

# The Spoke

Rotary Club of Danbury

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

January 27, 2010

P.O. Box 788, Danbury, CT 06813

## President Jim's Corner:

As I sit here writing to you, I look outside and see the wind blowing the snow around; it's cold. This Tuesday a group of "adult" men in Pennsylvania will dress up in top hats and tuxedos and wait for a giant rat (groundhog) to emerge from his den to see if he sees his shadow. If so, it means six more weeks of winter. All you have to do is look at the calendar to see that there are six more weeks of winter. I guess those folks in Pennsylvania need something to do because they probably don't get out much, so watching Phil see his shadow must be the highlight of their life. Why don't they consider joining a service club and do something good for others?



This past Wednesday our speaker cancelled, so Dr Ralph pinch-hit. His topic was his research on corporal punishment and its effects on children. Thank you, Ralph. It's good that fellow Rotarians are willing to be speakers when asked.

Our club has begun an effort to support the Haitian Health Foundation, as you know. If you have not given to this cause, we will now be accepting donations. Also, the President signed a bill which allows you to take a tax donation on your 2009 tax return provided you give to a Haitian charity by February 28<sup>th</sup> of this year. So please consider giving to this cause.

The speaker for next week, February 3, is Carl Bailey of Bailey Associates. Carl has spoken to our club previously regarding his work in Managua. He will be bringing some of his colleagues and will give us an update on his work there. His last presentation was so compelling, the Club wanted see if they could help him out in some unique manner. He has done so much to help the children of Nicaragua.

The speaker for February 10 will be Michelle Bauman from the Connecticut Ballet Society to speak about her organization and give us a demonstration. We have speakers for the rest of February, but have yet to schedule them.

P.S. No disrespect to the folks in Pennsylvania. Yours in Rotary, Jim

## Dates to Remember:

- 1/30 Pre Pets- Paul Palanzo attending
- 2/12 Red Hearts and Purple Pinkies Dinner/Dance, 2-12 at the Country House in E. Haven
- 2-26-28 RYLA- Homestead Suites, Stratford
- 3/12-13 Pres. Elect Training Seminar
- 3/27 Leadership Conference, N. Haven
- 4/17 District Assembly, Sheraton Four Points, Meriden
- 4/18 Inbound GSE from Australia and So. Africa
- 4/30-5/2 District Conference, Burlington, VT
- 5/12 GSE from So. Africa visits our Club
- 3/27 Rotary Leadership Institute, in New Haven
- 6/ 20-23, RI 101<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention, Montreal

## Amber Alert-

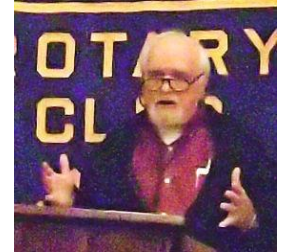
- 1/30/10 Sthbry Ambulance, 68 Georges Hill Rd 11am to 4 pm
- 1/31/10 Snow Date, Sthbry Ambulance, 11 am to 4 pm
- 2/21/10 Chili Winter Warm Up, Dbry Ice Rink 1 pm to 4 pm

## Speakers-

- 2/3 Carl Bailey, Nicaragua Cleft Palate Project
- 2/10 Michelle Bauman, the Conn. Ballet Society

## January 27<sup>th</sup> Meeting: The Roots of Violence Including the Making of Suicide Bombers: Dr. Ralph Welsh, His Research and His Theory of Violence:

Today your Spoke Editor changed hats, and presented over 30 years of research in which he has been engaged, examining the relationship between child rearing practices, and later violent and aggressive behavior.



