

The Spoke

Rotary Club of Danbury

www.danburyrotary.org

2 Years Best in District

March 5, 2008

PO Box 788, Danbury, CT 06813

President Allison's Corner



Hi everyone. Surely, you have something you can contribute for the Bee! We already have many items, but there is room for many more

Last week I asked for entertainment themed goods. We received 3 bottles of wine (which, I understand, can be a real source of entertainment).

However, if possible, maybe you know someone with season tickets, and you can rangle a few away. Also, movie passes, DVDs, music CDs, books,

and board games are all items for entertainment and leisure.

WE MAKE EASY \$\$\$\$ ON THESE BASKETS AND IT IS A FUN RAFFLE!!!! April 9th is the day. Put a large circle on your calendar.

This is the list of theme baskets; new idea accepted:

-Candles and Scents--candles (have few, need more), potpourri, etc.

- Bath and beauty-soaps, lotions, bath potions, a day of beauty somewhere, spa stuff, etc.

-Gourmet- 2 completed already. Could use more.

-Man Stuff- BBQ equipment, tools, a Popular Mechanics Magazine subscription, anti-smelly socks powder, a nose hair trimmer, universal remote, car wash certificates, oil changes, tire rotations, etc.

-Coffee/Tea- mugs, gourmet coffee, teapot, napkins, muffin mix, cookies, etc.

-Kitchen Kaboodle- I will go to Williams Sonoma for this one.

-Flowers/Bouquets/Plants-Gift Cards for flowers, plant food, vases, etc.

-Shop Till U Drop- All assorted Gift Cards. We have some but need many more!!

- Entertainment- DVDs, CDs, tickets, board games, etc.

-Wines --as many as possible...

-Cigars and Single Malt Scotch- Nice crystal snifters, cigar cutters...

- A Night at the Ethan Allen (dinner and breakfast, included).

- Frameworks/picture frames, photo albums, artwork, scrapbooking materials, software for Photoshop...

Please think about approaching the people who you would normally have gone to for the radio auction donations. They must be missing us. We had some really great items in that auction, and they might fit perfectly into our baskets. There are only 3 weeks left to make this a success. Many thanks to all of you who have participated, and will participate in the future.

Amber Alert-

3/22, 1-3 pm, Prospect Fire Dept.

3/29, 10 am- 2 pm, Danbury Hospital

6/5, 10 am- 2 pm, Oneco, CT

7/25, 11 am-4 pm, Village Fire Days, New Milford

7/26, 10 am-4 pm, Village Fire Days, New Milford

8/19, 10 am-4 pm, Newtown United Methodist Church

Craft Fair at Reed Middle School

March 5th Meeting-

Andrea Gartner: City Center Manager, regarding what is going on Downtown-



Today's speaker, a native of Bethel, talked enthusiastically about what is happening in Downtown Danbury. She admits that the ICE initiative has had a chilling effect on the immigrant community (no pun intended). People have real concerns about the program, since 65% of the businesses Downtown are

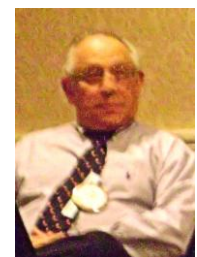
minority owned. She hopes that a campaign to help the people understand ICE, and not allow it to scare people away will be successful. However, neither she nor any of her colleagues can take a stand on the initiative, but will continue to work within the confines of the law, toward making Danbury a cultural center—and much of this is all ready happening. One very hopeful action was when the Town voted to provide \$75,000 seed money to have a film festival. Eventually, the wish is that Danbury will become the focal city in Connecticut for film activity—a sort of Hollywood of the east, as it were. Area colleges and universities are encouraged to get on board, and tax incentives are currently being discussed.

First Night continues to be a great success, and CityCenter Summer Nights, Concerts on the Green and A Taste of Greater Danbury bring over 20,000 area residents to the Green for entertainment.



Our Club, a wonderful ethnic mix, listens to the message—especially as it relates to ICE. From l. to r., Manuel Bataguas, Renata Amaral, Norman Urquhart, and Junior Avila.

Nels deAlmeida's cell phone erupted during the meeting, sounding like Big Ben. The ring must be useful when Nels has mislaid his phone on the third floor, and is calling it from the first floor. The neighbors should be able to find it, too.



**Luncheon Tidbits:
A History Worth Remembering-
Jane Didona's Sagacious Aunt Carrie:**



When the DAR refused to allow black contralto Marian Anderson to sing in Constitution Hall with a "mixed" audience, in 1939, Jane Didona's spunky aunt Carrie, along with thousands of DAR members including Eleanor Roosevelt, resigned. Ms. Anderson sang on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial instead.

Jane's strong willed Dutch family settled in Kingston, N.Y., and hosted the first seating of the N.Y. Assembly in the family home in Kingston.

Champions of the rights of others, her Dutch Reformed Church ancestors have always been ahead of the curve in civil

rights and individual justice for everyone.

Jane pointed out that we are often faced with the decision to include or exclude people, but the latter is rarely laudable. When she joined Rotary in 1990, there were those still holding an exclusionary position on women in Rotary. She cautioned us to forever be on the alert for exclusionary practices; there will always be those who want to keep somebody out. We need to keep the door open for everyone.



Guest, Kerin Duffy, listens attentively to the speaker, while Doug Mann and Nels deAlmeida are lost in thought.

For the second week in a row, we have passed around the water pump placed with us by District Governor Ernie Luise, in substitute for the Happy-Sad bucket. The money collected will help bring clean water to children in India. Larry Andrea shakes the pump to make sure it holds money, not water.



Happy Birthday, Gentlemen- Visiting Rotarian, Frank Considine, and stand in for Marvin Paige, Vince Miscia, enjoy the pleasure of blowing out the candles.

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
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Thought for the Day- There are two sides to every issue: The correct one, which is mine, and the wrong one, which is yours.

(left) Miguel Espinosa won the weekly raffle, but failed to pull the King of Clubs. In the background we can see Tom Tazza reassuring Miguel that he could be the big winner next week. (right) John Barbosa is counting the receipts, along with Bob Vetter, placed in Ernie's pump. We don't have the exact figure, but we didn't do so badly. For every \$25.00 we put in the pot, another family in India has a bio-sands water filter in their community.

