



The Rotary Club of the Torrington and Winsted Areas

Rotary Matters!



Last Week's Program:

Rotary District Governor, Vin Marinaro visited with us and thoroughly enjoyed himself! Vin has been a member of the Pittsfield club for many years and also heavily involved at the district level for the last twenty working on the District RYLA initiatives.

He shared with us the 4 goals of his Rotary year.

1. Membership, and what each club and the District and RI in general can do to grow membership. His strategy has been termed the "Net-2" initiative and is focus on the networking that we must do if we're meant to grow the organization. He believes that by sharing our enthusiasm for Rotary and by sharing our stories, we'll succeed in this regard!
2. The Rotary Foundation and all the good work that it does is important to Vin. He gave us a review as to how by supporting the Foundation at the club level, we can not only help internationally with various projects in the developing world but in our own District. "If you believe in water projects, education, scholarships, peace, economic development, and protecting the environment... you believe in the mission of Rotary and the Foundation." Additionally, he emphasized that every donation a member makes to the Foundation... ½ of every one of those dollars comes back to the district and is spent on projects here.
3. Youth. Vin elaborated on his years of work with the District's RYLA leadership training program for talented high school juniors. He believes wholeheartedly in this particular mission of Rotary and the change that these efforts can make in developing future leaders. He also noted the importance of the Youth Study Exchange and Interact clubs in the District.

4. Lastly he emphasized that the District's efforts to embrace change and include the concepts of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. He made the point that obvious for every Rotarian who follows the 4-Way test is that we already know that we're better as an organization when we embrace those who are different than us.

It was a really good District Director talk and we thank Vin for being with us and joining in our fun. We'll welcome him back when it's time for the Pet Parade...which will be a Rotary experience he'll never forget!

He subsequently shared with President Jesssica:

"I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to your club on November 5th. I was honored that so many stayed for my message. Your spirit and generosity were very evident. I can tell that you really enjoy each other's company. I went away from your meeting inspired and I hope to see you all again in the future."



We also remembered past District Governor, Frank Wargo with a generous donation made in his memory to the New Milford Club in the amount of \$212! Thanks all for contributing and helping with this remembrance!

This Week's Program:

This week we welcome Stasia Iwanski,

Executive Director of Luna Senior Living, a new facility on Wyoming Ave. Stasia is originally from New Hampshire but moved to Connecticut after college. Shortly after the move, she started working with individuals living with developmental disabilities. She soon found herself fortunate enough to be offered a position with an assisted living community in their memory care program. This experience was transformative, not only did she find a passion for working with seniors living with dementia, but she also found her calling as a leader. Prior to accepting the Executive Director position with Luna Senior Living, Stacia was the Executive Director at Artis Senior Living in Branford, where they proudly achieved 100% occupancy.

Luna Senior Living is located on Wyoming Ave in Torrington and will be a bright community focused on connection and growth. A next step in their story- they will focus on healthy eating, time spent in and around nature, and lots of laughing! The family will provide indoor/outdoor dining options, access to an entertaining environment, while living in a modest sized community. Luna Senior Living is a community where you and your family can feel at home!

<https://online.flippingbook.com/view/242171517/> (this is a link to community info)



Stasia Iwanski

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 (mnppdc@outlook.com) so that you can get the link for the meeting and further instructions in that regard.

Scheduled Committee Meetings:

- Board meeting, Thursday, November 14, 2024, at 8am via Zoom. Board members will receive an email with the contact info.
- International Committee meeting, this Tuesday November 12, at 11:30am (before our regular club meeting.)

Torrington/Winsted Rotary News and Reminders:

- **STILL NO WINNER LAST WEEK!** The potential jackpot grows! There's only 9 cards left in the deck and the progressive weekly jackpot stands at over \$1400. You can't play if you're not at the meeting! Come see if you can draw the Ace of Clubs!

