

# The Spoke

## Rotary Club of Danbury

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

District 7980

January 31, 2018

P.O. Box 788, Danbury, CT 06813

### From the Editor's Desk:

Rotary has been a part of Hospice since its founding by a group of dedicated oncologists led by Dr. Robert Kloss, in 1983. At the beginning it was housed in a small, office-converted cottage, and provided home care only, but what a difference 35 years makes. In the early 90s, your Editor was invited to serve on the Board which, at that time,



*Early Rotarian Hospice Board Members, Michael Kan, Karl Epple, Violet Manon, and Ralph Welsh*

involved 3 other Rotarians. While Michael Kan was president of the organization, it had to be shepherded through some tough times, and Michael did a superb job.

While on the Board I was asked to conduct a study of the morale of the nurses and volunteers, and was astounded at their dedication. None focused on the death and dying aspect of the program; they all were warm, optimistic, caregivers working toward making the patient's last months of life as meaningful and as comfortable as possible. Hospice is not a depressing venture. It is a celebration of what life is all about.

*Yours in Rotary Service, Ralph*

### Tary's Rotary Minute:

In February of 1978 our club had its annual Radio Auction. The air time was donated by WLAD as the general manager was a Rotarian. Donations and services were solicited by our members and John Lucchesi was in charge. The club grossed \$3,200 which was \$500 more than the previous year. In 2018 dollars that is equivalent to \$12,700 today. Not bad for a day's work.

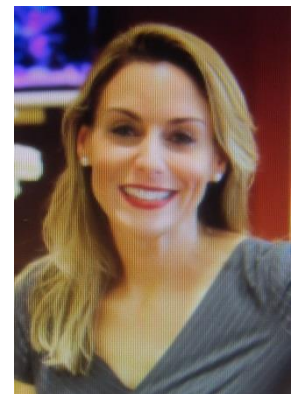


### Area Make-ups-

Mon.	12:15 pm,	Norwalk, Norwalk Inn
Mon.	6:15 pm,	Newtown, Newtown Country Club
Tues.	12:00 pm,	Westport, Branson Hall at Christ and Holy Trinity Church
Wed.	12:15 pm,	Danbury, Ethan Allen Inn, Danbury
Wed	6:15 pm	Ridgefield Dinner Club, Stonehenge Rest., 35 Stonehenge Rd (off of Rt 7) Ridgefield
Fri	7:30 am	Westport Sunrise, The Westport Inn
Fri.	12:15 pm,	Wilton, Marly's Bistro

### The Club Had Lunch at the Danbury Regional Hospice, one of the Crown Jewels of our City:

The club enjoyed the hospitality of the Regional Hospice again, and enjoyed the tour as we did in September of 2015. The facility remains one of the finest and most dedicated programs in the city, and we are proud of our historical involvement in its growth.



*Cynthia E Roy, CEO*

As most of you know, Hospice provides comfort care for those who have an expectation of dying in the last 6 months of their life. It provides four levels of care: routine home care, short term general inpatient care, inpatient respite care, and continuous home care.

For those of us who have known what Hospice does over the years, its value can't be overestimated. The nurses and volunteers at Hospice have brought comfort to hundreds of grieving people in our community, and Rotary will always be there helping Hospice when we can.

The following are file pictures. We failed to provide a photographer for the last visit, but hope you will appreciate what we were able to put together from the prior visits, and material from the web.



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**Rotary Club of Danbury**  
Officers 2017-18

<b>President-</b>	Frank Scahill
Pres. Elect:	Dr. Fredrick Kayal
Vice Pres.	Tim Seibert
Secretary-	Dr. Mark Havira
Treasurer-	Tary Tarlton
Sergeant at Arms-	Dr. Nels DeAlmeida
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Dr. Nels DeAlmeida	Robert J. Vetter
Dr. Mark Havira	Tim Seibert
Tary Tarlton	Dr. Fredrick Kayal
Allison Fulton	Dr. Ralph S. Welsh
	John Murphy

*No Spoke issues missed since 1/4/06*  
Spoke Editor: Ralph S. Welsh  
203-938-2820 / rswelsh@mail.com

**Blast from the Past: Wayne Curtis and Al Roker:**

Several years ago, our Rotarian, Wayne Curtis served as the MC at one of the Catholic Family Services benefits. Al Roker was the guest speaker, and Bishop Curtis was in the audience. Roker was side splitting funny, but few realize how important Bishop Curtis has been to our Community. He founded Sacred Heart

University, and Pope John Paul II Health Care Center, in Danbury. (Note: Your Editor is not a Catholic but he can appreciate what those of faith can do).



**SERVICE ABOVE SELF**

**I had no Choice: I had to Destroy the Artwork--**

Yesterday I destroyed some of nature’s most beautiful art. I did not have an option. I needed to drive my car, and the “art” was obscuring the windshield. The next time you go out on a cold day for a trip to the store, before you get the scraper out, check the minute patterns on your windshield. Chances are, you will find something most remarkable. Sadly, morning ice is ephemeral, so later trips in the day will not be so interesting, windshield-wise.

Nature provides a bounty of photo opportunities for those who like to photograph nature. Each season provides its unusual options. Keep a sharp look-out for the unique. It is everywhere around you.

