Welcome to the annual

NORMAN K. PARSELLS FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

Thursday, April 7, 2022

Brownson Country Club
15 Soundview Avenue
Shelton, Ct 06484

Proudly Hosted By:
The Derby-Shelton Rotary Club
Julie Blakeman, President

ROTARY

INTERNATIONAL®

THE 4-WAY TEST

Of The Things We Think, Say, or Do...

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** & **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Is it **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

Norman King Parsells
1909 - 1986

Norman King Parsells was born in Stamford on March 14, 1909. After graduation from the Stamford Public School system, he entered Yale University, earning a B.A in 1929 and a J.D.L in 1932. While at Yale, he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Alpha Delta. He later became active in alumni activities, serving as Agent for Alumni-Affairs of Yale Law School.

Following graduation, he joined the law firm of Marsh, Day, and Calhoun, eventually becoming a senior partner. He was a member of the bar of the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut and Bridgeport Bar Associations and Fairfield Town Court Judge. Shortly after the start of WWII, he enlisted in the United States Navy and worked his way up to a Lieutenant, receiving an honorable discharge in 1945.

A resident of Fairfield since 1938, Norman Parsells joined the Fairfield Rotary Club in 1948. His many roles in the Rotary included; President 1951-1952, 7980 District Governor 1967-68, District Chair of the Legislative Committee, and District Parliamentarian.

Politically, he served three terms in the Connecticut House of Representatives and in 1955, was the majority leader. Locally, he served for seven years as moderator of the Fairfield Representative Town Meeting.

Norman Parsells was also community minded. He served as President of the Greater Bridgeport/Fairfield YMCA, director of the Audubon Society of Connecticut, and the Bridgeport Museum of Art, Science, and Industry. In 1985, he was honored as the recipient of the Fairfield Chamber of Commerce Harold B. Harris Award for his community service.

Rotary lost a wonderful champion when Norman passed away on June 19, 1986, at the age of seventy-seven. Norman King Parsells was a distinguished citizen and gave much of himself to his country, state, community, and mankind. He truly epitomized one of the main tenets upon which Rotary International was founded, ***Service Above Self***.

We are here to honor the memory and spirit of Norman Parsells, a dedicated Rotarian who served his community and nation well. Normans' accomplishments are direct demonstrations of Rotary's ideal of "service above self". The Rotarians who are receiving this award today have been recognized as one who personifies the spirit and dedication to their community as Norman Parsells represented throughout his lifetime. Congratulations to all the Rotarians being awarded today, thank you for your "service above self".

PROGRAM

WELCOME
Julie Blakeman, President Derby-Shelton Rotary

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

FOUR-WAY TEST

GREETINGS DISTRICT 7980
Rick Bassett, Assistant District Governor 7980

LUNCH

HISTORY OF PARSELLS FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

PRESENTATION OF NORMAN K. PARSELLS AWARDS

- Bridgeport Rotary Club
- Derby-Shelton Rotary Club
- Devon Rotary Club
- Fairfield Rotary Club
- Milford Rotary Club
- Monroe Rotary Club
- Orange Rotary Club
- Stratford Rotary Club
- Trumbull Rotary Club

CLOSING REMARKS
Julie Blakeman, President Derby-Shelton Rotary

Rotary
Bridgeport, Ct

2021-2022 Norman Parsells Winner
Crystal Engram

Since joining the Rotary Club of Bridgeport in 2013, Crystal Engram has displayed a great deal of enthusiasm and leadership. She has served as a Club Director, Club Service Chair, Picnic Chair, Youth and Vocational Service Chair, Vice President for Programs and as President for 2019-2020. She serves currently on the District 7980 Training Committee.

Crystal is a TRF Sustaining Member and a Paul Harris Fellow. She is an active cheerleader for Rotary and has sponsored numerous new members to the club, including her own sister-in-law! Whatever job or function she is tackling you can rest assured that Crystal will make it, in her well-known motto, "The Best Ever!"

