

Milford Rotary Chat April 23, 2026



Meeting Minutes: 4/16/26 SBC Restaurant 12:15PM

Welcome:

Lise Robinson started us off with The Pledge of Allegiance.

Dick Popilowski gave his thoughtful Prayer.

God of all seasons and all blessings, we thank You for the gift of this beautiful day – for sunshine that lifts our spirits and the promise of new energy in our service.

As we gather in fellowship, renew in us the joy of helping others, the humility to listen, and the courage to place Service Above Self in all we do.

Bless this meal, bless our conversations, and bless the good we will carry into our community. Amen.

Frosty Smith easily and ably provided The 4-Way Test.

Do Good: (Joe Barnes was our Sargent-At-Arms)

Dan German was happy that next Tuesday he and his girlfriend will be going to England for the London Marathon. They'll be 6 days in London, 4 days in Edmington, and 6 days in Paris. Amazing that they get around.

Joe Barnes said he doesn't travel much doing marathons!

Tom Margius was happy about his grandson, Ollie's first birthday this coming Sunday in New York. He's giving him a balance bike that he hopes he can do his first ride in Central Park.

Frosty committee to donate \$10k to Rotary and gave his first \$20 on it. He also placed his usual Season bet with his nephew Win Smith on their Red Sox/Yankees rivalry.

Josh Torres gave us a happy fine today.

Phil Ucci was happy about the most recent Board Meeting at Christine Early's home. She had amazing food and everyone who came was happy about her hosting. He noted that this Saturday is a Beth El lunch – any volunteers would be helpful. He is going to tap into Shaileen Landsberg's recipes for the food.

Carrie Reed noted that the Shred Event last Sunday was a great success, netting about \$7k. Matt Fama did a great job in running the event and having a consistent flow throughout the event. Carrie noted that her house renovation is going well – today they are putting in Cabinets and they're waiting for counter tops.

John Stoddard, though a new member, left his badge at home – he had it last week at the Norm Parcels Rotary Event in Monroe! He and his wife will be traveling for 3 weeks to the Azores and Madera.

Gary Johnson was recently in Florida and had a sad fine. As per his recent experience, he told us to remember to take your cell phone out of your pocket when you go swimming!

Lorna was happy about the success of the Shred Event. An old member that passed away a few years ago, Al Ross's daughter brought some pins and a shirt of his to donate to the club. Also, she had a table of 'left overs' from the Shred Event.

This week's Do Good raised \$49.

Speaker:

Leorna Rodriguez, a gerontologist and Executive Director of the Milford Senior Center was our speaker today. She started there in August 2019 with 34 Staff. She has 20 years experience in Nursing home care, Senior Daycare, and Assisted Living Care. She had worked at the Jewish Home of New Haven. She has a Masters in Gerontology, her Bachelo’s Degree was in Art Education, and she is currently pursuing a Doctorate at the University of Bridgeport.



She related a personal story about her father, who had Alzheimer’s before his death a few years ago and how it helped shaper her interest in providing care for the Elderly and those with memory issues. To provide good care you need to: Show up, Be there, and Interact. The caring and engaging is important as she highlighted regarding her father who when told of the diagnosis asked: “will it hurt” and she noted to him it wouldn’t but it would be hurtful for the family and those that care for him.

The Senior Center has various interactive, education, and entertaining activities. They interact with many other community organizations and provide many programs for those 55 to 110. Activites include Exercises, Food, and Socializing. The greatest need at the Center is Social Services including Senior Nutrition and housing support.

The membership cost is \$25 per year. There are 2200 members, about 400 that utilize the food bank, and about 150 to 200 non-members that utilize Social Services of the Center. They have an Annual Open House every September though anyone can come for a visit Monday through Friday. It is looked upon as more like a High School, than a Daycare Center. There is a “Speed Friendship” event at the Senior Center on May 28th 2-4PM – free to members and \$30 to non-members. She said that ‘yes’ they still have Pickleball!

Lorna provided a \$500 donation from our club to the Milford Senior Center.

Announcements:

- 5/1 and 5/2 is the Smooth Jazz for Scholars to be held at Parsons. It is \$55 per day with different musicians each day. The talent is great and the money goes to the Milford school music program to help purchase instruments.
- 5/6 5PM next Lobster Bake Meeting at Lise Robinson’s Office on Wheeler’s Farms Road – it was noted that members are ‘quite possessive’ of their duties at the event!
- 5/16 is the Rotary Epic Day of service to be held at Stop and Shop where we will collect food and donations to support Food2 Kids.
- 6/6 is the Stratford Street Festival. It is a fun day where they close down the streets.
- 6/14 is the Run/Walk in the Park 5K. It starts at 9 AM and it is a Sunday. Milford Bank is the Gold sponsor but we could use more sponsors. They will get their names on the shirts. Can sign up at Runsignup website.

UPCOMING CLUB MEETINGS:

- 4/23/26 Angel Santiago- Elevate Creative Studios
- 4/30/26 Bunny Elmore & Janet Kuryla – Garden Club
- 5/21/26 Jamie Sterling
- 5/28/26 Marie Nierenberg: Prolete Physical Therapy & Sport

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

Officers:	Sergeant-At-Arms: Dave Adams	1- Year Board of Dir:	2nd Year Board of Dir:
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
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Those who love deeply never grow old, they may die of old age, but they die young.

—Benjamin Franklin