



**Wilton Rotary Drummer**  
**May 21, 2010**  
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***Guests:*** *Charles Dipanni from New Canaan Rotary – keeping his perfect attendance streak going.*

**Announcements:**

- Victor reported that the Board meeting has been rescheduled with new date to follow.
- Bill Meehan is looking for help this afternoon at Cranbury Park for the Wilton – Norwalk Tree Festival committee which has solicited Wilton Rotary to help set up a series of small exhibitor tents on the lawn at Cranbury Park.
- Richard Kent passed out flyers Wilton Pizza, who has offered to donate the profits from sales at his three restaurants on May 29<sup>th</sup> and May 30<sup>th</sup> to the Wilton Rotary Club. An email went around yesterday with the flier that you may print and distribute paper copies of to friends and local businesses to help promote the event. You may also email the PDF to people on your distribution list.
- Richard also passed around the sign-up sheet for the Craft fair which is the 20<sup>th</sup> annual and will be held next Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup> at the Town Green. Ad sales were up slightly but booth sales for crafters were down. Patty Sweeney is also looking for silent auction items so please think about that.
- We all are thinking about past club President Rick Kellam who was in surgery in Florida for brain tumors. Our thoughts and prayers are with Rick and his family.
- Kathy Leeds gave a grant committee report on the status of grants the club awarded and not awarded.
- Craig Johnson related his daughter's great comeback story – from leaving college to returning and getting her degree from Connecticut College in economics and music technology.

**Program:** – Karen King - Buduburam Refugee Camp. Please visit [www.buduburam.com](http://www.buduburam.com)

Karen who is a teacher from Newtown has spent the last several years helping the children of refugees from the West African nation of Liberia with their plight as they have relocated to Ghana.

The Buduburam Refugee camps were established in 1990 for Liberian refugees escaping the despotic regime of General Charles Taylor. Liberia today is led by Harvard educated Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and while strides have been made there are still a multitude of problems in this country founded by freed American slaves.

Working with the Interact group in Newtown the students at Karen's school put on a fundraiser and raised \$ 20,000 to open a school in Liberia. But the Ghanaian government has made it such that the refugees needed to move back to Liberia and funding a school is out of the question. So Unite for Sight (which Karen worked with beginning in the summer of 2007) is another initiative that Karen and her team have worked to support. She is looking to open an eye clinic in Liberia and needs \$ 81,000 to open that clinic.

How can we help? She asked for the club's financial support. She is hoping to raise \$ 15K from Rotary, get a matching grant for \$ 15K and get the remainder from Lions and a private donor.

**NO Meeting next Friday at Marly's – please help at the Craft fair if you can.**