

**Program:** Linda Parks Goes to Washington, D.C.: *Christmas at the White House.*

For the past eight years, the Bush Administration has continued a holiday tradition of inviting artists from each state to create and submit a Christmas ornament for the White House Christmas tree. Over the Christmas holiday, Linda Parks had the opportunity to be recognized by (then) First Lady, Laura Bush for her contribution.

"I didn't win the opportunity in a contest," said Parks. "Congressman John McHugh approached me and asked that I create an ornament representative of our 23rd District." She set to the difficult task using simple supplies such as tissue paper, glue, water and glitter to create a beautiful winter scene of the Adirondacks as seen from Lake Champlain. Parks, who has taught art around the country and studied it in places such as Florence, Italy, explained that she found inspiration for the piece through the work of North Country artists such as Nathan Farb and Carl Heilman.



Linda Parks with her ornament for the White House Christmas tree.

After submitting the ornament, Linda received an invitation from the White House to attend a reception for a group of the artists. She and her husband, Bob, set out for the Capitol.

The invitation asked them to arrive at the east gate at 4:30 p.m. Being very practical, Bob looked at the White House website to determine if cameras would be allowed. Explicit instructions informed visitors that cameras were strictly prohibited and would be confiscated. They left their cameras in the hotel, only to find that everyone in line outside the east entrance had cameras.

Linda said, "Bob and I felt bad that all the people in line were going to lose their cameras. We were so pleased that we had taken the time to read the website before arriving."

To their dismay, everyone was allowed to keep their cameras and had an unlimited opportunity for photographs. She and Bob resorted to Plan B: "Befriend every person possible so they will email us photos." They accumulated a wonderful collection of photos from the trip.

When they arrived, the Christmas theme the artists had used to decorate their ornaments, "Red, White and Blue Christmas" bedecked every room of the White House. Their coats were taken, and the group was invited upstairs to have formal portraits taken in front of the 18 1/2 foot Fraser Fir tree where their ornaments hung. Then it was on to the State Room for the reception.

"We thought it would be about 30 minutes long with a few cookies and some punch," said Linda. Instead they were treated to an exquisite buffet overflowing with the

Bush family's favorite recipes from previous years. With everything from jumbo shrimp to enormous chocolate sculptures, they enjoyed a lengthy meal. Laura Bush made an appearance during which she thanked the group for making the trip and the wonderful effort that was put into each ornament. She specifically thanked the youngest artist among the group who was a 12-year-old girl.

Following the reception, everyone was allowed unlimited time to explore many of the rooms and take pictures.

Linda and Bob enjoyed the visit, and Linda was very proud to have represented the North Country well.

*Q: You mentioned all but one ornament was hung on the tree. What was wrong with the one?*

*A: Well, it was very nicely done, and we are blessed with freedom of speech, but the ornament said simply, "Impeach Bush." Obviously Mrs. Bush had discretion over which would be hung and this one didn't*

make the cut. The ornament was boxed up, but the woman who made it did attend the reception. I think she was from Colorado or Wyoming.

*Q: Was a chrome ball a hard medium to work with?*

*A: It was hard. The most difficult challenge was getting a straight horizon line.*

*Q: Do you have copies of the ornament (for sale)?*

*A: I don't plan on making any copies.*

*Q: Will you ever get the ornament back?*

*A: Someone at the reception wondered the same thing and another artist put it well when he responded, "The ornaments were created as a gift to the Bush family. One simply doesn't ask for a gift to be returned."*

**This Week:** Ange La-Mariana took a few moments to thank the club for supporting the nursing homes. The individualized gifts, including a singing toy dog given to a resident who loves music and dogs, was a wonderful touch. President Steve read some of the thank you letters received by the club expressing gratitude. A New Member Orientation is scheduled for Jan

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL**

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**ROTARY CLUB OF PLATTSBURGH**

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Bob Smith Keith Tyo

**Bulletin Editor**

Amy Kretser

**Meetings**

Wednesdays 12:15 p.m.

Elks Club, Plattsburgh

30th at 308 West Bay Plaza (8 a.m.). Bonnie Black announced that she will soon be leaving for Nicaragua. She has expectations that the pit privy project will be completed very soon. Ita Bullard has donated a beautiful painting to Rotary which will be auctioned to raise money for the club. The painting is based on a photograph taken by Bonnie during a previous visit to Nicaragua. Please pay dues by Feb 1st! Sponsor pins were given to Paul Connelly, Jon Cooper and Stan Ransom. **Regarding Snow Days: If the City of Plattsburgh is closed, we will not hold a Rotary meeting.**

**Guests:** Linda Parks and Paula Stallsmith (Bob Parks); Bethany Drollette (Vicki Marking); Roger Van Guilder (Alan Racine); Maria Alexander (PP John McGaulley);

**Visiting Rotarian:** Katie Mulligan (Sunrise Club).

**Happy Thoughts:** PP Kevin Killeen heard that his church's bulletin announced Bob Miller's wife is not well. Please send prayers if you are so inclined. Also, he had a dollar for his daughter who attended the "Go Red for Women" event. Peter Cadieux, who was a sponsor of the event, added praise saying it was very impressive! Cathy Forget thanked Colin Read for partaking in the Rotary store's special offer; he bought a license plate holder and received a free hood ornament! Ellie Murray gave \$2: adding to her recent Letter to the Editor, she said the North Country is a wonderful place to live because people offer so much help to one another. Bob Grugle had \$2—one for his daughter who has been accepted to Hartwick and the other for his son who has made the Dean's List. Ita Bullard had a dollar in support of Ellie's comments about the North Country helping each other. She has seen the memorabilia project for the airport take off with unending support. Bob Parks thanked Ange LaMariana for leading the charge with the nursing homes. He spoke for himself and Paul Sands in saying they would love to do a followup story on the woman who received the singing dog. John Bernardi thanked everyone for supporting the United Way. He expects to post results by Feb 10th.

