

Milford Rotary Chat April 9, 2026



Meeting Minutes: 4/2/26 SBC Restaurant 12:15PM

Welcome:

Phil Ucci got us started with The Pledge of Allegiance.

Dick Popilowski gave another thoughtful Prayer.

God of renewal and hope, As we gather in fellowship during this Passover and Easter season, we give thanks for the promise of new beginnings and for the light that rises even after the darkest nights.

Bless this meal and the hands that prepared it. Bless our Rotary family, whose good deeds strengthen our community.

In this season of rebirth, renew our spirits for service. Help us bring compassion where there is hurt, encouragement where there is struggle, and dignity where there is need.

May the hope of this Passover and Easter inspire us to live each day in the true spirit of *Service Above Self*, offering our time, our talents, and our treasure to lift others and build a more caring world. Amen.

Tom Margius did The 4-Way Test. He stumbled out of the blocks but finished strong.

Guest:

Angel Santiago, Jorge's son was a guest today.

Do Good: (still donating to the wrestlers rings)

Tom said he and Sue celebrated their 40th anniversary on Easter Sunday. He said they are going to Italy on the 23rd. Then Tom reached back and recited the poem 'Daffodils' by William Wordsworth (from 1807) which was quite lengthy and impressive. Win had the hard copy and he can verify Tom made no mistakes. Tom cheered on UConn's fantastic finish over Duke.

Joe Barnes said he knew a poem about Nantucket but he thought better not recite that one.

Dan German said his step mother has ovarian cancer and she will be starting chemo. All prayers welcome.

Win Smith reported the Red Sox are in last place but it is a long season and it is early. The Prom event was great and he can't remember when he danced so much.

Joe and Phil cheered on UConn.

Carrie said all she has heard about is the game but she did not watch it. Her father was a big fan. She will watch on Friday.

Bob Bogert complimented Tom on his poem and what a great job he did. Bob said he can't even remember a Dad joke. He had Duke in his bracket but now that UConn beat them, he is rooting for UConn.

Tracy O'Brien asked if UConn won (tongue in cheek). She will feel bad for Jordans if both UConn teams make it to the championship games. Tracy is still collecting dues.

Lorna Sura said Don Wetmore's sister passed away. Our condolences to Don and his family. Also, she was sorry to hear Don's sister had stage 4 cancer and for health reasons, he will not be continuing on to the position of District Governor. Our prayers are with you. Lorna was happy she will be getting together with her granddaughter this week.

This week's Do Good raised \$70.

Speaker:

Michelle Steinhoff who is a retiree but is now busy with Food2Kids. The Food2Kids program first started in 2013 and they supported 26 kids. Now they serve over 250 kids each week. There are many kids with food insecurity in our city. With Food2Kids, back packs are packed on Thursday and then distributed on Friday so the kids go home with food for the weekend. They are filled with healthy food and snacks such as Mac and Cheese, oatmeal, cereal bars, etc.

As other needs have surfaced, they try to help in other ways also. They are developing a clothes closet at schools with some of the money donated so kids can get more appropriate clothes as needed. For special cases where kids are moving on they have had scholarships to help kids get started in jobs or further schooling.

All work is done behind the scenes. They try to "fill the gap in the system". They are very fortunate to have a lot of volunteers. Most of the food they distribute is bought from money from donations. Not too much of the food is donated. They also have other events to raise money such as a yearly gala.

Announcements:

4/9 there will be no regular meeting at SBC. The Norm Parsells Luncheon will be at the Chris Bargas Golf Club at Whitney Farms. Lunch and program start at noon. You needed to get tickets from Tracy by last week. Congrats to Dave Adams.

4/12 is the Shred event at Spectrum. Start set up at 8 AM and event goes to 12 noon. Still looking for volunteers and sponsors.

4/18 is the next Beth El service. There have been many clients showing up. We had 4 helpers last month but could use 8. Please join us.

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.

5/16 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:

4/9/26 No Lunch Meeting for Milford Rotary (Norm Parcell's Luncheon at Whitney Farms)

4/16/26 Leonora Rodriguez – [Milford Senior Center](#)

4/23/26 Angel Santiago- Elevate Creative Studios

Scribe: Greg Schmitt

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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I try not to limit my madness to March.

– Maxine