The Rotary Club of Bridgeport is proud to have chosen Crystal Engram as our Norman King Parsells Award recipient for 2021-2022.

Rotary
Derby-Shelton, Ct

Norman Parsells Award Presented To John Daniell

John Daniell

The Derby-Shelton Club is honored that John Daniell is this year's recipient from the Club. John was born and raised in England, the youngest of 5 children. He studied to be an engineer. His job led him to flight testing both helicopters and jets. In 1967, Sikorsky recruited him to work in Connecticut. He became a US citizen ten years later. He worked at Sikorsky for 25 years until he retired.

But retirement didn't stop him. He went on to write for Sikorsky's historical archives, was a member of their board of directors, and is now a trustee. He is a member of the Vertical Flight Society. John is also an accomplished sailplane pilot. He has soared as high as 10-12,000 feet "looking for lift" and has competed in many sailplane contests. He is also interested in vintage planes. If you're interested in aircraft and specifically sailplanes, reach out to John.

While living in Vermont John decided to join Rotary "to do something more constructive". In 1994 he joined the Mad River Valley Rotary Club in Waitsfield Vermont, first holding the position of secretary, then serving as president in 1996-1997. He joined the Derby-Shelton Club in 1999 after moving to Shelton. He understands the value of Rotary and helps in any way he can. He is a very active member of the Club and has also been involved at the District Level with Polio Plus, the Foundation, and currently serves on a District Committee Review Committee.

Rotary
Devon, Ct

Norman Parsells Award Presented To Karen Quinn-Panzer

Karen Quinn-Panzer owns a travel business, Dream Vacations Quinn Panzer Travel, with her husband Frank (also a Rotarian). In their travel business, they have prioritized a focus on group travel. Many of those groups are fundraisers for local groups including: Devon Rotary, Milford Regional Chamber of Commerce, Network of Executive Women, Make-a-Wish, and the Get in Touch Foundation. Karen believes in giving back. Before starting a travel business, Karen owned Village Vogue Boutique and arranged fashion show fundraisers for the United Way, the Soroptomists of New Haven, Sunshine Kids, and the Literacy Center of Milford.

Karen has received the OPAL award for **O**utstanding **P**erformance **A**nd **L**eadership from her parent company, World Travel Holdings, and is the Vice-Chair of their 9-member Advisory Council - representing over 1500 travel advisor franchisees around the country.

A former Advertising Director for The Wall Street Journal and The New Yorker Magazine, Karen enjoys leveraging her experience to raise funds for those in needs through events such as the Devon Rotary Draffle. Using Branford's very successful "Braffle" as a template, her committee raised $50,000 in funds over two Draffle events during the pandemic - also supporting over 30 restaurants in Milford during a difficult business environment for the restaurant community. She and her husband Frank also enjoy traveling the world in their current role as travel advisors. In fact, Karen and Frank are currently in Portugal on an Azamara cruise - traveling the world right this moment - or Karen would be here in person to accept this award. She says "I am honored and humbled to accept this award for something I love doing - giving back. Thank you for giving me this recognition. I share it with all the people who worked so hard on these fundraising efforts at Devon Rotary."

www.devonrotary.org

Rotary
Devon, Ct

Norman Parsells Award Presented To Albert May

Albert May has been a member of Rotary since 2001, first as a member of the New Haven Club, where he served as president from 2009-2010 and then, after moving to Milford and transferring to the Devon Club in 2016, serving as public relations chair and then club president from 2020-21. At the District 7980 level, he served as an Assistant District Governor , Area 5 (Hamden, New Haven, North Haven, West Haven and Woodbridge) from 2017-20. He is also a multiple (five sapphires) Paul Harris Fellow.

Outside of Rotary, Al serves on the Board of Directors of Beth El Center, Inc. for the homeless in Milford and is a lecturer and member of Pastoral Council at St. Raphael Roman Catholic Parish, also in Milford. He also represents St. Raphael and Devon Rotary on a collection of churches and civic groups working to resettle an Afghan refugee family in Milford.

