

Wilton Rotary Drummer

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www.wiltonrotaryclub.org

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Eleven members of Wilton=s finest service organization (Brown, Boucher, Burnham, Edwards, Freedman (presiding), Goldman, Johnson, Khouri, Lavin, Mais, White) braved Storm Reilly (and dodged fallen trees and wires to get home safely.)

Christene returns to PETS again next week. (President-Elect Training), Andy or Carol or Bud or Chris, or Judy or someone else who is a past President will preside next week. Maybe Pat?

Carol needs some help shopping for the annual police awards ceremony the night of March 13 at the Library. Do stop in and support our finest.

We will not meet on March 23. We will be meeting on March 22 at Wayback Burger (across from Town Fair Tire on Route 7 in North Norwalk), as that day a portion of that restaurant's day's proceeds will go to our club.

Our bingo night fund-raiser is coming together. 6 PM to 10 PM at Trackside on April 27. More details to follow. Plan to be there to help out.

Trackside's golf outing is June 7.

Andy drew the seven of diamonds in the 50-50. The ultimate winner will now receive more than \$100.

Mark Rubenstein was our speaker today. He has been with us several times before talking about his books – thrillers, mostly. Today he took on a more topical subject.

Before becoming a writer, Mark was a forensic psychiatrist with a practice in New York City. He would often be called upon to testify in criminal proceedings, and to opine whether a defendant was competent enough to be tried.

Mark stated that the defense of insanity was one particularly difficult to prove. Less than one quarter of one percent of all criminal defendants plead this defense and only about 10% of them are successful. And if successful, the defendant (now the "acquitted" is committed to a mental

hospital where he/she must stay until a Psychiatric Security Review Board determines he or she is no longer insane. The Board meets at most twice a year and takes its responsibilities extremely seriously: often the individual spends more time in confinement at such a facility than he/she would, if found guilty, have spent in prison.

Otherwise, our laws do not allow someone to be confined to a mental hospital against their will for any significant length of time. A person cannot be committed simply because it is perceived that he/she might commit an act of violence if not confined. Further, it is extremely difficult if not impossible to determine who might end up as a mass killer – most of them had no criminal past. Perhaps we will learn something from Nikolas Cruz – unlike many of the prior perpetrators, he is still alive. But Mark believes the only real answer to our problems is to reduce general access to military firearms and their equivalents.

See you Friday.