

# The Spoke

## Rotary Club of Danbury

[www.danburyrotary.org](http://www.danburyrotary.org) 3 Years Best in District March 25, 2009

P.O. Box 788, Danbury, CT 06813

### From the Editor's Desk:

**Women in Rotary: Part 1--** Prior to 1987, the RI Charter did not allow women in Rotary. With boldness and temerity, the Rotary Club of Duarte, California, went to court, sued RI International and in a landmark ruling by the Supreme Court won the right to admit women to its club (RI International v. Rotary Club of Duarte, 481 US 537—argued 3/30/87 and decided 5/4/87). By keeping its female members, the Duarte Club set off a landmine that reverberated throughout Rotary worldwide.

For us old timers, prior to the ruling the admission of women to Rotary was frequently argued over lunch. At one point, a vote was held, and 90% of our members felt that admitting women to Rotary would be bad for the Club—and might even result in its demise. It would be a bit mean spirited to identify the people in the Club who are still with us, so I will not do this. However, your Editor proudly stood in favor of admitting women, and received a lot of scornful glances. I do remember the late Ted Baruch standing up, and giving a spirited plea to keep women “in their place,” since it was their obligation to help out their male spouses by functioning in the capacity of Rotary Anns—a position he claimed his wife happily accepted. Not so my wife, Jane. She insisted, “My name is Jane; it is not Ann!”

When the fateful ruling came, Ted was one of the first to bring a woman into the Club, explaining that she was an executive, and her thought processes were more like that of a man than a woman. At least it made Ted feel less guilty, I would guess.

Women are now assuming leadership positions, in Rotary, worldwide, and they have enriched the clubs they have joined. I know of no club that disappeared because they admitted women, and our own last two presidents have been women. To the contrary, Rotary would be in a pickle, today, due to declining membership in all service clubs worldwide if women were still excluded. We still have yet to see a female RI President, but that will come soon. Thanks, Ladies, for being patient, and coming aboard after years of neglect. We need you.

### Some dates to remember:

**April 25, Sat. – Gala dinner at the Amber Room.**

**June 3, Wpt District Golf Tournament.**

**June 9, Visionary Meeting, Pamela Burdette-Miller, Chair.**

### Speakers-

**March 27<sup>th</sup> - To be announced**

### Amber Alert-

**3/28 Kids Day, Dbry Hospital 10 am-2 pm**

**4/11 Prospect Fire Dept 10 am-3 pm**

**4/18 YMCA, Brkfld, Health Day for kids- TBA**

**5/16 Orange Community Ctr, 10 am-4 pm**

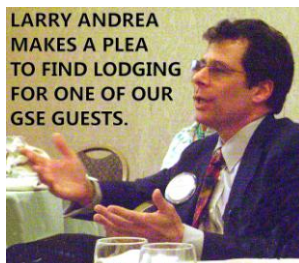
**6/6 Teddy Bear Family Craft Fest, N.Mfd, 10 am-3 pm**

**6/7 Brookfield Fire Dept 10 am-3 pm**

**6/13 Stony Hill Fire Dept, 10 am-3 pm.**

### GSE LODGING NEEDED-

Apparently due to an unforeseen conflict, Wayne Curtis will be unable to provide lodging for one of our German GSE Team members. If you have a spare room, let Larry Andrea know as soon as possible.



LARRY ANDREA  
MAKES A PLEA  
TO FIND LODGING  
FOR ONE OF OUR  
GSE GUESTS.

### March 25th Meeting-

### Karen Gottlieb, RN, MBA, Speaks on AmriCares' Free Clinics--



Our speaker today was **Karen Gottlieb**, who spoke passionately about the series of free clinics AmriCares has set up within Fairfield County. A sizable support staff of volunteers, and 15 Danbury physicians staff the clinic in Danbury. The clinic treats many undocumented and homeless people, and hands out all of the medications supplied by a group of pharmaceutical companies.

There are three clinics in the Fairfield County area, including Bridgeport and Norwalk as well as Danbury.

*New Caanan Rotarian, Amy Wilkinson, introduces our speaker.*



The clinic does have special hours of operation, so the patients need to be aware of the fact they are not open every day, as is the ER at Danbury Hospital. Still, the clinic helps to relieve the pressure on the ER by providing a unique service for a unique population that may not even receive treatment otherwise. By making this service available, congestion in the ERs is reduced as well as their costs, and a lot of needy people receive help.

Due to the pressing need for this service, many people have to wait for lengthy periods of time, and others must be turned away. Also, the service is for adults, not children, who have been treated by the Hanahoe Clinic which, unfortunately, will be closing its doors, soon.

