

# The Spoke

## Rotary Club of Danbury

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

District 7980

May 3, 2017

P.O. Box 788, Danbury, CT 06813

### From the Editor's Desk:

I was the only Danbury attendee at the 2017 RI Multi District Conference in Rhode Island. It was an impressive affair, and the President of RI, John Germ, was even more impressive. Since it was multi district, the emphasis on our District, 7980 was proportionally diminished. Still there were lots of things to do, and see. The next significant district event will be the Changing of the Guard, held at Anthony's Ocean View in New Haven, at 6 pm on June 27<sup>th</sup>. I hope we can pull together a car pool for this very important event.

Yours in Rotary Service, Ralph

### Tary's Rotary Minute:

At the request of Rotarian Patrick Murnane, the club had lunch at the new Danbury High School on Clapboard Ridge Road. Patrick pointed out that 3 members including a past club president had graduated for the old High School on White Street in 1902 and 1903. Thus Danbury Rotary reaches back well beyond its founding. We, therefore, had Rotarians in our first clubs that were born before the Wright brothers flew their plane at Kitty Hawk, N.C.



### Newtown Rotary Has a Golf "Classic" at Tashua Knolls Golf Club in Trumbull, 5/15/17:

Anyone like to get together a foursome to support Newtown's Annual Golf Fundraiser? If you have any questions, contact Joe Hemingway at 203-270-7060.

### Speakers:

5/10/17 Catherine Rose, Conn. Alliance of Foster and Adoptive Families  
5/17/17 Chris Klauck, Hat City Cycle Fest  
5/24/17/ Dinner at Chuck's  
6/7/17 Scholarship Luncheon  
6/14/17 Open  
6/21/17 Frank Scahill, our new Rotary website  
6/28/17 **Passing of the Gavel Dinner, Ridgewood CC, 6:30 pm.**

### Amber Alert

5/7/17 Danbury Sports Dome, 11-4 pm  
6/4/17 Brookfield Fire Dept, 11-3 pm.  
6/11/17 69 Stony Hill Road, Bethel, 10-2 pm  
7/28/17 New Milford Village Fair Days, 10- pm  
7/29/17 New Milford Village Fair Days, 10-4 pm  
10/15/17 Haddam/Erlington Back Pack Program, 11-3 pm

### Fran Normann, Executive Director of the Heusatonic Habitat for Humanities Informs the Club that HH is More than Just a Home Builder:

The organization dear to the hear of our Ex President, Jimmy Carter, is alive and well in Connecticut.

Habitat for Humanities is in the process of building a home, right now, in New Milford. The families who receive the homes are carefully selected, both for need and for responsibility. They are expected to contribute a set number of man hours to the building process, and in the end receive a home that has an interest free mortgage. The homes are completely build by volunteers, and forcllosures are rare. Two of the original home owners have completely paid off their homes.



In addition to the home building component, the Heusatonic HH has a 10,000 square foot warehouse of used building materials available to the public to raise funds. A third component is A Brush of Kindness, providing repairs and painting for the homes.

Habit for Humanities is a wonderful program of which the entire community can be proud. Fran can be contacted at: [fran@heusatonichabitat.org](mailto:fran@heusatonichabitat.org). If you are able bodied, and know a bit about the building business, HH is a great way to contribute to our town.

**SERVICE ABOVE SELF**

**Amber Alert Receives a Lot of Praise from GERALYN HOYT, Chief/President of Southbury Ambulance Association:**

Amber Alert is deeply appreciated by members of our community. An example is a letter received from the Southbury Ambulance Association, a part of which reads...”A simple thank you cannot fully express the appreciation I feel for the Rotary Club of Danbury’s co-sponsorship of the Amber Alert event we hold yearly in Southbury. The considerable time, effort, equipment, and expertise the Rotary Club contributes to the event is amazing. Without you, Southbury Ambulance would not be able to host such an event. We worked with approximately 40 children yet this number cannot reflect the joy of locating even one child we issued an Amber Alert card to.” They pledged the continuation of the tradition, and thanked the club again for their time and support.

Great going, Bob! Without the Vettors (Bob, Sheila and Suzanne) the Rotary Club of Danbury’s Amber Alert Program would not exist.

*...And Mr. Amber Alert, Bob Vetter Held the Winning Ticket, but Pulled a Losing Card. You Just Can’t Win ‘em All, Bob:*



**Jeff Kass, of the Heusatonic Club Paid us a Luncheon Visit.** Josh Gregorio greets him at the door. Great to see you, again Jeff.



**Rotary Club of Danbury  
Officers 2016-17**

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>President-</b> | John Murphy      |
| Vice President-   | Kristen Keil     |
| Secretary-        | Stephen Siguenza |
| Treasurer-        | Frank Scahill    |
| Sergeant at Arms- | Nels DeAlmeida   |
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| Nels deAlmeida    | Robert J. Vetter |
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| Tary Tarlton      | Fredrick Kayal   |
| Allison Fulton    | Ralph S. Welsh   |
|                   | Tim Seibert      |

*No Spoke issues missed since 1/4/06  
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**Happy Birthday Bob Vetter, Kristen Keil, John Murphy, and Mark Havira (all Board Members)**



**Good to See Micky Gjerstad Again, at Lunch:**

Micky has overcome a host of medical issues, and is now feeling well enough to drop by for lunch. Good to see you again, Micky. We hope you can make it on a regular basis after this. We hope that black cloud has finally lifted.



**Two Multi-District Conference Happenings:**

(Left) Alan Hurst, seen here with his wife, received the Coveted Distinguish Service Award for his untiring Work with the RI Foundation. We were also pleased to hear inspiring words from John Germ, the RI President (right).



