

The Spoke

Rotary Club of Danbury

www.danburyrotary.org

February 17, 2010

P.O. Box 788, Danbury, CT 06813

Notes from the District Governor:



The Red Hearts/Purple Pinkie Dinner/Dance raised \$1,000 for Polio Plus. Many thanks go to past DG Paul Burns for chairing the event, and for those who do not know what the Purple Pinkie reference was about, it refers to the ink on the pinkie finger one gets after being immunized.

The Board has also approved another \$6,000 to the Haiti Relief Committee of District 4060

(Dom. Republic) in addition to the \$20,000 donation already made, and \$10,000 to the Haitian Health Foundation of Norwich. We are still asking each club to raise \$2,000 for Polio Plus, and we will have to think about the long term needs of Haiti, so we are not through giving to this most important cause.

Some important District events are:

-2/6: New Generations Conference at Choate Rosemary Hall (for high school students).

-3/31: Awards Deadline.

-4/30 to 5/2: District Conference Burlington, VT

The above is a condensation of a letter from District Governor, Colin Gershon, to our Club.

Dates to Remember:

Next year, June 20-23, 2010, RI 101st Annual Convention, Montreal

Other District Activities:

2/26-28 RYLA Homestead Suites, Stratford

3/12-13 President Elect Training Seminar

4/17 District Assembly, Sheraton 4 Points, Meriden

4/18 Inbound GSE from Australia and S. Africa

4/30 to 5/2 District Conference, Burlington, VT

5/12 GSE from S. Africa visits Danbury

Amber Alert-

2/21 Chili Winter Warm Up, Danbury Ice Rink 1 pm to 4 pm

3/20 First Congregational Church, Danbury 11 am to 3 pm

3/21 Sport Area, 37 Lanes Ville Rd, Danbury 10 am to 4 pm

3/27 Kids Day, Danbury Hospital 11 am to 2 pm

3/28 Wilton High School TBA

4/3 Prospect fire Dept 10 am to 2 pm

4/24 Fairfield Rotary TBA

4/25 March of Dimes, Danbury City Center 10 am to 2 pm

6/6 Brookfield Fire Dept 11 am to 3 pm

Our Speaker for Today: Maude MacArthur Discussed the Hidden Treasures of Haiti--



We have been reading a great deal about the devastating Haitian earthquake, lately, but there is another more positive side about Haiti we haven't been hearing a lot about in recent weeks and it is this part of Haiti that will help it to rise above the ashes.

Our speaker gave a brief history of Haiti, and the troubled governments it has had, yet the people of Haiti have remained unbowed.

The community of St. Marc is rich in sugar cane and coffee, and education remains a top priority among the Haitian people. Ms. MacArthur pointed out that slavery was abolished in Haiti well before it was abolished in the states.

Wood, for building, has been a problem in Haiti, since it was previously seen as a resource for cooking not building. This may change with possible new reforestation, a need the earthquake has apparently brought to light.

The country is mostly native Haitians, but the French and Arabs have a growing presence. She

strongly believes that Haiti will rise up again, and will become a valued country in the hemisphere.



Our speaker and Pres. Jim

Happy/Sad Dollars Reach:



Tary Tarlton pulls a muscle in his arm in an attempt to contribute to the Happy/Sad basket. Obviously the basket is deficient. It needs a long handle on it.

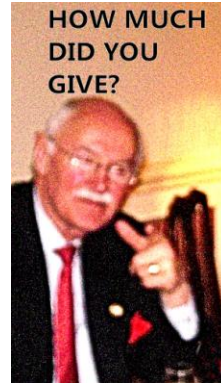
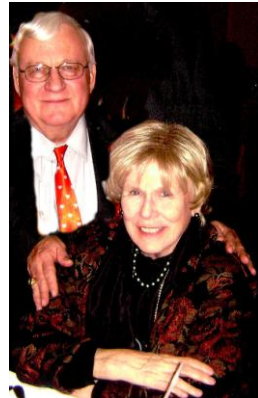
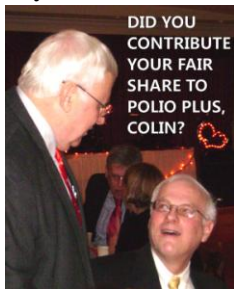
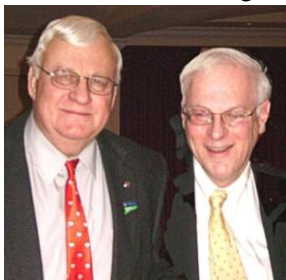
Changing the Banner:

Your Editor is still looking for responses to his proposal for a new banner. For those who have ideas, or criticisms, let me know. I hope most if not all of you agree that we need a new banner.

And the Winner of the Weekly Drawing Was-- ... Marvin Paige, but he left early, leaving the ticket with Rich Godfrey, who already had his hands full reporting for the Spoke in the absence of its Editor. Marvin only won \$10.00, but that surely beats nothing. Bob Vetter will give him a \$10.00 rebate useful toward his next lunch.

The District Valentines Dinner Dance: A Very Enjoyable Evening:

Danbury did have a presence at the District Valentine's Day affair, and we thought it would be nice to share a few photos taken that evening, so here they are:



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**

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: The little boy carefully watched as the ushers passed around the offering plates, then when they came near his pew, the boy said loudly, "You don't have to pay for me, Daddy. I'm under five!" Suddenly another loud voice came from an adjoining pew; "Hey, Preacher! If you let this kid in free, I demand my senior discount!"

We all had a great time, but as anyone can see, one thought dominated the evening—and well it should. We all gave.