Rotary
Fairfield, Ct

Norman Parsells Award Presented To Chad Stewart

Chad Stewart joined Rotary on November 7, 2005, and over the past 17 years, Chad has served on the Club Board of Directors as Sergeant–at–Arms, Membership Chairman, President-Elect, President and Immediate Past President. He was recognized with the Club's Presidential Citation Award in 2017 for exceptional membership growth, and the George R. Markley "Service Above Self" award from the Club in 2020.

He has been a member of the Investment Committee of the Fairfield Rotary Foundation for the last ten plus years and is the current Vice Chairman of the Foundation. Chad helped co-found the popular Rotary Beer Garden fundraising event.

Outside of Rotary he is a member of the Loan Committee of Capital For Change, a Community Development Financial Institution that provides loans to underserved communities. Chad is a member of the Town of Fairfield COVID-19 Micro Enterprise Assistance Program, previously served two terms on the Fairfield RTM, and is currently a Justice of the Peace in Fairfield.

Chad is a Senior Vice President of Commercial Lending with Connecticut Community Bank. Chad, his wife Donna, and son Sean live in Fairfield, CT, their home for the last 20+ years.

Rotary
Milford, Ct

Norman Parsells Award Presented To Frank Perry

Frank Perry has been a Milford Rotary member for 12 years

New Membership Chair, Board Member, Lobster Bake Committee, Cracking Team, Sgt at Arms and Beth El Soup Kitchen Volunteer

Married to Janine Leko Perry and together we have two sons Michael and Alex.

Interests include Business Management, Golfing, Fishing, Coaching youth sports and enjoying social time with family and friends.

The impact of Rotary and the friendships I have made as a result of my membership have had a tremendous impact on my life.

Rotary
Milford, Ct

Norman Parsells Award Presented To Lorna Sura

Lorna Sura has spent all but 5 years of her life as a Connecticut resident, 22 of them in Milford. She worked for Ma Bell (aka SNET) for many years, first as a keypunch operator (for those of you who remember such things) in the Yellow Pages Department, then as a Field Clerk and finally as a Sales Executive, all for the Yellow Pages. Lorna took an early retirement when SBC took over the company. This company was assumed by AT&T, which was where her grandfather worked as a physicist for Bell Labs through both World Wars.

For several more years Lorna went on to work at The Hour Newspapers in Norwalk, where one of her friends asked her if she'd like to come to lunch and meet some great people at a Rotary meeting. Little did she know this was the beginning of a wonderful association between herself and Rotary International. She joined the Norwalk Rotary Club and a few months later, after the President Elect backed out of PETS, volunteered to attend that conference. Many questions were answered that weekend, and she became the President of the Norwalk Rotary Club. Fortunately Lorna had many helping hands in running the club.

The Hour Newspapers were sold to Hearst Media and her career at the paper was over. She held a couple of part time jobs, which eventually led to a great job working with a Commercial Realtor in Milford – 2 miles from her home instead of a 40 mile commute. Mike Granata, a dear friend of hers from the Greater Norwalk Chamber of Commerce and a Milford resident, learned Lorna was local to Milford now, and quickly invited her to join the Milford Rotary Club. She jumped in with both feet and never looked back. She's been a proud member of Rotary for 7 years, and plans to continue making a difference for many more.

www.milfordrotary.org

Rotary
Monroe, Ct

Norman Parsells Award Presented To Molly Simons-Smith

Molly Simons-Smith, has lived in Monroe for 15 years. She is married to Reed Smith, and they have two children Bryson (12) and Avlynn (9). She works at The Speech Academy in Easton CT as a Speech/Language Pathologist Assistant with children ages 7-16 who have autism spectrum disorder (ASD). She works part time at **Everwonder Children's Museum** in Newtown as Accessibility Coordinator/ Liaison and Birthday Party Host. She is one of the Accessibility Chairs for the Monroe Playground Foundation **Kids Kreation** with the main focus on raising funds for accessible playground equipment for children of all abilities. She joined the Rotary Club of Monroe two years ago and helped us launch our now annual **Socktober** sock collection drive, a town wide event in October collecting new socks to distribute to statewide service organizations. **Socktober** was created because outside of needing a home, some of the most needed items for the homeless are socks. The first year approximately 300 pairs of socks were collected from three locations in town and matched. This year over 4500 pairs of socks were collected from 5 locations and a wonderful corporate sponsor Ocean State Job Lot, and then distributed to 6 statewide organizations.

