



THE ROTARY ANCHOR

The Weekly Newsletter of
THE ROTARY CLUB OF NEW LONDON

District 7980 Club 6741

Chartered April 11, 1917

PO Box 654, New London, CT 06320

CLUB NEWS

MAY 16, 2024

TODAY'S PROGRAM

STUDENT OF THE YEAR

at the Pilot House, Ocean Beach
Barry Neistat / Chris Hammond

Weekly Meeting

12:00 Noon

at THE THAMES CLUB

290 State Street, New London

May 23 Sophia Gipstein Scirico

Lyman Allyn

For those unable to attend in person, please join us for our weekly Rotary meeting via Zoom. Go to [ZOOM.COM](https://zoom.us) and click "JOIN A MEETING" and enter the info below.

ID=895 9471 7490

PW=512184

GREETER

May 16 Tracee Reiser

INVOCATION

May 16 Tracee Reiser

SONG LEADER

May 16 Tracee Reiser

BIRTHDAYS

None

ANNIVERSARIES

May 16 Victoria & Tim Mueller

Rotary Day of Service: Spring Cleanup at Homeless Shelter

This year's Rotary Day of Service will help the New London Homeless Hospitality Center spruce up and clean up for spring. Rotarians are asked to bring gardening gloves, rakes and other garden tools to the shelter, 325 Huntington St., at **10 a.m., Saturday, May 18**. Rotary volunteers, with the assistance of a master gardener connected to the shelter, will do some planting, raking and other light yard work. Rotary also will supply the shelter clients with a light breakfast of juice and muffins. Please plan to join us!

DONATION REQUEST

George Fisher, owner of Fisher Florist, has been a member of our club for many years. Over the last few years, his business and personal duties have prevented him from attending our meetings. However, we frequently are provided FREE flowers for our weekly meetings and other events.

Recently, George's wife (Lynda) suffered a fall which required surgery and physical therapy. She is now back home but so are the medical bills. A GoFundMe page has been set up, <https://www.gofundme.com/f/little-help-for-lynda?qid=15fdbbe4520ecc432f8d6a96694f74702>, to which you may donate. We are also discussing ways to allow our members to donate to Lynda and George through Rotary.

Thank you for any assistance you may provide to the Fishers.

Community Meal Center

Our club volunteers on the 2nd Thursday of each month to serve at CMC. Please let Anna Lathrop know if you can help, anna@gourmet-galley.com. We begin at 4pm and are done by 6:15pm. Your help is always appreciated.

FORE!!

In golf, the term FORE usually means "watch out, you're about to be hit with a golf ball!!". Fore also means "attention" and the golf committee is asking for yours. WE NEED SPONSORS to make our tournament a success and help those in the community who benefit from the actions of Rotarians. Please consider:

- Becoming a sponsor—ANY LEVEL IS APPRECIATED
- Ask a business or colleague to be a sponsor
- Donate an item to the goodie bag

It takes a Rotary Golf Village to make this event a success so please do your part. For questions or to make a donation, contact Alex Marku or Kate Lee at nlrotarygolf@gmail.com. Thank you!!

Wine Tasting Dinner



SafeFutures was the beneficiary of the 5 course wine dinner at The Lighthouse Inn on 5/15. Ed Cramer gave an overview of the wine and course pairings and Katherine Verano, CEO of SafeFutures provided an overview of the future Family Justice Center.

**Upcoming Events for
Rotary Club of New London**

- 5/16 **Student of the Year Luncheon** at Ocean Beach - Noon
- 5/18 **Rotary Day of Service** - Light yard work and gardening at Homeless Hospitality locations 10am-1pm
- 6/3 **Rotary Golf Tournament** at Great Neck - Noon shotgun
- 6/6 **Yale Harvard Regatta Luncheon** at Coast Guard Academy - Noon

Rotary International Foundation

Giving to the Rotary International Foundation is a great way to make a difference in the lives of millions. Programs in the United States and around the world benefit from your generosity. It's easy to give through automatic withdrawals and there is no minimum—every donation matters! To donate to Rotary International, please go to myrotary.org/donate or scan the QR code below.

