



The Rotary Club of the Torrington and Winsted Areas

Rotary Matters!



Last Week's Program:

Bill Rybczyk, CEO of New Opportunities was with us and gave us a great update as to their "CT Food for Thought" hydroponic farm. He explained that there were several envisioned iterations early on in their planning several years ago, but having settled on a farming/production facility and deciding upon what specific crops they would cultivate, the project has really taken off.

They presently farm several different varieties of lettuce, all of which are harvested, cleaned, and packaged for retail sale. He explained that initially the product was utilized by the non-profit, food-hub / share sector, but gradually over the last two years, they've made significant inroads and have broadened their retail footprint, with sales now happening through several different grocery store chains. Targeting an increasing number of outlets and more grocery chains remains their strategy for growth as they understand that selling product that way realizes the most funds possible for the non-profit organization that is New Opportunities.

It was a very interesting presentation and it's wonderful to see that the project has become successful with the secondary benefits that that success is producing. Bill came last week with enough "clamshell" packages of different varieties of lettuces for every attendee to be able to take one home. This author can attest that the Romaine was absolutely, green, crisp, fresh, and delicious!

We thank Bill for his time with us and to Maria for bringing him back for this wonderful update. Bill's PowerPoint is attached to this email for your perusal!



Bill Rybczyk

This Week's Program:

It's an early December, Club Forum! President Jessica is going to take stock of where we are as a club at (almost) her half-way point. All committee chairs can offer up reports as to the status of their committee work. We'll get an update on our schedule for the upcoming Salvation Army bell ringing. And, most importantly, we'll assess folks all sorts of silly fines for the good of some beneficiary that we'll designate on Tuesday!

As a Rotarian, there's no excuse not to be informed and included: Members can join in the meeting either by their direct attendance or by Zooming in. Feel free to participate either way... and know that if you don't participate, you won't fulfill your requirement to attend at least 60% of the meetings of the Rotary Club of the Torrington and Winsted Areas. Being busy is not an excuse to not attend ... Being busy has been an attribute of active, involved, impactful Rotarians from the Northwest corner for more than 100 years.

If you intend on joining via Zoom, please contact Matt ahead of time (mnpdc@outlook.com) so that you can get the link for the meeting and further instructions in that regard.

Scheduled Committee Meetings:

- Board meeting, Thursday, December 12, 2024 at 8am via Zoom. Board members will receive an email with the contact info.

Torrington/Winsted Rotary News and Reminders:

- The Weekly Raffle: The present tally stands at \$1600 with 8 cards remaining and we've suspended the collections. We will set the remaining 8 cards aside and we will do the final drawing at the holiday party. Everybody through the door that evening will have the option of buying just **ONE** ticket for \$5. The money we raise will go to whatever beneficiary we decide upon that night. We will draw however many tickets that night until someone wins the \$1600. Someone's going home that night with \$1600! (Same rules for guests as our regular meetings will apply.)
- Speaking of our Holiday Party... here's more info!

Please Join Rotary's

Holiday PARTY

*Celebrate the Season of Giving
and the Child in Each of Us*

Tuesday, December 10, 5:30-8 PM
Warner Club at the Warner Theatre

Bring a Gift for the Angel Tree

Appetizers & Dessert Provided

Cash Bar

Guest Tickets: \$12

Signup at a meeting or email
cemery@brookermemorial.org



- The planning for the Salvation Army bell ringing continues. **We still need one volunteer for 3-4pm and one for 4-5pm.** December 14 at the Stop & Shop in Winsted, from 8:00 AM till 5:00 PM. The shifts will be only one hour each. For those of us who have performed this small service in years past, we have all found the experience an enriching way to spend an hour before the holidays. It's important to fill these spots soon. If you can take one of the open shifts, please John Lavieri know as soon as you can, either by phone or email. Thank you, John Lavieri JohnNLavieri@gmail.com or 860-307-8475

