



## Wilton Rotary Drummer

Wilton, Connecticut USA District 7980

[www.wiltonrotaryclub.org](http://www.wiltonrotaryclub.org)



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Editor: Bill Meehan

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After years of observing the many successes and, occasional, mistakes of the club's leadership, our new President, Richard Kent, has seized the reigns of power. Eighteen Rotarians, including visiting Rotarian, Will Leffert of Laguna Niguel, CA, and guest Eric Glass gathered at Marly's on a fine summer day to witness the beginning of what could soon become known as the Kent Dynasty.

### Announcements:

- Richard announced that monthly board meetings will take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month. Although the location of the meetings will remain a secret, you are welcome to attend.
- Beth Edwards is still seeking a host family or two for the incoming exchange student from Japan.

### Program: Ines Cenatiempo, United States Attorney's Office, New Haven

Every day we see news media reports on the vast numbers of people forced out of their homes and into "refugee camps" by war, political conflict, economic crises and natural disasters. Ines Cenatiempo used her 2014-2015 "Service Above Self" scholarship to study how international law can be used to reduce the challenges refugees face. Ines is a graduate of Sacred Heart University and holds an M.A. in Human Rights and International Law from American University. With the "Service Above Self" scholarship Ines travelled to the International Institute of International Law at San Remo, Italy to study refugee law. She then continued on to Geneva, Switzerland, where she took a course on International Humanitarian Law & Human Rights Law presented by the Professionals In Humanitarian Assistance and Protection organization (better known as PHAP). Ines discussed the relationship of refugee law and humanitarian law. Depending who you ask, the two bodies of law are either distinct or part of a single legal system. Ines also discussed the origin of and source of refugee law and humanitarian law. Like all international law, humanitarian and refugee law are complex fields based on custom, treaties and caselaw. You could say that a law doesn't mean much if it cannot be enforced. This is a huge hurdle in the field of international law where selective and delayed enforcement can render a law meaningless to the individuals it is intended to protect. While the immediate impact of refugee crises seem far away, in subtle and not so subtle ways refugee crises occurring on the other side of a sea surface in our neighborhoods. Ines continues her work in this field with the U.S. Attorneys' Office.

***NEXT MEETING – Friday, July 17 – 12:15 at Marly's***