If you have not yet registered, you will need to log in with password. Choose amount of donation and Fund you would like it to go to. Please be sure to include Club number 6741 and your Rotary membership number. If you do not have it, please contact Ed Cramer at winetalk177@aol.com.





BREWFFEST

at the Beach

SEPTEMBER 13

6:00pm – 9:00pm

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE!



SCAN ME

CLUB REPORT MAY 9, 2024

By Todd Gipstein

Cheryl Molina spoke about the Start Fresh program for refugees in New London. It embodies a spirit of compassion, resilience, and community support in providing a lifeline for individuals who have fled their homelands due to persecution, violence, or other forms of adversity. Established to address the unique challenges faced by refugees, the program offers vital resources, assistance, and guidance to help them navigate their journey towards self-sufficiency and integration into American life.

Start Fresh works with IRIS, the Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services organization based in New Haven. Cheryl recalled the great anticipation for the first families to arrive in 2015. Cheryl explained it is not an easy process to come to the U.S. The program began small, then more and more people got involved as volunteers. Eventually, about 200. She praised Myra Gipstein in particular who has worked with Syrian refugees for almost 10 years. She was especially active in getting the kids into schools and helping with transportation and translators.

At its core, the Start Fresh program recognizes the diverse needs and experiences of refugees, many of whom arrive in the United States with limited resources, language barriers, and trauma from past experiences. The program offers a wide range of services tailored to meet the specific needs of participants. These include: housing assistance, language classes, translators, cultural orientation, employment training, food, transportation, financial assistance, access to healthcare, and pathways to citizenship. So far, Start Fresh has helped eight families, about 40 people total, with more anticipated in July.

Program staff and volunteers strive to create a welcoming and inclusive environment where individuals from different backgrounds feel valued, respected, and supported. It is a challenge not knowing where the refugees might be coming from. Our world is full of conflicts. Start Fresh provides training to ensure that services are delivered in a culturally sensitive manner, taking into account the unique customs, beliefs, and traditions of refugees.

Central to the success of the Start Fresh program is its



emphasis on empowerment and self-determination. Refugees often have to adjust their preconceptions of America and their role in it. Through education, vocational training, and mentorship, refugees learn ways to overcome barriers and pursue their goals. Cheryl cited the need to find a balance between providing help and letting the refugees manage their own lives.

The Start Fresh program also recognizes the importance of community engagement and social support in facilitating the integration of refugees into their new surroundings. This was something the late Rotarian Pete Connair felt was important. The program fosters community-based partnerships with local organizations and businesses.

As refugees embark on their journey towards rebuilding their lives in a new land, Start Fresh serves as a vital lifeline, providing the support, resources, and guidance needed to navigate the path to a brighter future.



4TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

TO BENEFIT THE NEW LONDON COMMUNITY MEAL CENTER

**Monday, June 3rd
Great Neck Country Club**

**Registration: 10:30am – Noon Lunch: 11:00 – 11:45 Shotgun: Noon
Post-Golf: Dinner & Awards ~5pm Live Auction / Drawings**

HELP OUR COMMUNITY – BE A SPONSOR!!

GOLD SPONSOR: \$3500.00

Benefits include 1 free foursome, a professionally placed full-page ad in the program booklet, prominent mentions in all advertising media, and 1 FREE tee sign.

SILVER SPONSOR: \$2500.00

Benefits include 1 free foursome, a professionally placed half-page ad in the program booklet, prominent mentions in all advertising media, and 1 FREE tee sign.

BRONZE SPONSOR: \$1000.00

Benefits include free golf for 2 players, a professionally placed quarter-page ad in the program booklet, prominent mentions in all advertising media, and 1 FREE tee sign.

BAR SPONSOR: \$750.00

ONLY 1 AVAILABLE

LUNCH SPONSOR: \$750.00

ONLY 1 AVAILABLE

DINNER SPONSOR: \$750.00

ONLY 1 AVAILABLE

PRACTICE GREEN SPONSOR: \$750.00

ONLY 1 AVAILABLE

Benefits for Bar, Lunch, Dinner, and Practice Green sponsors include large, professionally designed signage displayed prominently, a free listing in the program booklet, 1 free tee sign for each sponsor, and mentions in event advertising media.

