



# NEWTOWN ROTARY CLUB.



CHARTERED FEBRUARY 1939: 70 YEARS OF SERVICE. SPONSOR BRIDGEPORT ROTARY BULLETIN #54 MARCH 26, 2009



## YOUTH EXCHANGE OREGON TRAGEDY

Belek Tortusunob our Youth Exchange Student from the Kyrgyz Republic, appeals for support from members, for contributions towards a memorial. The tragic event of January 24, when a group of YE students were caught in the line of fire outside an under-21 Club in Portland Oregon, two of the students were killed and several injured. YE Students will build the memorial which will be on display at the District Conference, before being placed on permanent display.

**DON'T FORGET THE REED INTERACT CLUB BLOOD DRIVE ON MARCH 28<sup>th</sup> 7.30am to 1.30pm Call Tony Salvatore if you are able to help. (203 270 4880)**



## CLUB HISTORIAN REMINDS US OF 2/28/1939

Paul Gehrett reads from the Bee of April 14 1939 that reported on the Charter Meeting of this Club. Some noteworthy names included the then District Governor Charles Pettengill and the past RI President Donald Adams, two names that are commemorated by the District with two prestigious awards. The Club is planning a celebration in June.



March Students of the Month with their Teachers.



**HARLAN JESSUP TELLS US ABOUT THE IRISH IN  
NEWTOWN!**

Accepting the Speaker book following his tales of the Irish in Newtown, Harlan Jessup a member of the Booth Library Genealogy Team was part of an interesting St Patrick's Day Eve celebration. Sergeant at Arms; Michael O' Snyder (His title for the night) entertained us further with some more appropriate tales!



**COMING UP IN APRIL**  
**April is Magazine Month!**

Every member should receive a copy of the ROTARIAN, if you don't please advise the Club Secretary Duane Giannini who will correct the position with RI Administration in Evanston.

**COMING UP IN APRIL continued!**

When you have finished reading your copy of the Rotarian, take it to the office leave it for your colleagues to read. Use it as a promotional tool for ROTARY.

April 6 Will be an 'Offsite' at Danziger Homes High Tech Green new construction in Monroe plus we have a guest brought in by Carrie Swan who will report on conditions in Haiti. April 13 we welcome at last Heidi Rankin from the Danbury Women's Center her previous date was 'snowed out'! April 20<sup>th</sup> should be interesting, the Danbury Film Festival is coming up, but it could be coming to Newtown on April 25.

April 27, is Student of the Month, a little later than usual.

March and April seem to be the season for Charity Breakfasts! We had the WeCAHR breakfast today. 7 Members supported this. April 7, is the Hearts Around the World breakfast at the Ethan Allen, Mike Snyder is hosting this one. Please try and give your support.

**TWO EVENTS TO NOTE IN MAY!**

**May 11<sup>th</sup>** we host the incoming GSE Team from Germany. Chris Hoeffel needs help to ferry and host the team during the day. **May 23** is the Lions Club Duck Race; this is the Saturday of Memorial Weekend. We are being challenged to a Tug of War!! **Get in Training** we need weight on that rope and plenty of supporters to cheer us over the line!

**NEW NAMES AT THE TOP AT RI!**

The next RI President is a Scot from Grangemouth in bonnie Scotland; John Kenny. I was talking with our in coming DG; Colin Gershon, he tells me he met Mr. Kenny at a recent DG training event and he was impressed! Those of you who can attend the District Assembly on St Georges Day April 23 will see a video and be able to get to know the RI President Elect. I will be around in case you need an interpreter! By the way sign up with President Alan for this Event.

The RI President Nominee who will follow John Kenny will be Ray Klinginsmith from Kirksville Missouri



### **MARCH IS LITERACY MONTH**

Our Meeting on March 23 marked this important aspect of Rotary work. With a couple of presentations; we were privileged to have the Connecticut State Department of Education Literacy Consultant; Patricia Foley as our keynote speaker and she gave us an interesting presentation about her work and the State's Standards, Curriculum; and expectations, some of which is controversial and prompted several probing questions.

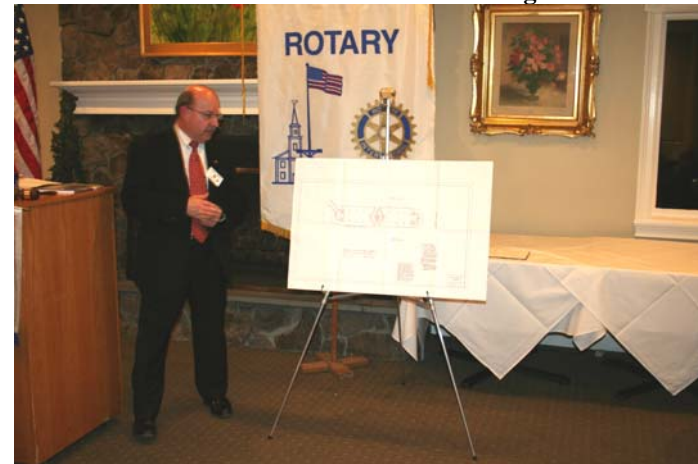


I discovered this picture on my camera!

I followed Patty Foley with a brief report on the Club's activities in the Literacy Field. We broke our record for dictionaries supplied to local elementary schools; we started a more constructive method of supporting our local library with the Speaker Book Project – the picture above of President Alan giving the Speaker Book to Patty Foley is an example.



This is another of the pictures from Pavas which I summarized on Monday, the end of a very successful project. Please see the Literacy Special Report sent out after last week meeting.



Our busy night culminated in the presentation by President Alan, giving us a first view of the Rotary Park to be created on the Fairfield Hills Campus. The Park will be situated between two of the major buildings and will comprise an area part turf and part paved with a flag pole and inscribed seating. The Town will be supplying the initial construction requirements and we will be looking after the paving and planting. Budgeted cost circa \$25,000 was approved by the members. This is an exiting project that will showcase Rotary in Newtown and celebrate 70 years of Rotary in Newtown. Plans are in hand for a grand opening in June hopefully with a Volunteerism focus.

[Contributions to the bulletin are welcome to griffonspitfire2000@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:griffonspitfire2000@yahoo.co.uk)

