



# 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

### JUNE 6, 2024

#### Summer Picnic

Put **August 15th** in your calendar and save the date for this summer's picnic at Ted and Ruth Rossi's home in Eastern Point Beach, Groton, CT.

The location has wonderful views and they have upgraded the outdoor space with a new patio and deck out over the water.

Ted is always looking to entice us and this year's menu will feature his chef's delicious chowder, antipasta, gourmet burgers and mixed grill. The Old World Pizza truck out of New Haven will also be on site.

In case of rain the event will be rescheduled to August 22nd.

RSVP's are needed for this event so let President Val know of your attendance and any guests. [westv8804@gmail.com](mailto:westv8804@gmail.com) 860-918-0521

#### 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](mailto:anna@gourmet-galley.com). We begin at 4pm and are done by 6:15pm. Your help is always appreciated.

#### 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.

#### Reverend Clark



Our very own New London Rotarian Florence Clarke 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 Clarke - she is always inspirational!

Pequot Chapel  
857 Montauk Avenue  
New London, CT 06320

## TODAY'S PROGRAM

**Yale-Harvard Regatta**  
*@ CG Consolidated Club*

#### Weekly Meeting

12:00 Noon

at **THE THAMES CLUB**  
290 State Street, New London

**June 13 Natanel Vaninger**  
**Hila Ziva**  
*Young Israeli Emissaries*

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

Jun 6 Ed Cramer

#### INVOCATION

Jun 6 Mel Foti

#### SONG LEADER

Jun 6 Ed Cramer

#### BIRTHDAYS

None

#### ANNIVERSARIES

None


# CLUB NEWS JUNE 6, 2024

## Upcoming Events for Rotary Club of New London

- 6/6 **Yale Harvard Regatta Luncheon** at Coast Guard Academy - Noon
- 6/27 **Installation** at Lyman Allyn
- 8/15 **Summer Picnic** at Ted and Ruth Rossi's home in Eastern Point Beach, Groton, CT

### Rotary International Foundation

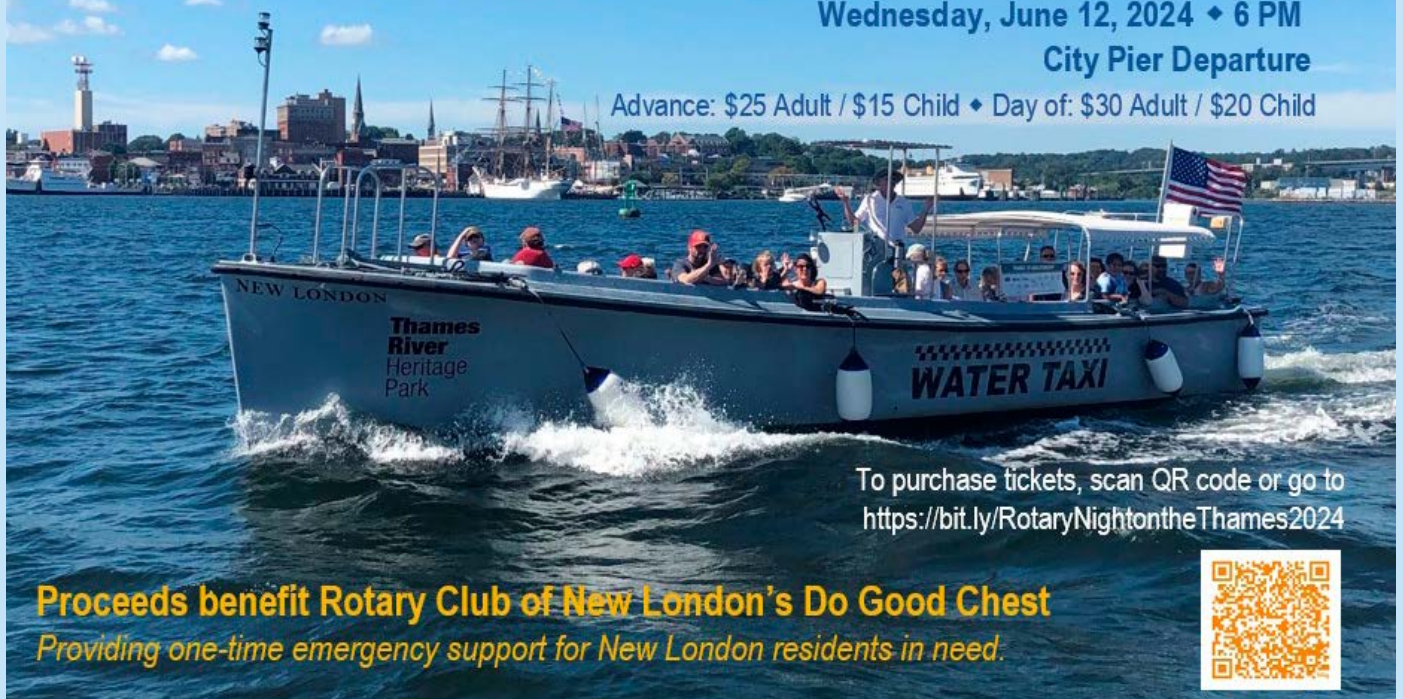
Giving to the Rotary International Foundation is a great way to make a difference in the lives of millions. Programs in the United States and around the world benefit from your generosity. It's easy to give through automatic withdrawals and there is no minimum—every donation matters! To donate to Rotary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



