

The Spoke

Rotary Club of Danbury

www.danburyrotary.org

March 10, 2010

P.O. Box 788, Danbury, CT 06813

President Jim's Corner:

This week, I would like to bring several items to your attention. The District will be having a Rotary Leadership Institute in New Haven, March 27th, at the Graduate Club, 155 Elm Street. It will last from 7:30 am to 3 pm. All Club officers and officers-to-be (which is most of us) should think about attending.



Secondly, few of you know that Rotary is now on the radio. Check out the District website, and tune in. Alpha Coiro, the District Public Image Chair, has space for recording dates if anyone in the club wishes to become famous for a few moments.

Finally, I plan to induct Dan Theriault on Wednesday. Let's fill the room, and welcome him into the Club. And by the way, don't forget to wear green.

I'll see you Wednesday. I hope everything held together in my absence. I'm sure with Paul at the helm it went well.

Yours in Rotary, Jim

Dates to Remember:

- June 20-23, 2010, RI 101st Annual Convention, Montreal
- 3/24 Creative Group on Identity Theft
- 3/31 Open Fellowship Meeting
- 4/7 Mark Robinson on the 2005 Avon Mountain Accident
- 4/14 Joe Barnes, Esq. on Asset Protection

District Activities:

- 4/17 District Assembly, Sheraton 4 Points, Meriden
- 3/27 Rotary Leadership Inst., New Haven
- 4/30 to 5/2 District Conference, Burlington, VT
- 5/12 GSE from S. Africa visits Danbury

Amber Alert-

- 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 10 am to 4 pm
- 4/3 Prospect fire Dept 10 am to 2 pm
- 4/24 Fairfield Rotary, 370 Beach Road, Fairfield
- 4/25 March of Dimes, Danbury City Center 10 am to 2 pm
- 5/1 Kids Day, Danbury Hospital 11 am to 2 pm
- 6/6 Brookfield Fire Dept 11 am to 3 pm

Our Speaker, Today, was Lori Gregan of Roses for Autism--



Lori Gregan told us an inspiring story about a most remarkable project.

Roses for Autism was the inspiration of a father of a teen with autism, Jim Lyman. His fear was that his son would grow up without a meaningful job, and through his work in agriculture, Roses for Autism was born..

This agricultural project, founded in 2009, not only provides individuals on the autism spectrum

the chance to learn the skills necessary to maintain meaningful employment, but also serves as a model that can be replicated nationwide to develop unique opportunities for them as a whole new competitive workforce.

Started in 2009, Roses for Autism is the first business endeavor for Growing Possibilities, a nonprofit social enterprise founded by Ability Beyond Disability that is dedicated to growing independence in the business world for individuals with Autism and other disabilities. The

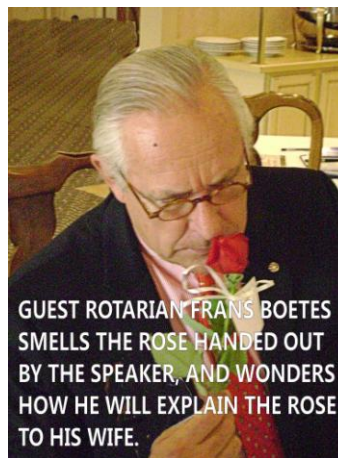


program currently grows 16 varieties of red roses, and is now growing lilies for Easter. The roses are sold both by

the organization, and as a fund raiser by local service clubs. They are grown in a 50,000 square foot greenhouse which may have to be expanded soon.

To the delight of members, everyone in attendance was presented a beautiful red rose, and a special bouquet was presented to Eleanore Espinosa in celebration of the positive medical news she recently received on her cancer treatment.

The rose project is clearly a community program in the spirit of Service Above Self.



Report from the Military Museum:

Lois Barber, Public Relations Director of the Military Museum of Southern New England talked to us briefly about the newest additions to the museum. She invited all of the club to visit, and assured us we would not be disappointed. As we reported before, Miguel Espinosa donated his coveted WW II banner to the Museum, and now has some German memorabilia he is going to contribute. Frans Boetes, who has founded his own ship museums, expressed interest in working with Ms. Barber. I'm sure the two of them have a lot they can discuss.

