

# Rotary



## **Wilton Rotary Drummer**

**Wilton, Connecticut**

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

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**Editor: Paul Burnham**

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Today's attendees: Boucher, Brown, Burnham, Carreiro, Freedman, Goldman, Hafter, Hansen, Johnson, Russo, Sharlach, and White. No guests or visiting Rotarians this week.

Coming events –

UN Day is at the NYC Hyatt. [Hope someone made it – it was this past Saturday, November 9.] Pam shared with us some of the connections between the UN and Rotary which existed (the connection that is) from before the UN was formally established. At one time, at least, Rotary International was a non-voting member of the UN. For more detail, go to [www.rotary.org/en/history-rotary-and-united-nations](http://www.rotary.org/en/history-rotary-and-united-nations).

We have two community service opportunities. The first involves a physically disabled gentleman who lives in Wilton Commons but is moving from there to Sunrise. He needs help packing his possessions. Club members decided that a group could get together on Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> after the work day to provide assistance.

The second opportunity involves a homeowner in North Wilton who lives across the street from the Nissan dealership. She (her name is Brenda) needs help with a very significant amount of yard work. Please speak with Pat if you can volunteer an hour or three.

The atlases have arrived. There will be a labeling party at Paul's Prosperous at 4:00 PM on November 13. Five volunteers, or more, and the job will take 30 minutes or less.

Thanks to Pat, the smoke detector project continues. We have 18 carbon dioxide detectors and about 50 smoke detectors looking for homes. The letters to the elderly Wilton residents with tax relief will go out sometime towards the end of the year, and Pat hopes to have other club members available to help with installation. In the meantime, however, he needs to pass a background check!

Once again we will be collecting funds for the Thanksgiving basket drive. Let us try for \$15.00 per member so that four or five needy Wilton families will be able to celebrate the holiday in the manner they would like, without financial strains.

The 50-50 pot continues to grow. But a word of warning, the eventual winner will be well into 1099 territory.

Our speaker today was our own Christene Freedman, who shared with us a presentation borrowed from the speaker at our District's Foundation Dinner, which happened last week. (Christene is our club's Foundation Chair.) The Foundation, which was established in 1917, is a 4 star charity, which puts it in the top 10% of all charities in terms of efficiency. It is also one of the largest with that high a rating. Total assets are now in the billions of dollars, and aggregate annual grants typically exceed \$300,000,000.

Sobering and disturbing, however, is that only 28 % of all US Rotarians give more than \$100 each year, and only 21% of all US clubs make gifts to the Foundation annually. In Japan, by contrast, where philanthropy is not an integral part of the national culture, these numbers are nonetheless 100%. We cannot simply rely upon Bill and Melinda Gates. (Our club averages annual gifts of \$200 per member, which is clearly better than most.)

The Foundation's areas of focus are sixfold: Promoting peace, fighting disease, providing clean water to all, supporting education, saving mothers and children, and growing local economies ... Any Rotarian with a good idea and lots of energy and enthusiasm can apply, through their club for a grant from the Foundation to address a need relating to one or more of these areas of focus – our Westport friends have applied successfully for several, and our club has applied for and received several grants at the district level in years past.

Polio eradication has been completed, for all intents and purposes, in Africa, and the only new cases this year have occurred in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The type 2 and type 3 polio strains have been eradicated completely – all that is left is the type 1 strain. But the Foundation is not yet ready to move on to its next great challenge – we can't consider Polio conquered yet.

See you Friday.

Paul