

# The Spoke

Rotary Club of Danbury

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

August 5, 2009

P.O. Box 788, Danbury, CT 06813

## President Jim's Corner:

This week our speaker was John Savage, who taught at UConn and Fairfield University. He was a professional film maker for major companies, which included Paramount, United Artists and Warner Brothers. His hobby is making movies about local history which include history of our region, namely Connecticut. He showed a film about Lafayette and General Rochambeau, the latter of whom was the commander of the French forces, which helped the Americans during our Revolutionary War. It was very informative, and I think it was a change of pace from other topics which we have had in the past. If you don't like history, remember it tends to repeat itself (i.e. hemlines, double breasted suits, etc).



One of my priorities as president, is to make sure that we have speakers scheduled for our meetings; however, I want them to be informative and interesting. It is not the job of our Speaker Chairman, Jane Didona, to do this job alone. It should come from the members, also. If you know someone who might be a good speaker, let Jane or myself know.

The picnic is next Sunday, August 16th, so if you have not let Caryl know, please do so by Wednesday. Our Board of Directors meeting is this Thursday, August 13th, 5:30 at Chuck's Steakhouse. We are having a golf outing on October 5th at the Beekmon Country Club, in Hopewell Junction, NY

Our speaker for August 12th is the award winning Allison Fulton who will speak on Youth issues. On August 19th, Marjorie and Jim Blansfield will speak on their climb at Mt. Everest. August 26th is still open. September, we will have the tour of the new police station, and the Visiting Nurse luncheon to kick off the Flu shot season. I am also interested in having a health expert come and talk about the national Health Care bill and the newly enacted Connecticut Sustinet Health Reform.

### Some dates to remember:

Allison Fulton will be our luncheon speaker next week.  
Picnic, Sunday, August 16th at Caryl and John's, 397 Old Turnpike Rd. E., Bridgewater, CT 06752. Bring a dish. (859) 355-1439.  
Golf Tournament, Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>; Dave Santucci, Chair  
June 20-23, 2010, RI 101<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention, Montreal

### Amber Alert

7/25 Village Fair Days, N. Milford, 11 am-4 pm  
8/8 Hartford 10 am-2 pm  
9/1-4 Big E 10 am-6 pm  
9/12 Taste of Danbury, noon to 7 pm  
9/13 Taste of Danbury noon to 7 pm  
9/19 Munson funderal Home, Woodbury, 2 pm-6 pm  
9/27 Berkshire Sh. Ctr, in Once Upon a Child, Dbry, noon-3  
10/24 Trumbull Mall, 11-4 pm  
10/17 Reed School, Newtown, 10 am-4 pm

## August 5th, Meeting-

### John Savage: Historian Filmmaker, on America's Revolutionary War-



Our luncheon Speaker is a retired professional filmmaker, and his topic was General Rochambeau, who came out to support the Americans during the American Revolution. One had attend this meeting to appreciate the full impact of the story. The film was well produced and moved along quickly covering a great deal of history

during the early formative years of our government. Surprisingly, our revolution had a significant impact on the entire world. Names like Marie Antoinette, Marquis de Lafayette, General Washington, and General Putnam were all part of the history we hear about in school, and from historians who bring the revolution back to life for us. Today,

Connecticut has many reenactments of Rochambeau's march through our state. US troops are usually portrayed as being well equipped and highly trained, but this was seldom the case.



We saw how General Washington and Rocambeau trapped General Cornwallis at Yorktown on October 19, 1781 and the British surrendered. The famous picture depicting the surrender was totally inaccurate, however.

After Yorktown the British still held control of several areas but London finally had enough and ended their pursuit.

If this is the quality of meetings we are going to have this year, you will not want to miss a single one. *Written material and photos courtesy of Rich Godfrey--*



**The Card Raffle is Coming.**  
Talk to your friends. Get those donations.

*Paula Greenberg, Chair of Card Raffle Committee*

**And the Winner of the Weekly Drawing Was-**



*Frank Acquanita. It wasn't the big one, but it the \$10 will purchase a couple of beers at the local pub—well, almost.*

**Happy Birthdays-**



*Allison Fulton demurely accepts her belated birthday wishes, while Nels deAlmeida and Michael Searing break into a*

*loud cheer with clapping. Perhaps women are less enthusiastic about their advancing years. Anyway, they all get to do this, again, next year.*

**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, Trakside Restr.
- Fri. 7:30 Danbury Sunrise, The Club at WestConn, Westside Campus

**Rotary Club of Danbury  
Officers 2009-10**

<i>President-</i>	<i>James Gargan</i>
<i>President- Elect</i>	<i>Paul Palanzo</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>William Houston</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Pamela Burdette-Miller</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Frank Acquanita</i>
<i>Sergeant at Arms</i>	<i>Michael Searing</i>
<i>Membership Chair</i>	<i>Paula Greenberg</i>

<i>Directors-</i>	<i>Allison Fulton</i>
<i>Anita Ragona</i>	<i>Bob Vetter</i>
<i>Marvin Paige</i>	<i>Carol Ann Giannico</i>

*Spoke Editor: Ralph S. Welsh  
203-938-2820 / rswelsh@mail.com*

**Thought for the Day-** As speakers, both Petraeus and Crocker are guilty of unbearable sesquipedalianism, a word wickedly inflicted on me by my English-teaching mother. It's one of those words that is what it says. From the Latin, literally "using foot-and-a-half-long words." We all learned the word for words that sound like what they say—like "click" "pop" or "boom" or "hiss"...we but I'm sure the mercifully defunct Famous Writers School surely forbade using the "sesqui" word and "onomatopoeia" in the same paragraph...but you can have fun with both of them at your next cocktail party. *Dick Cavett, NY Times, 4/15/08*

**Cindy Sturm's Ordeal-**

*Marvin Paige has been on the ball keeping us up with the progress of Cindy Sturm's 8 year old daughter, Grace, who is battling a brain tumor. As you all should know, Cynthia Sturm was our first four year scholarship winner and is a past member of the Sunrise Club.*

*We received Marvin's first message 7/20/09 informing us that Grace had been taken via Life-Star to Westchester Children's Medical Center 7/9/09 with a severe headache. A golf ball size mass was found at the base of her brain and was removed in lengthy operation. She was taken out of the O.R. 7/22/09 and things appear have worked out well.*

*We had word from Marvin on 7/23/09 that the results look positive, only 1% of the tumor remains, and there is a fighting chance it will not return.*

*On 8/8/09 Cindy wrote that Grace had now been off a ventilator 48 hours, and seems to be doing well. She has not communicated yet, but this apparently will take time.*

*If any of you wish to send flowers, send them to Grace Sturm at the*

*Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla, N.Y. Our prayers are with Cindy and her family at this very difficult time. If you wish to follow Grace's progress, go to <http://www.carepages.com/>. You will need to click on "become a member." Then you can search for "GraceRocks."*



*Marvin Paige has done a great job keeping us informed of Grace's progress. Thanks for caring, Marvin.*