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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Local Interest: HARLEM ROTARY CLUB CELEBRATES HISTORIC 50TH ANNIVERSARY WITH "HARLEM NIGHTS" GALA, MAY 5, 2017**

HARLEM, New York, May 6, 2017 - The Rotary Club of Harlem enters the history books by celebrating its Fiftieth Anniversary on May 5, 2017 with a "Harlem Nights" themed gala at the historic Alhambra Ballroom. Featuring casino tables, an auction and live entertainment, as well as DJ, dancing, drinks and eats, this evening was surely a night to remember! Guests were treated to live performances by; Angela Wildflower formerly of the hit Broadway musical, "*Motown*" and Virgil Gadson a top finalist on Season 12 of "*So You Think You Can Dance*" in addition to the opera stylings of Marguerite Sutherland.

"We are honored Congressman *Adriano Espaillat*, Representative (D-NY 13th District), New York City Public Advocate *Letitia James*, and Manhattan Borough President *Gale A. Brewer* were able to stop by and share in the fun" – Rotary Club of Harlem President Dwayne R. Norris.

Turning 50 is a milestone for the Rotary Club of Harlem. The "Harlem Nights" Gala on May 5, 2017 celebrated the clubs' long and successful history, highlighted the programs that the club is involved and also served as a fundraiser for the prestigious Ambassadorial Scholarship, and local partner groups such as "Active Plus."

Founded in 1966 with the encouragement of David Rockefeller, Rotary Club of Harlem is one of the longest serving Rotary clubs in the United States. It has had a strong commitment to making the Rotary International mission part of its local vision.

The Rotary Club of Harlem's history is steeped in the tradition of service - founding members were active leaders in the US Civil Rights movement. This club led the charge in one of the biggest changes ever seen in Rotary International: achieving changes to the Rotary bylaws that lead to opening membership to women. Today, female Rotarians around the world are some of the most active local and community leaders, driving the charge with the Rotary motto "Service above Self."

In honor of this commitment to service, the club awarded six community leaders with their prestigious "Service Above Self" Community Service Award. Honorees included: Lora Hugelmeyer, District Governor, Rotary District 7230; Marva Wade, R.N., First Vice President,



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New York State Nurses Association; Sara Dennis, President, National Council of Negro Women; Dr. Gregory Hopkins, Musical Director and Professor, Howard University; Denise Soares, R.N., M.A., Executive Director- Retired, Harlem Hospital; & Rev. Thomas P. Grissom, Retired Pastor, United Methodist Church.

"Congratulations to the Rotary Club of Harlem and the special honorees. What a fun way to celebrate the 50th Anniversary." Tuesday Brooks, Ajoy Management Enterprise (Harlem Business Owner) & Community Board 10 Member.

Rotary International consists of over 35,000 clubs worldwide, with over 1.3 million members. Founded on the principle of "Service above Self," Rotary clubs are humanitarian serve groups focused on local change as well as global impact. Rotary's core mission includes: Supporting Education, Promoting Peace, Fighting Disease, Saving Mothers & Children, Providing Clean Water and Growing Local Economies.

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