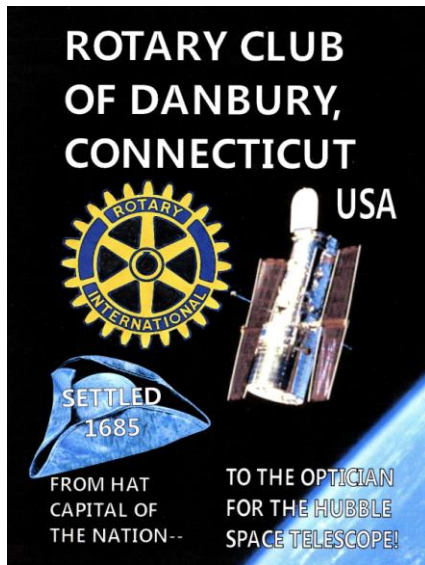


Potential New Member:

We anticipate that Dan Theriault, a CPA, will be inducted at next week's meeting. He was President- elect of the Maine Ogunquit Club, and we expect him to slip into a leadership role, in our club, soon.

The Flag Committee Continues to Hone the Banner:

Frank Acquanita and Larry Andrea have offered useful comments about the banner, and additional input is always appreciated. Here is our latest suggestion. If the multi-colored aspect adds too much cost to the printing, we will have to decide if it is worth it, but take a gander, and comment, please.



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 |

Spoke Editor: Ralph S. Welsh
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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

And the Winner of the Weekly Drawing Was:



Jennifer Tauber. She missed the big one, but being a rookie, we don't expect that kind of success this early in her club tenure-- and she received a rose, too.

Guest of Bob Vetter--

We noticed that both Bob Vetter, and his guest, Diana Ketner, were paying close attention to the speaker. Clearly both were anticipating possession of that beautiful red rose.



Thought for the Day-

The British Science Association will be sending 50 messages into space to celebrate the 50th year searching for intelligent signals from out space (SETI). One of their entries deserves honorable mention: "Sorry to drop this on you, but we've kinda wrecked our planet. Any chance we could come live with you? We've got beer."

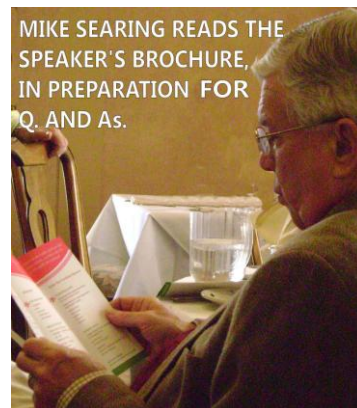


VICE PRESIDENT PAUL HOPES HIS ROSE HAS NO THORNS.

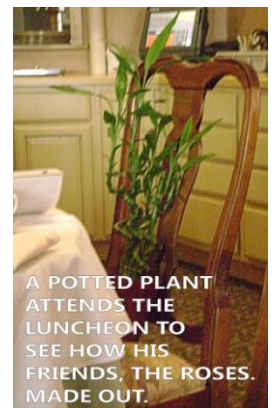
(From left to right) Vice President Paul is worried that his rose will be full of thorns. It wasn't. Future Rotarian, Dan Theriault, is pleased that the Club has perks from time to time. Mike Searing wants to ask an intelligent question; and, finally, a potted plant was seen occupying a space at one of the tables. We are referring to a "real" patted plant. Not one of those Rotarians who tends to avoid "involvement" in club service.



I GET A FREE RED ROSE? HEY. BEING WITH THIS CLUB IS ALL READY STARTING TO PAY OFF.



MIKE SEARING READS THE SPEAKER'S BROCHURE, IN PREPARATION FOR Q. AND As.



A POTTED PLANT ATTENDS THE LUNCHEON TO SEE HOW HIS FRIENDS, THE ROSES, MADE OUT.