

The Spoke

Rotary Club of Danbury

www.danburyrotary.org 2 Years Best in District January 2, 2008 PO Box 788, Danbury, CT 06813

President Allison's Corner



This week we had a very small but energetic gathering at lunch. There were only about 18 in attendance, but we had a vigorous discussion about our mission and our means. We will continue with this topic at the board meeting on Thursday, so I invite you to join us as we start developing our strategic plan. If you would like to be a part of the strategic plan committee, please let me know as soon as

possible. I am very optimistic about this endeavor to refine our efforts and our continued success as a Rotary Club of some distinction.

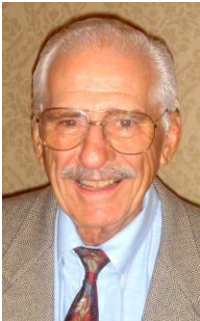
On Wednesday after our club assembly, we received the very sad news about Gary Crystal passing away. We also lost a good friend in Club past president Richard Hall, this week. We will miss both of them.

If you wish to do something in Gary's honor, you can contribute to the Robert Garrison Crystal, Jr. Scholarship Endowment Fund, Ohio Wesleyan University, 61 South Sandusky Street, Delaware, OH 43015, or by going to the net and accessing www.alumni.owu.edu/giving. You can also phone 740-368-3306.

Speakers:

1/4/08 To be announced

Two Good Rotary Men Have Passed Away-



Gary Crystal (right) and **Richard Hall** (left) died this week. It was a sad day for Danbury Rotary. Although Richard retired to Florida, he was a Club past president, a Kansas State Alumni---and a



loyal member, and an unwitting expert at "neologism" phraseology. Richard Hall Sr. was 79 (he never looked his age) and often brought his charming wife, Marlene to our meetings. He leaves two daughters and a son.

Richard initiated the yearly Marcus Dairy motorcycle extravaganza, and started one of the first Honda dealerships in the country in 1971. One day he arrived at the club with fractured leg, and later walked with what he called the "Standard motorcycle rider's limp—Most of us end up this way." His daughter, Alexandra Hall-Heron can be contacted via e-mail regarding a memorial to Richard in early spring (AHeron23@charter.net). See page 2 honoring Gary Crystal.

January 2nd Meeting-

Club Assembly: Discussion about our Mission in 2008:

A lively discussion was held regarding fund raising, versus community service, and whether we should place emphasis on one or the other. Jane Didona talked about the Lions Club's focus on Low Vision, and felt we might be spreading ourselves too thin covering too many areas and causes. Amber Alert was suggested as an area of focus, although it was the group's consensus that we shouldn't cut down on our scholarship commitments.

Recruiting continues to be a problem, but it was pointed out that all volunteer organizations nationwide are struggling to maintain their viability and numbers. It was generally agreed that we needed to try harder to find younger blood for the Club, we need to zero in on companies and organizations in the community who could be sources of membership, and we



need to insure that the News-Times

Jane Didona suggests we might be spreading ourselves too thin

provide us publicity when we approach them with our photos and articles. Apparently this has been a problem, as has been attendance. Randy Lindel mentioned that some clubs, including his new club in Idaho, have boosted attendance dramatically by the pre-payment of meals.

As President Allison has pointed out in her column, we need to do some strategic planning. Volunteers, anyone?

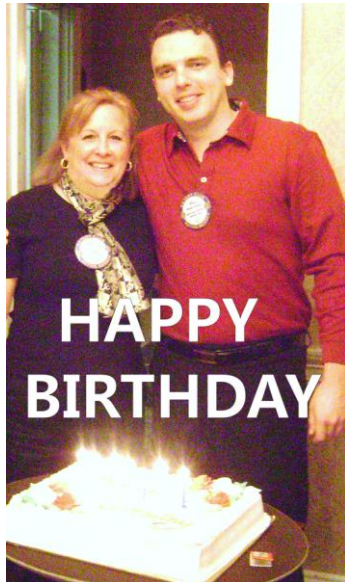
And the Raffle Winner Was:

Tom Tazza. The ace of clubs was pretty darn close, but no cigar. Still, Tom walked away with \$10.00, more dollars than he had when he walked into the Inn.



**Luncheon Tidbits-
Birthday Folks:**

Carol Giannico and Will Houston showed up to blow out the candles on the cake. Initially Will attempted to run off with the entire cake, but was restrained by the waitress. Other Danbury Rotarians who were also born in January, but did not show up for a piece of cake were: Joe Bolduc and Tary Tarlton. Coincidentally, Carol and Will are heading off for a cruise (separate of course) next week— nice touch for one’s birthday. Sadly, Gary Crystal was also born in January.



Guests-

Miguel Espinosa introduced Randy Lindel as our only guest. President Allison exclaimed, "...but what about the lady in red?" And who was that? Miguel's wife, Eleanore. Apparently she attends the club so often, Miguel has forgotten she is not a member.



A Sad Loss-

Gary Crystal’s passing left us with many fond memories of Gary. He was a Rotarian’s Rotarian in every inch of the way. He gave generously to the club, and had a wry sense of humor that was remarkable. He was also a passionate patriot who repeatedly e-mailed all of us his strong support for our troops and our country,

and then, later, we would receive a hilarious dispatch. He held 2 Paul Harris awards. Gary was 66.

Gary, like his father before him, was a business executive for many years, and for the last 12 years he and his wife, Mary Ann, have operated JP Travel in Danbury. He is survived by his two children and their mates, Robert G. Crystal, III, and Lisa Amendola-- and four grandchildren. A memorial service, for Gary, will be held Tuesday, January 8th, at the Greenfield Hill Congregational Church, 1049 Old Academy Road, Fairfield, Connecticut, at 11 a.m. A car pool is planned. Contact Marvin Paige.

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**

President	Allison Fulton
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Vice President	James M. Gargan
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Thomas Tazza	Miguel Espinosa
Will Houston	

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Some Rotary Memories of Gary Crystal:

The Red Sox nutcracker represents an old Red Sox-Yankee rivalry between Randy Lindel (left) and Gary Crystal (right). According to Randy, “Gary told me that when he saw it, he couldn’t resist, and, of course, it had to be given in public at a Club meeting. Our very friendly Yankee-Red Sox rivalry produced good revenue for the Happy/Sad pot over the years. When the Sox finally won in 2004, Gary sent me a car raffle ticket with a note of congratulations. We will miss his warmth, goodness and generosity very much.”