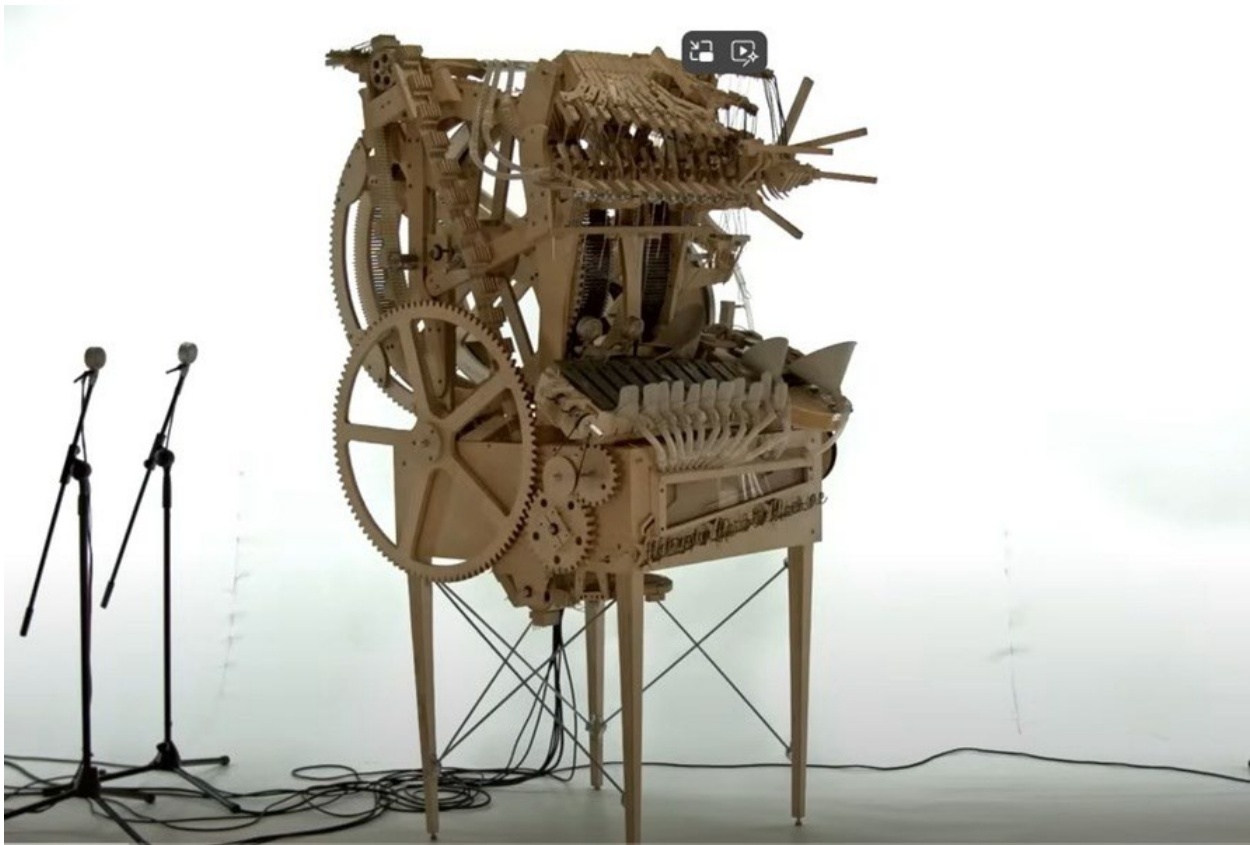


For Your Edification:

A musical machine made out of plywood and marbles:

Wintergatan - Marble Machine (music instrument using 2000 marbles)

YouTube Link: https://youtu.be/lvUU8joBb1Q?si=ZXepdyWK-LS_gG9R



Birthdays:

Twombly, Robert.....08 December

Spino, Molly.....14 December

Coutant Skinner, Maria.....16 December

Ferris, Lisa.....19 December

Bielefield, Donna.....22 December

Steck, Jim.....29 December

Rougeot, Paul.....31 December

Club Anniversaries:

Healey, Jason.....12/04/19.....5 years

Gueniat, Jessica12/04/18.....6 years

Budny, Lesley.....12/07/23.....1 year

DiCarlo, Brenda.....12/20/16.....8 presently + 2 previous = 10 years

Todd, Gordon12/22/81.....43 years

Cerruto, Gladys.....12/22/87.....37 years

Upcoming guest speaker responsibilities:

Jessica E Gueniat3-Dec-24

HOLIDAY PARTY10-Dec-24

William G. Harding..... 17-Dec-24

CHRISTMAS EVE: NO MEETING24-Dec-24

NEW YEAR'S EVE: NO MEETING31-Dec-24

Jennifer Ives-Groebel 7-Jan-25

Robert E King..... 14-Jan-25

Noah J Kores..... 21-Jan-25

Sarah Langlois..... 28-Jan-25

John N Lavieri..... 4-Feb-25

Gerald Libby..... 11-Feb-25

John R. Logan..... 18-Feb-25

Michael F. Magistrali..... 25-Feb-25

OPEN..... 4-Mar-25

OPEN..... 11-Mar-25

Brian T. McCormick..... 18-Mar-25

Gerald H. Michalowski..... 25-Mar-25

If you've scrolled down this far, you're one of my favorite people! Please remember to watch this space weekly so that you can appropriately plan for when it's your time to provide the club with a program/speaker. All of us working together in this regard makes for more interesting meetings and a better, more informed club!

If your presenter will require the projector and the screen to be set up, please let Matt know ASAP. Also, please let your presenter know that if there's any concerns about the functionality of their presentation, an option is for them to email any presentation they may have to Matt ahead of time who can install their presentation on his laptop to minimize potential complications.

It is your responsibility to introduce your speaker.

Please inform the speaker of the following guidelines of The Rotary Club of the Torrington & Winsted Areas:

- They will have at most ½ hour to do their presentation. Including time for questions.
- It is not the policy of the Club to donate funds raised from the Sergeant-at-Arms presentation to the organization represented by the speaker on the day of the presentation.
- Further, an invitation to make a presentation to The Rotary Club of the Torrington & Winsted Areas does not suggest that the Club endorses the presenter's views - political or otherwise.
- The Rotary Club of the Torrington & Winsted Areas does not provide an honorarium or reimburse a speaker in any way and a presentation to the Club should not be made with an expectation of financial support.

Torrington/Winsted Rotary Links:

Website: <http://twrotary.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TWRotary/>

Rotary Web-Photo Albums: [Web Photo Albums](#)

“Be more kind than necessary, for everyone you will meet today is fighting some sort of battle.”

-K. Purcell

Respectfully submitted, your temporary scribe,

Matt Pagano

mnpdc@outlook.com