

# The Spoke

## Rotary Club of Danbury

[www.danburyrotary.org](http://www.danburyrotary.org)

2 Years Best in District

March 12, 2008

PO Box 788, Danbury, CT 06813

### President Allison's Corner



I am happy we are reading the Four-Way Test, at the luncheon, on a more regular basis. It is one of the linchpins of our organization.

This ethical litmus test was officially adopted by RI in 1943, but was conceived in 1932 by Herbert J. Taylor, a Chicago executive and a past president of RI. Since Taylor penned the test

76 years ago, it has been translated into more than 100 languages and become synonymous with high ethical standards. It can't be repeated enough:

- 1) Is it the truth?
- 2) Is it fair to all concerned?
- 3) Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
- 4) Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

By the way. We will have some special guests at lunch this Wednesday. They are from the local high schools and are coming to hear about scholarships, and talk to past recipients, some of whom will also be joining us for lunch.

I am thrilled to have this opportunity to showcase one of our best initiatives. The scholarship program is one of our proudest efforts.

### Amber Alert-

3/22, 1-3 pm, Prospect Fire Dept.

3/29, 10 am- 2 pm, Danbury Hospital

6/5, 10 am- 2 pm, Oneco, CT

7/25, 11 am-4 pm, Village Fire Days, New Milford

7/26, 10 am-4 pm, Village Fire Days, New Milford

8/19, 10 am-4 pm, Newtown United Methodist Church

Craft Fair at Reed Middle School

### Speakers:

3/19- Our Scholarship Program

Will Houston, Carol Giannico (who chaired the meeting today) and Tom Nipper are happily contributing to our District Governor Ernie's little water pump, the proceeds of which will bring clean water to children in India.



### March 12th Meeting-

### Briget Guertin, Executive Director of the Danbury Museum—On Some Interesting Aspects of Danbury's History:

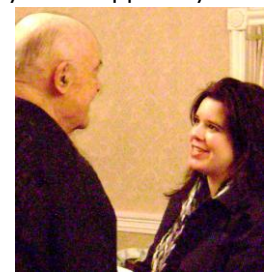
Our speaker today had a wealth of information about the Town's history few of us really knew. We all have heard about the British burning Danbury, but had no idea that the phrase "The Burning of Danbury" was promulgated by the British militia who wanted England to think they had actively destroyed a major supply depot in New England. However, their efforts were in vain. Only 40 buildings were burned, not the entire town, and the supplies were flowing back to the Loyalists weeks after the attack.

In later years, Danbury became a comb manufacturing center, and then from the 1830s until the 1940s had a thriving hatting industry. When they ran out of rabbit and beaver pelts, they turned to Australia.

The success of the hatting industry brought the Irish here to work—the first Irishman arriving in 1836, and others from virtually everywhere came. By 1900 there were 24 languages being spoken in the Danbury schools. The decline of the industry was capped by JFK's refusal to wear a hat during his inauguration.

For many years, the Danbury Fair was a treat, until the death of Mr. Leahy, the owner of the property who failed to leave anything in his Will which would have kept the Fair going. As many of you recall, the Fair was the cornerstone of our

Governor's Day—but life goes on as the fond memories remain.



Miguel Espinosa chats with our speaker



Frank Aquanita and Nels deAlmeida think back on the differences they have seen as Danbury grows, and changes. Both of them, as well as the rest of us, miss the excitement of the Danbury Fair. Neither wears a hat, though.

**Luncheon Tidbits-**

**The Spelling Bee is Coming: Keep Those Gifts for the Gift Baskets Rolling In:**

April 9<sup>th</sup> at the Ethan Allen Hotel we will be throwing the Second annual Greater Danbury Community Spelling Bee. The fee will be \$25.00 a person which includes dinner. Festivities begin at 6 p.m. Get there early, and look over the baskets. They will knock your socks off. Wayne Shepperd will be back as our Master of Ceremonies, and the judging will be done by Judge Lloyd Cutsumpas and Steve Bull. Contact Anita or Marvin if you have any questions. Marvin's e-mail is [mjpaige@usa.net](mailto:mjpaige@usa.net), and Anita's is [aragona829@aol.com](mailto:aragona829@aol.com).

**Weekly Raffle:**

Tom Tazza goes for the big one. We can see his hand poised, ready to make that lucky strike--- and---



he ends up with the 7 of spades. We heard Tom say "Rats," but them's the breaks. Better luck next time, Tom..still you won enough to buy a cheap bottle of wine, and a box of animal crackers.

**Make up locations:**

- Mon. 12:15 pm, Norwalk, Silvermine Tavern
- Mon. 6:00 pm, Newtown, Inn at Newtown
- Tues. 12:15 pm, Westport, Inn at Longshore
- Wed. 12:15 pm, Danbury, Ethan Allen Inn
- Wed. 6:00 pm, Ridgefield, Parks and Recreation
- Wed. 6:30 pm, Brookfield, Bailey's Backyard Rest.
- Thurs. 12:15 pm New Canaan, Roger Sherman Inn
- Fri. 12:15 pm, Wilton, Silvermine Tavern
- Fri. 7:30 Danbury Sunrise, The Club at WestConn, Westside Campus

**Rotary Club of Danbury  
Officers 2007-2008**

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**Thought for the Day, for those of us Disappointed in not having Fulfilled our Dreams-** We must be willing to get rid of the life we had planned so as to have the life that is waiting for us.

*Joseph Campbell*

On February 20<sup>th</sup>, a rare sight presented itself over our town, and it was worth more than a simple glance. We had an L2 eclipse of the moon, your Editor grabbed his camera, put on a 270 mm lens, and produced the photos to the right. The shadow of the earth moves across the moon at 380 mph, so things change rapidly. The colors I was able to photograph are remarkably true. I wonder if Rotary will ever have a moon based club. Just a thought. The next eclipse will be on December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

