



# Jungle Jottings



Vol. 79, No. 1

Not above you, not beneath you, but with you.

July 2006

## Scholarship Awards Presentation

The recipients of our 2006 Scholarships were feted at our weekly luncheon on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June. Four \$1,000 scholarships were given in honor of deceased Danbury Lion Brij Lal. The winners were Grace Shih, Kelly Bates and Sally Rong of Danbury High School and Khaliah Carr of Henry Abbott Technical School. The CRIS Radio Scholarship was given to Cody Zanard of Danbury High School and the Walter Larson Scholarship was given to David Glynn also of Danbury High by Pat Larson, the widow of Walter Larson for whom the scholarship was established.

The scholarship program was chaired by Mark Meyer. The committee consisted of Jim Humphreville, Al Cipriani, PP Fran Evans, PP Eric Nadeau, President Lyn Meyers and 1st VP Helene Thompson. PP Frank Molinaro assisted with the program by speaking on behalf of Brij Lal prior to the awards presentation.

## International Convention

The following Danbury Lions and Lion family members attended the 89th International Convention in Boston, MA over the weekend of June 29<sup>th</sup> – July 5<sup>th</sup> 2006. President Helene Thompson and her husband Joe attended with two of their daughters, Second Vice President Keith Beaver attended with his wife Melissa and their two children, Judge Diane and Bob Yamin attended with one of their daughters and Mohammed and Nasreen Alam attended with their two sons. The delegation also consisted of IPP Lyn Meyers, Secretary Bob Lovell, Membership Chairman Frank Molinaro, Associate Jottings Editor Nancy Lavers, Webmaster Ernie Harrington and Board Members Joan Bielizna, J. Roger Schmiedel and his wife Zita.

More than 238 Connecticut Lions marched in the Parade down Boylston Street on Saturday morning. They were accompanied by the Ancient Mariners of Connecticut who placed 1<sup>st</sup> in their Division. Pictures of the parade and photos of the convention can be viewed by visiting the following website [www.ACES.PhotoReflect.com](http://www.ACES.PhotoReflect.com) Photos are in 1259 (15).

## Campaign SightFirst II Lions' Vision for All

Campaign SightFirst II is the Lions' global initiative to raise a minimum of \$150 million to continue and expand SightFirst programs. Since 1990, SightFirst has prevented or restored vision for 24 million people, but the funding for these highly successful programs is nearly depleted. Through Campaign SightFirst II (CSFII), Lions seek to fund programs that will combat the existing and new threats to sight. **Lion PP Fran Evans** is this region's Group Coordinator for CSFII.

Lions Clubs around the world are being asked to once again challenge themselves to set a goal at the highest possible level. Our **Danbury Board of Directors** has made the commitment to participate in fund raising for CSFII in 2007-2008. They have also concurred with International's guidelines that a Club of our size (over 100 members) and with the number of Melvin Jones members we already have that a challenge goal of **\$50,000** is within our reach. We have already secured Board of Director pledges in the amount of \$8,000! We're on our way to our Club goal even before our pledge year begins! What a great start!

## Why Should I be Proud to Participate in Campaign SightFirst II?

1. Many groups are working to solve the problems of blindness and low vision, but we as Lions, the largest service organization in the world and the worldwide leader in the fight against blindness, have a special responsibility.
2. For CSFII to be successful, the participation of all Lions is essential. By our commitment to participate and achieve at the highest possible level, we can and will make the difference in the success of CSFII.
3. Through CSFII, Lions can continue to advance the SightFirst program and alleviate preventable blindness in many parts of the world. Over the last 15 years, Lions' SightFirst program has provided \$185 million in grants, benefited 80 countries, funded 4.6 million cataract surgeries and 65 million treatments for river blindness, built or expanded 258 eye hospitals, upgraded 300 eye care centers and educated 68,000 health workers – CSFII will enable Lions to continue their global leadership in the fight against blindness.

### How Will Funds be Raised?

1. Lions' personal gifts and/or pledges
2. Personal gifts and/or pledges from Non-Lions
3. Club fund-raising events and activities
4. Matching or outright gifts and/or pledges from the Club treasury.

Ideally, and what is recommended, is that we use all four parts of this "Comprehensive Method". Clubs are encouraged to use the methods of fund-raising that have been successful for them in the past, but with an added sense of urgency and enthusiasm due to the magnitude and importance of SCFII.

Pledges are emphasized because they allow donors to consider giving more than is possible through "one-time" gifts. Pledges are a commitment or promise, not a legally binding contract. Each donor will be given the opportunity to make a pledge to CSFII. Pledges are payable over a three- to five- year period. Statements will be mailed from LCIF to donors, you hopefully, on a monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual basis according to the donor's wish.

