

# The Spoke

## Rotary Club of Danbury

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

District 7980

April 8, 2020

P.O. Box 788, Danbury, CT 06813

### From the Editor's Desk:

We have now had two Danbury Rotary luncheons on Zoom, one Danbury Rotary Board meeting on Zoom, and two Rotary Virtual District Cocktail hours on Zoom. At times it has been a bit awkward participating, and the programs are less than "tight" in structure, but it does allow fellowship and information exchange quite well. It looks like we are in this for some time to come. The important thing is to stay safe.

Here are three **Zoom** addresses to remember: **Danbury Luncheon, 621257872; Danbury Board, 467979495; and District 7980 Cocktail Hr, Fri., 5 pm, use District website.**

Yours in Rotary Service, Ralph

### Tary's Rotary Minute:



We had a double-car raffle in 1979, a Thunderbird and a smaller car, and as usual, we sweated bullets since most of the money was turned in the last week of the raffle. The net was \$7,800, equal to \$29,500 in today's dollars. Pretty good I would say...and I sold

the winning ticket for the Thunderbird. That person has been buying tickets ever since.

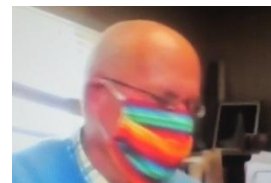
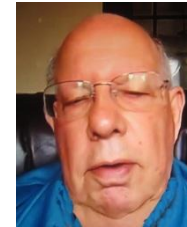


Yours in Rotary Service, Tary



**Quotable Quote:** There are two sides to every issue. The right one which is mine, and the wrong one which is yours.

### The Luncheon was Virtual: No Agenda, but Much Fellowship--



**Present:** Frank Scahill, Fred Kayal, Chris Hoeffel, Mike Kahn, Jeff Kass, Ralph Welsh, Delia Espinal, Tary Tarlton,

Anita Ragona, Adele Tarlton, Barry Rickert, jim Gargan, and Wayne Curtis with wife Chris. **Present but No Video:** Mark Havira. Possibly Bob Vetter—we're not sure.

It was a pleasure to see Mike Kan from Texas. He remains busy selling electronic devices to police departments, primarily in Europe...and his health is good! His last check-up gave him a clean bill of health. No cancer detected. Wayne and Chris joined in from Mexico, where they were confined to their quarters with ankle bracers due to the imposed quarantine. Jim Gargan indicated that the situation was not too bad in Florida with the virus, at present, but the worst may be yet to come. Dr. Kayal is seeing his patients virtually, and remains confined to home. Barry Rickert's business is extremely active doing decontamination, and Delia Espinal indicated that the bank was very busy, and she expects the stock market to rebound when this is all over. It is always great to see people log on from far away places. Zoom has its advantages.

**Rotary Club of Danbury 2019-2020**

Allison Fulton

**Officers:-**

**President-**

Pres. Elect

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Treasurer-

Sergeant at Arms-

Delia Espinal

Dr. Mark Havira

Frank Scahill, Jr

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Anita Ragona

Robert J. Vetter

Dr. Mark Havira

Tary Tarlton

Allison Fulton

Delia Espinal

Jeffery Kass

Tim Seibert

Frank Scahill

Dr. Ralph S. Welsh

Dr. Fred Kayal

*No Spoke issues missed since 1/4/06*

Spoke Editor: Ralph S. Welsh

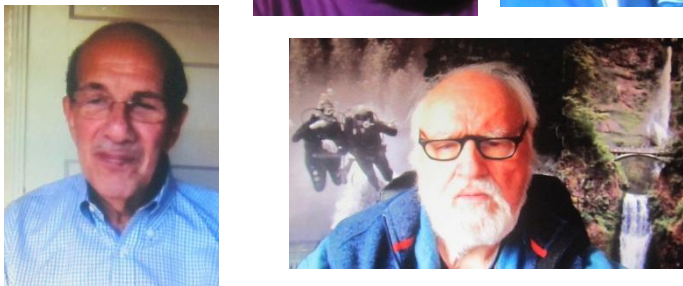
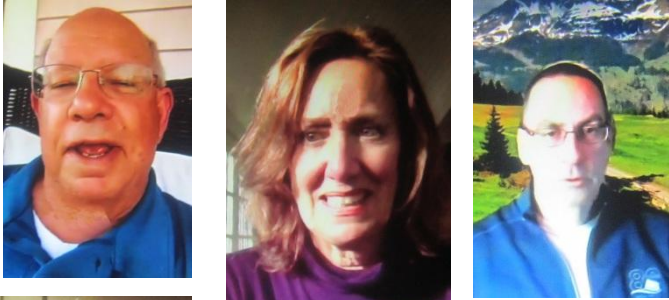
203-938-2820 / rswelsh@mail.com

**Skiing is a Contact Sport, Frequently with the Ground, Occasionally with Another Skier, and for the Unfortunate few—a Tree:**

I just read that the West had another great snowfall. For us who love skiing, being indoors severely limits participation in that sport, but it does limit the skiing injuries and death. Yet, is that the most dangerous thing we can do? A total of 44 people died skiing in the 2017-18 season, while 78 died of lightning—and 34,000 died on the highways. Of course, not everyone goes skiing, but there's a whopping difference in risk between racing down the slopes, and getting into a car. And is staying home, safer? In 2015 33,000 people died in household accidents. So is it better to stay home and avoid the virus, or go out and die in a car accident? Well, it seems staying home is safer, since the CDC estimates 60,000 U.S. deaths due to the virus by August, and more if we don't follow the rules. Just stay home, visit Rotary via Zoom, and don't wax the floors.