Last year the Monroe schools gave out free lunches and snacks throughout the year. Through social media, Molly became aware of how much food was being thrown away. She then created a Facebook Group **"Waste Not Want Not-Monroe"** and collected food twice a week. On Wednesdays, delivered to Homes for the Brave in Bridgeport, and on Sundays delivered to Butcher's Best in Newtown. When she was unable to collect the food, she had friends take up the cause for her. Molly does whatever she can for her family, community, and is a very productive, positive member of Rotary.

Rotary
Orange, Ct

Norman Parsells Award Presented To Ron Ruotolo

Ron Rutuolo is committed to serving his community. A Rotarian since 2016, he is also a Lion and member of the Orange Country Fair Committee. He specializes in feeding hungry crowds at town wide events. Ron is an integral member of the Rotary Lobsterfest Committee, overseeing the setup, cooking and cleanup. He can be heard throughout the event saying "Let's get crackin'!" At the annual Road Race on Thanksgiving morning he delivers and serves the fruit, rolls and water for the runners. Always prepared with the tools and accessories one needs at large events.

Ron owns a plumbing heating business and is generous with his time, talents and equipment. Helping with hands on projects large and small, he arrives with trucks, tools, and extra hands when needed. Ron is an enthusiastic member who loves a "theme" – from wild wigs to turkey hats he makes sure that not only are we serving, we're also having fun! Whether boiling lobsters, slicing oranges, or grilling hamburgers, we can count on Ron to be in the forefront of the action, working harder, staying longer and making sure we don't take ourselves too seriously.

Rotary
Stratford, Ct

Norman Parsells Award Presented To Diane Barber

Diane Barber worked 22 years in the criminal justice field, and is a retired Chief Probation Officer-1 from the State of CT. She taught criminal justice courses for 13 years at Housatonic Community College, and is currently a part-time instructor teaching security/guard card classes at Bridgeport Shooting Range, in Bridgeport, CT. She received her MA in Mental Health Counseling from Fairfield University in 1994, and in June 2018 received a certificate in Ayurvedic health counseling. Diane is a licensed practicing counselor in CT, and by combining the knowledge of these two disciplines, she provides counseling and support to individuals and groups seeking a better work/life balance. She is a past president of the Stratford Rotary Club (2015-2016), and is a Paul Harris Fellow+1. Diane currently lives in West Hartford, Connecticut, and is a serious "foodie" who loves to travel

Rotary
Stratford, Ct

Norman Parsells Award Presented To Sheri Szymanski

Sheri Szymanski has been an active member of the Stratford Rotary Club since 2016. She is a Past President (2019-20) and currently serves as Club Treasurer. She chairs the Club's Dictionary & Thesaurus Project and has volunteered on a variety of her Club's fundraisers and service projects including: the Lord's Kitchen (soup kitchen), the amazing Rotary Rib Night, serving lunch at the South End Community Center's Annual Bike Safety event, paper shredding fundraisers, delivery of Thanksgiving meals through the Sterling House Community Center and volunteering at the Stratford Rotary Club's Main Street Festival.

Sheri is the Director of the Stratford Library Association, since 2016, and previously served as Assistant Director for 9 years. She is a lifelong Librarian, beginning her career shelving books at the Sacred Heart University Library. The quality of her work was so poor that she was promoted to a service desk, where she covered late night shifts and developed a side hustle, typing papers for desperate classmates running up against deadlines. Her first full time job was at the Monroe Public Library, where she worked in Cataloging and then as a Children's Librarian. She then moved on to the Trumbull Library System, where she was responsible for introducing online and Internet services and on to the Westport Library, where she managed the movement of materials and data as Head of Access Services prior to her arrival in Stratford. Sheri currently serves on the Board of the Stratford Chamber of Commerce, volunteers as President of the Monroe Scholarship Fund, Inc. and is an active member of the Huntington United Methodist Church.

