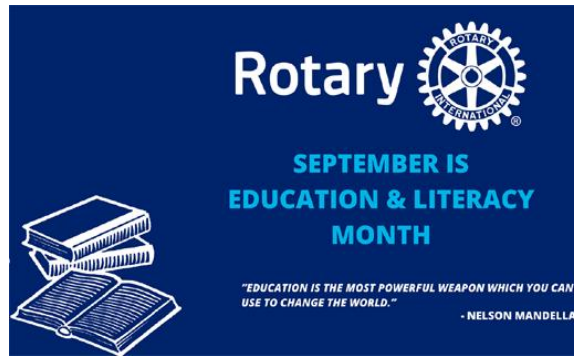


Milford Rotary Chat September 24, 2026



Meeting Minutes 9/17/2026 SBC Restaurant 12:15PM

Welcome:

Frosty Smith led us in The Pledge of Allegiance.

Dick Popilowski (Pope Pop) gave a heartfelt Prayer:

Gracious and loving God, As Fall settles gently over Milford – with cooler mornings, bright skies, and leaves beginning their slow, beautiful turning – we pause to give thanks for this season of change and renewal.

Bless our town throughout these autumn days. Bless the families who gather at our shoreline and city, the students returning to classrooms, the volunteers who keep hope alive, and all who work to make Milford a place of welcome and possibility.

Let the crispness in the air sharpen our awareness of those in need. Let the beauty of this season inspire us to live with generosity, courage, and compassion.

*Renew in us the spirit of **Service Above Self** --that hallmark of every Rotarian and our calling. May we serve not for recognition, but for love; not for reward, but for the joy of lifting another person up.*

Bless our fellowship today, and bless the work we carry forward to keep Milford strong, caring, and full of promise. Amen.

Phil Uccii easily gave us The 4-Way-Test.

Guests:

Jane Holler and Dan Marecki, our speakers, from [Uganda Farmers, Inc.](#), Luis Rosa, Lou Trevisan, Erin McGrath, and Matt Reith..

Member Posting:

Erin McGrath (1st Posting), Lou Trevisan (1st Posting)

Do Good: (Dave Adams – Sargent-At-Arms)

Lou Trevisan noted he is retired and is attending his 2nd meeting. He will be riding the upcoming “Closer to Free” ride with Smilow Cancer Hospital. He requested some donations for his ride. The club donated \$500.

Dave Adams was happy about the turnout for the Yacht Lobster BethEl Event recently and was happy about the great showing of Rotarians at the last BethEl luncheon. They served about 75. He also reminded us that next

Wednesday we will donate an AED to Bridges with the head of [In a Heartbeat](#) to be there for the presentation.

Matt Fama welcomed today’s guests.

Don Wetmore seconded the happy to see our guests.

Dick Popilowski was happy about the turnout for the Yacht Lobster event and noted it raised \$25k.

Dan German was happy about the Yacht Lobster event noting the 70s & 80s songs were great. His girlfriend, Linda, completed the Milford ½ Marathon this past Saturday.

Frosty Smith donated monies to Lou for his ride and noted that Smilow saved his life twice. He asked for us to pray for the Yankees. Dave Adams then went on a long diatribe about the Yankees.

Phil Ucci was happy about the Yacht Lobster event and BethEl recently. He noted his son’s birthday party is this Saturday at 1PM with a Corn Hole event starting at 2:30 at his home.

Win Smith paid his \$200 for his Yankees/Red Sox fine challenge from this spring but asked Frosty and Dan to double or nothing their bet if they happen to meet in the upcoming playoffs.

Lorna Sura was happily riding around in her new car – driving long distances and was happy to see her granddaughter recently.

Tracy O’Brien noted she didn’t go to the Yacht Lobster Event, didn’t go to BethEl and not a sports fan but is happy!

Christine Early was happy that Dan German helped her and the Milford Garden Club with plantings and upkeep of the Greenery in front of the Milford Library recently.

Tom Margius was happy about his recent sibling get together in York, Maine and drove home in some of the large downpours on Sunday. He noted his brother-in-law's house flooded this Sunday a second time – 1st was in 2021.

Ray Carissimi was happy to have his friends, our speakers, here today and happy with the BethEl turnout.

Dave Adams noted he had dinner with Frank and Jeanine Perry. Frank has lost 60 pounds recently.

Speakers:

Our speakers were Jane Holler and her husband Dan Marecki who have a non-profit [Uganda Farmers, Inc.](#) They started it 19 years ago to help in Uganda (on the border of Congo) to provide fresh water to communities. In 1999 after going on a Safari, they visited a town in Uganda and noted a need for fresh water. Father Emmanuel, with his family worked with them to provide wells. They have raised monies through a 5K Milford Event since 2010. They have completed over 24 major projects over the years with each project costing between \$40-50k. They provide solar pumps, 20,000 liter holding tanks and pipes that lead to 4-6 cap stations. They use an Italian drilling company and are currently working on a 100,000 liter concrete tank. Their rainy season is for a few months starting November but after that time it is “bone dry”, therefore the need for holding tanks. They told stories of up close and personal stories including with Gorillas and pigmies.

The 6K event on October 3rd at Walnut Beach 8:45-11AM will raise monies for their projects.

Post Script:

Andy Greenawalt's name was misspelled as Greenwalt in last week's Chat (sorry about that).

Announcements and Upcoming Dates:

9/23 at the Bridges Healthcare facility Dave Adams and Bill Parry will be installing an AED at about 12 noon.

9/25-9/26 [Devon Rotary's Octoberfest](#)

10/3 is the MAC event [Jazz'n Downtown](#) Milford

10/3 is also the [7980 District Assembly](#) in New London. Admission is \$75.

10/11 is the Shred Event at Spectrum on New Haven Ave

10/13 Carrie is hosting an AED/CPR course at her office. Starts at 6:30 PM and fee is \$45. For those looking to renew their certificate, this course can do that.

11/6 [Food2Kids Winter Gala](#) at Grassy Hill Country Club.

Photos of Bake & Awards Luncheon by Ray Carissimi [Lobster Bake photos](#) [Scholarship Photos](#)

Upcoming Speakers:

9/24 Brad Dancer – SHU Radio

10/1 Milford Fire Chief Christopher Walksnoris

Scribe: Tom Margius

Who's Who for the July 1, 2026- June 30, 2027 Rotary Year

Officers:		1 st Yr Board Dir:	2 nd Year Board Dir:
President – <i>Bill Parry</i>	Sargent-At-Arms: <i>Dave Adams</i> AsstSrgent-At-Arms: <i>Joe Barnes</i>	<i>Roger Pocock</i>	<i>Carrie Reed</i>
President-Elect – <i>Lise Robinson</i>	Treasurer: <i>Tracy O'Brien</i>	<i>Gary Johnson</i>	<i>Evelyn Karam</i>
Vice President – <i>Dick Poplowski</i>	Asst Treasurer: <i>Christine Early</i>	<i>Gina Gaglione</i>	<i>Matt Fama</i>
Secretary – <i>Ray Carissimi</i>	<i>Lorna Sura</i> (Immediate Past President)	<i>Phil Ucci III</i>	<i>Joe Barnes</i>
Membership Chairman – <i>Gary Johnson</i>	Beth-El meal leader- <i>Dave Adams</i>		<i>Lorna Sura – IPP</i>

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

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

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

*In rivers, the water that you touch is the last of what has passed
and the first of that which comes: so with present time.*

—Leonardo Da Vinci