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**Please note: our meeting on Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup> will take place at the Dickerman House Barn, on Mt. Carmel Av.**

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT RICH MILLER

*Nobody can hear you if you ain't talkin'*

This afternoon I watch a ballplayer take first base as the opposing short-stop and left-fielder nearly collide trying to catch a bloop single that fell to the grass between them. A minister in Florida is planning a commemoration of the anniversary of 9/11 by organizing a mass burning of The Koran. Motts/Snapple has refused to continue negotiations with their union employees because the union refused a \$1.50/hour reduction of wages that top-out at \$19/hr. Replacement workers have been hired. In New York, a Jewish Mayor, a Roman Catholic Archbishop and a host of ministers, imams and rabiis cannot quell the opposition to an Islamic information and recreation center two blocks away from the World Trade Center site. And last week in Washington, Israel and Palestine finally agreed to start discussions on how to go about having discussions (again).

Paul Harris made a point to include the "advancement of... understanding, good will and peace" as one of the Objects of Rotary. Communication. As a Rotarian, are you personally working toward that objective? Do your co-workers understand what Hamden Rotary (you) does? What it stands for? Does your next door neighbor realize how you have helped eradicate a crippling disease and helped feed and warm so many needy families in town last winter? Don't you think your golf partner or your florist or your plumber might enjoy helping kids read, or help make sure the concerts go on in that pavilion you built, or enable a senior citizen to stay fit by bowling using a Wii?

The pin on your lapel is not a wheel, it is a working gear. Put it into motion! Communicate! Share Hamden Rotary, then ask them to dinner.

## QUINNIPIAC STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT SPEAKS

On Monday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, Quinnipiac Student Government Association President Louis Venturelli came to Hamden Rotary to speak on the developments on Quinnipiac's new "York Hill Campus." Venturelli presented a video and pictures that demonstrated the beauty of the new facilities – a student

center and residence halls providing 1600 new beds – and the great progress that was made over the summer to be ready for the start of the academic year. After his presentation, Venturelli discussed what this new campus means to the student body, how it could lead to a return of students to campus residences, and how it contributes to the University's Green initiatives (there is a wind farm on the campus, and photovoltaic cells on all the roofs, with a energy processor that contributes a significant amount to the campus energy needs). Thank you, Louis, for doing your part to open communication between our communities!



Club President Rich Miller with Louis Venturelli, QU SGA President

## HAMDEN ROTARY FOUNDATION CONTRIBUTES

The club's Foundation Board took an unprecedented step to increase the funding available for community service in this Rotary year. As very little money was raised for this purpose last year, the Foundation agreed unanimously to match the dollars raised and then to supplement that sum to equal \$10,000. Our "recurring" events such as the high schools student nights, student of the month, dictionary project, books for speakers and the library, etc. will use about half of that sum. Members will be encouraged to "adopt" a project either on their own or in conjunction with others to supplement our giving.



## TALES FROM THE SLEEPING GIANT

Following is an excerpt from the Prologue of Eric Lehman's Hamden: Tales from the Sleeping Giant (2010). Lehman will be our guest speaker on Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

"Imagine a typical family traveling on the scenic Wilbur Cross Parkway in the late twentieth century, tunneling through the cliff wall of West Rock and cruising down the Hamden offramp. This road-tripping clan might have been planning on a nostalgic trip to one of the first outdoor strip malls in the United States. They could have been heading toward the golden arches of the first McDonalds in Connecticut. Or they may have been on their way up Whitney Avenue to hike the green crests of the Sleeping Giant. But what awaited them just off the exit on the "magic mile" was a strange, nearly apocalyptic sight: a silhouetted row of cars half buried in asphalt along Route 10.

"The owner of the Hamden Plaza had commissioned this unusual work from Site, an eclectic group of artists known for similar installations, but this Ghost Parking Lot would be a masterpiece. Framing the entrance to the ordinary parking lot, separated by traditional white lines, these drowned vehicles rose and fell like a wave of automotive sea. The unusual, perhaps shocking sculpture tempted visitors to walk by it, around it, through it. The travelers may have noted the familiar curve of a Volkswagen Beetle or compared the family station wagon to one trapped in macadam. As they toured the concrete walkway that fronted the stores, they would have found wind sculptures and interactive displays by modern masters like James Seawright, Maura Sheehan and George Rhoads. A day of shopping turned into a day spent in an art gallery.