**The Board Met Virtually and We Did Get Things Done, or at least Deferred:**



**Present:** Jeff Kass, Allison Fulton, Frank Scahill, Fred Kayal, Ralph Welsh, Anita Ragona, and Tary Tarlton.

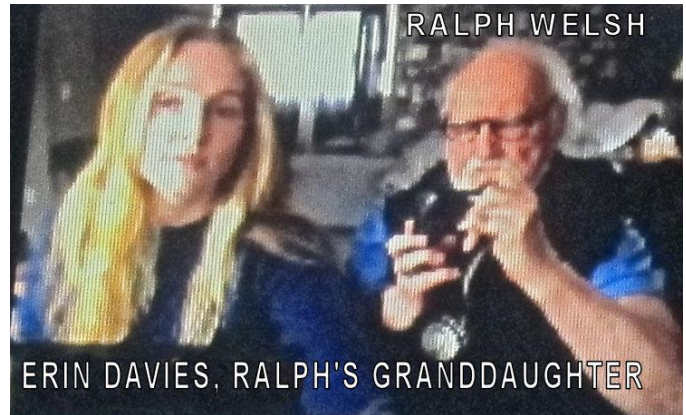
Mark Havira joined by audio, only.

Numerous topics were discussed, but the most important involved postponing the Gavel Dinner, postponing the Shredding Day, continuing Virtual Meetings for the foreseeable future, deferring a decision regarding pre-paid dues, and accepting the fact that Carl Baily's District Grant has been put on hold until things open up again. We are finalizing the list of Club Officers, and according to Anita, the Scholarship program is moving ahead. We need to hunker down and ride this thing out. We hope to be back at the hotel before Fall.

**SERVICE ABOVE SELF**

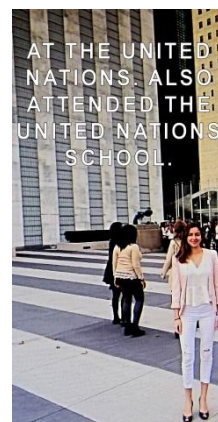
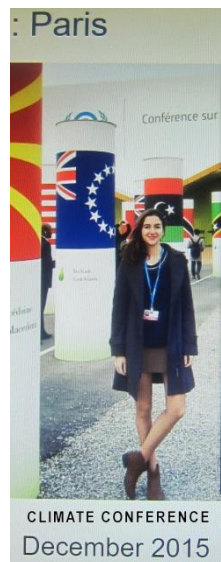
**First Virtual District Cocktail Hour:**

I was totally amazed to discover that one of our two \$30,000 R.I. Global Scholars, **Anja Nikolova**, from Macedonia, would be speaking at the Zoom District virtual cocktail event and had graduated from the very



same masters program my Granddaughter, Erin Davies, would be entering at Yale in the Fall. Following the video session, Anja emailed a note to me, Jack and Erin, part of which read, "It was such a pleasure to meet all of you...Erin. You will have a lot of fun in the program, I promise you," and invited her to get in contact with her for a more extensive conversation. Erin is going to do that. She was, of course, thrilled to find a fellow traveler in that rather daunting road ahead. Of the 4 languages Anja speaks, Erin said she prefers English for the contacts. It's a small world after all.

**Some Pics from Anja's Scholarship Years:**



**Second Virtual Cocktail Hour:** Our guest for this meeting was another one of our remarkable Global Scholars, Biology major **Alex Epstein** who is now attending and doing research at Rockefeller University. His scholarship took him to Cambridge, England, where he was engaged in research related to Alzheimer's Disease. He felt that the opportunity to go to another country



was invaluable, allowing him to see how a health system quite different from ours, operates, and how the practice of medical research differs from how we do it in America.

His attempt to duplicate the growth of Alzheimer material in a test tube that is identical to that in humans was not that successful, but the knowledge he learned doing the research was invaluable. He explained how the various dementias differ, and each one will require their own special avenue of research.

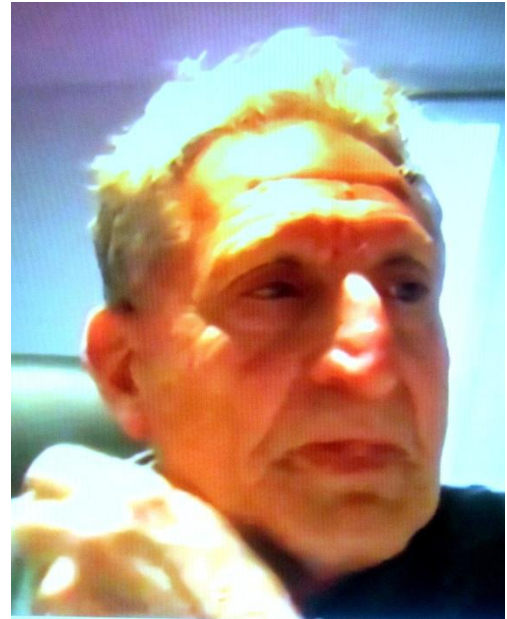
Regarding COVID-19, yes, the coronavirus originally came from bats. Just how that happened is still being debated, and yes, the degree of exposure has a lot to do with how sick one gets, but age, health and other factors may be more important.

He told us how to decontaminate an N95 mask, but indicated that social distancing is key to controlling the outbreak.

He indicated that he could not tell us when we can go back to a normal life style, but that we just needed to be patient, and careful.

His current research is on aging. We have no doubt he will come up with something remarkable in the future.

Rotary has to be extremely proud of our Global Scholars. They are such a gifted, unique group of people. They exemplify what Rotary is all about.



*Our fearless leader, DG Jack Solomon, Alon Sapir and his daughter, and some of the other participants (below).*

