



Wilton Rotary Drummer
April 11, 2008 **Vol. 27, No. 39**
Editor: Mark Koler



Guests: Interact club members Gabrielle Alessi-Freidlander (current WHS Interact club President), Ginger (WHS Interact President elect), and Sue Mangan – WHS guidance department. Kevin's better half Laura, and a couple of other guests I unfortunately neglected to count!

Announcements

- The WHS Interact club is up for a district Presidential Citation due to all the great work this year. Fallen Heroes Last Wish foundation, Haiti child sponsorship, Mongolian children school sponsorship and Starlight/Starbright foundation were the major projects the club undertook this year. They are in great shape for the future with WHS advisor Scott Webster and Rotarians Bill Glass and yours truly helping out.
- There will be a Board of Directors meeting Thursday 4/24. Location TBD. All are welcome.
- Amber alert event was at the Wilton Family YMCA Saturday 4/12 12-3 – Ray always could use more help so if you can volunteer please get in touch with Ray.
- Karen S. mentioned that a German high school student Victoria Koch will be attending Wilton High School (she will be a senior) as part our Rotary Exchange program. She will arrive in August and stay the school year. Still looking for host families if you would think about hosting her for 3 months during the school year. Taylor McCurdy is our outgoing WHS student.
- Jay mentioned the GSE (Graduate Student Exchange) May 16th joint meeting with the New Canaan club – if you are interested in learning more please contact Jay.
- Craft fair – we have mid-late 30's in terms of crafters registered – slightly behind plan per Richard. We need more so if you know any please send them Richard's way. Bill Glass will be closing the ads for the book in the beginning of May so please get your ads in quickly.
- Stephanie mentioned that a Bridgeport Bluefish game outing was a possibility. Please let her know if you are interested in attending a game with the club this year.

Program:

Bill Madaras father of Nick Madaras Wilton High School graduate 2005 who perished in Iraq while on duty September 3rd 2006.

In one of the most heart wrenching presentations that this writer has witnessed at a Wilton Rotary club luncheon, Bill described his son's enlistment in the army shortly after his graduation. Nick was a terrific soccer player but an even better person. It was Nick's idea to bring soccer balls to the children of Iraq and he had collected some that the family was to send over to him shortly after he returned to Iraq for his second tour of duty. After he perished the program 'Kick for Nick' was born. More than 4,500 soccer balls have been sent to the children in Iraq. Gabrielle Alessi-Friedlander's brother Zack (A WHS graduate and fellow serviceman) as instrumental in getting the first effort going of more than 600 soccer balls. The balls are sent to the military and they arrange to get them over to Iraq. Cash donations are welcome to help defray shipping expenses etc. In May there will be a collection of soccer balls again in Wilton to be held before Memorial Day.

It is so evident how much the Madaras family struggles with the loss of Nick each and every day.

If you want to view the ESPN link please click on the website:

<http://sports.espn.go.com/broadband/video/videopage?videoid=3218181&categoryId=2378529>

See you next Friday at the Silvermine Tavern..... Mark