The research began while I was teaching at Fairfield University, and was evaluating juvenile delinquents for the Bridgeport Superior Court. After several months, I started to notice a disturbing trend. Nearly all of my delinquents had a history of physical over-punishment, and the more extreme the physical punishment had been, the more aggressive the child was found to be. Over the years, I discovered that these angry, troubled youngsters had been exposed to belts, board, extension cords, fists, rubber hoses, cat-of-9-tails, boards, broomsticks, wooden spoons, yardsticks, hairbrushes, and hob nailed boots—to just name a few of the implements used on them. One thing these devices of "discipline" had in common was their ability to inflict a high level of pain. My colleagues and I decided to exclude the open hand to the rear (more than 90% of our population, according to Gallup, appear to have been spanked as a child). We were not interested in looking at the relationship between spankings, per se and violence. We were looking at what we determined was an "extreme" form of spanking.

Surprisingly, when I presented my first paper on my data, at the 1975 Convention of the American Psychological Association, I received a standing ovation. I had never seen that at a paper session before. Immediately following the paper, I received calls from one media outlet after another, and the research was reported in the Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun Time, Clinical Psychiatry News, and even in the National Enquirer. Most of the media got it right. The article in the Enquirer was shot full of errors and hype. Never trust a tabloid.

In any event, and rather remarkably, in over 30 years of evaluating juvenile delinquents, and 6 major studies later, we have yet to find the first recidivist male delinquent who wasn't raised on a belt, board, extension cord, fist or the equivalent.

I once had a bet with the Danbury juvenile probation officers; if they could find me one recidivist (multi-repeater) male juvenile delinquent who had not been

exposed to extreme forms of physical discipline, I would give them \$100.00. If I found they were wrong about



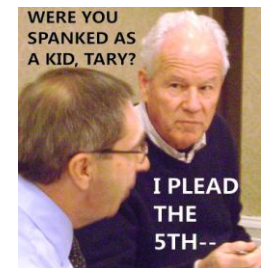
the child's disciplinary history and he had been beaten following further investigation, they would pay me \$1.00.

Only one probation officer held out, but by the time he had lost \$20.00, the remainder had all

cancelled the bet.

International research has confirmed that the radical Islamic suicide bombers were victims of brutal, parental (and brutal school discipline) coupled with lifelong indoctrination .

Essentially, we know that harsh discipline increases fear levels, affects school performance worldwide, produces aggressive and criminal behavior, makes people insensitive to the pain of others, and reduces a person's creativity and ability to become a productive member of society.



In July of 2000, I presented a paper at the XXVII International Congress of Psychology, in Sweden. I had heard that their "permissive" society had created a high suicide rate. Not only did I find this untrue, I discovered that their suicide rate is actually lower than ours, and their

homi-cide rate is very low. Many of their jail have unlocked doors, and week end privileges, and they have one of the most unique anti spanking laws in the world. The Swedes in the group, I presented to, could not believe the extreme forms of punishments that had been used on my delinquent patients.

Ordinary spankings seem benign, but too many people take it to a higher level, and that's dangerous. Being a strict parent is fine; being a punitive parent is counterproductive.



SURE. JUST DON'T HIT ME!

**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. 6:30 pm, Ridgefield, Sagi Rest 23 and a half Catoonah St.
- 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**

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

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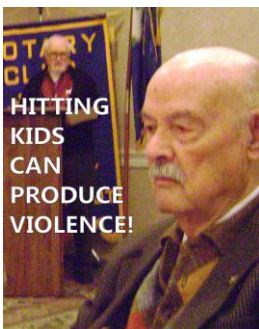
**And the Winner Was--**

Paul Palanzo, and there were no complaints. He was just happy to collect the \$10.00, and leave the remainder in the pot. The pot is growing, so buy more tickets. It helps out the club, and you could walk away with a nice little sum if you draw the king of clubs.



**Visitors from other Clubs, and Guests:**

Counter-clockwise: Varun Binany, Eleanore Espinosa, Jane Welsh, Nick Kroot, Bill Kochher. and Frans Boetes.



Miguel Espinosa listens to the speaker and relates the message to himself. He is shocked when his wife, Eleanore, seems to contradict his insistence he is non-aggressive, but all is well that ends well. Eleanore indicated she was just pulling his leg.



JUST KIDDING!