

# The Spoke

## Rotary Club of Danbury

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

District 7980

July 10, 2019

P.O. Box 788, Danbury, CT 06813

### From the Editor's Desk:

Our speaker, today, Rick Lawrence underscored what Rotary is all about—service above self—and not coincidentally Rick is a recipient of that coveted award for his work through his District (7890) as the Water and Sanitation Projects Chair. What Rick and his associates have accomplished with clean water projects, sanitation, and stoves that don't pollute the air in the entire home, is remarkable. The Rotary Foundation has been a major part of the effort, and continues to be so. We also heard from Carl Bailey whose Burn Center in Nicaragua is running dry of funds. We will be there for all of these important projects. We always have.

Yours in Rotary Service, Ralph

### Tary's Rotary Minute:

It was a delight meeting Ralph's charming granddaughter Samantha, and his son, Todd from Ohio. It reminded me of Ralph's last weeks as club president, having the yearly club picnic, softball game, photo contest and exhibit, rose sale, fishing trip, and coronation of the new Sunrise Club. He went out with a bang, as he passed the gavel.



Yours in Rotary Service, Tary

### 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

### Luncheon Events:

**7/17** Sharon Gialo, Social Media and Marketing.  
**7/24** Dinner at Chuck's.  
**7/31** New Pond Farm Tour, with Ann Taylor.  
**8/7** Kathlene Gerrity, Ex. Dir., CT Burns Care Foundation.  
**8/14** Amber Alert, Our part, Bob Vetter.  
**8/21** Larry Gardner, PDG on his year as the DG.  
**10/16** DG Jack Solomon, Rotarian Heroes and Interact.



### Rick Lawrence Showed us the Remarkable Work Rotary is Doing to Save Countless lives in Guatemala, through Clean Water, Non-polluting stoves, and Clean Sanitation Facilities:



Not only is **Rick Lawrence** a member of another District, he now lives in Rhode Island, and drove more than 2 hours, one way, to address the club. But the message was an important and impressive one.

The work Rotary District 7890 is doing to save lives in Guatemala is nothing short of remarkable. A Rotarian with 41 years in Rotary, Rick and his wife, Ellen have made a special commitment to the people of Guatemala and the tears of joy and gratitude

coming from the people has spurred everyone to keep on going.

So far, since 2006, various Rotary Clubs along with our Foundation have contributed \$792,718 to assist in clean water projects in Guatemala. A total of 1,556 families and over 9,000 people have been served. At present, the project is working with three communities, where it often takes 2 hours one way, and two hours back carrying heavy clay pots laden with water from unclean rivers and streams. Currently, \$112,500 has been raised (half of that matching funds from the Foundation) but more is needed. Currently clubs from 8 Districts are involved.



One can't dismiss the importance of clean water. Thirty thousand people die of water related illnesses every day, 90% of whom are children under 5. There is nothing more important to a community than clean water.

**Carl Bailey** also spoke. Their burn center in Nicaragua is seriously underfunded and needs help. That's, of course, what we do. We're Rotarians.



### Those Jugs are Heavy:

*Samantha Welsh, 10 years old, is unable to hold a Guatemalan water jug on her head, let alone walk with it full for two miles—a trek many Guatemalan children must traverse multiple times each day for "less than clean" water. Bob Vetter is in back, actually holding the pot up.*

**.Bob Vetter Held the Winning Ticket, but Pulled a Losing Card:** Bob wins fairly often because he always buys a chance. The secret is buying 7 tickets for \$10 instead of 3 tickets for \$5. That one ticket could be the difference. More club members need to participate in the weekly raffle. The odds of winning are far greater than the CT Lottery even though the pot is never quite that large. Still, when you buy a ticket, you are contributing to your club. We have a really big roll of them, so buy, buy, buy.



**Rotary Club of Danbury 2019-2020**

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**Officers:-**  
 Pres. Elect Delia Espinal  
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 Dr. Fred Kayal

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

**Visitors:** (l to r) Ellen Lawrence, Yara DeAlmeida, Dr. Todd



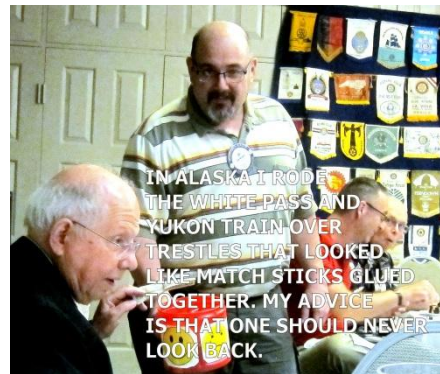
Welsh, and Samantha Welsh were all visiting today. Todd came to CT from Ohio to celebrate his father, Ralph's, birthday.



**Happy Birthday:**  
 (l to r) Samantha Welsh, Dr. Ralph Welsh, Carl Bailey, and our intrepid server, Linda Stillman.



*Our Rotarians are all well travelled.*



**Happy/Sad Dollars:**  
*Jeff Kass just returned from Alaska, and reported his harrowing ride on the White Pass and Yukon RR. The wooden trestles do look like match sticks.*



In August of 2012, WCSU was fortunate to secure the Dalai Lama for a speaking engagement. More than 3,500 people showed up for the event, and none were disappointed. Actor Richard Gere introduced the Dalai Lama, a world renowned philosopher and spiritual leader of the Tibetan Buddhists.

His message is always simple, and resonates with the work Rotary is doing throughout the world, as our speaker pointed out today, and the work of our own Carl Bailey exemplifies. The following message is for all of us:

**The True Meaning of Life:** “We are visitors on this planet. We are here for ninety or one hundred years at the very most. During that period, we must try to do something good, something useful with our lives. If you contribute to other people’s happiness, you will find the true meaning of life.”