

THE RUTGERS CLUB NEWS

A WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee is excited with all of the progress made in the re-location of The Club to Livingston campus. We cannot thank the staff enough for all their work. The Committee is hard at work ourselves from researching new membership categories with related privileges to planning for the “official” opening of The Club. While the main dining area of The Club will be closed as construction of the bar is in progress, we will continue to offer our special events, and host your personal and professional gatherings. We look forward to you seeing the new look of The Club in the coming months, including a dedicated parking lot.

The Executive Committee extends good wishes to you for a happy and healthy new year, and we look forward to seeing you at our special spring events.

CLUB CELEBRATES 60 YEARS

by Susan Mansfield, Ed. D. & Judy Marino, Ed. D. Co-Chairs



Saturday, October 7 was a special day as the NEW Rutgers Club was opened for its' first group event at the Livingston Campus location! Approximately 100 members and guests attended a Silent Auction, feasted on outstanding offerings from the Club Chefs, and enjoyed the sounds of the Dave Miller Jazz Trio as they mingled with old friends and enjoyed new friendships.

The purpose of the event was to celebrate the Club's history and to kick-off the 2017-18 Rutgers Club programs in the new location now occupying the second floor of the Livingston Dining Commons. Executive Committee President Dr. Marilyn Gonyo, welcomed all the guests, introduced six Past Presidents, and offered thanks to the staff for their dedication and effort with the move from the College Avenue location. Silent auction items of various Rutgers Club memorabilia were offered, and each item produced multiple bidders, fetching strong amounts for the fundraising effort.

With food stations placed around the Club, guests were able to socialize and experience the new Rutgers Club. Plans for the upcoming spring semester renovation were shared, and graphic designs were available for the guests to peruse. Members of the Rutgers Club Executive Committee were on hand for introductions and questions, and Past President Dr. Todd Hunt was recognized for his contributions to The Club.



WELCOME TO THE RUTGERS CLUB SEBASTIAN NIETO

Sebastian Nieto started his career in Argentina, his native land, where he graduated at the top of his class from the National Restaurant and Hotel Association Culinary School. He has traveled to different continents and has created many milestones in his life thus far. For instance, when he lived in Patagonia, he opened two hotels for the prestigious chain Relais & Chateaux and won the first Patagonian Regional Cooking Competition. He then moved to Europe to work in kitchens in Spain, Italy, and France.

After his European experience Sebastian settled in New Jersey, working as a beverage manager for the Gotham Bar & Grill in New York City and Hilton Hotels. In 2003, he joined Rutgers Dining Services' Catering department. His responsibilities there included cooking for guests of the University president and Board of Governors, heading the kitchen at the Audi Club, along with other duties.

To further illustrate his culinary excellence, Chef Nieto represented Rutgers University and won NACUFS National Culinary Challenge with two Silver ACF medals.

In 2013, he was tapped to lead the team opening Henry's Diner, a modern Rutgers themed New Jersey diner, with a menu that ranges from traditional diner classics, such as breakfast all day, to more upscale items including Duck Confit & Hanger Steak.

Chef Nieto resides in Old Bridge, NJ with his wife Patricia, a journalist, his two daughters, Sophie and Emily, and their dog, Maggie. When Chef Nieto is not running the club you will find him running on a soccer field, where he has been an official for many years at different levels.

Sebastian expresses his gratitude for this opportunity to lead The Rutgers Club and his ability to meet members while becoming involved in the development of the new food and beverage menus.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE

Renew your membership online right now! Visit rutgersclub.rutgers.edu and click “Renew Your Membership Now” to enter our secure payment site where you can pay via valid Credit/Debit Card or e-Check. You can also visit us at The Club for assistance with your renewal.

THANK YOU RAY MARTIN FOR YOUR TWO DECADES OF SERVICE AND UNWAVERING DEDICATION TO THE RUTGERS CLUB

60 YEARS A LOOK BACK

by **MARILYN GONYO, Ed. D., President**

The first official written record of the Rutgers Club is dated February 27, 1956 when a representative group of alumni and faculty met at the Union Club in New Brunswick “to further the planning of an Alumni-Faculty Center.” The esteemed group felt that the acquisition and development of such a facility was “the most urgent capital need in the entire university community.” Immediately, the group began preparing the Certificate of Incorporation and in so doing stated that the purposes of the Alumni-Faculty Center were to “provide physical facilities for the alumni and faculty of Rutgers University for professional, social, cultural, and business meetings, to provide dining and other facilities which will promote and perpetuate amity and understanding among the members of the Rutgers family and the best interests of the University.” On this same evening, it was resolved that “proper officers and committees be established.” Thus, the birth of what we now know as The Rutgers Club.

The newly established Executive Committee met regularly on campus and more often off campus at the Down Town Club in Newark, the University Club in New York City, Baltusrol County Club in Springfield, and the Plainfield Country Club. Facility sites for the new Center were identified and at the May 28, 1956 meeting of the Executive Committee it was unanimously approved to purchase the property of Mrs. Ernest H. Webb located at 199 College Avenue in New Brunswick.

Thereafter began the preparation of the building for its intended use. Designation of room use, remodeling of the building, purchase of furniture, building a bar, and enlarging the porch were but a few of the weighty responsibilities faced by the House Committee who also determined that “one bedroom and bath on the second floor would be set aside for ladies visiting the club after games, receptions, etc.”

The decision to have the membership year coincide with the calendar year was approved, bylaws were developed, and “Mr. Thomas C. Bennett (and his wife) was employed as steward of the Center at a monthly salary of \$450.”

The first official meeting of the Executive Committee of the Alumni-Faculty Center at 199 College Avenue was held on October 15,

RESERVATION INFORMATION

Reservations will only be accepted beginning at 8:00am. Reservations must be made by telephone only. To make a reservation for any event, please call 848-932-7139. Please do not include any written reservation requests with your dues notice as they will not be processed.

Please give us as much advance notice as possible if you must cancel your reservation to be fair to members on our waiting list. Club Membership Dues must be current in order to attend special events, book a private room and/or purchase alcohol. For new members, in order to host an event, membership dues must be paid in full at least three (3) days in advance.

1957 with Mr. William J. McKenna presiding. The Center dues structure was established as \$20 for sustaining membership, \$10 for regular membership, and special temporary membership at \$3.00. The first annual meeting of the membership was held on December 7, 1957 at which time the membership was reported as 1470 and consideration was given to forming a ladies auxiliary. Also, non-voting honorary membership for one year was granted “to six New Brunswick Councilmen and eleven friends and neighbors of the Center.”



In reviewing the history of The Rutgers Club contained in Volume I (2/27/56 – 5/22/61), I was in awe of the work, time, effort, and dedication of our “Founding Fathers.” To begin with a dream and steer the ship to reality is indeed inspiring. They encountered issues of every sort and dealt with all in a truly professional and respectful manner. The vision of these leaders is indeed admirable and their daunting tasks completed with true Rutgers Spirit and Pride.

(Vol. 2 will appear in the next newsletter)

2018 SPRING EVENTS

SWEETHEARTS NIGHT CANDLELIGHT DINNER

Friday, February 9, 5:30 PM TO 7:30 PM

COST: \$60 per couple

CELTIC PUB NIGHT

Highlighting New Jersey Brews & Irish Entertainment

Thursday, March 8, 6:00 PM

COST: \$20 per person

MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

Sunday, May 13. Seating at 11:00 AM OR 2:30 PM

COST: \$25 per person

CHILDREN UNDER 12 ARE HALF PRICE, & UNDER 6 ARE FREE.