



Wilton Rotary Drummer

Wilton, Connecticut USA District 7980

www.wiltonrotaryclub.org

Our 31st Year of Service!

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Editor: Bill Meehan

The third quarter of the reign of President Paul closed with twenty three Wilton Rotarians and five guests gathering at Marly's for a luncheon feast and presentation by Julio Fiol, the Consul General of Chile in New York.

Announcements:

- April 4 – Beyond Words spring benefit for Wilton Library (7 to 11 p.m.) delectable foods by Bianco Rosso and silent auction
- April 6 – Concert featuring Erica vanderLinde Feidner and Anna Rita Tornello for benefit of Wilton Interfaith Action Committee Stop Hunger Now campaign. WEPCO church (36 New Canaan Road) at 4:00 p.m. (tickets \$15 at door).
- April 26 – Help Wilton Rotarians “cook em up” hot dog sale during the Library Book Sale
- April 26 – Trackside Spring Fling benefit at Trackside (7 to 11 p.m.) great food, music, silent auction and no hot dogs.
- May 6 – Chamber Golf Outing
- May 8 – Wilton Rotary Golf Outing – New Canaan Country Club – contact Paul or John for more information
- May 24 Arts And Crafts Fair – Karen and Richard reported strong crafter signups. Journal ads now being registered. Save the date. Rotarians’ help will be needed to run the fair.

Program: Julio Fiol, the Consul General of Chile in New York

A full house welcomed Chile's New York Consul General. In 20 minutes, we were treated to a concise history of 180 years of U.S. – Chilean relations. Julio regaled his audience with insights into the Chilean independence from Spain in 1818 (the U.S. being the first nation to recognize Chile as an independent state) through the turmoil of the government of Allende, the long military rule of Pinochet to the return to a democratically elected government in 1990. Chile is now one of the most stable and prosperous nations in South America. Through free trade agreements, Chile has become a strong trading partner with the U.S. Copper now leads Chile's exports to the U.S. Chile is also one of the countries participating in the development of the Trans Pacific Partnership Agreement with the U.S. and other Pacific bordering nations. Perhaps not most importantly, we learned that it could be argued the Lone Star, hoisted so proudly as the property of Texans worldwide, was actually heisted from the Chilean flag, bearing the original Lone Star and predating that of Texas by some 18 years.

NEXT MEETING – Friday, April 4 at Marly's in Wilton