

# The Spoke

## Rotary Club of Danbury

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

March 24, 2010

P.O. Box 788, Danbury, CT 06813

### A Comment from the Editor's Desk: The Critical Importance of a "Thank You."

As the passing of the gavel grows near, it will be time for the outgoing administration to give out the Club awards. How this is handled is probably one of the most important tasks given to a retiring Club president during the entire Rotary year.

Recently researchers at UCLA have demonstrated, through brain scans, that being snubbed can cause physical pain. One of the scientists observed, "There is something about exclusion from others that is perceived as being harmful to our survival...something that can physically hurt us, and our body automatically knows this...rationally we can say being excluded doesn't matter; but rejection still registers automatically in the brain...and appears to be similar to physical pain."

Everyone appreciates those 'significant' awards, but something as small as a verbal acknowledgement will usually suffice. However, when the accolades are passed out, and someone who richly deserves recognition is totally forgotten, a giant balloon is punctured and it is exceedingly hard to repair. Believe me, as a psychologist, I have seen the psychological pain inflicted on those who were victims of being snubbed.

Recruiting new members in Rotary is important. But keeping active members in the Club by rewarding their good works is essential. Failure to do so, particularly on special occasions, can be perceived as rejection, result in a reduced incentive for that person to contribute to Club projects, and at worst, end up in the loss of one of the Club's most valuable members.

*Ralph S. Welsh, Spoke Editor*

### Dates to Remember:

*June 20-23, 2010, RI 101<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention, Montreal*  
*3/31 Open Fellowship Meeting*  
*4/7 Mark Robinson on the 2005 Avon Mountain Accident*  
*4/14 Joe Barnes, Esq. on Asset Protection*  
*6/2 Scholarship Luncheon*

### District Activities:

*4/17 District Assembly, Sheraton 4 Points, Meriden*  
*4/30 to 5/2 District Conference, Burlington, VT*  
*5/12 GSE from S. Africa visits Danbury*

### Amber Alert-

*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*

### John Voice, from the Creative Group, Talks on Identity Theft:



During a rather sobering discussion, the club was informed, by **John Voice**, of a chilling experience that can happen to anyone—identity theft, and it can take years, and a small fortune to clear up if not caught in time.

According to our speaker, 9 million Americans have their identities stolen every year. Thieves have rigged ATM machines, gone diving in dumpsters for bank statements and other personal information, and can go after you online—but surprisingly online transactions involve a very small part of identity theft.

Identity theft can cause a cascade of emotions, result in a cadre of debt collectors banging on your door, and cause a person to lose complete trust in the system.



*Jon Landers of CG, and Brian Landi, guest Rotarian*

But help is available, and our speaker indicated that there are numerous services available helping people deal with this problem—his organization being only one of them. The Creative Groups would be happy to talk to anyone in the Club who has a real concern with this problem. If you have trouble sleeping at night over this potential problem he can be e-mailed at [jon@thecreativegroup.com](mailto:jon@thecreativegroup.com) and they will put your mind at ease.



*Will Houston, and Peter Darling are wondering if someone is busy, right now, trying to co-opt their identity.*

**Plea from Bob Vetter:**

We need greater Club participation with the Amber Alert Photo ID sessions. The Women's Club of Danbury/New Fairfield has been a valuable resource of volunteers, but Amber is our project, and we need to be more visible at the sessions. Please help out if you can. Amber not only provides protection for the families of the children who are put in the data base, but it is a significant source of Club funding. Become involved. It is a very satisfying experience.

**Guests:**



**...and Many Happy Returns:**

*In addition to our two speakers, Frans Boetes, (sitting to the*

*right of Peter Darling) of the Miami club dropped by; so did Eleanore Espinosa, and Brian Landi,, of the New Haven Club (standing to the right of Will Houston). We hope to see all of you again, soon.*



**And the Winner Was:**

*Paula Greenberg. You missed the big one, but you made enough cash to buy one drive-through car wash with minimal water spots. Whoopee!*



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

<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>
<b>Sergeant at Arms</b>	<b>Michael Searing</b>
<b>Membership Chair</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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*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*

**Important e-mail from Karen Tracy:**

Karen Tracy, of the Sunrise Club, doesn't want us to forget them at the Annual Scholarship Luncheon. She writes, "I would like to work on the scholarship program again, and I am getting Newtown Savings Bank to donate a scholarship this year. I am also working on the mentoring of Rotaract and their new officers, and I expect that the current Rotaract president will be attending the luncheon as well."

Good for Karen; clearly another instance of Service Above Self.

**Thought for the Day:** A Rotarian saw his neighbor, a member of the Lions club, down on his hands and knees looking for something. The Rotarian offered to help, asking what he had lost. The man replied, "My keys." The Rotarian responded, "So where do you think you lost them?" The man replied, "In the house." The Rotarian became quite puzzled, and asked his friend, "So if you lost them in the house, why are you outside here looking for them?" The Lion replied, "Because it is a lot lighter out here."



*In the absence of the president and the vice president, Will Houston took over, but had to wait at the podium while the sergeant at arms passed the basket. Will is, as you can see, a very patient man.*

*Larry Andrea is happy to be at the luncheon, but a bit less happy about finding housing for the GSE Study Group. Any volunteers?*

*Finally we see, in the final frame, an attentive Club who apparently took the idea of identity theft very seriously. The Club does look unusually serious, doesn't it?*



**PATIENTLY AWAITING A CONTRIBUTION TO THE BASKET--**