

The Spoke

Rotary Club of Danbury

www.danburyrotary.org

3 Years Best in District March 11, 2009

P.O. Box 788, Danbury, CT 06813

From the Editor's Desk:

Visiting other clubs, and participating in District events, adds to the depth and breadth of experience one has with Rotary. We meet new people, learn more about what is happening outside our own communities, and our fellow Rotarians are often impressive, and invariably interesting. The District Valentine's Dinner/Dance was a prime example of



Awatef and Larry



this broadening of one's Rotary experience.

Jane and I sat at the Norwich

Jane, Paul, Theresa, Joan and Michael

table (a club with 92 members) which happened to be populated with a distinguished group of Rotarians, including professors, lawyers, a PhD speech pathologist, and even someone who writes a food column for the local paper. They were Joan and Michael Gordon, Joel and Roz Etra, Thereasa and Paul Madonna, and Awatef and Larry Fowler. They were all a delight to talk to. The interaction between our many District clubs is always a new and stimulating experience. We hope the names are correct. If not, we'll just correct them later.



Roz and Joel

Some dates to remember:

March 18, 2009, Wednesday – Amos House breakfast at 7:30 am at the Amber Room; please let Carol G know if you can attend.

April 25, 2009, Saturday – Gala dinner at the Amber Room, more info to follow

Speakers-

March 18 Well Path

March 25 Americare

Amber Alert-

3/21 Aite High School, Stamford, 9 am-3:30 pm

3/28 Kids Day, Dbry Hospital 10 am-2 pm

4/11 Prospect Fire Dept 10 am-3 pm

4/18 YMCA, Brkfld, Health Day for kids- TBA

5/16 Orange Community Ctr, 10 am-4 pm

6/6 Teddy Bear Family Craft Fest, N.Mfd, 10 am-3 pm

6/7 Brookfield Fire Dept 10 am-3 pm

6/13 Stony Hill Fire Dept, 10 am-3 pm.

March 11th Meeting-

Brett Raphael, Artistic Director and CEO of the Connecticut Ballet, Speaks on the Danbury Dance Initiative--

Our speaker today was **Brett Raphael**, who as a 10 year old skinny little kid in New York, was singled out by the great George Balanchine to receive a Ford Foundation scholarship so he could study at the School of American Ballet. He has, since then, toured the world dancing, and now directs the Connecticut Ballet located in Stamford.



Mr. Raphael is particularly excited about the activity his organization has going on in Danbury, which garnered a front page



article in the Danbury News-Times on 3/9/2009. Realizing it is very expensive to train a dancer with talent for greatness, The Connecticut Ballet has established a scholarship program in the memory of the late former WestConn Professor Khalda Logan-Eaton, a professional dancer who was deeply dedicated to the art of dance. It is hoped that the program can be expanded in

coming years. Three of these scholarships were given out this week.

Although the Connecticut Ballet receives modest support from a number of agencies, schools, and individuals, it is always in need of additional funds, and this is a particularly lean year due to the economy. Still, Mr. Rafael is proud of the organization's work bringing dance to every school in the city, and getting children to become enthusiastic about an activity many have had very little contact with, especially among inner city youths.

The Connecticut Ballet is also proud of their outreach juvenile justice program, bringing dance, drumming, and acting to the area detention centers, helping troubled children find talent within themselves they did not know they had.

Mr. Rafael explained, "We have a lean, mean budget, but we do a lot with it. The program is a great hit wherever we go. We would like to see if our scholarship program would dovetail with your scholarship efforts." We noticed that this brought a positive nod from our President, Carol G.



Important Visitor

President Carol G brought her grand daughter, Vanessa Giannico, to the luncheon, today. No, Vanessa did not skip her classes at Abbott Tech. She had the day off.

Luncheon Tidbits:



FOR ALL OF OUR MISSING ROTARIANS-- WE SAVED A SEAT FOR YOU, HERE. MAYBE WE'LL SEE YOU NEXT WEEK.

