

The Spoke

Rotary Club of Danbury

www.danburyrotary.org ,

District 7980

December 20, 2018

P.O. Box 788, Danbury, CT 06813

From the Editor's Desk:

It is always a treat to meet with the Lions. I happened to sit next to Bill Hutchinson, with CRIS Radio. He frequently discusses the Low Vision Projects the Lions are doing on his radio program, and extolled the fine work Lions has been doing nationwide with low vision. He did mention one disturbing change. *Bill Hutchison, 2nd from left* The federal government no longer allows the distribution of used glasses. So sad.



Cary Smolen and wife

I also talked with Cary Smolen who is with the Middlebury Lions. They, too, are active in the vision program besides many other projects. The Lions do good things. It is great that our contact has lasted so long.

Yours in Rotary Service, Ralph

Tary's Rotary Minute: We have often talked about many ways to make money for our club. Well, in September of 1976 we had a book fair at the Great Danbury Fair and the best selling books and items were the Almanac, Illustrated classics, Peter Possum and Disney Records. Of course, it helped to have the head of sales for a local Book Mfg., Grolier---Dan Surelli,



in our club. The net was \$773.00. Two weeks before was my rose sale. We sold 800 dozen and netted \$1,250. Both projects were good money in those days (about three times as much in our dollars). The Danbury Fair was a great venue for many Rotary functions. We all miss it.

Yours in Rotary Service, Tary

Speakers-

- 1/16/19 Lindy Cyr, Habitat for Humanity
- 1/23/19 Speaker needed; suggestions accepted

Area Make-ups-

- Mon. 12:15 pm, Norwalk, Norwalk Inn
- Mon. 6:15 pm, Newtown, Newtown Country Club
- Tues. 12:00 pm, Wpt, 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

Our Our Christmas Luncheon with the Lions was as Satisfying as Ever:



Lyn Meyers, Past President of the Lions, served as the MC, Major Israel Acosta of the Salvation Army thanked the Lion bell ringers for what they had done for the Army, and the St. Theresa Youth Choir sang Christmas Carols. Tary must have been pleased (check his recent column). A fine afternoon was had by all.





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

President-	Dr. Fred Kayal
Pres. Elect:-	Michele Geffert
Vice Pres.-	Tim Seibert
Secretary-	Dr. Mark Havira
Treasurer-	Frank Scahill, Jr
Sergeant at Arms-	Edward Walsh
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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

Taste of Ridgefield: \$50 per person, \$25 for kids; 1/27/19; two sessions, 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm, and 4 pm to 6 pm. Buy tickets online at www.ridgefieldrotary.org.

Contribute to our Club: Our Trust can make money every time you buy something from Amazon. Here's the link to show how you can be a contributor to our Scholarship Program: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/06-6098669>. Speak to Frank Scahill if you need additional help in setting up your account.

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

From the January, 2019 issue of The Rotarian: A fellow Rotarian, Alan Test from Richmond, California, has penned a thoughtful letter in the most recent issue of the Rotarian. Acknowledging that he is a religious man himself, he insists that Rotary is a nonreligious organization and therefore "...prayer has no place in Rotary." My first exposure to a Rotary Club that begins their meeting with a Word for the Day instead of a prayer, was a luncheon I attended in Lafayette, Colorado. It seemed oddly appropriate even back then. As Alan Test observes, "There are so many ...similarities and differences among Rotarians that we are able to celebrate (in more appropriate ways)." I say Amen to that.

In addition to our invocation, the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag has always been a staple of every luncheon. Since RI is an international organization, some have questioned the routine

use of the pledge. However, we have yet to see the first Rotarian take a knee in protest



Above, the pledge to the flag is observed at the Rotary Gavel Dinner. Left, the pledge to the flag is being observed at the Lion's Christmas luncheon.