. Now we have Delta and Omicrom variants testing our resolve and winning some of the battles. This will be another virtual newsletter in an effort to keep all of us connected and focused on the mission to serve during these difficult times. The beauty of virtual is that this newsletter can be done at any time and since I will be in Connecticut/Rhode Island, Wednesday, I'm doing it early. It was near impossible to believe that more than 50 members and friends came to see President Maricelis clap the gong with her personalized gavel and ask everyone to rise from their seats to recite the Pledge to our Flag. Everyone was socially distanced and at the completion of honoring our Flag and what it stands for, Maricelis asked Father Kevin Powell to give the blessing. As always, Kevin was inspiring *as he asked for the club to remember those in need, especially the homeless struggling through these frigid times, and the gifts that we have to offer in service to others. It was so moving, that the newly created 3-2-1 Chorus sang AMEN and the members were moving and swaying and clapping their hands. AMEN brothers and sisters and ...*

**Race Two:** The meet was held indoors in the large gathering space, a fancy new term for our big room in the basement. As the weather was a bit on the cool side, only a few brave souls spilled out onto our beautiful outdoor Deck. Carlos and Joseph had to put the tents back up since the weekend saw winds of 45-50 MPH and we didn't want to retrieve them from the Key Food Parking Lot. Good thinking gents. They were put up, along with their side panels to keep the hot air in. Yup, he was here again!! Kenny Dunn was out there speaking with Hank Kraker, John Stahl, Mike Miller, Dave Fitzgerald, Liz Fitzgerald, Gino Ancona and Janine Mahon. Hey wait a second, how can we have so many Distinguished Past Presidents and Lt. Governor's in one place when we only reorganized 4 years ago? The Presidential Suite was hopping and I had to go out there and get their fannies inside to eat. Oh you are so clever asking what there was to consume. Well today, thanks to the gracious gift of Mayor Eric Adams (who enjoyed himself immensely at our last meeting) Mr. Mayor had the Chefs at Gracie Mansion prepare some of his favorite Vegan dishes:



**DAN DAN MIAN NOODLES** - With pickled greens, green onions, toasted sesame seeds, and chili-vinegar soy sauce, this noodle dish bursts with the intense flavors of Szechwan cooking.



**MANGO AND BLACK BEAN TACOS** - These colorful, hearty tacos—filled with a lime-infused mix of mango, avocado, and black beans— are as scrumptious as they are speedy.



**QUICK CHICKPEA BOLOGNESE** - Using pantry staples such as canned chickpeas and tomatoes, this rustic plant-based bolognese is seriously satisfying, without leaving you feeling stuffed.



**SPINACH-TOMATILLO WRAPS WITH HEARTY TAHINI SPREAD** - If you like wraps, you'll love these! The combination of the whole grain tortilla, creamy bean spread, and crunchy, juicy veggies covers the gamut of flavors and textures. Let your taste buds enjoy the party!



**MINT LEMONADE CHICKPEA SALAD** - The only salad dressing you need to turn this simple chickpea, cherry tomato, and spinach salad into a masterpiece is fresh mint, lemon juice, and salt and pepper.

**Race Three:** As luck would have it, and since I was the liaison with the Mayor's Office, and knowing that I would not be experimenting with Vegan, and I didn't want to listen to the whining from the Meat Heads, along with the scrumptious dishes prepared for us, Here is what else adorned the food table. Yup, let the party begin. Lots of Mayo and processed cold cuts and cheeses and of course, lettuce, onions and tomatoes. (Veggies) I can't believe how smart this audience is; YES he was first on line again, stayed away from the Vegan table and exercised portion control as evidenced on the right. Kenny Dunn, you are a Man's, man's hero. Diane Cusimano led the hit parade on the Vegan line and was followed by Janine Mahon, Liz Fitzgerald, President Maricelis Romero, Gino Ancona, and Mary Benitez. Papi Chulo Rodriguez tried the Mango and Black Bean Tacos and said that they would never take the place of "real" food. Thanks to Danielle Kleiman, Francesca Fedkowskyj, Catherine Siegel and Joan Hoffman for helping to serve the meals to keep us COVID compliant.



