

# The Spoke

## Rotary Club of Danbury

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

District 7980

July 18, 2018

P.O. Box 788, Danbury, CT 06813

### President Fred Kayal's Corner:

I look forward to a very productive and exciting year for the Rotary Club of Danbury.

I plan to strengthen our relationship with the WCSU Rotaract Club by having joint community projects. Their renewed attendance at our luncheons is clearly encouraging, and a sign of their commitment to Rotary.

I also would like to form an Interact Club with Immaculate High School. It would be great if one of our members would step forward and take on this responsibility.

Two important areas of my focus will be on Membership and Fund Raising. They should always remain our top priorities.

Fellowship is a key component of our club, and several upcoming fellowship events include the following:

Aug 1<sup>st</sup>, 4 pm - Pool Party with Rotaract at the Ragona's.  
August 15<sup>th</sup> - special Fund Raising meeting at my home; time TBA.

August 23rd at 5:30 pm. - Rotary Picnic at the Tarlton's; \$25 per person suggested by the Board.

September 3rd - Newtown Rotary Labor Day Parade and Picnic; last year was the first year we failed to have a club representative march in the parade. Since our new DG, Larry Gardner, is a member of the Newtown club, we ought to have a showing at the next parade.

September 7, 8, & 9 - Taste of Danbury. We can meet as a group on one of the three days.

We plan on the support of everyone to make these events successful. Besides, if you miss any one of the above activities, you are missing out on a great time.

Yours in Rotary Service, Fred



### Tary's Rotary Minute:

Since most of Rotary's 103 year existence, 60% attendance has been mandatory, and most of our members would faithfully make up meetings that they missed. In 2016, RI's Council on Legislation voted to encourage clubs to relax RI's rigid rules on attendance, and most clubs have. This has been a mixed blessing, and no one knows if it was the tonic Rotary needed. It's just too soon to tell. Change is part of Rotary. In 1987 RI removed the restriction on women becoming members, and the first casualty was a club fine for not wearing a tie.



The real plus was a rise in membership, and a new brand of Rotarian that quickly showed the value of women in our organization. Of course, low attendance is not the end of Rotary----but non-attendance is the end of a Rotarian.

### Jennifer Murphy-Pitcher and Keith Wolff, of Jr. Achievement of Western Connecticut, addressed the Club on what they do for our Area Youth:

So what is Jr. Achievement? Our speakers describe it as a program to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in a global economy. It works with schools, integrating their program into individual classes and provides volunteers and mentors to activate each program. This nationwide venture provides tools for students to understand entrepreneurship and how to develop financial



skills in our competitive marketplace. For the youngest children hands on experiences are provided which expose the children to the many jobs people have in our economy. The programs are free, with area firms providing the funding for the various programs. If you wish to become a mentor or a volunteer, contact Keith at: [kwolf@jawct.org](mailto:kwolf@jawct.org), or Jennifer at [jmurphy-pitcher@jawct.org](mailto:jmurphy-pitcher@jawct.org).

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*Our speakers were lucky having computer expert Frank Cahill available to make the computer work. The eventual fix was to hold the microphone to the weak, computer speaker. Not elegant, but effective.*



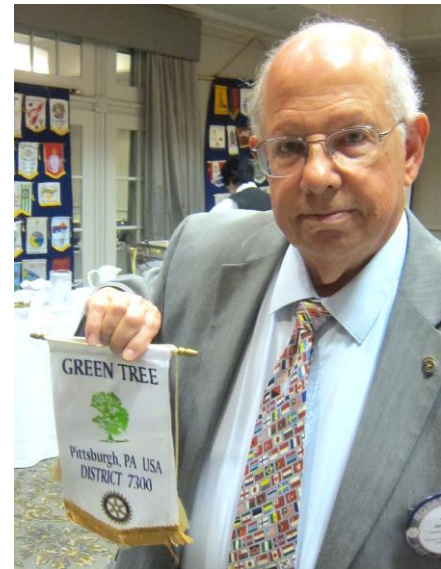
### Area Make-ups-

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

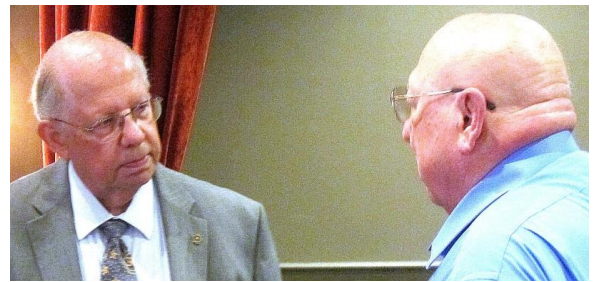


**Weekly Draw:**

*Caryl Lucchesi held the winning ticket, but missed the King of Clubs by a whisker. Hubby John was not impressed, but Caryl has won 6 more chances at the big one for next week.*



*Jeff Kass always picks up a flag when visiting another club. We all need to do the same, but remember to take a few of our own flags along for the exchange.*



*...and another thing. Bob Vetter (right) thanks Jeff for his flag, but wants to remind all of us to buy \$5.00 worth of chances (three tickets) for the weekly draw. It's a minor investment, but fewer and fewer people are buying the chances---and we need the money. Try to make it a habit. Then there is the Sad/Happy bucket. \$1.00 is no longer enough. We need to keep our club afloat.*

**Amber Alert:**

7/27 11 am to 4 pm  
N. Milford Fair Days  
7/28 10 am to 4 pm  
N. Milford Fair Days

**Luncheon:**

7/24 Off site,  
Westerners Baseball,  
Rogers Park, playing  
the Keene Swamp  
Rats, 6:30 pm.

**Rotary Club of Danbury**  
Officers 2018-19

<b>President-</b>	Dr. Fred Kayal
Pres. Elect.-	Jeffery Kass
Vice Pres.-	Tim Seibert
Secretary-	Dr. Mark Havira
Treasurer-	Frank Scahill, Jr
Sergeant at Arms-	Edward Walsh
<b>Directors-</b>	
Anita Ragona	John Murphy
Robert J. Vetter	Jeffery Kass
Dr. Mark Havira	Tim Seibert
Tary Tarlton	Frank Scahill
Allison Fulton	Dr. Ralph S. Welsh

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

**Erratum:** We identified our speaker last week as Victor at one point. It should be Filson. He may be a victor but he's not Victor.



Mickey Gjerstad, a Danbury Rotarian for 29 years, is now gone. He loved life, and he was extremely proud of his dealership, and of the Saab cars he sold. Mickey believed that Saab, a WW II aircraft maker which is now a multi-faceted aerospace firm, consistently made an automobile with the quality found in an airplane. He also believed that cars were mainly for transport, should be super safe, and admitted that the pricy add-ons were seldom worth the cost. He also told me that one ought to buy "cheep." By this he emphasize that the cost of

building a luxury sedan was only slightly more than building an economy model and the latter generally lasted just as long. Though in declining health, he showed up at lunch whenever he could, and kept in touch with me by phone when he couldn't attend. Though a native of Scandinavia, he loved America insisting there was no better country in the world. Amen to that. Rest in peace, my friend. You will be missed. There will be no calling hours, but a Memorial Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 AM at St. Elizabeth Seton Church in Ridgefield. A gathering will follow the Mass. *The Editor*