

Milford Rotary Chat March 12, 2026



Meeting Minutes: 3/12/26 SBC Restaurant 12:15PM



WELCOME:

Phil Ucci led us in The Pledge of Allegiance.
Dick Popilowski gave us a timely Prayer.
Gary Johnson was able to provide us with The 4-Way Test.

GUESTS:

Joshua Torres, Rays guest
We had Ellie Bishop (Curran's daughter) as our guest.

DO GOOD:

Dave Adams joined us for a few minutes from Florida by Zoom. He had a joke or two but as per him on laptop at the front of the room, it was somewhat difficult to hear him. He noted a \$100 Do Good donation per missing meetings. He'll be back in April. He signed off after Do Good.
Ray Carissimi noted that 23 tickets for the Prom Redux have been sold (110 to go).
Curran confessed that he lost his badge and had to duck out early to donate blood.
Phil Ucci said that he and his wife reached the semi-finals in a Corn Hole Tournament in Seymour recently. His brother-in-laws and his wife won the event.
Joe Barnes gave a short joke and gave kudos to Dave Adams for his \$100 - that we'll somehow get.
Lorna Sura was happy to have been invited to a Hymn Sing by Curran Bishop. All Curran's children and wife attended. Everyone in the congregation sang. She said it was very enriching.
Christine Early was in Jupiter Florida for a few weeks and while there she told her cousin about the Prom Redux and he gave a \$500 check for the event.

MEMBER INDUCTIONS:

Paul Mangels inducted 3 new members into the Club. John Stoddard, Pam Roach, and Paul Gargano.
Paul gave a little history of Rotary and several of the projects that our club has been and continues to be involved in including: Dr. Vince Battincila's Clinic in the Phillipines, Martine Fairbairn's Nambale Magnet School in Kenya, Rotary Exchange Programs, worldwide – attending Club Meeting as well as receiving help from Rotarians (e.g. a personal Experience in Vermont, and Win Smith's request for a meeting place for his current trip to Vietnam).

GUEST SPEAKER:

Evelyne Karam, a Milford Rotary Club Member and a French teacher through Zoom since 2018 was our speaker/teacher for today. At the start of the meeting she put at each table small cups of French wines (a Cotes Du Rhone Red wine and a Reserve Des Auleines Sauvignon Blanc) as well as French cookies (Petit Ecolier Dark Chocolate). She began her presentation by playing a famous French Love song that she had printed in French and English. She had a large white board at the front of the meeting and handed out pieces of paper and markers for everyone to put any sayings or words they knew in French. She then posted them on the board and put them into several categories. It was an entertaining, funny, and educational presentation on the differing sounds in French. Just a few words that sound the same have differing meanings. She related those differences in French to the differing sounds in English. There was a lot of good interaction with each of the club members and plenty of stories of how interesting and challenging a language can be. It was too bad if you missed this meeting!

APPROVED: Slate of Officers for this year 2026-2027 July

Carrie Reed presented a motion to accept the Slate of Officers for 2026-2027. Curran Bishop seconded the motion and there was unanimous approval by all in attendance.

<i>Officers:</i>	<i>Sergeant-At-Arms: Dave Adams</i>	<i>1st Year Board of Dir:</i>	<i>2nd Year Board of Dir:</i>
President – Bill Parry	Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms: Joe Barnes	Roger Pocock	Carrie Reed
President-Elect – Lise Robinson	Treasurer: Tracy O’Brien	Gary Johnson	Evelyne Karam
Vice President/Speaker Chair – Dick Popilowski	Asst Treasurer: Christine Early	Gina Gaglione	Matt Fama
Secretary – Ray Carissimi	Lorna Sura (Immediate Past President)	Phil Ucci	Joe Barnes
	Beth-El meal leaders- Dave Adams		Lorna Sura - IPP

Announcements:

Lorna had Dick give us an update on the Prom event.

Phil noted the club’s service to Beth El is the 3rd Saturday and 2nd Sunday of each month.

Carrie Reed presented a motion to accept the Slate of Officers for 2026-2027. Curran Bishop seconded the motion and there was unanimous approval by all in attendance.

3/12 Board Meeting at Phil Ucci’s Home 5:30PM

3/21 is the Prom Redeux. It is crunch time. We need to sell tickets, we are looking for sponsors and people willing to place program ads. Gina is doing gift baskets and she needs donations and gift cards to use in the baskets. Roger is donating a 1/2 hour ride in his Austin Martin (he will be doing the driving).

3/26 Next Lobster Bake Meeting

4/9 Norm Parcels lunch at Whitney Farms Thursday, April 9th. \$60 per person. Monroe Rotarty hosting. Milford will take a table.

4/12 & 10/19 are the next Shred events. Matt Fama has agreed to head these events.

6/14 5K Run in the Park – Dan German is “running” aka chairing this event

Upcoming Club Meetings:

3/12/26 Martine Fairbairn – [Nambale Magnet School, Kenya](#)

3/19/26 Christine Prete – [Shopping Anyway](#)

3/26/26 Dominic Mantuano – [CT Burns Care Foundation](#)

4/2/26 Michele Steinlauf – [Food-2-Kids](#)

Scribe: Tom Margius

Board Meeting the Second Thursday, 5:30 PM social, 6 PM meeting every month unless noted otherwise

Who’s Who for the July 1, 2025- June 30, 2026 Rotary Year

<i>Officers:</i>	<i>Sergeant-At-Arms: Dave Adams</i>	<i>1st Year Board of Dir:</i>	<i>2nd Year Board of Dir:</i>
President – Lorna Sura	Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms: Joe Barnes	Matt Fama	Gary Johnson
President-Elect – Bill Parry	Treasurer: Tracy O’Brien	Evelyn Karam	Cherie Malona
Vice President – Lise Robinson	Asst Treasurer: Adam Kasowitz	Joe Barnes	Bob Bogert
Secretary – Dick Popilowski	Phil Ucci III (Immediate Past President)	Carrie Reed	Dave Adams
Membership Chairman – Gary Johnson	Beth-El meal leaders- Dave Adams		Phil Ucci III - IPP

Your Rotary Chat Team: Scribes: Greg Schmitt & Win Smith, Jr Setting/Editing/Circulation: Tom Margius

Milford Rotary, PO Box 381, Milford, CT www.milfordrotary.org

*Look up to the sky. You’ll never find rainbows
if you’re looking down.*

— Charlie Chaplin