

# Transporter

Vol. 45 No. 5

May 2011

## NJDOT Toastmasters Club celebrates Earth Day

On April 19th, NJDOT's Toastmasters Club celebrated Earth Day by having a special "green" theme meeting.



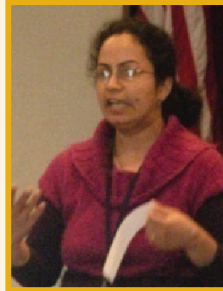
President **Andy Swords** started the meeting giving the background of Earth Day.

Sergeant at Arms **Nancy Girton** read an article from EarthDay.org telling how the idea of Earth Day came to U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson after witnessing the massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California in 1969. Nelson organized the first Earth Day on April 22, 1970.

The word of the day, "green" was described by **Ira Levinton** and was used by participants many times during the meeting. Ira also presented Earth Day Quotes.

**Loretta Smith** presented the "table topics" segment of the meeting, where members offer impromptu 1-2 minute speeches.

Table topic speaker **Ketaki Pathak** talked about composting.



**Pathak**

discussed how our department uses "green solutions".

Levinton said he would like to know what happens to stuff after we put it for recycling.

**Neha Galgali** earned the best table topic award for her talk about the Earth hour, when people and

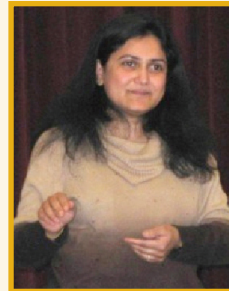
businesses turn off non-essential lights not just to save energy, but to create awareness towards Earth. Earth Hour started in Sydney, Australia in 2007 and was observed on March 26th this year.

At the end of the meeting it

**Swords** spoke about the do's and don'ts of recycling.

**Jane Lyons** talked about teaching kids on this subject.

**Bruce Darji**



**Galgali**



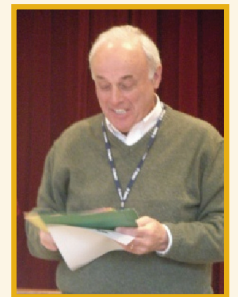
**Ventura**

recycle various items.

In other news, Toastmasters Area Governor Peter Mullings visited NJDOT's Club on May 2nd.

In March, the club held it's first "International Speech Contest" and "Speech Evaluation Contest".

Galgali, Smith and **Orlando Ventura** competed, while **Miguel Faucette**, Swords, Girton and Levinton judged. **Joe Beltser** was the timer. Galgali represented the NJDOT Toastmasters club at the area level competition held at Educational Training Services in Princeton.



**Beltser**



## Landscape Design Shines for Earth Day

NJDOT's Landscape Design division recently touted a completed project in Point Pleasant Beach Borough on Route 35 northbound at Broadway.

The \$141,641 project began in Spring 2010 and included site grading and stabilization, tree and shrub plantings and wildflower seeding, wetland plantings and the installation of several bird boxes.

**David Earl** developed this project through NJDOT Community Relations and the town. **Steven Foss** designed the project and **John Garzio** assisted during the construction phase. **George Caruso** was Project Manager.

**Tree and shrub plantings along Route 35, Point Pleasant Beach Borough**

# Manz and Riegel awarded Government Engineer of the Year from ASCE

On Friday, May 6, **Bruce Riegel** was awarded Government Engineer of the Year by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) NJ Section.

Riegel has been working for the New Jersey Department of Transportation for 39 years. For nearly 23 years, he has been responsible for planning, organizing, monitoring and directing all work activities necessary (both consultant and in-house) to complete capital projects. Typical activities include procurement, development of and monitoring adherence to project schedules and budgets, community involvement, coordination of pre-bid conferences prior to project advertisement, and resolution of design and construction issues.

He has served as Project Manager for several large projects



**Riegel**

including the Route 21 Viaduct project in Newark; the I-295/I-76/Route 42 Direct Connection project in Bellmawr, Gloucester City and Mt. Ephraim; the Route 7 Hackensack River (Wittpenn Bridge) project in Jersey City and Kearny; and the I-295/Route 42 Missing Moves project in Bellmawr, Runnemede, and Deptford. Riegel has made time to give project presentations at the ASCE monthly technical meetings.

Riegel graduated with a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Drexel University in 1981. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in New Jersey and is a member of ASCE.

This year's Government Engineer of the Year for (ASCE) Central Jersey Branch went to **Chris Manz** from Project Management.

Manz, who is a Project Manager in the Division of Project Management for over sixteen years, is a 23 year veteran at NJDOT. In this capacity, he is responsible for managing several complex transportation projects with costs in excess of \$400 million. Manz currently manages Route 3 at the Passaic River, I-78 at Garden State Parkway Interchange 142,

Route 1 & 9 4T; Elizabeth River Viaduct, and Route 280 at Garden State Parkway Interchange 145 projects. His innovative approach project challenges has resulted in tremendous savings to the government in both money and time.

Previously, Manz worked in Roadway Design and in Scheduling Units. Manz was presented with a performance based recognition award by NJDOT for his competencies in the areas of strong work ethics, interdisciplinary team building efforts, professionalism and employee training and mentoring.

Manz received a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Drexel University and an M.S. in Transportation Engineering from New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT). He is a registered Professional Engineer in New Jersey.



**Manz**

## David Lee Unity Award announced

The Division of Civil Rights and Affirmative Action and the Department's Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Advisory Committee are pleased to announce the Department's David Lee Unity Award.

As a security officer at NJDOT, Lee united the workplace with his blend of warmth and professionalism. In honor of Lee, the Unity Award will be presented to a non-managerial employee who has best demonstrated a commitment to embracing and respecting diversity as well as



**Lee**

unifying the workplace at NJDOT.

