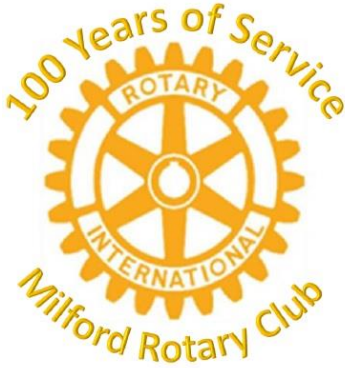


# Milford Rotary Chat January 25, 2024



Meeting Minutes: 1/18/23  
Kimberly



**CREATE HOPE**  
in the **WORLD**

## Welcome:

Dave led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.  
Curran gave us a reverent Pray.  
Tom gave the 4-Way-Test with it in his 'view'.

## Guests:

Guests was our speaker Doug Brendel from Newthing.net.

## Slate of Officers Voting:

 (Tad called for the Vote – It was unanimously approved.)

Congratulations to The Slate of Officers for July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

**Secretary - Lise Robinson**

**Vice President – Bill Parry**

**President Elect – Lorna Sura**

**President – Phil Ucci III**

**First Year Board: Dave Adams Gary Johnson Chris Durkin Jenn Russ**

**Second year board: Mike Granata Jill McGoldrick Greg Schmitt Joe Barnes**

**Past President: Tad Smith**

**Treasurer: Adam Kasowitz**

**Assistant Treasurer: Tracy O'Brien**

## Do Good:

 (Win was the stand-in Seargent-At-Arms)

Tom noted that his daughter Deanna's wedding is in one month in Philadelphia. He's practicing a few songs to play on the Accordion.

Win noted he spent the weekend with his grandchildren in Vermont. A winter snow helped/caused them to have to spend an extra day on the trip.

Dan German is looking forward to going to Florida with his girlfriend. She'll be doing a Marathon. Dan said he'll be hanging out at a Café waiting for her to finish.

Tad is heading North after today's meeting. He's happy his Daughter, Jacquelyn, is licensed as a Financial Advisor. She's currently in St. Louis finishing training. Chris Durkin is now out of Tad's Office (Jacquelyn taking his space). Chris will have an office in Dan Smith's Building – currently he's using space in Phil's Office.

Dave had some comments about the upcoming Red Sox Team. He also noted that the Beth El Lunch was great.. He noted Bill Parry's cleaning was great and having the meals inside was a plus. A bumper sticker he recently saw: "No Baby on Board – feel free to ram me."

Tad chimed in with his quip: "I'd kill to get a Nobel Prize."

There were other member's attempts at jokes – but most fell flat.

Win chimed in "isn't it sad that there are 340 million people in American and look at the top 2 People that are running for office.

## Speaker:

Doug Brendel was our speaker. He runs a 501(c)(3) charity that provides humanitarian aid to the country of Belarus. His wife is a Photographer and after several years of volunteering in Belarus, had him go on a Mission trip there in the Capital, Minsk. The country is about the size of Kansas with about 9 million people. He noted that as per Belarus's association with Russia, it has been very difficult to help the country. It is not safe to go there as per the situation in Ukraine. The same sanctions that are imposed against Russia are also with Belarus. He had gone several times but has not gone since COVID. It is currently not safe to go there as per Americans can be held hostage.

The group New Thing ([www.New Thing.net](http://www.NewThing.net)) provides Life Started Kits for kids aging out of Orphanages. The Kits may contain Medicine cabinet items as well as necessary items like clothing.. He told of a girl that was in an Orphanage, Alena, whom he met on few of his trips. He noted she is now a College Student and Mother. She said after noting the help Doug's group provides "Not every grownup is mean."

He told of the President of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, who is a dictator, a close friend of and ally of Putin. Several years ago, was voted into office. His platform was eliminating corruption. He has done that by making the country safer in ways but any non-profits must submit to several audits per year. As President, he wants to make sure that no group is organizing to get him out of office. Doug said there are couriers that can bring in just under \$10,000 in cash to help non-profits form Lithuania.

He gave out a book he had written last year, and invited those in attendance to provide their email to get New Thing Photo reports from Belarus.

## Announcements:

1/31/24 6PM - Next 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Meeting at Win's Office

2/20/24 Next Lobster Bake Meeting

3/7/24 Lunch Meeting will be held at Platt Tech (not at the Kimberly)

4/21/24 Next Shred Event

4/27/24 - 100th Anniversary Gala – Grassy Hill Country Club

A Pickleball fundraiser is in the works. Stay tuned.

*Tom Margius*

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

### Who's Who for the July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024 Rotary Year

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

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

Milford Rotary, PO Box 381, Milford, CT [www.milfordrotary.org](http://www.milfordrotary.org)

*It is only life and love that give love and life.*

*-Elbert Hubbard*