

Soft Hearted Lions

"A long, long time ago, the Lions Club of Pearl River decided to invite the people who live in the ARC residence in town to a holiday dinner," says David Wallach, president of the Pearl River Lions Club. The gesture became an annual event, with this year's dinner taking place at the Horse and Jockey Restaurant on Central Avenue in Pearl River. By all accounts, the gathering was a great success.

"Many people don't know this, but the Lions Club is actually the largest philanthropic organization in the world," notes Mr. Wallach. Originally founded with the goal of sight-related fundraising, the organization continues to raise monies for that purpose, but has branched out considerably in support of other issues. "We have done a lot of work with underdeveloped countries helping to raise funds to treat what is known as river blindness and other nutrition-related problems. Basically, some of these conditions can be treated with inexpensive medicines," Mr. Wallach explains. The Lions also recycle used eyeglasses so that those who cannot afford to purchase glasses may have the correct prescriptions.

In recent years the Lions Club was involved in fund raising following 9/11, the Tsunami and Katrina. On the local scene, this year's annual holiday food drive brought in more than 1,000 pounds of groceries. The food was donated to *People to People* and ARC of Rockland. Those organizations in turn, distributed the food to families in need.

Joining the Lions Club has a two-fold purpose. Says Mr. Wallach, "This is a way to give back to your community and to do something for the world."

For information about the Pearl River Lions Club please contact Mr. Wallach at (845) 300-8049 or visit www.PearlRiverLions.org.



*Standing, from left: David, Rachel and Susan Wallach.
Seated from left: Gabe Gibbs, Geraldine Steele, Rebecca
Ullmark and Nancy Murdock*



*Standing from left Susan and David Wallach, Carla
Crowe, Chris Zuccaro. Seated from left: Gabe Gibbs,
Ralph Fasano, Ray Sheridan*



*Geraldine Steele and
Chris Zuccaro*



David Gundlach