

The Spoke

Rotary Club of Danbury

www.danburyrotary.org

April 7, 2010

P.O. Box 788, Danbury, CT 06813

The GSE Team is Coming: Let's All Become Involved--

Larry Andrea wants to remind all of us that the GSE Team, from Africa, will be visiting our Club May 12th. But that's just part of the festivities.

-April 18th, we are all invited to a luncheon, Sunday, 12:30 pm at the New Haven Country Club, 160 Harford Tpk, in Hamden. RSVP

Robert Runde, GSE Chairman, by Saturday, rudne@amerianplanninggroup.com, or call 203-323-6666.

-When the Team meets at our luncheon on 5/12, in Danbury, If you would like to be part of the Danbury tour, contact Larry Andrea. He would be glad to have any of us tag along.

-May 14th, there will be a free barbecue at the Boys and Girls Club in Ridgefield. We hope to have a carpool for this event.

These are very special people, and all leaders in their fields. Become involved, if you can.



Notes from the DG, Colin Gershon:



-The District Conference in Burlington, VT will be the week-end of April 30th. Registration is closed, but there may be some exceptions.

-Bus transportation is being planned, if enough people show interest. So far, we are lagging behind in the minimum numbers required to make it a "go."

-Each club is asked to provide a silent auction gift for the conference. Check with AG Ed

Davis for particulars eddav72@aol.com.

-Any members who have passed on Since July 1st will be remembered at the Convention. Contact George Markley if you know anyone contact George at gcmarkley@aol.com.

-The District Assembly will be held at the Sheraton Four Points in Meriden on 4/17. This is a must for all new members.

Dates to Remember:

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

4/14 Joe Barnes, Esq. on Asset Protection

5/12 GSE Team Visits Danbury for Lunch

6/2 Scholarship Luncheon

District Activities:

4/17 District Assembly, Sheraton 4 Points, Meriden

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

Amber Alert-

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

5/12 VNA Central CT, Berlin CT

6/6 Brookfield Fire Dept 11 am to 3 pm

6/12 4H building, Stony Hill 10 am to 3 pm
10/23 Children's School, 118 Scofieldtown Road, Stamford

Mark Robinson: Victim of and Author About the 2005, 19 Vehicle Avon Mountain Tragedy--

Mark Robinson provided a riveting narrative of a terrible accident involving a runaway dump truck which lost its brakes, then came roaring down Avon Mountain killing 5 people, and changing the lives of many more.

The speaker remembers virtually nothing about the accident, and had to be told, by his wife what had happened. Although he had numerous injuries, (including a punctured lung, and numerous broken bones) his first concern was for the other victims of the accident, and while he was healing, he decided that the story had to be told.



Roger Alward, a friend since high school

In his book *Smoke, Fire and Angels*, the speaker chronicled the day leading up to the disaster, the remarkable heroism of the first responders, the lives of the families that were affected, and the legal battle the ensued.

The owner of the company of the truck that cause the crash, David Wilcox, had amassed 1,136 safety violations from the same state that had awarded him with \$1.6 million in business. In fact, the truck that caused the horrific accident was the 7th truck belonging to the firm that had plowed through the same intersection causing serious damage and injures, Wilcox ended up with 6 years in prison following a guilty plea of 5 counts of 2nd degree manslaughter, 5 counts of first degree assault, and a single count of insurance fraud.

Still, the law protects those who put all of us at risk on the road, and these laws need to be changed. Mark Robinson continues the fight for better legislation. All of the proceeds of the book will be given to the victims. The at \$20.00, is a fascinating read and is well worth the investment. Mark can be contacted at

mark.robinson@us.ing.com





**MC Again Today:
VP Paul Palanzo and
Guest Speaker--**

Due to the demands of 'tax season,' Pres. Jim has been a bit busy. Paul has stepped up and kept things going. Thanks, Paul. Your singing does leave

something to be desired, though.

Happy Birthday--Since there were no April birthday Rotarians at the meeting, your Editor claimed the cake for his Daughter, Dr. Regan Welsh (April 6th) and her daughter Erin Davies (April 7th). They didn't get any of the cake, but it's the thought that counts.



Did You Know?

Dolly Parton will be the Keynote Speaker at the RI Convention in Montreal? Just another incentive to go.

And the Winner Was:

Frank Acquanita. The ticket was good, but the card Frank pulled for the big award, was a loser. Still, Frank walked away with \$10.00—enough for a loaf of Italian bread and a bottle of cheap Muscatel.



- 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

**Spoke Editor: Ralph S. Welsh
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Rich Godfrey Dresses Up for Lunch: Nice Rotary logo shirt, Rich. It is perfect for one of the hottest days of the year.

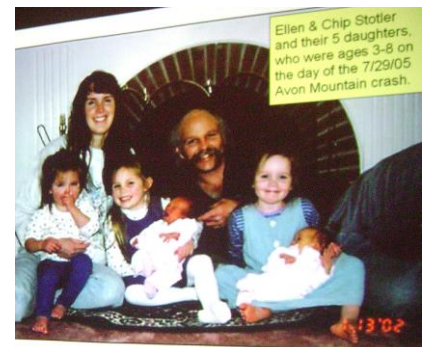
Thoughts for the Day:

- If the shoe fits, get another like it.
- The 50-50-90 rule is this: anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.
- Whenever you wash socks, you always seem to lose the sock for your left foot.
- Whenever you pull up to a 25 cent only parking meter, your pockets will be filled with pennies, nickels and dimes.
- All bad things come in threes—this is, of course, not true for good things. They come in bunches (or so we wish).



The slide show was graphic. It made all of us think a bit more seriously about the fragility of life, but more importantly, the goodness of people who put their own

lives in danger for strangers-- and bad legislation.



Ellen & Chip Stotler and their 5 daughters, who were ages 3-8 on the day of the 7/29/05 Avon Mountain crash.