



THE CHARM



Rotary Club of Hamden, Club 6732, District 7980, PO Box 185304 Hamden, CT 06518
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President's Corner



Recently I had a club member email me and that email included the statement that "the Hamden Rotary Club is in a period of transition." I would have to agree with that. I think the Club has been in a state of change for the last four years. Even Sonny, our host at the Playwright, has noticed and remarked about the changes we have experienced over the last few years.

I would like to see us change the flow of our conversion and I think we have a good chance of doing that by having our Club participate in the *Rotary Club Vision Facilitation Program*. This is not a Rotary International or District mandated program. It is a program thought to be valuable enough to be supported by District Rotarians to help clubs with their relevancy and membership development. It can be found on our website's "Useful Links" page, or I can provide you with a hard copy.

The initiative will take the commitment of **all the members of the Club** to attend a strategic planning session; and as you will see there are several Rotarians who have been trained to guide each participating Club to arrive at a meaningful conclusion once the session has been completed.

I would ask **each member of our Club** to read the brochure and let's set aside a few minutes during a future meeting to discuss whether we are committed to moving forward and scheduling a Vision Facilitation session.

Hamden Rotary International



Rotarians Cathy Forsberg and Mike Lipman report both successes and frustrations in their current visit to India. Their travels in following-up the water filter initiative have found enthusiastic employees, grateful families and recurring problems. Many of the villages that they visited have only deep-bore wells as a source of water. The bio-sand filters that Hamden and other Clubs have sponsored clean the water enough so that it is safe to bring and clean, and sickness has plummeted. But the water is

drawn from such a deep level that fluoride levels are so high that tooth and bone disease becomes a serious long term worry. "The villagers' ability to grow water needy cash crops is decreasing so they rely more on growing (less profitable) dry crops such as millet and sorghum....It is easy to get overwhelmed here because of the multitude of (water related) problems...Staying focused on the bio-sand filters has paid dividends...we hope to help many more."

Dictionary Project

On October 30th the third grade kids at Helen Street School not only received their dictionaries...they also found a very special surprise.

In the spring of last school year, I spent an hour with these same kids, who at that point were in second grade. We started by talking about volunteerism and doing things for other people. I then had each student make two book marks each for some very special kids who would appreciate receiving them. They pulled out their crayons and began drawing, coloring and writing their names and words of encouragement on these little pieces of art. At the end of the class, I collected all of the bookmarks until that special day when these beautiful little gifts were presented.

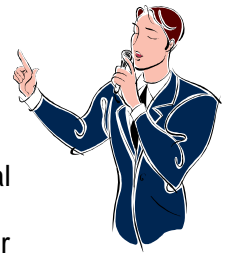
How surprised these third graders were when each of them opened their dictionaries to find the bookmarks they had all made with a lot of love and to discover the special kids were them!

Submitted by Lynda Hammond

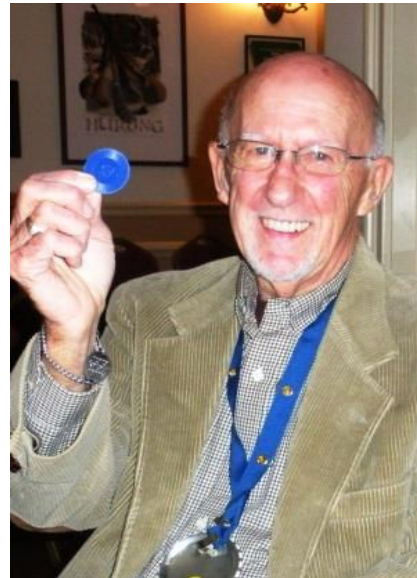


Here's Fabi Giguere and Linka Lewis (behind camera)

Upcoming Meetings And Events



- Nov.30 **Matt Kopac**-Rotary Cultural Ambassadorial Scholar tells us of his Studies in El Salvador
- Dec. 2 **Itzhak Perlman**-RI Foundation benefit Concert-Lincoln Center-NY
- Dec. 7 Board Meeting
- Dec. 14 Student of the Month
Margaret Rogers-Milford Rotarian running for Congress in 2010



We Have a Winner

Rotarian John Judd holds the winning chip in our ongoing 50-50. John donated half of his \$270 winnings to The Children's Center in Hamden. We think JoAnne got the rest.



Quote of the Week...

"Some succeed because they are destined to, but most succeed because they are determined to."
Henry Van Dyke

The Four Way Test Of the things we say, think and do:



Service Above Self

Give us a Hand! 2009-10 Service Chairs

Membership-Owen Sanderson-288-3196

Club Service-Eric Lind-315-0295

Community Service-Betsy Gorman-288-0017

Vocational Service-Fabi Giguere-239-1456

International-Lynda Hammond-281-7540

Fabi Giguere-239-1456

Program-Joena Russell-606-9975

Amber Alert-Joena Russell-606-9975

The Charm-Rich Miller-675-5907

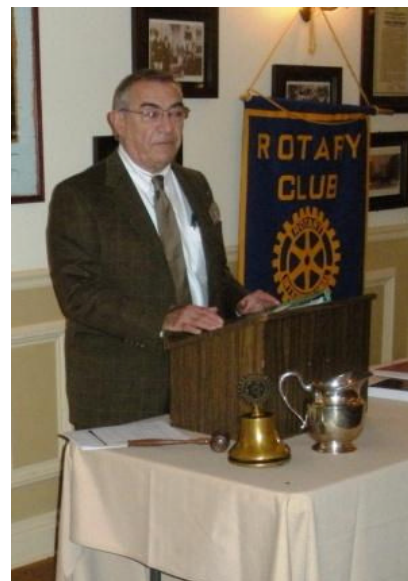
Owen Sanderson-288-3196

Public Relations-Betsy Gorman-288-0017

Ophthalmology Screening Project Lima, Peru-2009

Rotarian Fabi Giguere reports that optometrists, ophthalmologists and member of the Rotary Club of Lima are going from place to place in a campaign providing the eye screening vision tests in the poorest areas of Lima. The patients first have to be evaluated, tested and then are given eyeglasses with funds donated by the Rotary Club of Hamden.

To date, the campaign has provided over 180 visual screenings, 131 refractions, 68 ophthalmology screening, free medicine and 89 pair of glasses.



Our speaker for the Nov. 23 meeting was Rotarian Atty. Fred Sette. Fred spoke of the recent changes in Connecticut law regarding Living Wills and conservatory agreements.