Caramel Pecan Chip Brownies



**Kenny Dunn's portion control!!**

**Race Four:** Maricelis asked for any Happy Dollars and guests. Kenny Dunn put up an apparent Happy \$50 and when sheriff Bronco Bill Rennison went over to collect, Kenny just put the money in the feed bag without saying a word. Oh, that's right, our generation was brought up to "never speak with your mouth full". The amount of his donation, "GRANTED" him that privilege. Thanks Hank, at least one person got it. Bernie Zablocki was too busy masticating, go look it up you pigs, but gave happy bucks to be at the meet. Busy Bee Tom Wilk was in the house and was up on the roof checking on his students with the heavy winds and frigid temps. Maricelis gave happy dollars for the fine meal prepared by Gracie Mansion's chefs and it looked like a bobble head convention with all those veganauts, shaking their heads in approval. Our Community Affairs Officers Mike Berish and Dilsia Bonilla were able to bring Inspector Louron Hall and Sgt. Michael Mercurio to our gathering. Inspector John Mastronardi from Patrol Borough Queens North came to join us and to everyone's surprise, he brought another friend and NYPD boss, Inspector Victoria Perry who was delighted to be back. What an awesome partnership Ridgewood 3-2-1 has with the NYPD. Speaking of partnerships, Dennis Remorca was in the house and gave an update on the NEW and IMPROVED Fitness Center at HWY3. If you remember, the Club and its friends raised over \$10,000 to Honor Highway Patrol Officer Anastasios Tsako who was tragically killed on the Grand Central Parkway. That amount was matched by Dennis and Remorca Fitness/Lucas's Fitness Lab and by Gregg Roberts from the Police Foundation. Partnerships at their highest level.

**Race Five:** Hank Kraker gave Happy Dollars for his Green Bay Packers win and top seed in the NFL playoffs. We wrapped up our Football Donation Grid and are collecting some final buckaroos. Thanks for participating and bringing \$1000 into the club's treasury. This donation program was started by Hank, JR and Kenny a few years ago and all the credit goes to them for this great fundraiser. Bill Rennison, Michael Addeo, Diane Cusimano, DPP Liz Fitzgerald, DPP Dave Fitzgerald, Bob Monahan, Joe Florio, JR Velepec, Kevin Powell, Carlos Rodriguez, Chris McDougall, Chris Jardin, Alan Bellone, Lucian Matej, John Hennessey and Bernie Z are all in the mix. Thanks all for your generosity. It will grow a bit if a few of these teams keep winning in the playoff rounds. Having fun at Ridgewood 3-2-1. Happy Dollars continued when the members found out that Dilsia was in the Golden Gloves, Bernie was not. Neither has run a marathon or half marathon. **13.1** BTW, what many of you may not know is that I can give Happy Dollars, and I will, for having competed and finishing the Long Island Half Marathon, many, many years ago. What time you ask? Time doesn't really matter when you finish in 5,000<sup>th</sup> place. Hope that answers your question. This is still my mantra for now, **0.0** and walking fast does not count in the real running and jogging world.



Got a really nice note from our mentor and friend, PDG Joe Eppolito. Joe you are a class act and we are grateful for your guidance and leadership.



Rocky the wonder dog is NOT HAPPY! Who the hell invites a dog to a Vegan Luncheon. Thank God for Diane who threw her cold cuts on the floor. Good looking out Veggie girl.



**Race Six:** John and Margie Stahl were at the meet to give an update on the Blessing Bags for MICIH at Wyckoff Heights Hospital. Jayne Wadhawan and Alex Lagombra were in the house with some happy and sad dollars. Joan Hoffmann was in the house with son, Paul. Liran Gross was not able to make this meeting but promised to be back soon. Michael Addeo gave some bucks for a New Year and for his recovery. Seems this new variant is a real challenge and must be taken very seriously, thus, virtual stuff for now. Gino got some happy dollars for helping to coordinate all of the Pools and Raffles payments through VENMO and the Square. The 3-2-1 Club continues to overcome many/all obstacles to accomplish amazing service projects throughout the pandemic stuff. This picture was for Hank Kraker who runs our English Day. Yes, there is a Christmas Tree in that phone booth. Did you find the hidden clue in that picture??? If not, here it is. The GRYC has been spanked with positive cases out at our sites and caution is the way to go. The Board will meet on January 26<sup>th</sup> and we are, once again, looking at St. Patrick's Day/St. Joseph's Day in the middle of March to possibly be our next REAL meeting. Vaccine, Vaccine, Vaccine, is critical to our health and we are hopeful that this will help folks recover quicker. The Club has sold out it's \$50 & \$20 Super Bowl Pools and is selling a \$10 Pool at this time. IF you want a box, notify me ASAP for the \$10 grid. I have opened up THREE boxes on our \$50 SB Grid and will go in a first come, first served basis. Not many pictures for this newsletter, but, I'm working on it.



