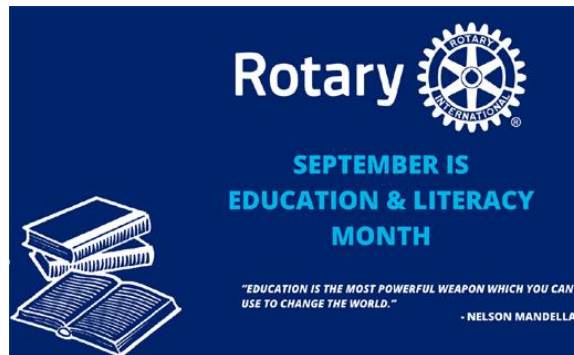


Milford Rotary Chat September 3, 2026



Happy Labor Day!



Meeting Minutes 8/27/2026 SBC Restaurant 12:15PM

Welcome:

Lorna Sura led us in The Pledge of Allegiance to start the meeting.

Dick Popilowski was back and of course prepared with a thoughtful Prayer.

Gracious God, As we gather in the heart of summer – grateful for long days, bright skies, and the beauty of our shoreline – we pause to remember the deeper light You call us to share: the light of Service Above Self.

Thank you for this season that reminds us of growth, renewal, and generosity. Just as the sun strengthens all it touches, strengthen in us the desire to lift our neighbors, support our community, and bring hope where it is needed most.

Bless the Milford Rotary Club, its members, and the good work we undertake together. Inspire our conversations today, guide our decisions, and keep our hearts open to opportunities to serve with compassion and joy.

Bless our meal, our fellowship, and the mission that unites us. May our service this summer – and always – reflect the best of who we are. Amen.

Barry Bonessi recited The 4-Way-Test with no difficulty -- even with the sign being blocked.

Guests:

Louis Rosa was a guest today of Ray Carrissimi.

Gary Johnson's daughter Tara joined us also.

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

Dave Adams said their trophy for playing in the United Way golf fund raiser is on order or maybe not. They had fun anyway. Dave did win a raffle where the prize is pizza.

Ray Carrissimi was looking forward to hearing from our speaker today and happy to have his guest with us today.

Win Smith is excited for the 4 game series between the Red Sox and the Yankees this weekend. It can make or break the season. His third granddaughter was born about 7 1/2 weeks ago but she is still in the neonatal unit at the hospital. The Alderman's meeting is tonight at Parsons Auditorium at 7:30. It should be entertaining.

Frosty Smith was happy Louis was with us. He was praying for the Yankees to take at least 3 out of 4 this weekend. Win thought it was out of line to call in the deity to this affair.

Carrie Reed said in the last 2 weeks she has been to 4 concerts, she had her birthday, her son had a birthday and tomorrow she is going to North Carolina to visit her 5 year old granddaughter who will be testing for her yellow belt.

Dick Popilowski had a great vacation in Myrtle Beach even though every day was 100 degrees. They stayed cool at the movies and had a lot of fun. A bit of an inconvenience though was when the president's plane came in. His flight got delayed 6 hours.

Barry Bonessi said he is still waiting for his badge to be in the box (it is coming). He got a call from his brother Eddie whose son's wife just had a baby girl. That makes 4 grand kids so far.

Don Wetmore was happy Dick was back.

Gary Johnson was happy with our guest speaker and his daughter being here at our meeting.

Lorna Sura has 2 grand kids that are starting school. The kindergartener is all smiles but the second grader is not so happy about school starting.

Dave Adams thought it was cute when he took his 3 year old grandson to the bathroom at the pool. As they were going in to the bathroom the little guy turns around and said "excuse me Papa, I need some privacy."

Speaker:

Our very own Paul Gargano spoke to us about his life's journey and about his passion in collecting vinyl records. Paul had lived in LA for 25 years, was a writer, got into music then became a critic. He became a music editor of a magazine and over time he got in to managing bands, he ran a record label and gained more experiences. He has managed up to 2 dozen bands and now manages 5 bands. He is able to do tour managing remotely but handles all aspects of the bands. There is an incredible amount of coordination to do. His total record collection is worth over \$200,000. He told us how records are actually made. Older records are not worth as much as you might think because they made so many copies, but it is important they are in good shape or better yet unopened. Records from the 1990's and 2000's are worth more because there are less available due to limited runs. Now they make records in different colors and some fans want them all. This drives up sales. Rereleases also help drive up sales. There is no money in streaming like Spotify for most bands. Only the largest bands make money there.

Now they are looking for new ways to get bands in front of people. COVID trained people to stay home. AI isn't going away. We need to learn to work with it. We need to identify when something is AI. You can't stop technology. Personally he makes money on touring and not from AI.

Announcements and Upcoming Dates:

9/11 Beth El is sponsoring the Yacht Lobster fund raiser. Tickets are as low as \$29. Get tickets at Yachtlobsters.com and click on event bright where you can pick your seats. They will be having refreshments.

9/23 at the Bridges Healthcare facility Dave and Bill 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.

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

Upcoming Speakers:

9/3 Michael Stearns – School of Rock

9/10 [Hunnebee Project](#)

9/17 Milford Police Chief Keith Mello

9/24 Brad Dancer – SHU Radio

10/1 Milford Fire Chief Christopher Walksnoris

Scribe: Greg Schmitt

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

Without labor nothing prospers.

— Sophocles