

Wilton Rotary Drummer

Wilton, Connecticut
www.wiltonrotaryclub.org

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Editor: Paul Burnham

Twelve members of Wilton's finest service organization (Brown, Boucher, Burnham, Edwards, Goldman, Hafter, Johnson (presiding), Kent, Lavin, Mais, Russo, White) gathered on a fine day in August. We were joined by Ron Holtz, the current president of the Westport Sunrise Rotary Club.

In the absence of our president, past president Carol gave it her best shot and did so well that I understand that post-meeting she has been asked to re-up as our president for the 2018-19 year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: ABSENT ANY CHANGE IN PLANS, OUR MEETING ON AUGUST 25 WILL BE AT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY (CATERED).

Thursday, September 21 is World Peace Day. There will be a gathering that day at Hillside Cemetery at Noon, and later that afternoon there will be an additional gathering at the Library. Our Peace Poles will be featured and peace rocks will be distributed.

Our guest on September 22 will be Chief Lynch of the Wilton Police Department.

Our carnival is September 15, 16 and 17. A signup sheet was circulated. All hands needed. (Wilton Rotary Alums Kevin Gilmartin and Nancy Gamer are expected.)

Bud advised regarding the fund-raiser on Saturday, September 23rd. Eat your lobsters behind the Legion and support the Legion and Rotary while doing so!

President Ron from Westport described the gala dinner and wine-tasting affair his club is planning for December 1. Rotary District VIP John Hendrickson is a member of that club, so it promises to be a whale of a lot of fun – details will be forthcoming.

Susan failed to draw the Ace of spades, and so the pot continues to grow.

PROGRAM - Our speaker today was Wilton legend Doug Jones, World War II veteran and engineer emeritus, who showed himself remarkably adept with the computer and laser-pointer. Doug's resume is too long to recite; Carol mentioned his several honorary degrees and that he has sat on a number of for-profit and not-for-profit boards after retiring maybe twenty years ago.

Doug talked about some of his projects during his career, including docks for supertankers – the supertankers carried crude oil from the Middle East to destinations around the world. They were built in large part due to the closing of the Suez Canal in the mid-1960's. They drew more than 100 feet of water, so that very few harbors could accommodate them. So piers well off the coastline had to be constructed so that the cargo could be off-loaded from the supertankers to smaller tankers who were able to deliver the crude portside. The supertankers themselves had to be pushed by tugs the last 50 miles or so, so that they could safely be moored at these piers

Doug then described some of his projects involving the transportation of humans. The bus system in Westport was one. The Ben Franklin Bridge between Philadelphia and its New Jersey suburbs was a third. The Big Dig in Boston Harbor yet another. But perhaps the most interesting was the people mover system at the University of West Virginia – between its three campuses. We now see the same thing at many if not most modern airports. (Been to JFK lately and parked in the long-term parking lot? Next time you are there, think of Doug.)

NOTE – This was our first meeting after the horrors of Charlottesville, exacerbated to no end by the conflicting and seemingly disingenuous statements emanating from the White House. As Rotarians we must be horrified by the expressions of hatred directed at other human beings by the "Alt-Right" and the failure of ALL of our elected leaders to unequivocally condemn their behavior. Carol began the meeting with a quote from Nelson Mandela which I repeat –

No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin or his background or his religion ... People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love ... For love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.

Just the Four Way Test expressed differently. Do you not agree?

See you Friday.