CART SPONSOR: \$500.00- ONLY 1 AVAILABLE

Benefits for the Cart Sponsor include professionally designed signs placed in each golf cart (approximately 50 carts), a free listing in the program booklet, and 1 free tee sign.

FRIEND OF ROTARY/CMC: \$250.00

Benefits include a program book listing and 1 free tee sign.

TEE SPONSOR: \$110.00

PAYMENTS MADE TO:

NEW LONDON ROTARY FOUNDATION

BY MAIL: PO BOX 654 NEW LONDON, CT 06320

CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS ACCEPTED AT THE EVENT

NEW LONDON ROTARY GOLF TOURNAMENT
Monday June 3, 2024
Great Neck Country Club, Waterford

GOLFER REGISTRATION

1. Team Captain: _____ **HDCP** _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ **Email (required):** _____

2. Player: _____ **HDCP** _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ **Email (required):** _____

3. Player: _____ **HDCP** _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ **Email (required):** _____

4. Player: _____ **HDCP** _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ **Email (required):** _____

Foursome cost is \$200 per person.

Make all checks payable to New London Rotary Foundation and mail with registration to:
New London Rotary Foundation P.O. Box 654, New London, CT 06320

Or email form to: nlrotarygolf@gmail.com

Club Officers, 2023-2024

President	Valerie West
President-Elect	Mel Foti
Vice President	Mary Lenzini
Secretary	Andy Russell
Treasurer	Alan Lyon
Sergeant-at-Arms	John Bysko
Immediate Past President	Brian Cole

Board of Directors

2024	John Bysko, Kate Lee, Mark Spinnato
2025	Lee Cole-Chu, Pam McNulty Hennessey, Todd Gipstein
2026	Andrew Gilday, Mirna Martinez, Tracee Reiser

Club Committees

Rotary Youth Service

Todd Gipstein, *Director*

Student Of The Year	Barry Neistat
High School Awards	Barry Neistat

Rotary Membership

Mel Foti, *Director*

Fellowship/RAH Classification	Reid Burdick
Information	Andy Russell
Sunshine	Kris Magnussen
Diversity/Membership Dev.	Millie Devine
	Jerry Fischer

Rotary Community Service

Gail MacDonald, *Director*

Camp Rotary	Tracee Reiser
Centennial Playground	Rick Gipstein
Holiday Book Drive	Anna Lathrop
Community Meal	Anna Lathrop
Service Person/ Veteran's Day Program	Mary Lenzini
Little Free Libraries	Julia Kushigian Secor
Yale Harvard Regatta	Lee Cole-Chu
Thanksgiving Turkey Fund	Pam McNulty-Hennessey

Rotary International Service

Julia Kushigian Secor, *Director*

Rotary Club Service

Lee Cole-Chu, *Director*

Audit Awards	John Bysko
Paul Harris	
Carl Wies	
Tom Wetmore	
Phil Turner	
Nominating	Ed Cramer
Anchor	Todd Gipstein
Music	Chris Neilan
Program	Mary Lenzini
Fundraising Committee	Mel Foti
Golf	Kate Lee, Alex Marku
Brewfest	Keith Turner, Victoria Mueller
By-Laws	Lee Cole-Chu
Picnic	Val West/Ted Rossi
Anchor Ad Sales	Mark Spinnato
Installation Committee	Victoria Mueller
Public Relations	Brian Cole
Website	Catherine Foley, Gail MacDonald
RI Foundation	Ed Cramer

Gordon's Yellow Front
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Edward Cramer
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New London, CT 06320
Telephone: 860-443-5937
E-mail: winetalk177@aol.com

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Eric J. Garofano
Attorney at Law

38 Huntington Street • P.O. Box 1351
New London, Connecticut 06320-1351
Phone: (860) 447-3171 • Fax: (860) 444-6103
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