



Wilton Rotary Drummer
Wilton, Connecticut USA District 7980
www.wiltonrotaryclub.org



August 24, 2007

Vol. 27, No. 6

Editor: Kathy Leeds

Announcements:

- Victor still needs signups for the Carnival (food and ticket booths) and he passed around a sheet. He will send an email to all members in the coming week to fill whatever slots are still open.
- Ray needs 4 more volunteers to help with the Ambler Alert program at the Carnival and another sheet was circulated to solicit signups. He reported that \$273 was gathered in payment or donations on Saturday at the Library and 49 kids were given cards.

Guests:

Luis Garcia, Purvi Sarup, Elizabeth Demoll, and Ann Bell

Presentation: Project Aysha

Purvi and Elizabeth returned to Rotary to update us on the progress they have made with Project Aysha. They explained that our first donation allowed the purchase of one of five computers currently being used in the lab they established to teach underprivileged young women in India computer (and eventually Internet skills). The initial class of 30 girls has now graduated after one year to an advanced class and another 30 have entered the beginners' class. With 60 students in total, the equipment, expertise and facility are "maxed out." Purvi and Elizabeth spoke about needs for a more expert trainer, more computers and an expanded facility. There is much demand in the community where Project Aysha is ongoing, and they would like to not only satisfy the demand there, but also expand to other communities once they have more experience. Both girls said they would continue to work on the Project after they leave Wilton High School. They very much appreciated our support in the past and would like our help to continue this good work in the future.

Induction: Bill Glass inducted Luis Garcia as a new member (our 49th).

Presentation: Ambler Farm

Karen Strickland introduced Ann Bell, currently President of the Friends of Ambler Farm. Ann spoke about the history of the farm, starting in the late 1700s when it first belonged to the Raymond family (that later intermarried with the Ambler family). It remained in the family until 1998 when Betty Ambler died and it was deeded to the Town of Wilton with several stipulations, including one that it should be preserved as a reminder of Wilton's agrarian roots. The Friends of Ambler Farm serve as stewards of the property

for the Town, with a mission that includes active-learning programs, historic preservation, and land stewardship. They partner with Wilton schools and many organizations in town to present programs and activities for both children and adults and have begun to sell produce from their organic gardens to the public at the Village Market and at a stand on the Farm property. Ann told us of the various events they have each year that draw thousands to the Farm, including Ambler Farm Day upcoming on Sunday,

See you next Friday at the Silvermine Tavern!