



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

AUGUST 8, 2024

Upcoming Events for Rotary Club of New London

8/22 **Summer Picnic** at Ted and Ruth Rossi's home in Eastern Point Beach, Groton, CT
RSVP westv8804@gmail.com
860-918-0521

9/13 **Brewfest at the Beach @**
Ocean Beach Park 6pm-9pm

9/15 **Rotary Opus for Peace event:** *Julia Kushigian-Secor, speaker, "The Resilient Apocalypse and Peace" @* Public Library of New London
4pm

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.

Dear Rotary Club of New London:

Thank you so much for your generous gift of dictionaries for our Beginning I English Class at New London Adult Education. Your support means a lot.

We started using the dictionaries right away and are already experiencing growth in our English language skills. Today, we read a story from our textbook and discovered new words to look up, including the word "growth."

Thank you for making a positive difference in our education.

Sincerely,

Beginning English I, Summer
New London Adult Education



New London's newest Rotarian is the acclaimed artist, Marvin Espy. Marvin is at the forefront of the art movement and community in New London. He is pictured here with Past-President Valerie West shortly after his induction into the club. Be sure to visit the Espy Gallery located at 308 State St, www.marvinespyart.com. Welcome to New London Rotary, Marvin.

TODAY'S PROGRAM

Opus for Peace
Julia Kushigian Secor

Weekly Meeting

12:00 Noon
at THE THAMES CLUB
290 State Street, New London

Aug 15 NL Maritime Society

**Aug 29 Waterford/East Lyme
Animal Control**
Robert Yuchniuk

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: 875 1538 8112
PW: 055551

GREETER

Aug 8 Lee Cole Chu

INVOCATION

Aug 8 Lee Cole Chu

SONG LEADER

Aug 8 Lee Cole Chu

BIRTHDAYS

None

ANNIVERSARIES

None

CLUB NEWS AUGUST 8, 2024

Eastern Pequot Nation Pow Wow - Little Free Library Update

by Julia Kushigian-Secor

July 28, 2024

Today was an exciting, commemorative day for the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation, near North Stonington, CT. It celebrated its annual Pow Wow with hundreds of friends and families in addition to other tribes from the Eastern Seaboard and those who travelled here from all over the nation. The ceremony of the women purifying themselves with sacred smoke from the ceremonial fire, and the families and children celebrating together their heritage was joyous to participate in and watch. The Eastern Pequot Women Elders sold handmade crafts, students from UMASS Boston displayed archeological artifacts they have been studying this summer, and everyone enjoyed delicious food and inspired music and dance.



This was a perfect occasion to check out the Indigenous Little Free Library donated and installed through a grant secured by the New London Rotary Club (CT) last fall and add the Indigenous Library insignia. The Indigenous LFL located next to the Pequot sacred garden, is a huge hit! Children rushed over to find their favorite books and marvel at the concept of take a book, share a book. They began reading to each other and talking animatedly about their selections. When we first opened the library, we were able to fill it with the donated books from the LFL program that specifically address Indigenous history, customs, and culture for children, youth, and adults. They were stories that we hope everyone could see themselves in and appreciate. As we continue to look for books to inspire our readers, we are

reminded that today's visit with the children was special. The New London Rotary Club is fortunate to have partnered with the Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation for the Indigenous Little Free Library.



Tribal leader Val Gambrel, pictured in orange, notes: "After the pow wow I was approached by a Mashantucket council member who praised the library and thought that it was such a great idea. Thank you again for thinking of us. It is so appreciated."



Guatemala Playground

The playground equipment, formerly located at the Rotary Centennial Playground, Toby May Park in New London, has found a new home in Coyolate, Guatemala. Thanks to Rick Gipstein, the City of New London, and a cadre of dedicated volunteers, this equipment was disassembled and then reassembled in Guatemala, extending its use. Check out those smiles!! Great work by all involved!



BREWFEST
at the Beach

SEPTEMBER 13
6:00pm – 9:00pm

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE!



SCAN ME

CLUB REPORT AUGUST 1, 2024

By Gail MacDonald

ROTARY DISTRICT GOVERNOR: FOSTERING PEACE THROUGH THE ARTS WILL BOOST ROTARY PUBLIC IMAGE, EXPAND REACH, DEEPEN IMPACT

All Rotarians have the ability to reach out to communities not typically a part of their clubs in an effort to expand Rotary’s impact and spread service and kindness beyond the confines of their existing club membership.

Robert Friend, District 7980 governor, told members of the New London Rotary Club on Aug. 1 that the 2024-2025 Rotary year should be one of irresistibility. By expanding outreach, carefully assessing long-standing projects to ensure they remain impactful, and thinking of Rotary and service projects in new and different ways, the community will notice and, in turn, want to join the success, he said.

Among the questions Friend said Rotary members should ask themselves are: “Where are the areas we can raise the bar? What are we doing that’s really working?” Focusing on answering such questions not only will keep Rotary clubs relevant and important in their communities, but also will draw more membership because people want to be part of successful organizations that positively impact their communities, Friend said.

Friend’s main initiative for the district this year is “Opus for Peace.” It is designed to foster peace and understanding within communities via the creative process of the arts.

“I wanted to do something that had a profound impact,” he said.

Friend has been a Rotarian for 23 years. He has served as Foundation Grants Reporting Coordinator and District Grants Steward Chair. He also has served as president of the Madison Rotary Club and, as assistant district governor, boosted club engagement and growth. While Rotary membership has remained relatively stagnant in recent years, Friend said membership in District 7980 clubs is growing.

Friend said he saw the arts as a logical pathway to fostering peace because he’s experienced its power firsthand. He’s the president of Live Entertainment Solutions Group and has held executive roles at Tony Award-winning theaters.

“Every time I come here, I feel like I’m coming home,” he said of New London, noting that he started his entertainment business at the Garde Arts Center.



While global crises such as wars in the Middle East and Ukraine, mass shootings and drug deaths can seem insurmountable, Friend said he envisions Opus for Peace as a way to focus on peace within individual, smaller communities that then can connect to one another for larger impact.

“Peace is very personal,” he said. “We can’t impact it globally, but we can within us. We need to take care of ourselves first. Until our inner circle is OK, we can’t help out in the larger community.” This, he said, connects this year’s district initiative to last year’s that focused on improving mental health.

Friend said the New London club is among the first Peace Builder Clubs in the district, laying the foundation for it to expand its reach and increase its impact.

“It’s time to talk about peace as an integral part of all we do,” he said.

Club Officers, 2024-2025

President	Carmelo Foti
President-Elect	Mary Lenzini
Vice President	Mark Spinnato
Secretary	Andy Russell
Treasurer	Alan Lyon
Sergeant-at-Arms	John Bysko
Immediate Past President	Valerie West

Board of Directors

2025	Lee Cole-Chu, Pam McNulty Hennessey, Todd Gipstein
2026	Andrew Gilday, Mirna Martinez, Mark Spinnato
2027	Gigi Gonzalez-Cottrell, Gail MacDonald, Kristin Magnussen

Club Committees

Rotary Youth Service
Todd Gipstein, *Director*

Student Of The Year	Christine Hammond/ Barry Neistat
High School Awards	Barry Neistat

Rotary Membership
Mary Lenzini, *Director*

Fellowship/RAH Classification	Val West
Information	Andy Russell
Sunshine	Kris Magnussen
Diversity/Membership Dev.	Brian Cole 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*

Peace Building	Val West
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Rotary Club Service
Lee Cole-Chu, *Director*

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

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E-mail: winetalk177@aol.com

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