

The Spoke

Rotary Club of Danbury

www.danburyrotary.org

April 14, 2010

P.O. Box 788, Danbury, CT 06813

From the Editor's Desk: The Weight of the Human Soul, and Death Due to a Lack of Sanitation—

During the first half of the 20th century, researchers attempted to measure the weight of the soul, by taking a measure of a person's weight just prior to death, and then a moment after death. Dr. Duncan MacDougall was sure that the soul was material and therefore had weight. He concluded that the soul weighed around 21 grams. His research was, of course, seriously flawed but it brings me to my next topic; what is the value of each human soul, irrespective of weight?

Few know that one of the major causes of death in the third world is the lack of decent toilet facilities. The situation has been underscored more dramatically by the situation in Haiti with many earthquake victims literally having "Nowhere to go." The illness and death caused by this lack of sanitation will probably kill more people than the earthquake, itself, did.

Rotary has a long history when it comes to toilets. In 1907 the first service project of the newfound Chicago Rotary Club was to build a number of needed comfort stations around the city.

A highly informative article on Rotary's sanitation initiative, can be found in the January issue of Rotarian, including a "field guide to toilets." Feces can carry 50 communicable diseases, so the use of effective disposal techniques is essential to the health of any and all developing and troubled communities.

The toilet is not a dirty word. As the article points out, the toilet is at the heart of everything—and getting enough of them to the people who need them the most, will save millions of lives. Please give what more you can to the Rotary Foundation, and to Haitian relief. The money will be saving lives, and some of it will be used to buy toilets.

The GSE Team Will Be Here Soon:

Larry Andrea again to remind all of us that 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, rrunde@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, please 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.

Dates to Remember:

June 20-23, 2010, RI 101st Annual Convention, Montreal
4/21 Mike Malone on the Danbury Westerners

4/28 Derek Roy on the WCSU Communiversity Program

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

Joe Barnes on Asset Protection--



Our speaker this week was Joe Barnes who spoke with the authority of a lawyer (which he is) on how we should

financially plan to protect our assets from lawsuits and other unforeseen misadventures in life. He talked about how one can minimize one's tax burden, and protect their assets through various legal entities, one of which is a Family Limited Partnership—creating a firewall between you and your hungry creditors. The FLP is an entity set up to hold all of one's safe assets and some mildly "dangerous" assets like a real estate trust for one's house, including certain types of stocks. He pointed out that the world is full of "sue happy" people, and one needs to be protected against this group of constantly circling sharks. Joe, a Milford Rotarian himself, can be contacted at joebesq@optonline.net.



Frank Hauser pours a glass of liquid asset protection against dehydration (H₂O) at lunch. Only 7 more glasses to go, today, Frank.

Luncheon Guests:



Rotarian Jerry Librizzi visited from Goldsboro, North Carolina, the birthplace of the Editor's beloved grandmother, Hattie Fairbanks. Good to see you, Jerry. We hope to see you soon, again.



And we were happy to see Eleanore Espinosa again, breaking bread with Will Houston.

Luncheon Tidbits:

Frank Hauser's grandson, now attending the University of Washington, will be spending a semester in London if he can find a plane flying there due to the volcanic ash. Otherwise, we suspect he will have to catch a ride on a tramp steamer going to Europe via Singapore.

The son of Larry Andrea was on his school's "winning" LaCross team, but he will now be on the traveling track team at his middle school.

Mike Searing's wife will have knee replacement surgery next week. We all wish her well.

And the Winner Was:



At first Anita Ragona thought she had pulled the King of Clubs. Not so. Too bad, Anita. More in the pot for the rest of us, next time.

Bob Vetter encourages us to remember Amber Alert. Have you attended a session, recently?



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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Vice President	William Houston
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Treasurer	Frank Acquanita
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	Carol Ann Giannico

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Food for Thought:

The thoughts of Mohandas Gandhi have a timelessness that transcends generations. Some examples:

-I look only to the good qualities of men. Not being faultless myself, I won't presume to probe into the faults of others.

-If we are to teach real peace in this world, and if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with the children.

-In matters of conscience, the law of the majority has no place.

-Man becomes great exactly in the degree in which he works for the welfare of his fellow man.

-No culture can live if it attempts to be exclusive.

-Gentleness, self-sacrifice and generosity are the exclusive possession of no one race or religion.



The Italian hands of Anita Ragona are not the only hands talking at this Rotary luncheon. The hands are doing the talking from one end of the room to the other. I have often wondered. Would we be totally able to express ourselves without the hands?

