



CLUB NEWS

JUNE 20, 2024

TODAY'S PROGRAM

NO PROGRAM

Summer Picnic Update

Due to Ted Rossi's work schedule, the new Summer Picnic date is now **August 22nd**. Mark 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.

RSVP's are needed for this event so let President Val know of your attendance and any guests. 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. We begin at 4pm and are done by 6:15pm. Your help is always appreciated.

Invite a Friend to Rotary

We have all experienced the positive effect Rotary can have on individuals, our community, and the world. Why not share that with a friend? Invite someone you know to a Rotary meeting—it just might change their lives (and yours) for the better!

Upcoming Events for Rotary Club of New London

6/27 **Installation** at Lyman Allyn
NO NOON MEETING

8/22 **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 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.



Weekly Meeting

12:00 Noon

at THE THAMES CLUB
290 State Street, New London

June 27

Installation

at Lyman Allyn
NO NOON MEETING

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
PW=512184

GREETER

Jun 20 Brian Cole

INVOCATION

Jun 20 Brian Cole

SONG LEADER

Jun 20 Pam Akins
Jerry Fischer
Ed Stoltz

BIRTHDAYS

Jun 24 Reid B. Burdick

ANNIVERSARIES

None

CLUB REPORT JUNE 12, 2024

Rotary Night on the Thames



BREWFEEST
at the Beach

SEPTEMBER 13
6:00pm – 9:00pm
TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE!



SCAN ME

CLUB REPORT JUNE 13, 2024

By Todd Gipstein



Natanel Vaninger and Hila Ziva, visiting from Israeli as part of the JFEC emissary program, spoke to our club. Their talk focused on **“Israel: Before and After 10/7”**

The two young people gave a bit of biographical information about themselves. Both live on Moshavs, which are a type of Israeli village, a cooperative agricultural community. Natanel lives on one between Nazareth and Afula, and Hila on one near Tel Aviv. Both like to travel and hike.

Turning to their main presentation, they told us a bit about their homeland. Its geography, innovations and lifestyle. Then they turned to October 7th. Hila chronicled the Hamas invasion. Their atrocities against innocent people. The destruction they caused and the hostages they took. 37 of them were 18 years old or younger. She spoke of the NOVA music festival where many were killed or taken hostage. She had a personal connection to the events. Israel is a small country. You can drive it in less than a day. It’s a place she said, where “everybody knows everybody.” She had two friends murdered at the festival by Hamas.

Natanel had a friend evacuated from a city in the north, bombed and burning. His father and uncle were both called back to military service. Neither Natanel or Hila have done their mandatory service yet, but will when they return to their homeland. They wanted to be emissaries to offer Americans a different perspective on Israel. Especially from those often presented on social platforms, which are not always accurate.

They next spoke about the aftermath of October 7 and the war it sparked. In New York, they encountered anti-Israel protests that made them fearful because they were Israeli Jews. They cited statistics showing a 37% increase in antisemitism. Worldwide, Jews have begun to fear for their lives. They explained that not all Jews are connected to Israel, and that Hamas’ terrorism is not always connected to Palestinians.

They shared some of the impacts of October 7. Many foreign agricultural workers left Israel, which has really affected the

production of food. International boycotts over the war have hurt the economy.

More hopefully, the “Unity & Solidarity” movement has taken hold. 50% of the country has volunteered to help in some way. Students and soldiers have volunteered to help farmers. Some have opened their houses to those fleeing the war. Natanel’s 14-year-old sister is calling around to find who needs help. His mother, a nurse, is aiding in the Moshav. His father is working a security patrol. Others have helped clean bomb shelters. Packed food. Helped people find housing.



Natanel and Hila then showed some powerful images of places in Israel before and after the October 7th invasion. Villages now ruined homes. Burned out facilities. Once busy meeting places deserted. They showed a display of blindfolded teddy bears — one for each hostage. Natanel and Hila said they can longer go to their favorite places to hike. They are too dangerous. They might encounter a terrorist. Israel is a country traumatized. Socially. Economically. It will take a long time to recover, and, they fear, it may never fully recover.

When asked how one could help, they reiterated that one of the ongoing fights is against misinformation, fake news, propaganda. They urged us to check our sources when we seek out news. Do research on the validity of what we find before we believe it and share it. It is easy to spread hate — we need to fight it. It seemed good advice, not just for our perspectives on Israel, but for all events.

Natanel and Hila said their experiences in America have been good. They were touched by the support they received after October 7th, especially from the Jewish community. It was heart-warming. They really valued the connections they’d made to people here.

As always, the Israeli emissaries’ visit was a chance to see the world through the eyes of others. Natanel Vaninger and Hila Ziva personalized the events of October 7th. When the news moves from our TVs to two young people standing in our midst, telling us their experiences and sharing their perspectives, we begin to understand the human toll of distant events. What we do with that understanding is up to us.



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*

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|--|-----------------------|
| 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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