

# The Spoke

## Rotary Club of Danbury

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

June 10, 2009

P.O. Box 788, Danbury, CT 06813

### From the Editor's Desk:

Our speaker, today, reminded us all of how fortunate we are to live in this country, and what one remarkable person can do to change a small part of the world we rarely even think about. Though not a Rotarian (he indicated at the meeting he just had too much on his plate to join our Club) he said that he loved what we were doing to help others, and firmly believes helping those less fortunate than us is why we were originally put on this earth. Carl Bailey truly exemplifies the most elevated level of Service Above Self.

It is heartening to see that 18 members have signed up to attend the Club visioning Program to be held at Armando's Restaurant in Bethel, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 4:30 pm. This is a very important meeting, and will be charting the course of our Club for the next few years to come.

Finally, the time is fast approaching for the Passing of the Gavel Dinner Dance, which will be held Une 26<sup>th</sup>, at the Ridgewood Country Club. Caryl Luchessi needs a head count, so let her know by June 12<sup>th</sup>. It is a black tie optional event, \$50.00 per person, and the cocktails will be available at 6:30 pm. All Paul Harris Fellows are invited to wear their medals, and we are looking forward to the installation of a new set of Club leaders that night. Come one, come all and have a great and festive time.

### Some dates to remember:

6/13 Westerners Golf tournament, The Golf Club, Oxford Greens; \$190 a golfer, \$40 dinner only

6/15 Ann's Place Ladies Golf Classic- \$175 person for foursome, Richter Park

6/22 Hanahoe Clinic Dinner honoring Dr. Hines, Amber Room, cocktails at 6:30 pm. **IT IS IMPORTANT WE SHOW OUR SUPPORT FOR THIS MOST REMARKABLE WOMAN!**

6/20 Great Duck Race, Wpt Sunrise, 11 am to 3 pm-2,500 ducks launched into Saugutuck River, at Parker Harding Plaza, \$20.00 a ticket—can win\$5,000! [www.westportsunriserotary.com](http://www.westportsunriserotary.com)

6/ 23, Visionary Meeting, Pamela Burdette-Miller, Chair. Note Change. Place is yet to be determined.

6/26 Dinner Dance, Ridgewood CC, cocktails at 6:30 pm, \$50 per person. Send money to Caryl by 6/12.

### Amber Alert

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

6/14 Burnum School, Bridgewater, 2 to 6 pm

6/20 Westerners, Rogers Park, Dbry 9 to Noon

7/24 and 7/25 Village Fair Days, N Milfd.

10/10 Trumbull Mall TBA

10/17 Reed School, Newtown, 10 am to 4 pm



Jim Gargan explains our mission to our speaker. He listens.

### June 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting-

### Carl Bailey Jr. in his Pursuit of Peace, Education and Equality in Nicaragua:



Our speaker today (a second generation Lebanese) is clearly a saint. As a highly successful Investment Advisor, he gradually became disenchanted with a business that has its main focus on the acquisition of money. He concluded that the real joy in life was not the accumulation of wealth, but the use of that wealth to help others—especially those who were living a life of pain.

Carl's search for personal satisfaction led him to Managua Nicaragua where he was emotionally shaken by the poverty and misery he saw these people face on a daily basis. He decided that the only way he would really get to understand these people was to live the lives they were experiencing. After 3 weeks living in the Barrios, being mugged and nearly killed, he developed an insight into the lives of the "mostly forgotten" that will be with him the rest of his life. He developed a burning desire to make a difference, and make a difference he did. He founded "Quest for Peace" which provides school supplies, a program that provides a glass of milk and a bite of food for a child each day they arrive at school, a remarkable project that provides cleft palate surgery (without the surgery, the children are total outcasts in the community) and funds for medical emergencies—and much more. He also told a remarkable story about a chance meeting he had at a Rotary Club with a Nicaraguan college professor that started the cleft palate project. The professor had spent 43 years of his life studying the Sandinista Revolution, and the professor introduced him to the foremost Oral surgeon in Nicaragua who was the guest speaker that day—a man who would eventually play a pivotal role in his cleft palate project. Over the years he has organized groups of dentists, many volunteers, and groups of oral surgeons from a number of major universities to go to Nicaragua and spend their vacations doing cleft palate surgery.



Our speaker concluded with a modest request for the money to repair a crumbling ceiling in their hospital. He also pointed out, for every dollar he receives, he will match it dollar for dollar. In response to his plea, this Editor noticed many heads in the audience nodding to the affirmative. How could this man be denied?



President Carol G, having been moved by the Speaker's message, made a decision, on the spot, a decision she was sure the Board would approve of.

**Luncheon Tidbits:**

President Carol Giannico celebrated her 38<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary sitting on the beach in Ocean City, Maryland, with Carl. (We hope it was with Carl).

Someone joked that Tom Tazza likes to sit next to people brighter than him; someone else countered, “No, he likes to sit next to people that are less bright so he feels more intelligent.” Let’s see which person was right at the luncheon next week.

**Frank Acquanita’s Challenge:**

Frank offered to put \$20.00 in the Happy/Sad basket next week if anyone could guess the exact score between the upcoming Yankee-Red Sox game. We all tried. No one came close.

**A Sad Note:**

Just prior to publication, we were informed of the passing of Paul Palanzo’s mother. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Paul and his family.

**Four Way Test Business of the Week:**

I have shared a number of stories about people I have met who exemplify the spirit of the Four Way Test. I’m sure there are numerous stories waiting to be told, that our members could share, if they cared to do so.

If any of you have a story to tell, that will impress and inspire us to live our lives a bit better, please e-mail me. These are stories begging to be revealed.

**Thought for the Week-**

It is recommended that when you borrow a car, you return it with the gas tank filled. However, at today’s prices, filling the tank up to half full could be considered quite sufficient.

**Make-ups:**

- Mon. 12:15 pm, Norwalk, Norwalk Inn
- Mon. 6:15 pm, Newtown, Inn at Newtown, 19 Main St.
- Mon. 6:00 pm, Brkfld, Mario’s Pasta Garden, 174 Federal Rd., Brkfld
- Tues. 12:15 pm, Westport, Inn at Longshore, 260 Compo Rd, So
- 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, Trackside Restr.
- Fri. 7:30 Danbury Sunrise, The Club at WestConn, Westside Campus

<b>Rotary Club of Danbury Officers 2008-09</b>	
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**We Need Vision!**

Although 18 members have signed up for the Visionary Meeting, we certainly could use more thinking heads. The meeting will be held at Armando’s Restaurant, 47 Stony Hill Road, in Bethel, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 4:30 pm. Bring your ideas, and your insights. Just let Pam Burdette-Miller know you will be there.



*The luncheon meeting can be a blast as these photos show. However, the only person laughing who should be frowning is John Lucchesi, (far right) who just missed pulling the winning card by one (the Queen is no King). He explained his jovial nature by explaining that he had won the \$10.00, and that was enough for one to generate a smile.*

