



Wilton Rotary Drummer

Wilton, Connecticut

www.wiltonrotaryclub.org



January 31, 2014

Vol. 33, Issue 28

Editor: Andrew Mais

Our distinguished Leader for Life, the Most Excellent President till the Cows Come Home [Paul "El Jefe Grande" Burnham](#) presided over a most convivial meeting of 18 Rotarians and guest Eileen Armstrong.

Announcements:

- "Taming the Typhoon," a Rotary event to benefit the victims of Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, is on for Feb. 25 at Marly's. Tips **AT THE BAR ONLY** will go to support this fundraiser (subject to any changes negotiated by The Great Negotiator, [President Paul](#)). There will be an alternative donation method available to people in the dining area. Tell your friends. Bring your friends. And bring cash. [As at some other businesses](#), cash is preferred at this fundraiser. See Pat Russo with questions.
- The Interact Club had an early Sunday afternoon conference. President Paul wanted any Rotarians not watching the Super Bowl commercials to join him, but this Drummer's too late for that. I fear I shall be harshly punished.
- President-elect Carol Johnson went to Pre-PETS at Fairfield U and loved it. The goals for the upcoming year: 100,000 new members worldwide; DG's project is to be a mentor to someone who needs one.
- I noted a Foundation discussion about the importance of eradicating polio. Not sure if that was from Pre-PETS, but worth remembering anyway.
- The indefatigable Pat Russo informed us he had received more than 30 responses for the smoke detector program. Volunteers are needed to get it all done by mid-March.
- There will be no Mondays at Marly's this week.
- There will be a Board meeting after next week's meeting.

Program:

Steve Hudspeth wore one of his many hats in Wilton, this time representing the Wilton Interfaith Action Committee (Wi-ACT). This is a grouping of 10 faith institutions in Wilton that began in an effort to deal with resettling a refugee family from Iraq who had worked with U.S. Armed Forces there. The Committee satisfied housing and other needs for 18 months for the family, who are now happily ensconced in Stamford.



For the past three years, the Committee has held an event

on the last Saturday of each October to help ease hunger. Working with [Stop Hunger Now](#), volunteers of all ages work in two-hour shifts from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. to package meals. They've packaged more than 300,000 meals over the past three years, and this year the goal is 150,000 meals packaged. Meals go to children at school so they can be nourished in mind as well as in body for a full year. More than 300 children were served last year, and the goal this year is to serve 400 young souls.

The first year, meals went to Haiti. Sub-Saharan Africa was the destination for the second year's efforts, with the Philippines benefitting last year. Volunteers are needed at the event. President Paul will have details, but it will be on October 25 at the WEPCO complex. They had 600 people last year; more hands this year will make the increased goal reachable. Shifts are only two hours long. Each attendee is also asked to bring a can of non-perishable food that can be used to help reduce hunger right here at home.

All this takes money. Ingredients for each meal cost 25 cents. Almost all the money Wi-ACT raises for this goes to paying for the ingredients, with a very small portion covering custodial expenses. There will be a fundraising concert on April 6 at 4 p.m. at [St. Matthews](#). Performers will include Anna Rita Tornello, an award-winning lyric soprano trained in operatic singing, and Erica vanderLinde Feidner, a Juilliard-trained orchestral piano soloist.

Ms. Tornello is also a Wilton police officer who graduated top of her class from the police academy. For those of us who may occasionally inadvertently exceed the posted speed limit on Route 7, even though supporting this event may not get you out of a ticket, karma can be a blessing. Not to mention all the good juju you might attract if you were a corporate sponsor—they need corporate sponsors. Tell President Paul if you're able to help or have a lead.

Wi-ACT is also involved in a cystic fibrosis (CF) program run out of Stamford Hospital. Children from overseas are brought here for two to three weeks to give them the chance they otherwise would not have to survive. They brought in a father and son on Christmas Day, providing a home, meals, and transportation. The father told a CF conference: "I really felt that what you have done is the greatest manifestation of love I have ever felt."

NEXT MEETING: Fri., February 7, 2014