



Wilton Rotary Drummer
Wilton, Connecticut
www.wiltonrotaryclub.org



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Editor: Andy Mais

12 Rotarians joined President Richard and our guest speaker for the final meeting before fall. Many more volunteered for the Carnival. Thank you.

Announcements:

- Do you know anyone with a child in high school? Touch base with them to see if they would be interested in hosting a [Rotary Youth Exchange](#) student. Let [Beth Edwards](#) know and she will follow up. We need host families. Hosting an exchange student can be an incredibly rewarding experience for a family, providing an international experience without leaving home. Host families provide room and board and share their lives with exchange students, involving them in family, community, and cultural activities. If we want peace, it starts with understanding each other. At a time when there is so much demonizing of the "other," we can help lead the way to a better world, one young person at a time.
- If you have not already paid your dues, please do so now. It ain't over till it's over.
- 22 banners were sold for the Carnival. Pat Russo is probably ready for both Hawaii and Silver Hill. Thank you for all your hard work, Pat.
- President Richard reviewed the board meeting discussions:
 - All members are asked to help with fundraising, including new fundraiser ideas.
 - The silent auction at the crafts fair is no more.
 - Rose sale, Carnival, Tip-a-Rotarian will all continue, though we'll seek to widen our reach and outreach so not all depends on Rotarians
 - Everything would be easier if we had more members. Thoughts, ideas, suggestions, new members welcome. We will have a membership event, possibly a wine tasting.
 - Ideas to make meetings more fun are welcome. Having Paul Burnham sing was rejected, but we may add a 50/50 raffle at club meetings.
 - District Governor Gerry Tom will be here Oct. 2. Please be at the meeting. We need attendance.
 - The board considered changing meeting times and decided to keep board meetings on the third Thursday of each month. All members are welcome to attend.
 - Yale/Cornell game is this Saturday. Beth was looking for someone to give our exchange student a ride, though Paul Burnham may have volunteered.

Fundraisers and other events:

- Providence Rotary is hosting a Rotary Night at the Providence Bruins on Nov. 13 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 each, with \$5 going to End Polio Now.

- North Haven Rotary is hosting a fundraiser from 1 to 5 on Sept. 27 with music, wine, a silent auction, and more.
- The club will once again participate in Stop Hunger Now. See President Richard for the time.
- [New Canaan Rotary Lobsterfest](#) is this weekend. See Bud or Paul B for tickets.
- Knights of Columbus bingo event is tonight (9/23) and every other Wednesday thereafter for six weeks. See Bud for details.

Program: Fran Normann, Executive Director of Housatonic Habitat for Humanity.

[Housatonic Habitat for Humanity](#) (HHH) is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing organization. Its mission is to eliminate poverty housing from the greater Danbury area and to make shelter a matter of conscience and action, making affordable housing available for asset limited, income restrained working families. Habitat for Humanity has built over 400,000 houses around the world, providing safe and affordable shelter for more than 2 million people in over 90 countries. A Habitat home is completed somewhere in the world every 21 minutes.

HHH is a bank, builder, seller, and mortgage servicer. It sells houses to families making 66% of the median area income (approx. \$50-75K) who may not have the down payment or credit history to get a traditional mortgage. Houses are approximately \$200-250K each in the area, with 0% down, 30-year mortgages and deed-restricted limited upside for the first 10 years for buyers to avoid flipping.

Good houses also seem to help make good families. These families receive pre-sale counseling including financial literacy, and provide sweat equity. 85% of their children finish college, with 100% graduating high school – truly a hand up, not a hand out.

HHH also does stuff like helping maintain senior housing and has a place to resell your gently used appliances and other household items. They can always use property referrals, volunteers and fundraising help. Last year, they built five houses and hold more than \$1.3 million in mortgages. The HHH store in Danbury is at the corner of White and Federal.



Gerry Tom

District Governor

2015-2016

**Rotary International
District 7980**

A member of the New London Rotary since '04, Geraldine "Gerry" Tom has served on numerous positions in the club including 2010-11 President and has served as club Secretary since 2011. She is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow, a member of the Rotary Paul Harris and Bequest Societies, and is a Major Donor.

***NEXT MEETING: Friday, September 25, 2015 at Marly's
DG Gerry Tom, Oct. 2***