

The Spoke

Rotary Club of Danbury

www.danburyrotary.org

May 27, 2009

P.O. Box 788, Danbury, CT 06813

From the Editor's Desk:

For those of us who have been in Rotary many plus years, our contribution to the Foundation is quite automatic. For those of us who have only been in Rotary a short time, this may be less true.

The Foundation is "The Foundation Stone" of Rotary. It supports medical, educational, youth exchange programs, clean water projects and many many more important programs worldwide.

In the April issue of the Rotarian magazine, the importance of the Foundation was underscored with a great article on the impact maternal health has to the well-being of children. It pointed out the great work Rotary is doing to eradicate polio, and referred to the magnificent success the medical community had in eradicating smallpox.

Recently, the United Nations laid out a number of goals to deal with the problems the world is grappling with, and goal 4 of the Millennium Developmental Goals was the reduction in child mortality. Goal 5 was to improve maternal health. These two goals go hand in hand. As the author noted, even if a child survives measles and doesn't have clean water or even food, he/she has a high risk of dying of a waterborn disease like typhoid or in some dire cases malnutrition.

The author, Paul Farmer, indicated that we have to broaden our vision, and realize that saving a child's life requires a multiplicity of intervention, including saving the life of the mother. A child who loses his/her mother to the HIV virus is immediately placed at risk with a mother's death in the third world usually followed with destitution with many orphaned children ending up in terrible straits, often turning to criminal activities simply to survive—if they do survive.

Worldwide, over 500,000 women die of pregnancy-related causes very year, and these women frequently have children at home who are suddenly without a mother—or commonly with no one at all to care for them. A woman rarely dies of childbirth in America (14 per 100,000 to be exact). More than 99% of these third world deaths are preventable.

Rotary can, and is making a difference with all of its varied programs targeting children and mothers, but it needs our funding to be successful. If you haven't done so yet, make our president, Carol G proud and give your \$100.00 as a Foundation Sustaining Member.

Some dates to remember:

6/13 Westerners Golf tournament, The Golf Club, Oxford Greens; \$190 a golfer, \$40 dinner only

6/15 Ann's Place Ladies Golf Classic- \$175 person for foursome, Richter Park

6/22 Hanahoe Clinic Dinner honoring Dr. Hines, Amber Room, cocktails at 6:30 pm. **IT IS IMPORTANT WE SHOW OUR SUPPORT FOR THIS MOST REMARKABLE WOMAN!**

6/20 Great Duck Race, Wpt Sunrise, 11 am to 3 pm-2,500 ducks launched into Saugutuck River, at Parker Harding Plaza, \$20.00 a ticket—can win\$5,000! www.westportsunriserotary.com

6/ 23, Visionary Meeting, Pamela Burdette-Miller, Chair. Note Change. Place is yet to be determined.

6/26 Dinner Dance, Ridgewood CC, cocktails at 6:30 pm, \$50 per person. Send money to Caryl by 6/12.

Speakers-

6/3 Scholarship luncheon, Ethan Allen

Amber Alert-

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

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

6/14 Burnum School, Bridgewater, 2 to 6 pm

6/20 Westerners, Rogers Park, Dbry 9 to Noon

7/24 and 7/25 Village Fair Days, N Milfd.

10/10 Trumbull Mall TBA

10/17 Reed School, Newtown, 10 am to 4 pm

May 27th Meeting-

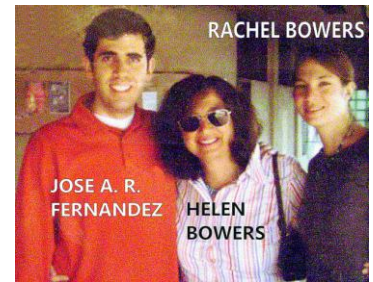
Helen Bowers on "Wheelchairs" for those who can Least Afford Them--



Our speaker today is a member of the Yorktown Rotary Club, and a former club colleague of Paula Greenberg when Paula was living in New York state.