For Your Edification:

John Laveri recently shared a great story as it concerned the good Rotary works done by the Woodstock (VT) Rotary Club. The pages from the Woodstock magazine detailing this community effort are below:

Star Light, Star Bright

Woodstock Rotary Club works
to update a beautiful tradition

By Pamela Brown

Photos courtesy of Woodstock Rotary Club

The Mount Tom Star, a perpetual beacon of light, hope, and welcome that overlooks the village of Woodstock, will stand stronger than ever thanks to the dedicated members of the Rotary Club of Woodstock.

"It's a special symbol for the town," says Norm Frates, club member and chairperson of the Mount Tom Renovation Project that was formed to fundraise for the custom design and installation of a new star. "It's something special and unique to Woodstock. We're the stewards of it and we want it to last another hundred years." The committee, along with members of the Rotary Club, includes Jim Giller, Clay Reed, Bob Wagner, Belinda Needham-Shropshire, Kris Lessard (Rotary president), Allen Hall, Bettyanne McGuire, and Rich Koslowski. "The entire Rotary Club is passionately involved and committed to this. Townspeople are really passionate about it too," Norm adds.



Top: The star's lofty location allows it to shine down on the people below.

Above: The Green with the Mount Tom Star in the background. Photo by Ken Miner.



After welcoming people home since 1957, the wooden star will be updated to a modern steel version.

the old star and install the new one, tentatively scheduled for May 2024. A large plaque will recognize donors who contribute \$500 or more. Fundraising kicked off with a sold-out gala earlier this month at the Woodstock Inn & Resort.

Mount Tom is the site of a cross that was erected in 1944 by a local businessman and an electric company as a welcome home to soldiers returning

from November, when standard time begins, through March. In 1985, the Rotary Club took over stewardship of the star, and for that past 10 years Norm has been in charge. In 2018, the incandescent lightbulbs were upgraded to energy-efficient LED bulbs.

GIVING BACK

The project factors into the Rotary Club's mission of diverse business professionals with a passion for service who work together to make positive changes in the community. "It's a great club. We take on special projects that need funding and manpower to give back to the Woodstock area."

The star is special to Norm, who has lived in Woodstock since 1968. "The star is a real cool thing. I've always loved it as the fabric of Woodstock," he says, adding that the committee describes it as part of the town's identity and a symbol of peace, community, and unity that brightens the skyline and is a guiding light for travelers to find their way home. "It gives you a good feeling in your heart."

For anyone interested in learning more or donating, email Norm Frates at norm.frates@mascomabank.com. 🐾

**"It's something special and unique to Woodstock.
We're the stewards of it and we want it to last
another hundred years."**

— Norm Frates, chairperson of the Mount Tom Renovation Project

A TREASURED SYMBOL

Over time, the all-wood structure has become weathered and run-down. "We're doing a total renovation to bring it up to a better condition so it will last another hundred years." A local steel manufacturing company will fabricate a star from anodized galvanized steel. Norm notes it will be the same height and size as the original but will have a cleaner look. The estimated cost is \$120,000 to remove

from World War II. A star was added in 1957. Since then, it has served as a steadfast symbol watching over the town and as a special place that's had its share of engagements, first dates, and other meaningful moments. The star has traditionally been illuminated from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day. "It was a welcoming sight during the holidays when people would come home or come to visit," says Norm, noting it now shines

Helt, Lou.....09 November
Benecchi, Ed.....18 November
Magistrali, Michael.....19 November
Sullivan, Kevin.....28 November

Club Anniversaries:

Smith, Jeff.....11/07/0024.....24 years
Sullivan, Kevin.....11/10/98.....26 years
Benecchi, Ed.....11/14/23.....1 years
Cassella, Larry.....11/16/82.....42 years
Ponte, Antonio Jr.(TONY) 11/27/18.....6 years
Childs, Starling W II(STAR) 11/29/22.....2 years

Upcoming guest speaker responsibilities:

Jessica Gueniat12-Nov-24
Jeffrey M Geddes19-Nov-24
Maria Gonzalez26-Nov-24
Jessica E Gueniat3-Dec-24
Lee Hall10-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

mnpsc@outlook.com