### SightFirst Accomplishments

Expectations of Sight-First in July 1991	Accomplishments of SightFirst Since 1991
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve eye care for 75 million people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved eye care for more than 100 million people</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevent vision loss or restore vision in 8.7 million people</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevented vision loss and restored vision in 24 million people</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create more than 150 eye-care clinics worldwide</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Created more than 250 eye-care clinics worldwide</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Train more than 2,500 health-care professionals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trained nearly 68,000 health-care professionals</li> </ul>

### SightFirst History of Success

- \$185 million in grants
- 4.6 million cataract surgeries
- 758 projects
- 65 million treatments for river blindness for as little as \$1 per treatment
- 258 eye hospitals build or expanded
- 300 eye-care centers given equipment upgrades
- 89 countries have benefited from the SightFirst Program

- 6 training facilities expanded
- 13,886 ophthalmologists, ophthalmic nurses and allied health workers received instruction
- 54,004 health workers taught to provide primary eye care or disease-control services
- 

### Through SightFirst, Lions have...

- Become recognized as a world leader in dealing with eye-health issues.
- Been responsible for removing cataracts as a public-health threat in several countries.
- Leveraged government involvement in the fight to save sight.
- Raised eye-health issues to the World Health organization ensuring this
- Raised more than \$143 million in Campaign SightFirst, which grew to nearly \$200 million through interest on investments and subsequent donations.
- Spent more than \$185 million in accomplishing our great successes.
- problem is recognized as public-health threat.
- Raised more than \$143 million in Campaign SightFirst, which grew to nearly \$200 million through interest on investments and subsequent donations.
- Spent more than \$185 million in accomplishing our great successes.

The Danbury Lions Club is a role model for this region for a lot of reasons. Let's give more reasons by doing a great job with our pledge to Campaign SightFirst II. You are a Lion, you are part of the efforts that help us serve. Consider your pledge today, please.

Fran Evans, SightFirst Coordinator 23-A

### Editors Note.

*To encourage all Lions to help publicize our Sight-First efforts, we are asking all Lions to purchase and wear a "Lions Vision For All" wrist band. The purple and yellow wrist band costs \$5 each and can be purchased at any luncheon or Lions function. Please do your part and purchase a wristband. The Danbury Lions commitment is \$50,000.00. Our final plans have yet to be established but our pledge does not have to be full-filled until 2012. We will have five years beginning July1, 2007 to raise the funds. The Board of Directors has been charged by our SightFirst Coordinator to form a committee to investigate and implement a plan to raise the pledged funds. All pledges of \$1,000 or more can be used for a Melvin Jones Fellowship and or a Progressive Melvin Jones. Several Members of the Board of Directors and Melvin Jones Fellows have already pledged \$8,000.00.*

*Think about what you can do to help your club achieve it's \$50,000.00 goal by June 31, 2012.*

### **More Convention News.**

The Connecticut Teenage Dance went off without a hitch on Friday evening. More than 800 band members from around the Country and Canada attended this free event. Two rock bands entertained the crowd of very polite high school age youths, mostly marching band members. The Danbury delegation assisted by directing the charter busses as they dropped off their charges. Several bands elected to skip the dance, going direct to their hotels for needed rest after spending 24 hours or more on the road to Boston.

The actual business of the Convention began on Sunday morning with the opening ceremony, the year end report by International President Ashok Mehta, the International Parade Contest results and the flag ceremony; (the presentation of flags of the 200 Nations that are part of Lions Clubs International). A very impressive presentation and something not to be missed when attending an International Convention.

Another highlight of the morning Plenary Session was a signed speech by a graduate of the Perkins School, the same school attended by Helen Keller.

On Monday, the Honorable Olafur Ragnor Grimsson, President of the Republic of Iceland addressed the assembly, the Memorial Service was conducted and nominating speeches were made for the Candidates for International Office.

On Tuesday morning, at the final Plenary Session, sixteen International Directors were elected and installed along with our new International President Jimmy Ross of Quitaque, Texas, new 1<sup>st</sup> VP Mahendra Amarasuiya of Sri Lanka and new 2<sup>nd</sup> VP Al Brandel of New York. There was a contest for 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Al Brandel was challenged by Dennis Tichenor of Oregon.

The Lions Humanitarian Award was presented to Shri Dipchand Savraj Gardi and the United Nations flag ceremony closed out the convention.

