

The Spoke

Rotary Club of Danbury

www.danburyrotary.org

October 28, 2009

P.O. Box 788, Danbury, CT 06813

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE DISTRICT, AND WORLD:

World Polio Day was celebrated October 24th, marking the 95th anniversary of the birth of Jonas Salk, developer of the polio vaccine. Although the 24th is past, an exciting opportunity is ahead. Itzhak Perlman will perform with the N Y Philharmonic on December 2nd to benefit Rotary's \$200 million Challenge. You can buy your tickets, now. They begin at \$75.00, but a concert seat and admission to a reception with Mr. Perlman can be had for \$500.00. Tickets are available at 212-875-5656. Mention you are a Rotarian.

The Brookfield Club is already preparing for the GSE group from South Africa, May 9th through May 15th. A farewell BBQ will be held Friday evening before their departure at the Boys and Girls Club in Ridgefield.

Governor Jodi Rell will be hosting a Day of Caring and Compassion, November 7th, 10 am to 2 pm. Club members can participate by dropping off donated non-perishable food at the firehouse in Danbury, at 19 New Street. Mention that you are doing this at the request of Danbury Rotary.

Fairfield Rotary is hosting a "One-Club" Golf Tournament to benefit Operation Hope, November 7th.

President Jim will be returning in two weeks from vacation, and will take over this space, again. We all hope Jim has a great time.

Dates to Remember:

10/31 RI Leadership Day, Graduate Club, Yale, N.Haven
11/4 Casey Leverne and Elaine Mintz GDNRC will speak
11/7 UN Day, NYC
11/13 Card Raffle, Amber Room, 7 pm; second person, \$50.00
Next year, June 20-23, 2010, RI 101st Annual Convention, Montreal

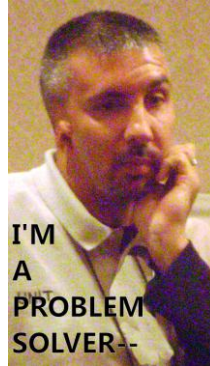
Amber Alert-

10/31 Gap Kids, Stamford Town Center, 10 am to 2 pm
11/7 St. Pius, Ffld, 10 am to 4 pm
1/10/10 Sthbry Ambulance, 68 Georges Hill Rd 11am to 4 pm
1/31/10 Snow Date, Sthbry Ambulance, 11 am to 4 pm



President Elect Paul Palanzo stepped into Pres. Jim's shoes, today, and like a substitute teacher, had to deal with a bunch of unruly characters who took advantage of the situation.

October 28th Meeting- Shawn Stillman, on the Unified Neighborhood Inspection Team:



Our speaker today, who is also the son of Linda Stillman, spoke on his responsibilities as the Unit Coordinator of the City of Danbury, more affectionately known as the UNIT.

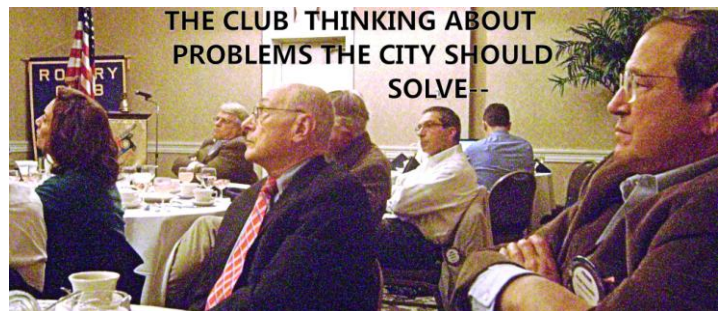
The UNIT operates out of Danbury City Hall, and is made up of the Fire Marshal, the Building Inspector, a member of the Police Department, the Health Inspector, and the town Zoning Officer. Our speaker heads up the UNIT, which was created by the Mayor's office to field complaints from the townspeople.

