

# Wilton Rotary Drummer

Wilton, Connecticut  
[www.wiltonrotaryclub.org](http://www.wiltonrotaryclub.org)

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Ten members of Wilton=s finest service organization (Boucher, Burnham, Goldman, Lavin, Mais, Nigro, Russo, Spencer, Tai-Lauria, White) were joined by Fran Norman, executive director of the Housatonic Chapter of Habitat of Humanity on a fine morning in April, while our president was enjoying beignets at Café du Monde in New Orleans. The clock did not strike thirteen.

April 26 was our day to receive a donation from Wayback Burger. Paul H. and Bud added to our coffers by lunching there. Maybe others showed later. Same deal next month – fourth Thursday

Elaine on behalf of the library thanked us for selling hot dogs last week at the library’s book sale. A bit chilly, but we had many customers and were able to make a donation of more than \$500 to the library, and we did receive\$60.00 in donations from grateful patrons.

The Town Meeting is coming up on May 1. It is important to attend the meeting as those at the meeting are able to reduce the allocation for any line item (but not to increase any).

The annual dinner will take place on Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup>. Andy needs you money (so what else is new?)

Attention turned to the carnival. The Georgetown Lions will have their carnival next month – Miller-Driscoll had theirs last. Hopefully these are too distant in time from ours to have any impact.

Frank has set up a satellite office in Antigua, Guatemala and touts the area as a fine vacation destination.

If you would like to spend a day at Foxwoods, see Bud.

Pat drew a low spade so the 50-50 raffle pot continues to grow.

Fran Normann, our speaker, is the Executive Director of the Housatonic Chapter of Habitat for Humanity – which covers the area from New Canaan and Wilton to Brookfield, Bethel and New Milford. It has been in existence for 25 years and twenty- eight homes have been built. Two more are currently under construction.

Habitat for Humanity International was founded in Americus, Georgia in 1976. The charity's groundwork is done by local affiliates, each of which is an independent, locally managed organization which coordinates and selects partner families without regard to race, religion or ethnic group.

Fran's organization locates the home-sites, raises the necessary funds, seeks in-kind donations both of building materials and services, finds the families, organizes the volunteers, and takes both a first and a second mortgage on the properties after they are turned over to the families. The first mortgage is the amount of the cost – usually about \$200,000 and carries an interest rate of zero percent. The second mortgage is to ensure that any appreciation on an eventual sale of the house redounds at least in large part, to Habitat.

Most of the families have an annual income of between \$50,000 and \$75,000 but cannot make a down payment or to service a mortgage of the size needed to finance a home purchase in a conventional manner.

The chapter has a used furniture store which accepts donations (no appliances or sofas please.) Wilton's Turnover Shop is a partner.

Volunteer opportunities abound. If you have some free time, little can be more rewarding than helping a grateful family own their own home.

***See you Friday.***