

# The Spoke

Rotary Club of Danbury

[www.danburyrotary.org](http://www.danburyrotary.org)

December 2, 2009

P.O. Box 788, Danbury, CT 06813

## President Jim's Corner:

Our speaker was **Brigid Guertin** from the Danbury Historical Society who spoke on the history of Christmas cards and how they started in the Danbury area in earlier days. Brigid brought samples of Christmas cards from the 1800's for the audience to view. She also mentioned that Christmas was a time of many celebrations and shows featured in downtown Danbury. Many of the shows were traveling minstrel shows, which were hosted at the Taylor Opera House. There were many



*Brigid Guertin*  
two clubs.

This Thursday the 10<sup>th</sup> there is a Board of Directors meeting, 5:30 pm, at Chuck's. We will be voting on a potential new member, Dr Jennifer Tauber, as well as planning for the second half of our fiscal year.

Our joint meeting for the Holidays, with the Lions, will be Thursday the 17<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn, exit 8. Please let's have a better showing than last year.

Our annual bell ringing will probably take place next Saturday.

Our holiday lunch will be on Wednesday the 23rd at Ethan Allen. We already have about 30 members and their guests signed up. If you did not attend last week's meeting and are interested in attending please let me know since we need a headcount.

I miss Ralph when he misses a meeting. It means I have to write more and I would rather speak than write. Hope to see you at the next meeting.

Yours in Rotary, Jim

## Dates to Remember:

*Next year, June 20-23, 2010, RI 101<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention, Montreal*  
*12/9 Luncheon speaker, Younhee Shin, Program Coordinator of KSCPP*  
*12/10 Board Meeting, Chuchs, 5:30 pm*  
*12/17 (Thursday) Lunch at Holiday Inn with Lions*  
*12/23 Holiday Hoopla Luncheon, courtesy of Jane Didona*

## Amber Alert-

*12/12 Trumbull Long Hill Fire Dept. Noon to 7 pm*  
*1/30/10 Stbry Ambulance, 68 Georges Hill Rd 11am to 4 pm*  
*1/31/10 Snow Date, Stbry Ambulance, 11 am to 4 pm*  
*2/21/10 Chili Winter Warm Up, Dbry Ice Rink 1 pm to 4 pm*

**Potential New Member:** Jennifer Tauber has filled out her application to join the Club. We hope to have her aboard, soon.

## Notes From DG Colin Gershon:

### Taken from *The Beacon*, and Colin's most recent E-mail:

Our District Governor has been extremely busy, visiting all 59 clubs, and many more than just once. He informed us, this week, he had just completed his third visit to the Beacon Falls club (provisional) which now has 20 members, and recently attended the Black Rock club's (provisional) fund raising event; it now has over 20 members. The District expects to charter both clubs soon. In addition, he mentioned that Danbury Rotary had led an Amber Alert registration during the recent Newtown Rotary pancake breakfast.



DG Colin writes, in the Beacon, "During my visits, I have sought to emphasize RI President John Kenny's theme-the Future of Rotary is in Your Hands."

He emphasized two special December 31<sup>st</sup> deadlines: The election of club officers, and registration for the District Conference April 30<sup>th</sup> to May 2<sup>nd</sup>. The latter allows the registrant to be part of a raffle for free lodging and dining.

He also told us about a Rotary radio program in which he invited us all to participate, WEBE 108/WKNL. If anyone is interested, they can contact Alpha Coiro at [alphetty1@att.net](mailto:alphetty1@att.net).

The District is offering cultural grants for study in another country, and several \$10,000 Service Above Self Scholarships for former high school scholarship winners or college students in our area. Interviews will start in the Spring. Other activities are:

-District Interact Assembly at Choate Rosemary hall, 1/9/10  
-Pre-PETS Race Brook Ctry Clb, Orange, contact Julie Reppenhagen at [jrepp@snet.net](mailto:jrepp@snet.net).

-Red Hearts/Purple Pinkie Valentines Dinner/Dance, Country House, E. Haven, 2/12/10; contact [paulburns8@comcast.net](mailto:paulburns8@comcast.net).

Your Editor recommends this one!

-RYLA Awards, 2/26-28,10.

-New Generation Conference, Choate Rosemary Hall, 3/6/10.

-Rotary Leadership Inst., Graduate Club, 3/27/10. Contact [paulburns8@comcast.net](mailto:paulburns8@comcast.net).

-4/1/10 Deadline for Governor's Citation Awards.

If any of you want more information on the above, check <http://www.rotary7980.org>.



*We're not sure what Allison Fulton is looking at here, but it sure looks like it might be a French postcard.*

**A Note from the Editor's Desk:**

I don't miss too many meetings, but when I do, I can always rely on a number of people to make sure the Spoke keeps grinding out. This week my kudos go to President Jim, who supplied the lead story, as he always does his President's Corner well, and Bob Vetter, who supplied the photos. In the past, Rich Godfrey has stepped up to the plate, and I know he will continue to do so in the future. Will Houston does a bang up job keeping the Spoke archives in order, and I'm sure there are others who will be there if I need them. That's just the way Rotarians are.

I guess it has become some kind of an obsession making sure that our members receive the Spoke all 52 weeks of the year. Having won the District Newsletter Award three out of the last 4 years may be part of the obsession, but doggone it all, it is a labor of love—and a challenge I must admit.

I can't promise that the Spoke will always be there, week after week, but I'll do my best. However, I know we can improve it, if more members contributed material for the Spoke. Some have, but most have not. I am particularly interested in human interest stories—you know, those little events the exemplify Service Above Self, or some unusual act of kindness that often is overlooked (the guy who tells you that you just dropped a \$10.00 bill, or the person who plows your driveway every winter without compensation). Those are special people, and we should hear about them. In any event, I had a great time visiting my newly minted granddaughter, in Cleveland, and believe she is something special. As a proud grandpa, I can't help but pull the picture out—so here it is. Her name is **Samantha Welsh**. Enjoy.



**And the Winner of the Weekly Raffle was:**

*Margaret Santos. She missed the big one, but she happily settled for the \$10.*



**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

<b>Rotary Club of Danbury Officers 2009-10</b>	
<b>President-</b>	<b>James Gargan</b>
<b>President- Elect</b>	<b>Paul Palanzo</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	<b>William Houston</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Pamela Burdette-Miller</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Frank Acquanita</b>
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<b>Membership Chair</b>	<b>Paula Greenberg</b>
<b>Directors-</b>	
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<b>Marvin Paige</b>	<b>Bob Vetter</b>
<b>Carol Ann Giannico</b>	
<b>Spoke Editor: Ralph S. Welsh</b>	
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**Some Thought for the Day-**

- Getting up real early in the morning gives you a lot more time to worry.
- No one wants to be a dead celebrity.
- More is not always better, especially if it is trouble.
- Shortcuts aren't always short.
- Don't spit into the wind if you are a major league baseball player, and are being featured on TV.

This is a montage of three photos made at the big Card Raffle. Although the Raffle happened a few weeks ago, your Editor thought that it was worth sharing. It was a very special night, especially for Mickey.