"Back in 1955, when this open-air mall was first built on the site of Henry Peter's orchard, it heralded the new age of suburban expansion, and now it trumpeted the future again. A plaque told interested viewers that the Ghost Parking Lot's purpose was to combine two elements of a shopping center in an astonishing way and give spectators 'another frame of reference.' It was supposed to 'generate dialogue in the community,' and it certainly did. Some loved this ambitious effort to make art more public, and some derided it as a stunt or an eyesore. What were these buried automobiles supposed to mean? Were they supposed to be archaeological relics of a former age? Did they look toward a future beyond suburbia? The ambiguous exhibit may never have sparked agreement from visitors or locals, but it did appear in hundreds of art books.

"Those who knew Hamden, Connecticut, might have expected such innovation and originality. This was an area that had grown from a small colonial settlement into a thriving town, blending five village centers into an organic whole. Often called the 'bedroom of New Haven,' the rambling, multitiered suburb was more truly a studio, where pioneers and dreamers lived intense lives amidst calm green hills. By the time the

Ghost Parking Lot shrugged up from the earth like a futuristic symbol, Hamden already hosted sculptors and architects. Inventors like Eli Whitney and A.C. Gilbert forged the town with their unceasing commitment to creation, while the community banded together to save the mighty Sleeping Giant.

"That family who rumbled off the Wilbur Cross Parkway could have seen themselves mirrored in one of the towns' famous families, like the Dickermans or the Wilders. Perhaps they found inspiration in Hamden's books, buildings or stories. They surely wanted to explore why this exquisite river valley enfolded in high trap rock ridges seemed to nurture the spirits of these talented men and women. And at the end of the day, they would have discovered that whether you visited Hamden or called it home, this was a place that could shape the landscape of imagination."

For more information on the book, click [here](#).

## MEETING SCHEDULE

- Monday, September 13: Eric Lehman, author of *Hamden: Tales from the Sleeping Giant*, on Hamden history. **Note: this meeting will take place at the Dickerman House Barn on Mt. Carmel Ave.**
- Monday, September 20: District Governor, Julianne Reppenhagen. Board meeting to follow.
- Saturday, September 25: Amber Alert at the Big E. To volunteer, contact Joena Russell.
- Monday, September 27: Club Vision presentation.
- Monday, October 4: Club Assembly – location tba
- Monday, October 11: Andy Morgan, "Memory & False Memory for Stressful Events"

## CAN'T MAKE THE MONDAY MEETING?

Town	Day	Time	Location	Address
Branford	Mon	12:15 PM	Italian-American Club	40 Hamre Lane
Hamden	Mon	05:45 PM	The Playwright	1232 Whitney Ave
North Haven	Tue	07:15 AM	Breakfast Nook	448 Washington Ave
New Haven	Tue	12:15 PM	Graduate Club	155 Elm St
West Haven	Wed	12:15 PM	App's Ristorante	283 Capt. Thomas Blvd
Orange	Fri	12:15 PM	Race Brook Ctry Club	246 Derby Ave
Woodbridge	Fri	12:15 PM	Coachman Square	21 Bradley Rd
E-Club (Dist. 7890)			<a href="http://www.rotaryclub7890.org/">http://www.rotaryclub7890.org/</a>	

"In truth, people can generally make time for what they choose to do; it is not really the time but the will that is lacking."

~Sir John Lubbock 1834 – 1913 British Statesman, Banker, Naturalist



## THE ROTARY CLUB OF HAMDEN MEMBERSHIP

The Rotary Club of Hamden consists of a group of professional, business and trades people who believe that service to the community, and the world, can be accomplished by each and every individual, one at a time. Please consider contacting any one of us to find out more about what we do and, perhaps, join us in service and friendship.

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***Of the things we think, say, or do...***