AmeriCares receives donated services and space from both Danbury and New Milford Hospitals, the Danbury Office of Physician Services, the Danbury Housing Authority, the City of Danbury, the Fairfield County Medical Association, and the Boehringer Ingelheim Cares Foundation.

AmeriCares is another important community agency we are lucky to have.



*Frank Acquanita, Tom Tazza, and Peter Darling listen carefully to the message.*

**Luncheon Tidbits:**



*Pam Burdette-Miller has agreed to Chair the June 9<sup>th</sup> Visionary Planning Meeting. Here we see President Carol G letting Pam know how much the Club appreciates members volunteering for these key jobs.*

**The Winner/Loser of our Weekly Drawing was--**

*Doug Mann. He sure looks happy after pulling a winning ticket, then selecting a losing card. We have to assume this is due to Doug's inherent pleasant nature. In any event, he does walk away with \$10.00, and in our economy this is nothing to sneeze at. Good luck next time, Doug. You are game loser.*



**The GSE Team from Germany is Coming Soon:**

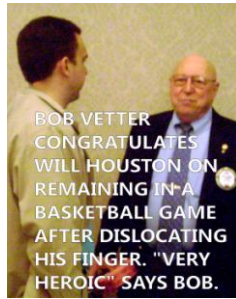
Please join us all at lunch for the GSE Team, from Germany, May 13<sup>th</sup>. They're a very impressive group of folks.

**Some Good News and Bad News:**

**A FREE CLINIC REALLY LOOKS GOOD AFTER RECEIVING A BILL FOR \$2,100 FOR A FINGER INJURY.**



*Will Houston dislocated a finger playing basketball, but the good news is he continued in the game and they won. The really bad news was the bill.*



**BOB VETTER CONGRATULATES WILL HOUSTON ON REMAINING IN A BASKETBALL GAME AFTER DISLOCATING HIS FINGER. "VERY HEROIC" SAYS BOB.**

**Make-ups-**

- Mon. 12:15 pm, Norwalk, Silvermine Tavern
- Mon. 6:00 pm, Newtown, Inn at Newtown
- Mon. 6:00 pm, Brkfld, Mario's Pasta Garden, 174 Federal Rd., Brkfld
- Tues. 12:15 pm, Westport, Inn at Longshore
- Wed. 12:15 pm, Danbury, Ethan Allen Inn
- Wed. 6:00 pm, Ridgefield, Parks and Recreation
- 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 2008-09**

<b>President</b>	<b>Carol Ann Giannico</b>
<b>President- Elect</b>	<b>James Gargan</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Paul Palanzo</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Douglas Mann</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>William Houston</b>
<b>Sergeant at Arms</b>	<b>Frank Acquanita</b>

<b>Directors</b>	
<b>Frank X. Hauser</b>	<b>Michael Searing</b>
<b>Marvin Paige</b>	<b>Caryl Lucchesi</b>
<b>Elaine Malgieri</b>	<b>John Lucchesi</b>
<b>Anita Ragona</b>	<b>Nels deAlmeida</b>
<b>Paula Greenberg</b>	<b>Robert Vetter</b>

Allison Fulton

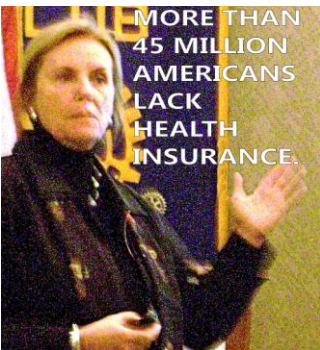
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**Thought for the Day--**

**WHEN INSTALLING A DOGGIE DOOR, MAKE SURE YOU HAVE MEASURED ACCURATELY--**



*Photo is that of the Editor's dog, Henry*



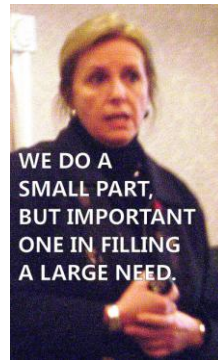
**MORE THAN 45 MILLION AMERICANS LACK HEALTH INSURANCE.**

Our speaker, **Karen Gottlieb**, makes four major points during her lecture on the value of AmriCares in our community, and she made those points with feeling. We all got the message, and know that the need is never ending.

**Make Ups:**



**IN CONNECTICUT, ONE OUT OF EIGHT PEOPLE ARE UNINSURED**



**WE DO A SMALL PART, BUT IMPORTANT ONE IN FILLING A LARGE NEED.**



**DANBURY HOSPITAL HAS BEEN A TRUE BLESSING TO OUR PROGRAM.**