

The Spoke

Rotary Club of Danbury

www.danburyrotary.org,

District 7980

January 16, 2019

P.O. Box 788, Danbury, CT 06813

From the Editor's Desk:

We Could be Alone in the Universe:

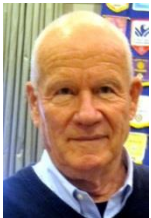


Earth seen from the moon

Scientists' inability to find intelligent life beyond Earth despite the identification of planets beyond our Solar System prompted science buff Robert Stenton, writing in the December issue of Science News, to offer this reflection. "We are probably one of the very few planets to not only have a civilization, but also unique intelligent life such as whales and elephants...Perhaps, if nothing else, we should have learned to protect all of it and declare the whole Earth a Universe Treasure." Of course, some day we might establish colonies on other planets and I have a sneaking suspicion Rotary will also be there.

Yours in Rotary Service, Ralph

Tary's Rotary Minute:



Twenty six years ago, in January, our club received the notification that one of our club members was a candidate for District Governor, John Lucchesi. We all put out an effort to get him nominated, but alas, it was for not. Nevertheless, it was a real honor and one I'm sure John will never forget.

Yours in Rotary Service, Tary

Speakers-

1/23/19 Dinner at Chuck's, 5:30 pm

1/30/19 Off site visit to Danbury Family and Children's Aid, Noon sharp

2/6/19 Carol Freud Spiegel; history of the Palace Theatre and how it can be a club fundraiser

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

Rotary



Louann Bloomer, President and CEO of TBICO, Informed the club of an Organization unfamiliar to most, but essential to those who Badly Need its Services:

TBICO is an organization designed to help the unemployed and underemployed develop the skills necessary to find employment and keep their jobs when they find them. It stands for "The bridge to independence and career opportunities." The program does not find jobs directly for their clients, but carefully guides them in their search for a job that would be best suited for their current level of training and abilities. Intensive counseling and help in developing success during a job interview are part of the training. The program works closely with Ability Beyond Disability and other similar programs in the community.



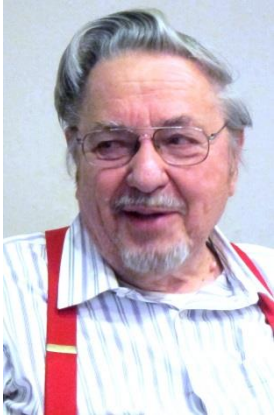
The clients are a diverse group of individuals who are down on their luck, many of whom have survived some rather traumatic events or troubles in their life. There are no fees for the service, and each individual is assigned a job coach that works with them throughout their tenure in the program.

The program is supported by grants, donations and fundraisers. Our speaker emphasized the value of the program, insisting that their success rate is quite remarkable. Summing up, Ms. Bloomer (a former Rotarian) insisted, "We are a program unique in what we do, and we are proud of what we achieve with clients who invariably come to us with very little self esteem and leave the program with hope and optimism." Louann can be contacted at 203-733-6695



Frank Scahill Has the Winning Ticket, but Pulls a Losing Card:

Steve Khan, seems pleased with Frank's inability to win the big one. Of course that's understandable. It means the pot will be larger next week.



On Shredding Paper as a Fund Raiser, Donald Kassiak, a Brookfield Lion, Knows How to do it, and do it right---

We were fortunate in hearing the experience of Donald Kassiak who has chaired a committee of the Lions Club that runs a paper shredding fund raiser. His expertise will undoubtedly help us in establishing a shredding

program in upcoming months. Whenever a new fundraiser is attempted, it is folly to re-invent the wheel, and Don has offered to help us do it right. See, it pays to maintain a good relationship with the Lions.



Delia Espinal is clearly checking out the cost of shredding documents in other programs.

A Modest Proposal: Initially, Pres. Trump wanted the US/Mexico wall built and paid for by Mexico. Apparently this did not fly with the Mexican government. Now he wants the US taxpayer to foot the bill. Well, why not become creative, and commission a group of artists to do the job? It could be paid for by various endowments for the arts, and could become an art object generating tourist interest, and thus a monetary return through tourist money. It could be strong, beautiful, and a thing of national pride.

Of course, it would not be the first foray into national wall building. The Great Wall of China was started in the 7th Century BC, and then vastly improved during the Ming Dynasty during the 14th Century. It ended up 13,171 miles long and can be seen from the moon. It, too, was constructed to keep out the riff raff, and also to provide a barrier of goods traveling along the Silk Road to extract duties from the merchants. We all know how the Germans deftly circumvented the French Maginot Line, but clearly, the most creative “walls” were constructed by the artist Christo who inspired your Editor to pen this brief reflection on walls. Christo’s most famous creation was the fabric

Rotary Club of Danbury
Officers 2018-19

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
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| 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.

“Running Fence” which ran 24 miles and spanned two counties in California. It was clearly no barrier to anything, which is a lesson in what a fence should be... an object everyone can admire and enjoy. In my opinion, fences are useful to contain livestock, but the traditional “spite fence” between neighbors and its ilk can only lessen the chance to “... build goodwill and better friendships and be beneficial to all concerned.” (Ed. Note: This comment is politically neutral; we take no position on the value of the Trump wall. This is just an alternative proposal---

