

The Spoke

Rotary Club of Danbury

www.danburyrotary.org

February 24, 2010

P.O. Box 788, Danbury, CT 06813

President Jim's Corner:

Wednesday we had a club assembly. Areas of discussion were: fund raising, GSE visitors from South Africa and whether or not to change our club's flag. The fundraiser discussed is to have a celebrity breakfast to raise money for Polio Plus. Our club has pledged \$3,000 as part of the matching gift request by Rotary International to match the first \$100 million donated from the Bill and Melissa Gates Foundations to eradication polio. It was Bill Gates request for the Rotarians to match his \$100 million. In 2009 he pledged another \$155 million to this cause. We are trying to get Mia Farrow, who is a polio victim, to be our celebrity speaker. We are also considering selling Roses for Autism, which needs less individual efforts to be successful.



The GSE team from South Africa will visit our district 5/09 through 5/15. They will have lunch at our club May 12. There will be a farewell cookout at the Boys and Girls Club in Ridgefield on Friday the 14th. All members are invited to attend.

Ralph Welsh, our Spoke Editor, would like to change our Rotary flag. A committee will be assembled to come up with ideas for changing the flag and any member is welcome to participate on this committee.

Donations to the district for sustaining members are due by March 15. The donation is \$100 and will be used by the district to fund grants for club activities. Only 9 members have pledged so far. We have usually had over 20 club members pledge in the past. Please consider contributing to this cause.

We all know that the weather has not been good, but there are some Rotarians who have not been to a meeting in a long time. The purpose of Rotary is as a service club and the camaraderie is a pleasant plus. Try to find the time to join us for lunch, again. If you have had issues with the speakers or their subject matter, you can change that by being the speaker, yourself, or suggesting someone you know who is good. Hopefully, we will see most of the lost members in the next few weeks.

Yours in Rotary, Jim

Dates to Remember:

June 20-23, 2010, RI 101st Annual Convention, Montreal

3/3 Speaker: Michelle Bauman, CT Ballet Society

3/10 Speaker: Lori Gregan, Roses for Autism

District Activities:

3/12-13 President Elect Training Seminar

4/17 District Assembly, Sheraton 4 Points, Meriden

4/18 Inbound GSE from Australia and S. Africa

4/30 to 5/2 District Conference, Burlington, VT

5/12 GSE from S. Africa visits Danbury

Amber Alert-

3/20 First Congregational Church, Danbury 11 am to 3 pm

3/21 Sport Area, 37 Lanes Ville Rd, Danbury 10 am to 4 pm

3/27 Kids Day, Danbury Hospital 11 am to 2 pm

3/28 Wilton High School TBA

4/3 Prospect fire Dept 10 am to 2 pm

4/24 Fairfield Rotary TBA

4/25 March of Dimes, Danbury City Center 10 am to 2 pm

6/6 Brookfield Fire Dept 11 am to 3 pm

Today was a Club Assembly:

As President Jim pointed out, we discussed a number of topics, including a unique Breakfast, featuring Mia Farrow. Apparently Paula Greenberg has a contact person who has an inside connection to Ms Farrow. As an added bonus, she is totally committed to Polio Plus having been a victim herself. This would allow our Club to more than fulfill the request made by DG Colin Gershon for a commitment of at least \$2,000 from each club in the district, and make us a leader in funding the Polio Plus project in our district.

A second item involved the GSE Team visitors from South Africa. Wayne Curtis has graciously offered lodging for one of the guests. Wayne has done this regularly, and the Club applauds his involvement in doing so. As has been the case in the past, Larry Andrea will be our point man in Danbury, and will be wining and dining this very impressive group of people. The entire club is invited to participate, and will be favored with a visit with the team, at our March 12th luncheon.



Our Current flay/banner

Colonies, and for many years were the hat capitol of the nation. It has been suggested that we broaden the number of people on the flag, including Rose Wilder, P.T. Barnum, and a few other illustrious folks. However, it was finally agreed the final decision should rest in the hands of a committee. Anyone interested on being on the committee? If so, see Ralph.

It looks like Will Houston is on to something none of us can dispute.



BUCKS FOR BETTER WEATHER

Potential New Member!

Dan Theriault, a CPA, has been coming to our luncheon on a regular basis, and his name will now be going to the Board of Directors for a vote. Dan informed us he was the President Elect in his former Rotary Club in Ogunquit, Maine when he decided to transfer to Connecticut. We hope to see him on board, by virtue of our Board, soon, and may make that presidency a reality some day.



Luncheon Tidbits:

Paul Palanzo has just become a grandfather, for the 6th time. Congratulations, Paul, but especially to his daughter who did all of the work.

Paul Receives a Meritorious Certificate:



Everyone who participated in the celebration of the 182nd Amber Alert session Chili Cook off received a certificate, suitable for framing. Paul Palanzo proudly displays his certificate. By the way. Paul noticed Larry Andrea's 12 year old son reading the Odyssey at the Cook-off.

And the Winner of the Weekly Drawing Was--



Tom Taza. He pulled a measly four of spades, but gets the consolation prize of \$10.00. Our muted congratulations to Tom, and our thanks to him for making the pot that much sweeter.

Rotary Club of Danbury Officers 2009-10

President-	James Gargan
President- Elect	Paul Palanzo
Vice President	William Houston
Secretary	Pamela Burdette-Miller
Treasurer	Frank Acquanita
Sergeant at Arms	Michael Searing
Membership Chair	Paula Greenberg
Directors-	
Anita Ragona	Allison Fulton
Marvin Paige	Bob Vetter
	Carol Ann Giannico

Spoke Editor: Ralph S. Welsh
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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. 6:30 pm, Ridgefield, Sagi Rest 23 and a half Catoonah St.
 Thurs. 12:15 pm, New Canaan, Roger Sherman Inn
 Fri. 12:15 pm, Wilton, Greens Conval. Home, rear, Wilton
 Fri. 7:30 Danbury Sunrise, The Club at WestConn, Westside Campus

Thoughts for the Day:

- If someone you truly dislike does something special for you, make sure that a neutral friend writes the thank-you note.
- Getting a bargain is more emotional and long lasting than getting ripped off.
- Make waves, but only if your boat is quite stable.
- Food tastes a lot better on fine china than on a paper plate, but it sure is a lot more expensive.
- Living to be a hundred may be everyone's wish, but being deaf, blind, unable to breathe without oxygen, unable to walk, and unable to remember what one had for breakfast, surely is not.
- Being a leader requires a lot more than brains. It requires a really good press agent.



The proposed new banner has stirred up a measure of mild controversy. As with Club activities that require agreement, it has been sent to a committee. The Editor fervently hopes it won't die in the committee.