# Rotary Night on the Thames


Wednesday, June 12, 2024 ♦ 6 PM  
City Pier Departure

Advance: \$25 Adult / \$15 Child ♦ Day of: \$30 Adult / \$20 Child



To purchase tickets, scan QR code or go to <https://bit.ly/RotaryNightontheThames2024>

**Proceeds benefit Rotary Club of New London's Do Good Chest**  
*Providing one-time emergency support for New London residents in need.*




# BREWFFEST

at the Beach

**SEPTEMBER 13**  
6:00pm – 9:00pm

**TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE!**



# CLUB REPORT MAY 30, 2024

By Julia Kushigian-Secor

A woman of many talents, Anna Lathrop began her bio with a classical flute piece, “Sicilienne” opus 78 for flute by Gabriel Fauré. History weaves many creative pieces together to bring Anna to this point in her life. Her early years growing up with two parents of Italian descent joined her mother’s family from northern Italy and her father’s family from Sicily in the south. Her selection of musical piece to perform underscored this point. The geography of Italy explained why food was always so important in her life. While other kids’ chores when growing up included making their bed, taking the dog out, etc., Anna’s were mixing the pizza dough, making the tomato sauce, picking the lettuce from the garden to make a salad, all things related to food. Her parents loved to entertain, she explained. She remembered one party in particular where libations and kazoos were the protagonists of the evening and a lot of fun was had.

Anna picked up the flute in the fourth grade studying first the recorder in the Waterford school system and joined the jazz group and band in high school on the encouragement of her teacher. High School also saw Anna join the marching band with long days of practice weeks before school started each year. During her junior year, Anna became the drum major, the leader of the band. While in high school, Anna’s mother Mary, also a NL Rotarian, gave her an allowance twice a year to purchase what she wanted and learn the value of money. If she wanted more, Anna had to work for it. Taking into consideration her goal of attending Cornell for their Hotel Management program, Anna went to the New London Lighthouse Inn without any formal experience to look for a job. She was offered the position of dishwasher, the only position that was open at the time. She worked hard and when the salad maker quit, Anna was able to move into that slot behind the scenes and even fill in for the omelet maker in the dining room itself. She did not go to Cornell, but decided instead to go to Hartwick College in Oneonta, NY, for music, with her parents’ approval. She was accepted there for their Music Performance degree. Performing before hundreds of people for hours at a time, taught Anna how to focus her energies.

When Anna graduated in 1992, she admitted not having a clear career path. Her Uncle John recommended she apply at a new restaurant in Niantic for a job, where she worked as a bartender and in the office doing payroll, working with spreadsheets, etc. One fateful night in her personal trajectory, some friends came into the restaurant and introduced her to Jeff Lathrop, and the rest, as she said, was history. They married 28 years ago at her mother’s home and hired Gourmet Galley Caterers, working closely with the owner at the time on the menu for the reception.



Two years later she was contacted by the owner who was thinking of retiring, to see if Anna wanted to purchase the business. Jeff’s parents built a commercial kitchen in his grandfather’s house they had purchased, which they worked out of for years until they outgrew the facility. At that point they purchased the building on Rt. 2 that past-President Pete Connair and Anna’s father, also a real estate agent, helped her find. That next big point in her life journey was scary because while they were anticipating a huge year in sales with many weddings planned for 2020, Covid hit instead. They quickly had to pivot, sales people moving wedding receptions, her longtime friend and fellow Rotarian Victoria helping with contracts, and the kitchen staff creating home delivery boxed meals that they left with instructions on Tuesdays and Fridays on customer doorsteps. Victoria also encouraged her to open a store on the Rt. 2 property, but as it was not the best spot for retail, a Niantic location was pursued.

On a personal level, Anna said that all along the way the NL Rotary Club has been a big part of her life for 23 years. In 2001 she was inducted as a member, sponsored by Ed Cramer, who had her stand by the badge board at the Lighthouse Inn where over 120 members would gather to pick up their badges and be introduced to Anna. She is recognized as having the first Rotary baby in our club in 2002, and as being elected President in 2009. When asked what is next for her in her journey, Anna answered that her husband Jeff is retired but that she is not considering it for another 30 years. She has had wonderful relationships with local chefs from whom she has learned a lot, especially about catering and food preparation for large events. Since food was always important to her, she was always in the kitchen asking questions of chefs and learning new techniques like shucking clams and oysters that served her well. After the next 30 years of development, Anna promises to return and fill the Club in on that stage of her life and performance.



## Club Officers, 2023-2024

<b>President</b>	Valerie West
<b>President-Elect</b>	Mel Foti
<b>Vice President</b>	Mary Lenzini
<b>Secretary</b>	Andy Russell
<b>Treasurer</b>	Alan Lyon
<b>Sergeant-at-Arms</b>	John Bysko
<b>Immediate Past President</b>	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*

<b>Student Of The Year</b>	Barry Neistat
<b>High School Awards</b>	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*

<b>Audit Awards</b>	John Bysko
Paul Harris	
Carl Wies	
Tom Wetmore	
Phil Turner	
<b>Nominating Anchor</b>	Ed Cramer
<b>Music Program</b>	Todd Gipstein
<b>Fundraising Committee</b>	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

**Gordon's Yellow Front**  
WINES & LIQUORS

**Edward Cramer**  
177 Colman Street  
New London, CT 06320  
Telephone: 860-443-5937  
E-mail: winetalk177@aol.com

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