

# The Spoke

## Rotary Club of Danbury

[www.danburyrotary.org](http://www.danburyrotary.org) 3 Years Best in District April 8, 2009

P.O. Box 788, Danbury, CT 06813

### *From the Editor's Desk:*

There is an old Chinese proverb, "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime." The truth of this proverb has been repeatedly shown through the concept of Microcredit—a word that did not exist before the 70s. It burst on the world stage when a gentle, caring gentleman from Bangladesh, Muhammad Yurus, founded the Grameen Bank which showed that lending poor people small amounts of money to start up modest community businesses was a great idea whose time had come. The bank is now making small loans, to near destitute people worldwide (including America) and has a near zero default rate, with payback rates in the high 90%. For his work, he received the Nobel Prize, and continues to prove that the people at the bottom of the economic ladder can do wonders if given a small sliver of an opportunity to take care of themselves.

Rotary has embraced the microcredit concept, and has, according to Jeffrey Sacks, Director of the Earth Institute and Special Advisor to the UN, made loans to many poor people throughout South America allowing them to start their own simple businesses, and take care of themselves and their families. Sacks point to a Honduran, Carmen Urbana, who started up her own handcrafter paper business through a program set up by a local Rotary Club, to assist people displaced by Hurricane Mitch. A 3-H grant funded her business, and she gratefully remarked, "I never thought it was possible to have my own business."

When a community of poor farmers are given the opportunity to obtain microloans, they typically triple or even quadruple their food output allowing the overflow to go to market.

Rotary is always there when a good idea is produced, and micro-lending is one of those activities that benefits everyone involved, allowing the recipient to take pride in himself/herself, which handouts often do not do.

#### *Some dates to remember:*

4/19, GSE Brunch, Sun., 12:30 pm-2 pm, N.Haven Ctry Club, 160 Hartford Tpk, Hamden, CT 06517 (\$25.00 lunch)  
4/23, District Assembly, Th., 8 am, Sheraton 4 Points, 275 Research Pkwy, Meriden, \$45.00. Fees paid by Club. All new officers should go. Your Editor will be one of the presenters.  
4/25, Sat. – Gala dinner at the Amber Room.  
5/1, Newport District Conference- A must for new Rotarians  
6/3, Wipt District Golf Tournament.  
6/9, Visionary Meeting, Pamela Burdette-Miller, Chair.

#### *Speakers-*

April 15<sup>th</sup> - Nels deAlmeida  
May 13<sup>th</sup> - GSE Team Visits

#### *Amber Alert-*

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.

### *April 8th Meeting-*

#### **Club Assembly: Issues Regarding Membership, Speakers, and Publicity--**



**Jane Didona** led the club, today, in a discussion regarding the direction the Club was going. She admitted her disappointment over the number of speakers who have cancelled or failed to show up, recently, but remained optimistic regarding the future. She said that various members have provided her with potential speakers, and mentioned that our own Club, as Larry Andrea recently pointed out, is a wonderful source of luncheon presenters.

Jane was particularly optimistic about publicity, having made contact with a lady at the News-Times who assured her we will no longer be ignored, as we have so often been in the past. We just need to get the copy and photos to her in a timely fashion.

It is hoped that the Visionary Meeting in June will create a number of new ideas that will revitalize the club. Getting new members to join was mentioned as a priority, but the mechanism this will be achieved needs to be developed.

Our Club does so many good things, we really need the leadership in our community to know about us, and have a desire to become part of the fun.



#### **Potential New Member:**

David Santucci, an agent with State Farm Insurance, broke bread with us at lunch today. Dave has done his homework, and came to the Club remarkably well versed regarding the mission of Rotary. We hope to see Dave next week, and in many weeks to come.

**A New Scholarship in the Name of Joe Bolduc is being Planned—**

Joe's family requested that, in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are to be made to the Danbury Rotary Charitable Trust. If you haven't written your check, now is the time to do so—and for a very good reason. The money will be used to set up a scholarship in Joe's name. The request has to go before our board, first, and the amount of the scholarship will be determined at that time. Joe loved the Club and all it stood for. A scholarship is a fitting way to remember him.

**The Winner of our Weekly Drawing was--**

our president, Carol Giannico, who also won the card draw to the tune of \$385.00. Congratulations, Carol. You deserve it just for the demands we all place on you as Madam President.



**Visiting Rotarian-**



It was nice to see Karen Tracy at lunch, again. Karen is from the morning Club, and she, as well as all of her fellow Rotarians in the Sunrise Club, are always nice to see.

**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. 6:00 pm, Ridgefield, Parks and Recreation
- Thurs. 12:15 pm New Canaan, Roger Sherman Inn
- Fri. 12:15 pm, Wilton, Trackside Restr.
- Fri. 7:30 Danbury Sunrise, The Club at WestConn, Westside Campus

**Rotary Club of Danbury  
Officers 2008-09**

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

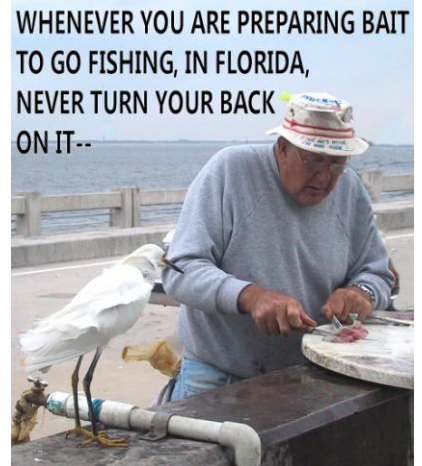
  

<i>Directors</i>	
Frank X. Hauser	Michael Searing
Marvin Paige	Caryl Lucchesi
Elaine Malgieri	John Lucchesi
Anita Ragona	Nels deAlmeida
Paula Greenberg	Robert Vetter

Allison Fulton  
Spoke Editor: Ralph S. Welsh  
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**A Warning to Our Fellow Rotarian Florida Snowbirds—**

Be observant while fishing, in Florida, or you can become baitless pretty darn quick!



**WHENEVER YOU ARE PREPARING BAIT TO GO FISHING, IN FLORIDA, NEVER TURN YOUR BACK ON IT--**

**Rotarians Connecting—**

Communication flows at each luncheon. Here we see Nels deAlmeida, Vince Miscia, Frank Acquanita, Allison Fulton, Peter Darling and Bob Vetter doing what Rotarians do best.