One of their most difficult challenges is that of illegal dumping. As dumping fees increase, so do the number of abandoned mattresses, TVs, sofas, and what have you.

The UNIT also checks out unsafe living conditions, such as a garage converted to an apartment with unsafe wiring and plumbing, or severely overcrowded apartments.

The notorious volleyball courts still exist, even though the town constructed a number of them to encourage the large Hispanic volleyball loving townspeople to use the town courts rather than build courts in neighborhoods with lights, noise, traffic problems, and free flowing beer. Finally, the UNIT must respond to leaves blown into the street, and vehicles parked daily on a person's front lawn (there is a city ordinance against this believe it or not).

The city has set up a hot line one can call for a complaint (311). Rarely does the UNIT have to take legal action. Usually a warning, and a brief chat about the problem is enough.



Danbury is fortunate to have programs such as the UNIT. Most of the smaller towns do not, and their problems have to be handled in a way that takes valuable time away from other agencies.

The 23rd Annual Raffle-

As you all should know, we have two weeks before the big Card Raffle. It will be held at the Amber Room, November 13th, doors open at 7 pm, and the food will be served at 8 pm. Also, a second person will be required to pay \$50, but the evening entertainment will be well worth it. It would be nice if the \$50 folks would ante up another \$50 and get in on the drawing...and the following note is from Paula Greenberg: *Please, folks, sell! sell! sell!!!! We*

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only have a few weeks left. I will keep pestering all of you to find out what's happening with your tickets.....The economy is on the upswing, and selling seems a lot easier this year. I will accept no excuses!!! Let me know if you need more tickets.

By the way. Bring those bottles of wine to the luncheon. We have volunteers who will make up more baskets.

Luncheon Tidbits:

We hear that Larry Andrea's son, Lawrence, is going to participate in the Statewide Soccer Finals. Congratulations to Lawrence. We all hope his team wins.

Ray Kish gave Allison Fulton \$1.00 for the Happy/Sad bucket and grumbled, "She said she didn't have any cash on her; she sounds like my wife."



(Left) Heather Sadler, who works with Allison, joined us again for lunch. Good to see you Heather. Drop in again, soon.

Frank Acquanita had the winning ticket, but pulled the losing card. Frank appears satisfied with his modest winnings of \$10.00. The keeper of the cards, Bob Vetter, who can be seen grinning in the background, is obviously showing his pleasure at the fact the pot is now growing, again after last week's big win by Miguel Espinosa.



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, Greens Conval. Home, rear, Wilton
- Fri. 7:30 Danbury Sunrise, The Club at WestConn, Westside Campus

**Rotary Club of Danbury
Officers 2009-10**

President-	James Gargan
President- Elect	Paul Palanzo
Vice President	William Houston
Secretary	Pamela Burdette-Miller
Treasurer	Frank Acquanita
Sergeant at Arms	Michael Searing
Membership Chair	Paula Greenberg
Directors-	
Anita Ragona	Allison Fulton
Marvin Paige	Bob Vetter
	Carol Ann Giannico

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Thought for the Day from the Editor:

Christians, Jews, and Moslems could all be right. Since String Theory postulates many dimensions, each sect could have a belief system that was totally correct for that dimension. In fact there could be a dimension that honors and admires used car salesman, dimensions that are populated with nothing but honest lawyers and politicians, and even dimensions that deify good houseguests. I really like the latter. In reality, though, there are enough stars and planets in the universe to accommodate all of the above without any of the added dimensions. Now that's something to ponder on your way to the luncheon, and kind of spooky, like Halloween.

We regret that we had to cancel the Halloween Party for Saturday, but we will be back for another affair that will be bigger, better, and less inconvenient for our guests. In the meantime, we present 3 of our grandchildren: Ian is the dragon warrior, Josh is Dracula, and Erin is holding a sword as a female warrior, with her friend, Mattie. Happy Halloween, Everyone.



Ralph and Jane Welsh