

## **CLUB NEWS**

### MAY 23, 2024

#### **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, <a href="mailto:anna@gourmet-galley.com">anna@gourmet-galley.com</a>. We begin at 4pm and are done by 6:15pm. Your help is always appreciated.

#### LAST CALL!!! 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 <a href="mailto:nload-gmail.com">nload-gmail.com</a>. Thank you!!

#### **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, <a href="https://www.gofundme.com/f/little-help-for-lynda?qid=15fdbe4520ecc432f8d6a96694f74702">https://www.gofundme.com/f/little-help-for-lynda?qid=15fdbe4520ecc432f8d6a96694f74702</a>, 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.

#### **Reverend Clark**



Our very own New London Rotatarian Florence Clark will be at the historic Pequot Chapel, a non-sectarian chapel on Sunday June 16th, at 11:00am.

Come see the beauty of the chapel and hear Reverend Clark- she is always inspirational!

Pequot Chapel 857 Montauk Avenue New London, CT 06320

## TODAY'S PROGRAM

Sophia Gipstein Scirico

Lyman Allyn

Weekly Meeting 12:00 Noon

at THE THAMES CLUB
290 State Street, New London

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

ID=895 9471 7490 PW=512184

**GREETER** 

May 23 Mary Lenzini

INVOCATION

May 23 Mary Lenzini

**SONG LEADER** 

May 23 Mary Lenzini

BIRTHDAYS

May 24 Murry Rubin

May 25 Daphne Parker Powell

ANNIVERSARIES

May 26 Christine & Ulysses Hammond

May 26 Kristin & Jan Magnussen



# **CLUB NEWS** MAY 23, 2024

#### **Day of Service**



New London Rotarians helped with a spring garden cleanup project at the Homeless Hospitality Center for the annual Rotary Day of Service May 18.

Weeding, mulching, raking and general grounds cleanup was in order as the shelter spruces up for the warm weather season and advances its plan to replace all invasive species of plants in its gardens to native species in concert with the Homegrown National Park program. The program's initial goal is to produce 20 million acres of native plantings in the U.S.

In addition to gardening, New London Rotary also brought a light breakfast of a mixture of doughnuts and pastries, plus juices, for the shelter community. The club also will be collecting needed supplies for the shelter through the end of May.

Club President Valerie West was joined by Rotarians Julia Kushigian-Secor, Leeland Cole Chu and Gail B. MacDonald for the Day of Service. Special thanks to Rotarian Gigi Gonzalez-Cottrell for organizing the event.

The Rotary Day of Service is a worldwide annual event in which individual clubs embark on a service project that benefits their community. In 2024, more than 700 Rotary clubs in 18 districts throughout six countries, including the U.S., participated in the Day of Service.





#### **Little Free Library**



A special thank you to Murry Rubin and Ruby Glass for upgrading our Free Little Library at the Hodges Square bus stop.

Murry answered the call to solve the issue of the books getting wet and moldy from the elements. Murry installed a sliding

door so that the books are protected but still visible and easily accessible for the community. Thank you Murry!





# STUDENT OF THE YEAR MAY 16, 2024

By Todd Gipstein



en exemplary students from schools in New London were honored by the New London Rotary Club at its annual Student of the Year program May 16 at the Pilot House at Ocean Beach Park.

The students were chosen by their individual schools on the basis of their academic achievements, along with their citizenship, work ethic and character. New London Superintendent of Schools Cynthia Ritchie said at the event the students are all exceedingly well rounded and their strengths go well beyond having good report cards.

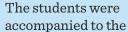


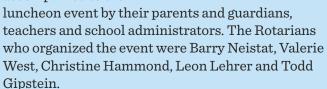
Mayor Michael Passero also was on hand to congratulate the students. "We're recognizing the future of our city," he said.

Mike Penta of Waterford, who owns and operates Waterford Fitness on Cross Road, along with two other fitness- and wellness-oriented businesses, was keynote speaker for the event.

"Talent might make you good," he told the students. "But attitude and work ethic make you great."

He told the students to be resilient and adaptable. "Embrace failure as an opportunity," he said. "Setbacks are opportunities in disguise."









The students honored were:

**Precious Bafor** of Nathan Hale Arts Magnet School. Her nomination noted that Bafor is the school's most outstanding service leader.

**Olivia Campbell** of ISAAC School. It was noted that Campbell's "academic excellence and community service make her a role model for her peers and an asset to the entire community."

**Najaf Haider** of Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School. Her nomination noted that, "She is known for her kindness, thoughtfulness and dedication."

**Geraliz Santos Hernandez** of Jennings International Magnet School. Hernandez' teacher said of her, "She's the student every teacher dreams of having."



# STUDENT OF THE YEAR MAY 16, 2024



**William Jennings** of St. Joseph School. Jennings "always has a smile on his face, and his academic growth has been impressive," according to his nomination.

**Landon Marchesseault** of Winthrop STEM Magnet School. His nomination noted his "unwavering honesty, compassion, and generosity."

**Erlens Point du Jour** of New London Adult and Continuing Education. "Erlens made a strong impression on his first day of school with his confident demeanor and friendly smile," his nomination read.

**Abigail Potts** of The Williams School. Her nomination noted her extensive community service and the fact that she takes the most demanding courses at school.

**Frances Powers** of the Regional Multicultural Magnet School. Powers was nominated by her peers because "she is thoughtful, kind, patient and compassionate."

**Angie Valverbe Solano** of New London Multi-Magnet High School. "Angie truly cares about the safety and wellbeing of others," her nomination read. The New London Rotary Student of the Year Award program has a long and distinguished history. Past award winners have been among the highest achieving students to have attended schools in New London's history. They have gone on to careers in medicine, science, law, business, academia and many other professions, and always are giving back to their communities.





# STUDENT OF THE YEAR MAY 16, 2024





















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

#### **Rotary Community Service** Gail MacDonald, Director

Camp Rotary Tracee Reiser Centennial Playground Rick Gipstein Anna Lathrop Holiday Book Drive 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

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#### **Rotary Club Service** Lee Cole-Chu, Director

Audit John Bysko

Awards Paul Harris Carl Wies Tom Wetmore Phil Turner

Nominating Ed Cramer Anchor Todd Gipstein Chris Neilan Music Program Mary Lenzini Fundraising Committee Mel Foti Golf Kate Lee, Alex Marku Brewfest Keith Turner, Victoria Mueller

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