

The Spoke

Rotary Club of Danbury

www.danburyrotary.org ,

District 7980

October 30, 2019

P.O. Box 788, Danbury, CT 06813

From the Editor's Desk:

Our visit to Ability Beyond Disability was a true education in community service. Formerly DATAHR, the agency has expanded over the years, and serves virtually all individuals in the community that have disabilities. It is huge; Ability Beyond has 1,200 employees, has group homes all around the state, and assists over 3,000 individuals in CT and New York. When I was working full time as a psychologist, they were my first choice for a referral for a patient who had a disability, and was having problems finding work, or a place to live. Many years ago my son, Todd, worked as a house parent in one of their group homes, and found it to be one of the most rewarding experiences of his life.

Our community is extremely lucky to have a program of this magnitude and quality. It is a unique program that is helping those, who have so much trouble being able to obtain maximal function, a sense of self worth, and dignity all of which the program provides.

Yours in Rotary Service, Ralph

Tary's Rotary Minute:

Editor's Note: Unfortunately Tary was unable to provide a column this week, due to a trip to the ER due to an AFib problem. At this writing, he was still under observation at Danbury Hospital. We wish him well, and anxiously await word of his full recovery.

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

The Four Way Test

Rotary



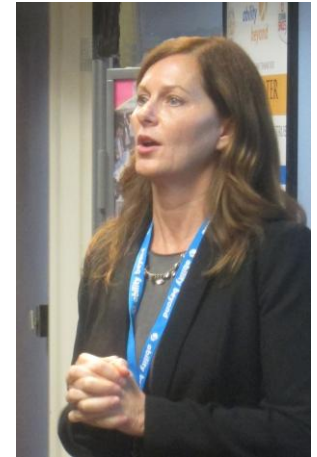
1. Is it the **TRUTH?**
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?**
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

We Had Lunch at Ability Beyond Disability: We Were all Impressed--

Ability Beyond describes itself as an organization dedicated to helping people overcome problems to lead a fulfilling, independent and productive life. That, of course, hardly tells the story.

It has numerous programs and group homes for developmental disabilities, Autism Spectrum, Brain Injury, Mental Illness, and for all individuals who are physically challenged in any way.

President and CEO of Ability Beyond, Jane Davis, is proud of how the organization's income keeps dropping, yet the services keep increasing. Every time state asks the agency to take on a new challenge, they



CEO Jane Davis



Hosts: Sarah Hauser, Cathie Petrosky and Tracey Conte

have agreed to do so, including services for the brain injured and those with autism. In addition to their group homes, they have remodeled numerous homes in the area to make them "disability friendly." Their Roses for Autism which is a farm, florist and training center has now marketed a perfume, and they have fully embraced the tech revolution for their training.

It is another wonderful community resource. We have very lucky to have such a program in our town

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More Pics from Off Site Visit to ABD:



Luncheon Events:

11/13 Steven Harding, State Representative.

11/27 Thanksgiving Lunch with the Lions.

12/19 Christmas Lunch with the Lions, Thurs. off-site at the Lions.

Rotary Club of Danbury 2019-2020

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Dr. Fred Kayal

No Spoke issues missed since 1/4/06

Spoke Editor: Ralph S. Welsh

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Halloween Hubble Nebula

This recent photo by the Hubble Space telescope shows two galaxies in collision—and also resembles a scary Halloween image. As you all should know, the mirror of the Hubble telescope was ground and polished in Danbury, at Perkin-Elmer.