

# The Spoke

## Rotary Club of Danbury

[www.danburyrotary.org](http://www.danburyrotary.org) 3 Years Best in District July 30, 2008

PO Box 788, Danbury, CT 06813

### A Note from President Carol:



Well, it is almost the end of my first month and I must say I am enjoying the Presidency. We have a lot of things happening including the Nutmeg Games. We still need volunteers for these games so let Will Houston know if you can help.

Since the RI President would like us to focus on children's health, I have contacted Danbury Hospital and they have given me several ideas involving programs we can help them with. There is a childhood obesity pilot program, a Children's Day Program in March 2009 and also an infant car seat program. If you have any preference about any of these, please let me know. We will be discussing this at our next Board Meeting and you are all welcome to attend.

Bob Vetter has been contacted several times by the Red Cross about participating in the "School back-pack program". This is a wonderful program that helps children whose parents cannot afford to get them ready to go back to school in September. Since it is almost that time again, we will be discussing this at our July 30th meeting to get a consensus on how everyone feels.

I have noticed that when the sign-up sheets are going around at the room, no one is really looking at them and not too many people are volunteering to help. Remember, we are a volunteer club and everyone needs to do their part in helping especially with the Amber Alerts. Bob and his family really put so much time and effort into this, setting up, running the event, and then packing up all of the equipment for the next session that we really all need to try to help them. Please try to sign up for at least 3 or 4 a year.

I would like to thank everyone for making my first month as President so enjoyable. *So much to do....so little time.*

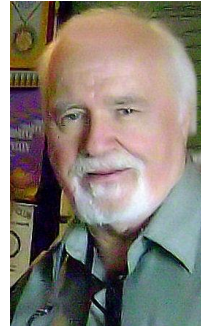
#### Speakers:

- 8/6 Open
- 8/13 David Dear, Publisher of the Danbury News Times
- 8/20 Al Hinden speaking about his trip to Alaska
- 8/27 Cheryl Reedy speaking about waste management
- 9/3 Open
- 9/1 District governor Rick Benson is visiting. Let's please all try to attend
- 9/17 Open
- 9/24 Interlude, Kathleen Deschenes, Exec. Dir and Robin Riemersma, Marketing

#### Amber Alert-

- 8/23, 11 am to 6 pm, best buy, Orange
- 8/31, 11am to 3:45 pm, N. Britain Stadium
- 9/6, 12 noon-7 pm, Taste of Dbry, Cty Cntr
- 9/7, 12 noon-7 pm, Taste of Dbry, Cty Cntr
- 9/20, 12 noon to 4 pm, Kids Day America, Sndy Hook
- 10/4, 10 am to 4 pm, Sheppard Meadows, Bristol
- 10/5, 11 am to 3 pm, Sheppard Meadows, Bristol
- 10/11, 10 am to 4 pm, Fairfield Middle School
- 10/18, 10 am-4 pm, Reed Mdl Schl, Newtown

### July 30th Meeting- Ralph Welsh, on The Trials and Tribulations of Becoming an Author:



Getting a book published is no easy task, and this includes children's books as well as those for adults. After your Editor had written a trade book on child rearing 12 years ago, he thought that the book publishers would flock to his door. In spite of having written a periodic column for the News-Times, had articles published in numerous scientific journals, and having been a frequent contributor to the Connecticut Psychologist, the official newsletter of the Connecticut, no publisher seemed interested.

Most of the manuscripts were returned with no evidence of having even been read, and the query letters all came back with a pleasant note that the material was not what they were interested in at the time, and a wish for "success" in finding a publisher tacked on. I then turned to a list of agents, and after nearly 40 queries, and 40 "No thanks; try someone else," I gave up.

Several months ago, I made up a bed time story for my 8 year old grandson, Ian. When I finished, he told me, "Grandpa. That's the best story I ever heard. You should write it down," so I did. I found an agency on the web interested in new authors of children's literature, submitted my story, and the fun began. The story had to be critiqued by a professional, the format changed, and the structure altered. A second reviewer had to make the necessary changes. I had to pay both reviewers.

The story is now ready to roll, but my agent is now asking how much time I have to help market the book if a publisher is found. It seems an endless pit, but the day I see this little story in print, I'll be one happy guy—and a "paid" author.

I may dust off that child rearing book one day, and give it another shot.

For those who have something they want to see in print (Miguel Espinosa mentioned his memoirs) don't lose hope. My sister-in-law paid a "vanity" publishing house to have a book printed on the history of the Utah Ballet. The book is now in libraries around the country and it is a wonderful piece of history. It may cost a few thousand dollars to go this route, but it may be worth the effort if a person believes that they have something publishable, and are willing to market the book themselves.

### The Card Raffle: Note from Paula Greenberg:

Just a reminder to bring your sold ticket information to the next meeting. Also, let your Captain know what sales you have made.

**Visitors:**



Left to right: Frank Consadine, Newtown Rotary, Julie Bernstein Cotter, a guest of Miguel Espinosa and former club member, and Eleanore Espinosa, wife of our own Miguel Espinosa with her husband.

**Winners of the Raffles:**



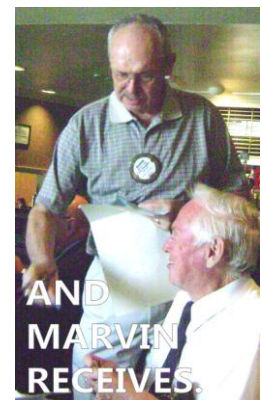
Tom Tazza (left) won the \$10 weekly prize—yet had he drawn the king of clubs, which in this case trumps the ace of hearts, he would have won the big bucks. Better luck next time, Tom. Our waitress, Linda, won the \$100 raffle ticket. If she wins the grand prize, she should take us all out to lunch—at a fast food place, of course.

**The Foundation:**

The Foundation is sponsoring a Haitian Health Program we might be interested in. Nels deAlmeida made a number of visits to Haiti, and might help us understand the program better, and since the club is putting its emphasis on children this year, we need the club's input on this. In any event, have you given your \$100 Foundation gift?

**The Exchange of Wealth:**

In Rotary, at one moment we are collecting money, the next we are donating it. Here we see Frank Aquanita collecting money for Happy-Sad dollars from Marvin Paige (left) and in the next frame (right) we see Marvin Paige collecting money for the Card Raffle ticket raffle from Mickey Gjerstadt. What goes around comes around—but in the best of ways.



**Make Ups:**

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	Carol Ann Giannico
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Vice President	Paul Palanzo
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Treasurer	William Houston
Sergeant at Arms	Frank Aquanita

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Paula Greenberg	Robert Vetter
Allison Fulton	
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**Old Jewish Proverbs Submitted by Frank Hauser:**

- The wise man, even when he holds his tongue, says more than the fool when he speaks.
- A wise man hears one word and understands two.
- You can't control the wind, but you can adjust your sails.