

The Spoke

Rotary Club of Danbury

www.danburyrotary.org ,

District 7980

February 14, 2018

P.O. Box 788, Danbury, CT 06813

From the Editor's Desk:



DHS's Karen Chance with SOTM Today we heard from two special people. Our Student of the Month Wendy Rios, and our own remarkable Carl Bailey. Wendy has her whole life ahead of her, and she should make a mark in our society. Carl has achieved what few of us can ever hope to achieve—a thriving career in Finance, and the founder of two incredibly humanitarian ventures, one in Nicaragua, and the other here in Danbury.

The Managua project involves numerous medical teams being flown to Nicaragua performing many cleft palate surgeries, training for the medical staff there, treatment of burn victims, then returning home; the initial project when Carl first started going to Nicaragua involved the repair of the buildings and supplying a school of 1,300 children run by the Sisters of Theresa...and the work goes on.

The second program is closer to home—The Danbury Grass Roots Academy under the direction of Carl's wife, Lauren Dalton. It started out as a summer tennis camp for inner city youths, but is now a full time school and tennis academy for a select group of underprivileged kids who attend the school from age 8 to graduation. Since 2006, 35 students have played varsity tennis in our area high schools, and the program has had graduates attend some of the best colleges in the country. Before the DGA none would have gone. Americare has called Carl a modern day Robin Hood. We agree.

Tary's Rotary Minute:

When the 1978 Rotary Radio Auction Chairperson, John Lucchesi was asked who helped make the Valentine's Day such a great success, he handed over two legal size sheets full of names. Our Spoke Editor gave a warm thanks to all, reminding the unsung heroes of the event that anonymous contributors to charity are the finest charity givers of all.

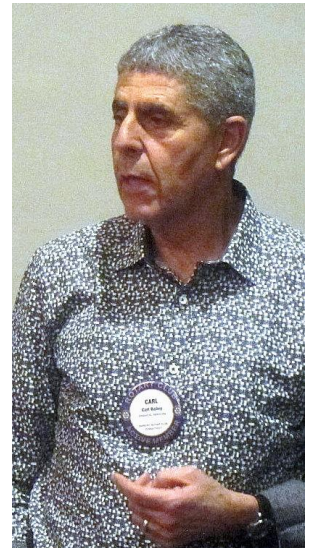


Area Make-ups-

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

Carl Bailey Brought the Club up to Speed on his Managua Project, and his Danbury Grass Root Tennis Academy—Two Remarkable Programs Founded by a Remarkable Man:

Carl Bailey is a unique community treasure. He has accomplished what few of us expect to accomplish during our lifetime. Who would have thought a crash in the stock market would result in such a positive outcome. As a Financial Advisor, Carl decided to take a one-month sabbatical to Nicaragua in 2004, taking a job in the slums as a volunteer with an NGO. Alarmed with what he found, he decided he had to do something and the rest is history.



Two schools were rebuilt and supplied with everything the children needed including computers. Medical teams were put together and continue to make trips to Managua repairing cleft palates, treating burn victims, and training the Managua medical staff, and Carl has befriended one of the most wealthy families in Nicaragua who are going to contribute to the program. He is particularly proud of the fact that his schools have computers—and they are updated when needed. The focus of the medical teams, today, is to teach the Managuan surgeons better surgical techniques and skill sets.

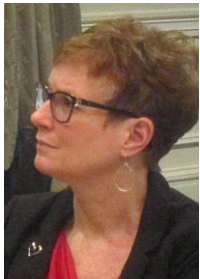
Danbury Grassroots Tennis started out as a summer camp for inner city youths. Initially it was small, but eventually grew to 150 participants. Carl decided, "We're just playing numbers game, and most of these kids returned to the pattern of behavior leading them to nowhere." He decided to to make the program a school, and the Grassroots Academy was born. All receive tutoring, and no foolishness was allowed. Students who require suspension are allowed to return

The Spoke 2/14/18 Page 2

later with special requirements. No one is sumarily left behind.

The success of the program can be seen in the numbers. All students have shown significant improvovement with work habits, social skills, self-esteem, leadership skills, academic performance and school attendance. The class of 2017 have been accepted to Cornell, Fairfield U., WCSU, Manhattan College, Iona College, Lasell College and NYCC. To date DGA has a 100% high school graduation record, and all have either gone to college (70%) or found an appropriate vocation. In short DGA is in the business of salvaging lives.

Visitors: (l to r) Steve Kahn with Josh Gregorio, Leila Kayal with Fred Kayal, Kathy Hanley, Maryann Simmons and Jane Thielen. Four of these folks are potential members. We hope to see all of them again, soon.



Wendy Rios of Danbury High School was our Student of the Month: Daughter of Rosa Pelaez Salinas, and Angel Rios, Wendy had a tough beginning according to her DHS counselor. One of 10 girls (her sister all live in Ecuador) she went through a troubled period trying to find herself—and suddenly a light bulb went on and she began to achieve her potential. She has been volunteering for 10 year as a veterinarian assistant, is now taking honors classes, wants to become a veterinarian, and will be attending Norwalk Community College due to their Animal Science program, passing up scholarships at WCSU and the University of Bridgeport. Ultimately she plans to transfer to UConn. Her counselor, Karen Chance, knows she will be a true success.

(Pictures. l to r) Wendy receiving certificate from Tary Tarlton; Wendy with her parents, and Wendy's sisters.



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No Spoke issues missed since 1/4/06

Spoke Editor: Ralph S. Welsh

203-938-2820 / rswelsh@mail.com

Luncheon Dates: 2/21 Debbie Bain, Health Advocacy on navigating the Health Care System; 2/28 Dinner at Chuck's; 3/7 Wellness Coach Marion Lynott;; 3/14 Laurie Kenagy informs us about the magnificent Ridgefield Symphony Orchestra; and on 3/21 Younghee Sin will tell us about the Korean Spirit and Cultural Promotion Project.

Tim Collects Money from Carl Bailey:

Really Tim? We should be giving it back to Carl. Of course we have given him substantial financial support including the securing of a District grant—but every little bit helps.

