-Inside the Clubhouse-
Message to Members

Good day to all the members of the TOP Clubhouse Community! As many of you are aware, there has been a reorganization of many programs here at Goddard Riverside Community Center since our new Executive Director, Rod Jones, has taken over.

Debby Kaplan, who has been the Director at TOP Opportunities and Green Keepers for over 11 years, has taken on the newly created position of Director of Employment and Rehabilitation. The Other Place Clubhouse, together with TOP/OP and Green Keepers, will be supervised by Debby.

Debby has a long history of working in clubhouses, at both Fountain House and Venture House in NYC and Sussex House in New Jersey. Debby was also a faculty member of the International Center for Clubhouse Development (ICCD) for a few years. The ICCD changed its name to Clubhouse International a couple of years ago, and these are the same folks who did our recent accreditation visit. Although Debby’s office will remain at the TOP/OP site at 61 West 87th Street, she will be here often, especially during the transition. As a matter of fact, she already worked a Sunday Weekend Program. Please welcome her and introduce yourself when she is here.

During this transition I have happily taken on the position of Program Manager of TOP. I wanted to stay on as Interim Program Manager because I care about everyone who works so passionately for TOP and Goddard Riverside Community Center and I want to see us grow to our fullest potential. I promise to bring a positive attitude and I dedicate myself to strengthening the clubhouse and building a great team of members and staff. Together we can expand and grow our great community into a more active and thriving clubhouse community.

Although changes are hard for most of us, together, we can support each other and continue developing our clubhouse into a supportive loving community.

—Todd Renegar & Debby Kaplan

July 20th will be orientation. Classes begin July 24th. I am completing my enrollment packet. I am looking forward to learning strategies that will help me, and which I can use to help my peers. 1 year ago, I earned my security license, but I have found my calling with being a peer specialist. I still carry my license, and I think that my training is good to have. I will also get my CPR/AED license to compliment my security license, all of which can be useful.

Education: Howie-The-Harp

Since becoming a member of TOP, I have progressed toward leading W.R.A.P. Group. I wrote original essays for the first 3 presentations. After the 1st presentation, Molly exclaimed, “I learned a lot”. That first presentation was titled “The Meaning of Life”. My 2nd presentation was titled, “Communication, or The Art of B.S.”, which brought a smile to Lester’s face. Molly told me that my 3rd presentation should be in a graduate class. I will not state the title, because I want to leave you with mystery. The reception, and compliments that I have received have motivated me to believe that I can be a great peer specialist. I look forward to becoming a peer specialist. After my completion of the Howie The Harp semester, I will have an internship, after which I will work as a peer specialist. I hope to help my peers make progress, and become successful, in order to live fulfilling lives.

—Ganesh Ramchand—
Hi, my name is Lynette, and I am working a transitional employment (TE) job. I like working—it is giving me back my confidence and a sense of purpose. It feels good to know people are counting on me. It helps me to think about other things that I might be able to accomplish in my life. I am thankful for this opportunity and the Clubhouse staff for their support and guidance. — Lynette B.
June is national Caribbean music month!

Top 5 Best Dancehall Artists of All Time

1. Beenie Man
2. Shabba Ranks
3. Sean Paul
4. Mr. Vegas
5. Vybz Kartel

Bonus: Lady Saw

—By Charles Estes

4th of July: In Defense of ME!

I think that I am the quintessential American, because when I was in the 4th grade, I got an apology letter from the president. That day, I became president. However, I will not take the pledge of allegiance. Do you know why? You have to live it! Otherwise we cannot distinguish the Americans from the fakers. The fakers, go on vacation. As Americans, everyday we work, goddamit! I am so American that I think that the whole world should celebrate the 4th of July. Do you know why? The 4th of July is "In defense of" me, I, you, and we "against tyranny"! Happy 4th of July.

— Ganesh Ramchand

An Ode to the MTA

Even though I spend all my dough
The MTA is still so slow,
100 years they have been working on the tracks,
It makes me get so mad.
If I didn’t have to travel,
Taking the train would be my last gamble.
So now they ask me to spend all my cash,
I think the MTA is trash.

—Vincent Cruz

dren and is very proud of the work she has done.

Member Profiles

Tonya has been a member of TOP for about 3 years. She enjoys living in Staten Island and taking trips to the beach. Tonya works with disabled chil-

Renee is a new member here at TOP. She is a native New Yorker who enjoys cooking and photography. Renee has a daughter in the first grade, and she loves spending time with her outside in the parks.

—Interviews by Sammy Chin

Chris Cornell was one of the important voices in the music community of hard rock. He started in the group called Temple of the Dog along with Eddie Vedder right before Pearl Jam formed, with a song called “Hunger Strike.” Then Chris Cornell and Soundgarden formed and then came out with the album Superunknown, with their good well-known song “Black Hole Sun.” Two years later they came out with the album Down on the Upside. Then Chris Cornell teamed up with Audioslave, and then sang in one song on the debut solo album by Slash, called “Promise” from Slash’s self-titled album. Chris Cornell’s great, great voice will be missed by all. —Steven Martinez

Happy Birthday, Sir Paul McCartney

Paul McCartney will turn 75 on Sunday, June 18th, 2017. Back in the late 1950s he was in a band called The Quarry Men, where he met John Lennon I believe. This was before The Beatles formed and they changed the course in popular music. The Beatles disbanded in 1970 to my knowledge and Paul McCartney released his first solo record, McCartney, where he basically played all instruments. He did that so good, it inspires me to play all instruments on my own recording gear. Then he wrote and recorded a song from the Tug of War album for John Lennon after December 8th called “Here Today,” which I’ve done on the guitar before. He has also collaborated with music icons such as Stevie Wonder and Michael Jackson. (This June 25th will be eight years since Michael Jackson passed away.) Paul McCartney is the most important icon in music whom I’ve been a fan of since I was three years old. HAPPY 75TH BIRTHDAY TO SIR PAUL! —Steven Martinez

Nowhere to Run, Nowhere to Hide-
All this division in politics is causing a divide amongst the people in NYC who come here and try to strive. What do you say to people who are struggling and stressing, trying to get to the top? What do you say to the people? I don’t know when all this madness will stop. What do you say to the people who are in need and trying to succeed? I don’t know, maybe you should go out and do a good deed. That’s what they always say. I always ask myself—Should I stay or try to escape? —Lynette B-

Poetry Corner

Winter Spring Summer Fall
No matter what I love all We might be different but In my heart we are still the same. I am here for a reason but Love Is my middle name. Everybody is here for their Own reason but my love don’t change. —Eleanor Marsh-

Remember Onion Rings
I like the cake rings dings. That’s the kind of sweets That make me sing. The sky is blue. I don’t care what Color are you. Remember when we played With video games? And Barbie dolls? Remembers when we used to Look at the waterfalls? —Eleanor Marsh-
# Social Events: July 2017

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**Group & Meeting Schedule:**

**Monday** — Work Readiness 3:00 PM
**Tuesday** — Program Planning 10:00 AM, W.R.A.P. 3:00 PM, Tutoring 3:00 PM

**Wednesday** — Double Trouble 3:00 PM

**Thursday** — Community Meeting 1:00 PM, Wellness 3:00 PM, Tutoring 3:00 PM

**Friday** — Smoking Cessation 12:00 PM, Bingo 3:00 PM