Helen introduced us to a unique program financed in conjunction with a Foundation partnership grant. Her club is now working to provide some of the 1 million wheelchairs the program has given out through Rotary Clubs nationwide since it was founded in 2001.

The project was gladly embraced by the Yorktown Club, and the city of "destiny" was inspired by her exchange student son, Jose who she now refers to as her "adopted son." Helen soon discovered the sad need for wheelchairs in Jose's Mexican village of Morelia which had a horrendous attack by a group of terrorists during an Independence Day celebration in September of 2008. The fragmentation grenades were very damaging, and left many villagers immobile.



When Helen and her entourage (which included her daughter Rachel arrived at the town with 75 wheelchairs, the sound of approval was deafening. The townspeople insisted on paying everyone's expenses, but Helen insisted on paying for her souvenirs.

The Club is now working with a Spanish Club in a local school hoping that the kids can take the next trip to Mexico and be the ones to hand out the wheelchairs. Having a Rotarian as the Headmaster didn't hurt a bit.

Let's Go Dancing:

Caryl Luchessi is chairing a dinner dance June 26th, and hopes that we will all come. It will be a semi-formal (black tie optional) affair at the Ridgewood Country Club. Cocktails will be at 6:30 pm, and dinner at 7:00 pm. It is only \$50.00 a person and will be a great source of fellowship. Caryl needs the money by June 12th. We hope to see all of you there in your finest go-to-meetin' clothes.



Luncheon Tidbits:

New Members: David Santucci was inducted last week, and we expected to induct Marnie Teatro and Susan Almeida today, but both Susan and our president, Carol G were absent, so it will probably be the week after the Scholarship luncheon. We are lucky to have these 3 fine folks in the Club. Now we can put them all to work.

Four Way Test Business of the Week:

Your Editor had two keys made at Keough Hardware in Georgetown. It took the clerk at least 15 minutes to make the keys (they are some of those pesky programmable ones) and when I asked what the charge was, he waved me off. "No charge, young man (that was worth the trip itself). We don't charge when you bring your blanks in."

My kudos to Keough. If you folks recall, they hosted an Amber event last year. They certainly function in the spirit of the Four Way Test. The Four Way Test is such an important Motto for the club, that we should hear about those special folks and businesses in our community that practice the spirit of it, and hear about them on a frequent and regular basis. If any other Club members have a similar personal story, let's all have a chance to share it.

Alison Went to Foxboro to Watch Lacross--

...and her nephew did very well in the NCAA finals. Congrats to Allison, but mostly congrats to her nephew. His college, Cornel won, and his 5 goals helped.

And What did Rotarians do over the Memorial Day Holiday? Frank asked the Question During the Passing of the Happy/Sad Dollar Basket:

Not a lot it seems. Nels and Yara had a romantic lunch, and then washed the boat (or launched it—we're not sure). Doug Mann cut down a tree. Helen Bowers contributed \$1.00 for the poor tree. When Doug pointed out it was only a small tree, Helen replied, "Oh, in that case, I want 50 cents back." Elaine Malgieri put their boat on the lake, and Jim Gargan "Just sat around." Paula Greenberg wisely took a cruise on the Hudson.

And the Small Winner of the Weekly Raffle Was—



Anita Ragona Luckily, she was able to share her excitement in winning the \$10.00 with her husband, Andy. Nice going, Anita. Of course, \$100.00 would have been better—but them's the breaks.

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**

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Anita Ragona	Nels deAlmeida
Paula Greenberg	Robert Vetter

Allison Fulton
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We Need Vision!

We had a plea from Pam Burdett-Miller to attend the upcoming Visionary Program. The Club needs your input. Mark your calendar for June 23rd.



Lou McAdams put in a plug for the United Way, and told us all to go to their website www.takefivetofive5.org and learn how your giving can make a difference. He also told us of a unique prescription discount card for the needy, which is

available through the United Way. Mike Brooks, of the Sunrise Club, We know he was selling something (and our apologies to Mike) we missed the message. We need Mike to come back. Yara and Nels deAlmeida took in the program in tandem fashion.

