

# Milford Rotary Chat November 3, 2022



## [Meeting Minutes: 10/27/22](#)

### Guests and speakers:

Jen Paradis, the Executive Director of the Beth El Center

Troy (Gonda?) a new staff member at Beth El who told us he always has an emergency fishing kit in his trunk.

Small group today. Not a Smith in the crowd and that never happens.

### Do Good:

Don got us started with a joke that started with his wife texting him to make a pick-up at the fabric store. Ask him for the rest of the joke. He got the point.

Phil had a great weekend on a beautiful hike in the Catskills, NY. His son's boy Scout Troop is having a food drive at Fowler Field. The drop off dates are Nov 11, 12 and 13th. You can bring in your donation to our meeting next week, Nov 10th and Phil will collect it. Please no expired food.

Youseff was happy to be at the meeting.

Bob is a little dejected with New York baseball but the football teams are doing unexpectedly well.

Lorna had a great weekend. She went to the New England Train Museum in Thomaston. At one stop all the kids were able to get off the train at a pumpkin patch and pick their own pumpkins. Her significant other got a new battery in his pacemaker and he is keeping great time.

### Speakers:

Jen and Troy from the Beth El Center

Jen thanked us: "for all we do. We realize that the center is so much more than food on a plate." Their goal is to "end hunger and homelessness". They welcome all. They have a public shower and a 24/7 public restroom. During COVID they were the only one in Milford. They are involved with people getting medically needed assistance through partnerships with Bridges. Their clients don't need an address to get their prescriptions filled. The center has crisis response services. One main goal is to prevent homelessness. This year will be their busiest year yet. The state has a 13% increase in homelessness and there has been an increase in home insecurity. They are looking for solutions and root causes.

They are going to tear the center down and build a new facility in the same location. That will allow them to not only serve more people but also do it better. During construction, they will relocate to area hotels. They hope to call on their partners like United Way, the Library, and other soup kitchens for assistance. The construction is expected to last about 1 year and it is supported by the Dept of Housing and will be 100% funded by it.

Troy told us there are many factors to addiction and homelessness. Trick or Trot is their biggest fund raiser of the year. The fund raiser will be used to help meet the bottom line. Their last event of the year is with the Milford Arts Council. It is at the MAC on December 15. The name of it is Pass the Guitar. The fund raisers are not all about the money. They really are about building relationships.

**Announcements:**

This week the District Governor will be visiting us. Let's see if we can't fill the room.

This month's board meeting is at Jill McGoldrick's office on the 10th.

Last week The United Way of Milford had their annual campaign kickoff. There was good Rotary representation. Wish them luck under their new leadership, now that Gary Johnson has taken his well earned retirement.

Saturday there was a fund raiser Trick or Trot which was to benefit Beth El Center.

The 4th Thursday breakfast meetings will continue on an informal basis meeting at 7:30AM

**Upcoming Milford (and other) Rotary Club Events:**

Board Meeting the second Thursday, 5:30 PM social, 6 PM meeting – every month unless noted otherwise

**Who's Who for the 2022-2023 Rotary Year**

Officers:	Sergeant-At-Arms: Frank Perry	1 <sup>st</sup> Year Board of Dir:	2nd Year Board of Dir:
President – Don Wetmore	Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms: Mike Granata	Gary Johnson	Dave Adams
President-Elect – Tad Smith	Treasurer: Tracy O'Brien	Darcy Lapp-Rabinowitz	Jill McGoldrick
Vice President – Phil Ucci III	Asst Treasurer: Youssef Boutros	Bill Parry	Sam Bergami
Secretary - Lorna Sura	Carrie Reed (Immediate Past President)	Frank Perry	BJ Frazier
Club Historian- Ken Hawkins	Beth-El meal leaders- Shaileen Landsberg and Lorna Sura		

Your Rotary Chat Team: Scribe: Greg Schmitt Setting/Editing/Circulation: Tom Margius

Milford Rotary, PO Box 381, Milford, CT

[www.milfordrotary.org](http://www.milfordrotary.org)

*Elections belong to the people. It's their decision. If they decide to turn their back on the fire and burn their behinds, then they will just have to sit on their blisters.*

*Abraham Lincoln*