

The Spoke

Rotary Club of Danbury

www.danburyrotary.org ,

District 7980

October 17, 2018

P.O. Box 788, Danbury, CT 06813

Tary's Rotary Minute:



On August 25, 1982 our speaker was our Spoke Editor, Ralph Welsh who spoke on the 1982 Dallas RI Convention. More importantly, his father, Wayne Welsh, from Salt Lake City, was in the audience. Ralph had an interesting slide presentation, including photos of Larry Hagman being driven around the Cotton Bowl arena, and the Dallas

Cowboy cheerleaders passing out lunch to the crowd. It was one of the perks of being club president.

Editor's Note: Born in Utah, the son of a barber and a mother who sold flowers and vegetables in the neighborhood from a grocery cart grown on a strip of state land to finance her trip to Hawaii, my father was a remarkable man. He was so mechanically inclined, he installed an auto engine hoist in the garage, had a working windmill in the back yard, and had a workshop so neat and tidy it rivaled the pristine engine room on our own Nels DeAlmeida's yacht. If he painted your house, all of the surfaces looked like fine furniture. A railroad engineer, paper hanger and housepainter all of his life, he claimed he could build a steam locomotive from scratch if he had the spare parts.



Wayne Welsh

On a trip to the Durango and Silverton Railroad in Colorado after retirement, he walked around the steam engine, and had the engineer record all of the steam leaks and lubrication problems he found on the train. He climbed off a steamer, once, after going across the Colorado desert, and said it felt cool at 120 degrees in the shade. On one harrowing trip, he calmly brought a 150 car train loaded with steel, but without brakes, into the busiest rail hub in the west guiding the men on the ground which switches to pull so he could bring the train to a halt up a clear lead. He loved all types of hats, and wore a baseball cap throughout a formal ceremony when my daughter, Regan, received her MD from NY Med, in Carnegie Hall. He was a proud past president of his union and the Golden Agers Kiwanis Club, and took pride in the fact that all 6 of us graduated from college though he didn't. In later years while on oxygen, we unfortunately had to take his electric scooter away from him

after he took it across a busy 6 lane highway to get a haircut at 90. I followed in his footsteps to a degree, working as a housepainter for my uncle Arlo Fairbanks who later became president of the national painters and decorators association, as a fireman for the D&RGW railroad during college (Dad's railroad) and one summer as a trackman for the White Pass and Yukon RR, in Skagway, Alaska.

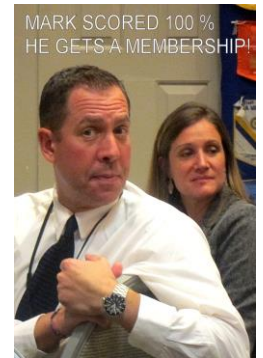
Did any of you have a unique parent that helped shape your life? Let me know, and I will showcase them in the Spoke.

Yours in Rotary Service, Ralph

Jeffrey Gell, of Senior Choice at Home, Provided Us With the Opportunity to Join an Innovative Concept in Long Term Care Planning:



When a loved one loses the ability to care for himself/herself, the future becomes uncertain and at times frightening. Jewish Senior Services has come up with a comprehensive plan to address the myriad problems associated with aging which is designed to avoid people being bankrupt attempting to care for that declining loved one. A nursing home in CT can cost up



to \$165,000 a year, and assisted living approximately \$73,000. Senior Choice at Home provides a lifetime membership program covering in home services, nursing home care, social



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programs and concierge services for a one time fee of \$29,234 and an annual fee of \$4,500. Of course there's a catch. The member can't have a dementia diagnosis at the time of enrollment. Although this program is provided through Jewish Family Services of Bridgeport, half of the members are non-Jewish. SCAH can be contacted at: 203-365-6491.

Speakers-

10/24 Dinner at Chuck's, 5:30 pm
11/21 Lions at Ethan Allen

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, Bernard's, 20 West Lane, Ridgefield
Fri 7:30 am Westport Sunrise, The Westport Inn
Fri. 12:15 pm, Wilton, Marly's Bistro

Amber Alert Schedule-

10/20 9 am to 3 pm, Meridan Airport (10/27 rain date)
10/20 10 am to 4 pm, Reed School, Newtown



Tary Tarlton held the winning ticket, but pulled a losing card. Yes, Tary, you pulled a club, but you need the King not the 8. Maybe next week you will win the big one. Still, you did win \$10.

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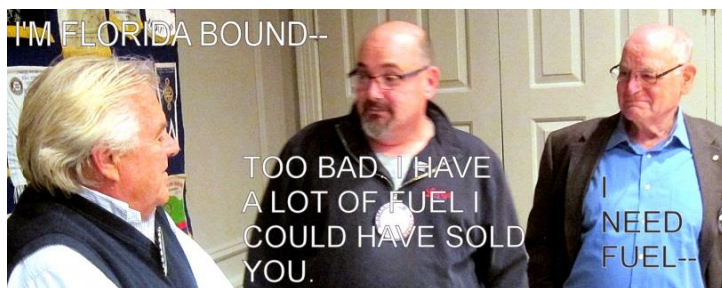
Officers 2018-19

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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

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Snow bird Ray Kish explains that he is off to Florida. Ed Walsh of Leahy Fuel offers his regrets, but Peter Maier lets Ed know he remains a loyal customer.



Several weeks ago I e-mailed our previous Spoke Editor, Randy Lindel, indicating I wanted to do a small piece during the baseball playoffs remembering there was a baseball rivalry between the late Gary Crystal and Randy. I suggested he tell us how the nutcracker exchange came about-- and I received this great reply:

Ralph- Though living in NYC in the 70s-90s, I previously went to college in Boston and the Red Sox were my first major league team. So when we came to Danbury in 2003 after 8 years in Boston, I started to put a few happy dollars in the bucket for the Sox. Gary, a devoted Yankee fan took up the challenge and the ante quickly got upped to a \$10 donation from the loser of each Sox-Yankees game during the season, and \$20 for each playoff game if there were any.

Gary got the last laugh, however, when he came in one day and presented me with the Red Sox "Nutcracker" in this photo. It's still proudly displayed in my office and prompts me to think frequently of what a wonderful and fun person Gary was.

If there are any takers, I could do a \$20 a game challenge for the upcoming playoffs if the Yankees and Red Sox play each other.

Thanks for digging out this great pic.

Randy

(Editor's note: At present, Boston has beaten the Yankees, and is fighting the Astros for another chance to play in the World Series. Gary tragically died, in 2008, at 66).