**Fines:** Marty Mannix was fined for a Mission of Hope photo and spun for \$2. President Steve fined John Bernardi for a "photo" (hand drawn by Steve) of John skiing. John spun for a \$2 fine, but Steve doubled it to \$4.

**50/50:** Today's pot was worth \$2,368; Marty Mannix picked the ten of clubs. We are going for the Ace of Spades—and there are still 2 jokers left, each worth \$50!

**Another Candle Burning For:** Soham Patel (2/4); Mary Anne Bukholt-Ryder (2/6)

**Make Ups:** 1/21/09 Membership Committee Meeting: John Prim, Chuck Paepke, Bob Parks; 01/20/09 Sunrise Club: Ron Graham; 01/07/09 Lake Worth FL Rotary Club: Frank Hamilton.

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- 1/30 New Member Orientation
- 5/2 District 7040 Assembly
- 6/5-7 24th Annual Fishing Classic
- 6/21-24 RI Convention in Birmingham, England

<b>ON-LINE MAKEUP:</b>		<a href="http://www.rotaryclubone.org">www.rotaryclubone.org</a>	
<b>NEARBY MAKE UP LOCATIONS:</b>			
Mon.	Burlington	12:10pm	Wyndham Hotel
	Canton	12:15pm	Best Western
	Ottawa	12:30pm	Ottawa Marriott Hotel
Tues.	Plattsburgh Sunrise	7:30am	Elk's Club
	Saranac Lake	7:30am	Hotel Saranac
	Massena	12:15pm	Elk's Lodge
	St. Albans	12:15pm	Masonic Temple
	Montreal	12:30pm	Holiday Inn-Pt. Claire
Wed.	Grand Isle	6:00pm	So Hero Congregational
	Middlebury	7:15am	Rosie's Restaurant
	Albany	12:15pm	Wolferts Roost Ctry Club on Van Rensselaer Blvd.
	Tupper Lake	12:15pm	Pine Grove Restaurant
	Potsdam	12:15pm	Sergi's Banquet Hall
Thurs.	Watertown	12:15pm	Best Western Carriage House
	Chateaugay	6:15pm	Leonard's Cherry Knoll Rest.
	AuSable Forks	7:00pm	Ambulance Hall (no meal)
	Williston	7:15am	Will Federated Church
	Lake Placid	7:30am	Howard Johnson's
	Watertown AM	7:30am	Best Western Carriage House
	South Burlington	7:30am	VT National Country Club
	Champlain-Rouses Pt.	7:45am	Old Tyme Café
	Malone	Noon	Gallagher's
	Colchester-Milton	12:10pm	Hampton Inn
Fri.	Ogdensburg	12:15pm	Gran-View Restaurant
	Burlington Sunrise	7:15am	Ethan Allen Club
	Old Montreal	12:15pm	Holiday Inn Select

**NEW MEMBER PROPOSAL**

The following has been proposed by our Membership Committee and our Board of Directors. If there are no objections registered with the Club Secretary or President within 10 days, the person will be asked to join our club:

- Name:** Bethany Drollette
- Business:** Girl Scouts of Northeastern NY
- Position:** Community Relations Specialist
- Classification:** Youth Services
- Membership:** Active
- Previous Rotary Membership:** N/A
- Proposed by:** Victoria Marking

	<b>Feb 4</b>	<b>Feb 11</b>	<b>Feb 18</b>
<b>Program</b>	State of the City Mayor Kasprzak	Basin Program Bill Howland	Afghanistan Program John Conroy
<b>Greeters</b>	George Burrell & Peter Cadieux	Heidi Clute & Paul Connelly	Harney Davey & David Davis
<b>Hospitality</b>	Jody Carpenter	Marsha Cook	Jack Dee
<b>Blessing</b>	Bonnie Black	MaryAnne Bukolt-Ryder	Peter Cadieux
<b>Introductions</b>	Carmen Carpentier	Jon Cooper	Bruce Delventhal
<b>Program Intro.</b>	Bob Smith	Stan Ransom	Steve Frederick
<b>Thank Speaker</b>	Tracy Clark	Hope Coyer	Robert Frenyea
<b>New Mem. Talk</b>	—	—	Kristen Shives
<b>Seasoned Mem.</b>	—	Ron Malseptic	—
<b>Food Shelf</b>	—	—	—



**THE ROTARY CLUB**  
P.O. Box 86,  
Plattsburgh, NY 12901  
On Lake Champlain  
[www.plattsburghrotary.org](http://www.plattsburghrotary.org)  
Charter Granted: April 1, 1926

**FIRST CLASS**