### **Board Notes**

Over the past several weeks the Board reviewed the following proposals for Membership; Stacy Butler a local dentist, Mark Stirling, a retired school teacher, Vincent Panno, a retired Danbury Police Detective and John Casamento, a former Lion, a Past President and a Melvin Jones Fellow. Please welcome our new members. All four of our new members have been added to the roster which you will find enclosed with this issue of the Jottings. Please check your personal listing and if it is not correct, please contact our Club

Secretary, Bob Lovell and ask him to make the necessary corrections.

The board also dropped Jad Chawi for non payment of dues.

At the June meeting, the Board approved the Operating Budget and the Charities/Projects Budget for the 2006-2007 Lionistic Years. The Board committed to a \$45,000 Club budget, a \$41,000 Charities/Projects Budget and re-affirmed it's \$50,000 SightFirst II Pledge. Copies of the budget can be obtained from either the Treasurer or the Secretary.

### **From The President**

My year is off to a wonderful start. I attended the 89<sup>th</sup> International Convention in Boston, MA over the July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday. I was fortunate to have many Danbury Lions and my family attend with me. The highlight for me was the parade. The Connecticut delegation was led by the Ancient Mariners of Connecticut, an Ancient Fife and Drum Corp. They were eclectically dressed and dragged a canon which they shot off at regular intervals. Thanks to them and the 200 plus marchers from the Multiple District, we won the Division I best Precision Marching Unit prize of \$400.00.

This year the race for Second International VP was contested, apparently a rare occurrence. The candidate that our club endorsed, Al Brandel of New York won the seat.

The holiday weekend was also full of sightseeing and companionship with my fellow Lions and was greatly enjoyed and appreciated by my family and me.

I am looking forward to a productive and rewarding year and welcome your input and support. Just having attended the best attended Installation Dinner in years (bravo Jerry), I am looking forward to the Steak Roast. We have quite a few lunches between now and then and hope you will attend.

Yours in Lionism, President Helene.

### **Resolutions passed at the Convention**

The one Resolution that passed that has the greatest impact on our Club is the Resolution that adopted a family dues structure to encourage membership growth for family friendly clubs. The Resolution becomes effective January 1, 2007. In essence, there is no change for a first family member's per capita tax but subsequent qualifying family members up to 4 per household shall pay a semi-annual per capita tax equal to one-half ½ of the total amount paid by the first family member as described in sub-section (f)(1). Since I am not sure what our current per capita tax amounts to, we will have to wait for future dues billings.

**FUTURE SPEAKERS AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Jul	19 <sup>th</sup>	Danbury Westerners Game
Jul	20 <sup>th</sup>	CRIS Readers Luncheon
Jul	27 <sup>th</sup>	Marcello Tortoriello – Hispanic Center
Aug	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Stephen Bull – Danbury Chamber
Aug	7 <sup>th</sup>	Seymour Lions Golf Tournament
Aug	10 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Steak Roast
Oct	21 <sup>st</sup>	Salvation Army Anniv. Celebration
Oct	28 <sup>th</sup>	CLERF Fundraising Concert

**Steak Roast**

Save the date, it's August 10<sup>th</sup> and it's at Bennett Memorial Park on Payne Road in Bethel. Incoming 3<sup>rd</sup> VP Val White is planning something special for the evenings festivities. Plan on being there.

**IMPORTANT JOTTINGS NOTICE**

Since all of the Jottings can now be viewed on line, via email or at the <[www.danburylions.org](http://www.danburylions.org)> website, the Club can save on the cost of printing and mailing the Jottings. Since the hard cost is approximately \$1.00 per mailing per issue, the Club saved \$20.00 in printing and mailing costs for the May and June issues. If you decide to take advantage of reading and viewing the Jottings electronically, please email me at <[frank.m@molinaro-insurance.com](mailto:frank.m@molinaro-insurance.com)> and ask to be taken off of the Jottings mailing list. You will be notified by email when each issue of the Jottings has been posted on our website.

**Back To School Backpacks Are Back!**

Three lucky students from Shelter Rock School have been "adopted" by the Lions Club of Danbury in our annual Back to School program in conjunction with The Volunteer Center.

Once again, Lions may sign-up to purchase pencils, pens, crayons, backpacks, notebooks and so much more!

We began circulating three sign-up sheets at our Lions Club meeting on July 13. The sheets will continue to circulate at Lions meetings for the next few weeks. The deadline for bringing in your school supplies is **Thursday, August 10** – Steak Roast Day!

If you have any questions about the project, please contact Beth Ann Fetzer. Thank you Lions – you are helping to make some area youngsters very, very happy.

The \$39.00 mailing cost for this July issue of the Jottings has been donated by Val White of Kreative Realty. If you or your company is interested in donating the mailing costs for a future issue, please contact the Editor.

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