

# The Spoke

## Rotary Club of Danbury

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

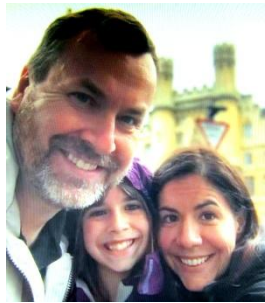
District 7980

June 10, 2020

P.O. Box 788, Danbury, CT 06813

### From the Editor's Desk:

Our presentation this week was provided by my daughter-in-law **Dr. Judith Welsh**. Judy was one of a contingent of medical practitioners from the Cleveland Clinic who volunteered to go to NYC and face the pandemic head on. Our entire family is very proud of her, especially her husband (and my son) **Dr. Todd Welsh**, and her



daughter **Sammi**. She provided a wealth of information on the virus, and said her high point was seeing the fire trucks drop by sounding their sirens in support, and the many New Yorkers who hung out their windows banging the pans during their changing shifts. Her actions, and those of her colleagues, clearly represent our motto **SERVICE ABOVE SELF**.



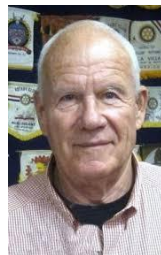
Ralph

### Tary's Rotary Minute:

Rotary makeups often were 6 to 8 per meeting and they helped members keep up their membership. A few years ago if you did not maintain at least 60 percent attendance then you were in danger of being asked not to renew your membership. Make-ups were verified by a card provided by the make-up club you attended. The snowbirds made up at Florida clubs, and in the summer Florida members made up at clubs in the North.

Today, we don't have that many make ups due to RI's relaxation on attendance requirements. However, with Zoom, now, you can attend your meetings easily. I invite more of our members to participate in our zoom meetings. They're fun and our guest speakers have been remarkably informative. More importantly, Zoom allows you to be a continuing part of Rotary.

Tary



### Again We had a Virtual Luncheon. Our Speaker, Dr. Judith Toski Welsh, Told her Remarkable Story of How a Group of Medical Workers left their jobs at the Cleveland Clinic to face the Pandemic Head On in NYC:

Our speaker heaped praise on everyone involved in her adventure going to NYC—the airlines providing free passage for her group, her guests at the Presbyterian Hospital complex, the dedicated staff she worked with, her colleagues who made the choice to face the pandemic head on and even the people who nearly fell out of their windows banging pots and pans signaling their support for all of those people risking their lives on the front line, day after day.



Judy talked about the problems relatives had not being able to be with their loved ones the last days of their lives, the refrigerated trailer for those lost adjoining the hospital, and her defiance of hospital orders going out into the parking lot to comfort relatives and friends.



She indicated that a second wave is likely to come, but insists she would be sending her 10 year old daughter back to school. She is not

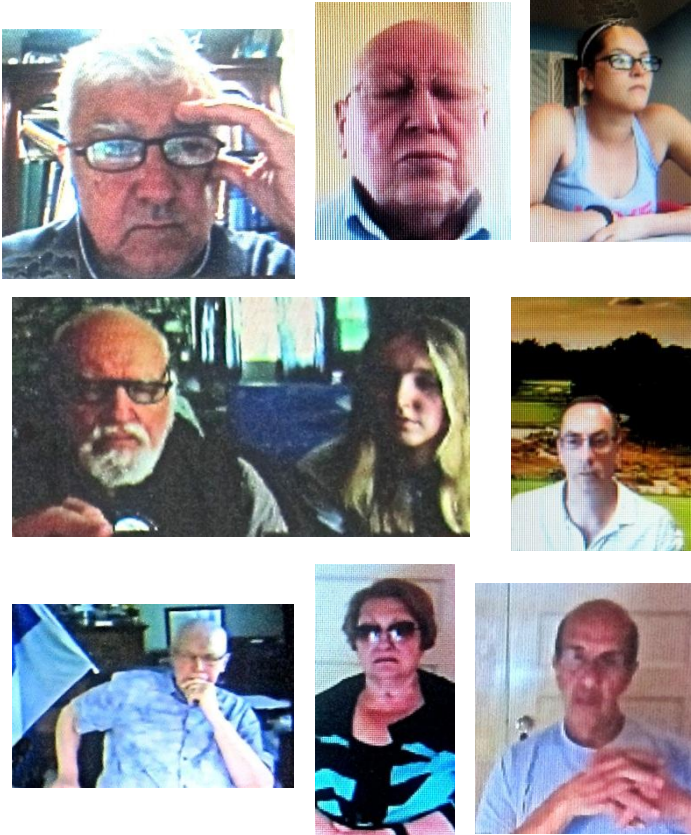
sure that it is time to open everything up, yet, and anticipates that the protests will be ultimately seen in the statistics.



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When asked if the Cleveland Clinic was prepared for a second wave, Judy replied, “We have learned a lot. This time we will be ready.”

**Below: Attendees, Left to Right--** Barry Rickert, Bob Vetter Delia Espinal, Ralph Welsh & Erin Davies, Frank Scahill, Marvin Paige, Leila Kayal, Fred Kayal, Peter Maier, Fran & Jeff Kass, and Terry Tarlton. Mark Havira, Sally Johnson and Todd Welsh were on audio only.



**Rotary Club of Danbury 2019-2020**

**Officers:-**

**President-** Allison Fulton  
 Pres. Elect Delia Espinal  
 Secretary- Dr. Mark Havira  
 Treasurer- Frank Scahill, Jr  
 Sergeant at Arms- Edward Walsh

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 Dr. Mark Havira Tim Seibert  
 Tary Tarlton Frank Scahill  
 Allison Fulton 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



**IT'S NOT ALL BAD--**

- Have you noticed lately that your car needs fewer oil changes?
- And the air is a lot cleaner, though you probably need a haircut.
- COVID-19 has given us all a taste of what it is like to be retired.
- Have you thought about investing in Zoom?
- There is less crime, less traffic and fewer auto accidents.
- You now have more time to tend to the garden, and paint the house.
- Although it's a shame the kids will not graduate in a large facility, for those of us who are older, virtual graduations guarantee that bathroom facilities will be close by.

**Over the years the Rotary Club of Danbury has won numerous awards.** One of the most prestigious ones was the Charles W. Pettengill award which was won during the administration of Nels DeAlmeida (our club president for the Rotary year 2000-01).

Charles Pettengill was a distinguished Greenwich attorney who served as the president of Rotary International for the 1964-65 Rotary year. District 7980 decided to honor this achievement by establishing the award. It was instituted to honor that club which had distinguished itself by building an outstanding record of service in any or one of Rotary's Four Avenues of Service during the preceding three years.

Our most recent District award honored our youth service work, received during the administration of Dr. Fred Kayal. They

include the long running Amber Alert program run by Bob Vetter, the remarkable South American cleft palate/burn center work and tennis academy of Carl Bailey, and our annual scholarship donations. Our club, to date, has given out more than one million dollars in scholarships since it was founded. We don't have the space to list of our awards here, but there were many.

