



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 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, anna@gourmet-galley.com. 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 nlrotarygolf@gmail.com. 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, <https://www.gofundme.com/f/little-help-for-lynda?qid=15fdb4520ecc432f8d6a96694f74702>, 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 Rotarian 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](https://zoom.com) and click “JOIN A MEETING” and enter the info below.

ID=895 9471 7490

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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!

BREWFEST
at the Beach

SEPTEMBER 13
6:00pm – 9:00pm

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE!



SCAN ME

STUDENT OF THE YEAR MAY 16, 2024

By Todd Gipstein



“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 were accompanied to the luncheon event by their parents and guardians, teachers and school administrators. The Rotarians who organized the event were Barry Neistat, Valerie West, Christine Hammond, Leon Lehrer and Todd Gipstein.



Ten 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.



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.”



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.

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

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