She is a lifelong resident of Monroe, CT, graduating from Masuk High School in 1984. She earned her Bachelor's degree in English and Elementary Education from Sacred Heart University; and holds a Master's degree in Library Science from Southern Connecticut State University. In her spare time, Sheri spends way too much time on social media, enjoys Bridgeport Islanders hockey (forever the Sounds Tigers!), loves reading (of course), explores the rail/trails of Connecticut & New York State on her bicycle, and is the devoted and faithful servant of her cat, Lola.

www.stratford.rotary7980gives.org

Rotary
Trumbull, Ct

Norman Parsells Award Presented To Vincenzo Fini

Vince Fini has been a proud member of the Rotary Club of Trumbull for 9 years and served as Treasurer for 3 years before moving onto President in the 2019-2020 year. He has been involved in most of the Club's activities over the years and has a passion for giving back to the community. Service above self was something that he has always believed in, as demonstrated by his dedication to community service that has benefited various organizations, including Habitat for Humanity, Homes for the Brave, and Special Olympics. He is currently a board member for the Lakewood Trumbull YMCA, the Home Builders & Remodelers Association of Central Connecticut, the Trumbull Chamber of Commerce, and is on the Finance Committee for the Bridgeport Regional Business Council. Vince is also president of the Trumbull Business Education Initiative.

When not volunteering, Vince is a partner with Whittlesey PC, with more than 40 years of experience in public accounting. His practice concentration is in privately held businesses, construction, professional services, manufacturing and distribution, technology, and nonprofit entities. He is a licensed Certified Public Accountant with both the State of Connecticut and State of New York.

Originally from Cleveland (which means he is a long-suffering sports fan!)Vince graduated with a degree in Accounting from Cleveland State University. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and the Connecticut Society of Certified Public Accountants (CTCPA), where he served as a past chair for the CTCPA Accounting & AudiEng Standards Committee and the Technology Committee.

Vince and his wife Dana (also a Rotarian!) have been married for 37 years and have 3 children and 4 grandchildren.

NORMAN K PARSELLS AWARDEES

Rotary Club of Bridgeport

1987 Abraham I. Gordon
1988 Louis C. Klein
1992 John C. Stawarky
1994 Michael J. Leone
1997 Frank F. (Fritz) Ober
2000 Sarah McCann
2001 Leete P. Doty
2003 Christopher A. Gallo
2004 John Annick
2005 Mark Fries
2006 Jatin Mehta
2007 John R. Cottrell
2008 Philip J. Dwyer
2009 Edward J. Davies
2010 Stefanie Kuchma
2011 Susan Chudwick
2012 DeNoriss Crosby
2013 George Shawah Jr.
2015 Wally Hauck
2016 Edward J. Davies
2017 Christopher A. Gallo
2018 C. Anne Gribbon
2019 Kirit Vaidya
2021 Crystal Engram

Rotary Club of Derby-Shelton

2009 Al Patuzzi
2010 Thomas Nickse
2011 Troy Adcox
2012 Leo Vine
2013 Anthony DellaMonica
2014 Robert Brennan
2015 William Nimmons
2016 Stephen Balog
2017 David Grant
2018 Gary Sochrin
2019 John "Jack" Walsh
2021 John Daniell

Rotary Club of Devon

2001 Gloria "Dodie" Ireland
2003 Edward Mancini
2004 Paul Lewis Otzel
2005 Vincent Lambiase
2007 Beat Zahner
2008 James Secondi
2009 Ann M. Brignola

Rotary Club of Devon (continued)

2010 Jeffery Solomon
2011 Henry Jadach
2012 Samuel Alagna
2013 Mark Krom
2014 Paula Kranyak
2015 Scott G. Moulton
2016 Greta Stanford
2017 Greyson Schwing
2018 Lee Cooke
2019 Jim Hassenmayer
2020 Karen Quinn-Panzer
2021 Albert May