**Race Seven:** Another nice representation of GRYC Directors and staff came to enjoy the meal and support their friend and leader, Maricelis. If I remember correctly, here are the attendees: Dina DePaola, Danielle Kleiman, Papi Chulo Rodriguez, Paul Hoffmann, Mary Benitez, Raquel Chin, Aidan Leavens, Elvira Rodriguez, Marc Darius, Edwing Vilsaint, Andy Vilion, Francesca Fedkowskyj, Joseph Then, Linda Manetta and Xiomara Pina. DPP Liz Fitzgerald and Catherine "Siegel" Zahedi were back at the ranch and some of the Directors went to dine "outdoors" on the deck. Walter Welsh decided to stop down along with Sky Pilot Kevin Powell and his bride Maureen Powell. IPP Janine Mahon was happy to see her daughter, Claire at the meeting. John Hennessey from Ridgewood Savings stopped by for a short trip and Bronco Bill Rennison was in the corral taking on the sheriff duties. Great Job Bill, thanks.

**Race Eight:** Upcoming Events include:

**January 26<sup>th</sup> – Round Table at the clubhouse – 12 noon**

**January 26<sup>th</sup> – Board of Directors meeting at 4:00 PM in person, at the clubhouse.**

**February 16<sup>th</sup> – Round Table at the clubhouse – 12 noon**

**February 16<sup>th</sup> – In-Person Board Meeting at 4:00 PM at the Clubhouse.**

**There will be a maximum of 15 people in the big room and we will be socially distanced.**

**March 2<sup>nd</sup> – Round Table at the clubhouse – 12 noon**

**March 16<sup>th</sup> – Next In-Person General Meeting at the Clubhouse, conditions allowed. Indoor/Outdoor dining.**

**Race Nine:** The meeting ended on time with a total of \$811 collected in Happy Dollars, Food Money and the 50-50 collection.



**3 – 2 – 1... AND THEY'RE FF**





Thanks to Tony DiPiazza and the Federazione Italo-Americana di Bklyn & Queens, Inc. for their generous donation. (Pictured left to right) Stefano Turruciano, Bob Monahan, Tony Mule' and Damiano Palazzolo.



Sorry Pat and Dilsia, this is just too good to leave out of this newsletter. Next treat should be around Valentine's Day. On that note, Pat's NYPD partner is Maria and is not in the picture. So Pat, <https://youtu.be/Z9Y0x1jLkLg>



So here is what this is all about. The Kiwanis Club of Ridgewood 3-2-1 has been donating to the NY Racing Chaplaincy for the Backstretch families. The lunatic in the shorts was giving out Hats, Gloves and Socks to the workers on Saturday and Sunday in near 0 Degree weather. Yes, we are partnering up with them for another project, the Diaper and Wipes Grid. HHMMM?? What does that mean?



Who are these two fashionistas? Seems that the last time we bought Maricelis and Gino these spiffy name plates, our other two Past Presidents asked where theirs were? Happy, now, ladies??

Alert, Alert!! With prices going through the roof on some items and a shortage on other necessities, the Chaplaincy has asked for diapers and wipes for the Backstretch Families. Our response is very simple, "Let's have a Diaper and Wipes Grid".

**Pampers Cruisers 360 Diapers** 2/\$22.00 or 1/\$13.99 Walgreens  
**Pampers Swaddlers Diapers** 2/\$22.00 or 1/\$13.99 Walgreens

Each Box is \$10 or a Pack of Diapers. If you buy a box we will purchase the diapers or wipes for you to make it easier.