PHOTO AND CAPTION SUGGESTED BY: PAM BURDETT-MILLER

We really need to have a better turn-out at the luncheon meetings. When people fail to show, we still have to pay for 25 seats. The seats are there, the food is there, and the table is all set. More importantly, the fellowship is there and waiting for you to enjoy. We hope to see more of you at lunch next week.

Our Condolences-

Our deepest sympathy goes out to Anita Ragona, who lost her mother, Rose Dussich, on February 27th. She would have been 94 on March 4th. She lived a long and fruitful life, according to Anita. She must have been a good mother—if Anita is an example of her mother’s success.

The Winner/Loser of our Weekly Drawing was--

Pamela Burdett-Miller. Pam had the winning ticket, but pulled the losing card. Her smile was forced.



NOT A WINNER--

Make Ups:

- Mon. 12:15 pm, Norwalk, Silvermine Tavern
- Mon. 6:00 pm, Newtown, Inn at Newtown
- Mon. 6:00 pm, Brkfld, Mario’s Pasta Garden, 174 Federal Rd., Brkfld
- Tues. 12:15 pm, Westport, Inn at Longshore
- 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, Silvermine Tavern
- Fri. 7:30 Danbury Sunrise, The Club at WestConn, Westside Campus

**Rotary Club of Danbury
Officers 2007-2008**

President	Carol Ann Giannico
President- Elect	James Gargan
Vice President	Paul Palanzo
Secretary	Douglas Mann
Treasurer	William Houston
Sergeant at Arms	Frank Acquanita

Directors

Frank X. Hauser	Michael Searing
Marvin Paige	Caryl Lucchesi
Elaine Malgieri	John Lucchesi
Anita Ragona	Nels deAlmeida
Paula Greenberg	Robert Vetter

Allison Fulton

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The Name-Game Problem—The Beacon Nailed Your Editor:
I have been criticized a number of times for miss-spelling the names of Club members, and justifiably so. I have made Miguel Espinosa, Miguel Esposito, Tary Tarlton Teri Tarlton, and Frank Acquanita, Frank Aquanita. Now the Editor of District 7980’s newsletter, The Beacon, has gotten even with me. As they say, “What goes around, comes around.” At the request of Rick Benson, I submitted some photos I took at the District’s Valentine’s Day Ball, they published 3 and they gave me the caption, **Photos by Ralph Walsh**. Oh well, Welsh, Walsh—what’s in name? I’ve been called worse.



WAYNE CURTIS BREAKS UP MICHAEL SEARING WITH A WITTY COMMENT WHILE CONTRIBUTING TO THE HAPPY/SAD BASKET. PAUL PALANZO, (Far Left) REMAINS NON-PLUSSED.

Is a Joke funny? Apparently it Depends on the Individual.

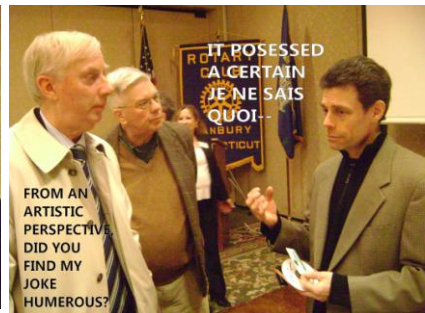
Wayne Curtis tells a joke while making a deposit to the Happy/Sad Dollars basket. Mike Searing finds the joke uproariously funny. Apparently Paul Palanzo does



YOU DIDN'T FIND WAYNE'S JOKE FUNNY?
FRANKLY, NO.



THIS IS MY VOTE FOR WAYNE'S JOKE...



IT POSESSED CA CERTAIN JE NE SAIS QUOI-- ANBURY TITOUT
FROM AN ARTISTIC PERSPECTIVE DID YOU FIND MY JOKE HUMEROUS?

not. Doug Mann then asks Jane Didona’s opinion, which she gives graphically. Finally, Wayne confronts our speaker, who politely responds in French (you can look it up).