Rotary Club of Fairfield

1990 William J. Josko
1993 John L. Murray
1995 Edward M. Gleason
1996 John "Mac" Leask II
2001 Roy Cant
2003 John Marshall Lee
2004 Janet Barillari
2005 John Beckmann
2006 Walter Dunn
2009 George Markley
2010 James Michael Hughes
2011 Norma Johns Peterson
2012 Kevin Lesko
2013 Peter A. Penczer
2014 Phoebe Leask
2015 Sheryl A. Shaughnessey
2016 David S. Huntington
2017 Walter M. Leask
2018 Debbie Clancy
2019 Gary Kealey
2021 Chad Stewart

Rotary Club of Monroe

1998 David Wolfe
2001 Dennis Condon
2003 Dr Norman Michaud
2004 Gerard A. Cloutier
2005 Hank Banach
2006 Phil Lindstrom
2007 Dr. Rhonda Greifinger
2008 Thomas Taylor
2009 Robert Guere
2010 Wayne Chmura

Rotary Club of Monroe (Continued)
2011 Merna Goett
2012 Jesse Trevino
2013 Bill Florin
2014 James Agostine
2015 Robert Zalinger
2016 Dan Keene
2017 Katie Baliey
2018 Ashish Verma
2019 Steve Vavrek
2021 Molly Simonns-Smith

Rotary Club of Milford
2003 Albert P. Ross
2004 Kenneth Hawkins
2005 David Ullman
2006 Rich Weir
2007 Gary Brelsford
2008 Tracy O'Brien
2009 Terry J. Munk
2010 Paul Mangels
2011 Linda Bauvier
2012 Sam Bergami
2013 Mitchell Quintner
2014 Robert Bogert
2015 Eric C. Tashlein
2016 Mark Sandillo
2017 Shaileen Landsberg
2018 Carrie Reed
2019 Bill Parry
2020 Frank Perry
2021 Lorna Sura

Rotary Club of Orange
2008 Trish Pearson
2009 Donald Lewis
2010 Glenn Pearson
2011 Baxter Walsh
2012 Edward Martin
2013 Paul Grimmer
2014 Carl Russell
2015 Lynda Hammond
2016 Diane L. Eger
2017 Robert Sigler
2018 Richard Dumbrill
2019 Roger S. Tausig
2021 TBD

Rotary Club of Stratford
1989 Richard Brew
1993 F. Paul Kurmay
2001 Frank Deluca
2003 David W. Killeen
2004 Patricia Patusky
2005 Constantine Chagares
2006 Karen Bowles
2007 Peter Russell
2008 M. Lewis Chaplowe
2009 Benjamin B. Branyan
2010 Joseph Dolan
2011 Anthony Nizzardo
2012 Marty Burger
2013 Dian Puterski
2014 Jack Cratty
2015 Fred Hyatt
2016 John Corb
2017 Gary Jacopian
2018 Jeffrey Krause
2019 Stephanie Philips
2020 Sheri Szymanski
2021 Diane Barber

Rotary Club of Trumbull
1991 Ronald Lesko
1999 James Lang
2001 Leonard Germano
2003 J. Preston Merritt
2004 Joseph C. Ruospo
2005 Michael Rappa
2006 Dana Lonergan
2007 John McBride
2008 Michael Redgate
2009 Philip Lane
2010 Gregory Bivona
2011 John Maker
2012 Susan Horton
2013 Byron Campbell
2014 Willia D. Zeidenberg
2015 James J. Malski
2016 Karen M. DelVecchio
2017 Holly Sutton-Darr
2018 Edward J. Gillespie
2019 John Coleman
2021 Vincenzo Fini

SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

Thank you for attending our 2021-2022 Norman Parsells Fellowship Luncheon.
Congratulations to this year's winners!

Thank you to all Rotarians for continuing to put "service above self"