



**Wilton Rotary Drummer**  
Wilton, Connecticut USA District 7980  
[www.wiltonrotaryclub.org](http://www.wiltonrotaryclub.org)  
*Our 32<sup>nd</sup> Year of Service!*

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**Editor: Elaine Tai-Lauria**

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President Carol Johnson called the meeting to order and welcomed our guest speaker - Michael Judge, President of Sales at Greenhook Ginsmiths. She then shared some Rotary factoids such as the status of the United States and Thailand among Rotary's top donors. She encouraged everyone to donate to [The Rotary Foundation](http://The Rotary Foundation). Carol also extended best wishes to Judy White on her upcoming birthday.

Luis Garcia then welcomed guests Maureen Judge and Phil Sharlach.

**Announcements:**

**Fund Raising:**

- The Ridgefield Playhouse will donate \$1 per Rotarian if our club attends a performance as a group. Members were asked to check the [Playhouse's website](#) for upcoming performances and to let Carol know which performance we might want to attend as group.
- A bartender fundraiser, as done last year for the Philippines, was also suggested.

**Interact Club:**

- Pam Brown is continuing her efforts to generate interest in Rotary's Interact Club at Wilton High School.

**Food Drive:**

- Steve Hudspeth informed Carol of the success of the "Stop Hunger Now" project. Efforts such these help to stem hunger in Haiti, and ultimately assist young Haitians to obtain education and training which will help to lift them out of poverty.

**Club leadership:**

- John Lemke is recruiting members for leadership positions in our club for next year. He is also asking for volunteers to chair our annual projects.

**Thanksgiving Baskets:**

- Carol thanked Pat Russo for coordinating this project. She also thanked everyone else for their donations.

**Program: Michael Judge, President of Sales at Greenhook Ginsmiths**

After being introduced by Bill Meehan, Michael Judge began his presentation with a description of "the adventures of gin." He highlighted its early history in 17th & 18th century England, and then described the founding of Greenhook Ginsmiths in the Greenpoint section of Brooklyn. After several years of planning, experimenting, and building the distillery, founder Steven DeAngelo released his American dry gin in February 2012. This gin has remained their flagship product. Michael said good gin is not easy to make because it requires a complex combination of botanicals. He said Greenhook uses very traditional (early) methods of making gin. They use a vacuum distillation process which makes their gin bold and unique. Greenhook's products have received enthusiastic reviews in the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times and Saveur Magazine. The DeAngelo brothers have emerged as America's premier gin artisans, and they have also recently launched a gin liqueur. Members were invited to participate in a gin tasting.

***NEXT MEETING – Friday, December 5, 2014 at Marly's in Wilton.***