

Rotary



Wilton Rotary Drummer

Wilton, Connecticut

www.wiltonrotaryclub.org

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Editor: Paul Burnham

Today's attendees: Boucher, Brown, Burnham, Dulberg, Freedman, Goldman, Johnson, Kent, Meehan, Russo, Sharlach, Smith, Tai-Lauria, White. Also Phil Lauria, Elaine's husband and a prospective member, as well as Dr. Ralph Kirmser and his wife Ms. Sally Kirmser, also prospective members, Dr. Kesar Nair, also a prospective member, and Ms. Lenore Herbst (our speaker). All the prospective members were Elaine's guests – well done Elaine!

Next week's meeting's speaker is Ms. Esther Blum – an integrative dietician and a high performance coach.

Announcements - On the carnival – one of the best ever. Pat thanked Phil and Susan for their assistance, well deserved, and all the other volunteers from the club and elsewhere, but once again nothing could have happened that was at all positive without the indispensable Patrick Russo!

Christine mentioned a district rotary leadership dinner but did not give us the date – what it takes to be a district governor will be the theme. Being District Governor is supposedly a less time consuming job than one might imagine – at least for those with exceedingly well developed time management skills. The next opening is for the 2021-2022 year – Christine says she is not interested. Andy?

Pat mentioned that the town, or maybe CERT, is acquiring an emergency ATV vehicle. Our club contributed to its purchase. The idea is that it can be used to reach hikers in distress on the Norwalk River Valley Trail. Mileposts will shortly be installed so that such hikers may be able to advise where they are, making rescue much easier.

Don't forget the Chamber Dinner on October 4 at Rolling Hills!

Your scribe made it that much easier for the next person to pick the joker and win the 50-50 raffle – now with a pot of more than \$600.00

Program: Lenore Herbst, is a resident of Wilton and has been the executive director of the Woodcock Nature Center for about two years, having previously served on the board.

The Woodcock Nature Center sits on 150 acres off Deer Run Road in Wilton, and extends into

Ridgefield. It is not named for the bird, but for a Ridgefield Selectman named Mortimer Woodcock, who was instrumental in its establishment 50 or so years ago. The Center attracts perhaps 200 visitors a year of all ages. A perfect place to take one's young grandchildren for a nature hike. All of the wildlife that frequent our area can be found there (bobcats, coyotes, maybe a bear or two, as well as foxes, opossums, otters, raccoons, etc., etc.), and there are three ponds as well as several miles of trails.

The Center receives a little less than half of its funding from its hugely successful summer day camp. It also has a late fall, early winter wreath festival that adds many dollars to its coffers. The center receives no funding from the State nor from either Ridgefield or Wilton, so donations are always welcome. (Almost all the funding goes to the compensation of its 4 full time and 5 part time employees.) A strategic plan will be rolled out in 2020 for its future – the structures need rehabilitation, and perhaps some of the exhibits could be enhanced.

Lenore introduced us to Sprinkles – one of the pet box turtles who live at the Center. Sprinkles was badly mistreated by his former owners, who did not realize that box turtles are land animals who do not live in water.

THINK, SHARE, PLAY!

Long time Wilton Rotarians will remember Margaret Peterson who was the director at the Center twenty-five years ago and was a member of our club. Since Margaret there have been several directors who have spoken to us, but none who joined the club. Maybe Lenore can be persuaded to join us?

See you Friday.

Paul