Diversity is defined as a mosaic of people who represent a variety of backgrounds, styles, perspectives, values, beliefs and differences. Unity is defined as acting together in a common purpose or endeavor. The Unity Award is about recognizing the

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## Transporter

Governor  
**Chris Christie**

Lt. Governor  
**Kim Guadagno**

Commissioner  
**James S. Simpson**

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# NJDOT Take your Children to Work Day



NJ State Police Trooper 1 Lisa Nieves and her canine Storm, put on a show for the crowd.



Simone Girgis, daughter of Baher Girgis, prepares to be lowered in a harness.



Denise Goddard and her daughter Anna Guillaumette check out the rocket demonstration by "The Rocketman" Gennaro (Jerry) Iacona, husband of NJDOT employee Maryann Iacona.

## David Lee Continued from page 2

importance and richness of a diverse workforce and unifying the diverse cultures in order to better serve the citizens of New Jersey.

This award will honor the employee who has gone the extra mile to bring people together and to foster an environment that respects all people,

promotes diversity and unifies the workplace. The recipient of this award will be announced at Unity Day on June 9th.

## Obituaries

Retiree **Floyd C. Sisco** passed away on March 14, 2011. He retired after 43 years as an equipment operator. He is survived by his sons, Danny and Clifford and their families.

Retiree **Edward T. Moriarty** passed away on April 24, 2011. He

retired after 33 years as a heavy equipment operator. He is survived by his sisters, Mary Schiavone, Catherine Doress and Anne Davison and their families.

Employee **David Lee** passed away on May 10, 2011. He was a Security Guard in the Ewing

Headquarters. He is survived by his parents, William and Phyllis Lee; his son, David Lee Jr., his three sisters, Barbara Travis, Pennie Tyler and Karen Wade; his brother, Dewayne; his companion of 12 years, Martha Washington and a host of family and friends.



# History of Asian Pacific American (APA) Heritage Month

In June 1977, Representatives Frank Horton of New York and Norman Y. Mineta of California introduced a House bill that called upon the president to proclaim the first ten days of May as Asian/Pacific Heritage Week. The following month, senators Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga introduced a similar bill in the Senate. Both were passed.

On October 5, 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed a Joint Resolution designating the annual celebration.

In May 1990, the holiday was expanded further when President George H. W. Bush designated May to be Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants.

Asian Pacific American Heritage

Month is celebrated with community festivals, government-sponsored activities, and educational activities for students. This year's theme is "Lighting the Past, Present, and Future."

Asia, called the "Cradle of Civilization," measuring more than 17 million square miles, has more surface area than the moon. It accounts for 30% of the Earth's land mass. Asia is comprised of 6 sections: Central Asia, East Asia, North Asia, Indian subcontinent, Southeast Asia, and Southwest Asia. Nearly 60% of the world's population, 4 billion people, live in its 48 countries, making Asia the most populated continent. The size of Asian countries ranges from 10 square miles (Macau) to 7 million square miles (Russia). The population ranges from 380,000 in Brunei to more than 1 billion each in India and China. Asia is the birthplace of all major religions in the world. Abrahamic religions of Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Baha'i Faith originated in West Asia, whereas Hinduism,

Buddhism, Jainism and Sikhism originated in India, South Asia. Asia is also the most culturally diverse continent.

The world's highest point—Mount Everest (29,035 ft.) and the world's lowest point Dead Sea (1.3 ft.) are located in Asia. Asia has some of the longest rivers in the world, with lengths ranging from 1,800 miles to more than 3,000 miles.

Forty Asians are the recipients of Nobel Prizes in the fields of Art/Literature, Economics, Sciences and world peace. Rabindernath Tagore of India was the first Asian to receive a Nobel prize in literature in 1913.

Three of the top four world economies are in Asia – China, Japan and India. Asia has four main financial centers: Tokyo, Hong Kong, Singapore and Shanghai. Singapore has one of the busiest ports in the world and is the world's fourth largest foreign exchange trading center.

## Asian Pacific Trivia questions:

1. This monument of Love was constructed during Mughal Era in memory of his Queen.
2. Who is the music director for the song "Jai Ho"?
3. Who was the first Indian American in space who died during her second space mission aboard Columbia?
4. Green and white colors of this country's flag abound at official ceremonies and official buildings.
5. Name the provinces of Pakistan.
6. Who was the first and only lady Prime Minister of Pakistan?
7. What is the National language of Bangladesh?
8. Which is the world's largest natural sea beach?
9. Who is founder of Micro Credit, and Nobel Prize winner for 2006 Economics category?
10. What is the National language of the Philippines?
11. How many islands are in the Philippines?
12. Who was the First Lady of Philippines who has more than 3,000 pairs of shoes?
13. Who is the famous Chinese basketball player in the NBA?
14. What is the approximate length of the Great Wall of China?
15. Where is the World's largest public gathering place?
16. Where is the largest Island in the world?
17. What is the main religion in Indonesia?
18. Which two countries have official land boundary with Indonesia?
19. Which of Japan's iconic monster movies is watched worldwide?
20. Which company built the first commercially successful transistor radio?

Answers: 1. Taj Mahal 2. A. R. Rahman 3. Kalpana Chawla 4. Pakistan 5. Sindh, Punjab, Baluchistan and North West Frontier 6. Benazir Bhutto 7. Bangla or Bengali 8. Cox's Bazaar Sea Beach in Bangladesh 9. Dr. Muhammad Yunis From Bangladesh 10. Tagalog 11. 7,107 12. Imelda Marcos 13. Yao Ming 14. 4,000 Miles 15. Tiananmen Square, China 16. Kalimantan/Borneo, Indonesia 17. Islam 18. Malaysia and Papa New Guinea 19. Godzilla 20. SONY