



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 15, 2024

TODAY'S PROGRAM

New London
Maritime Society

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

9/17 **Rotary Opus for Peace event:** *Julia Kushigian-Secor, speaker, "The Resilient Apocalypse and Peace"* @ Public Library of New London 4pm

9/21 **Rotary Opus for Peace event:** *International Peace Day Panel Discussion* celebrating Marvin Espy's exhibit *"Up from Asphalt. Voices from the Ground"* @ Lyman Allyn Art Museum 4pm

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!

Summer Picnic

Mark your calendar and save the date on **August 22nd** 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.

Weekly Meeting

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

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 15 Brian Cole

INVOCATION

Aug 15 Brian Cole

SONG LEADER

Aug 15 Brian Cole

BIRTHDAYS

Aug 17 Barry Levinson

Aug 21 Edward Cramer

ANNIVERSARIES

None

CLUB REPORT AUGUST 8, 2024

By Gail MacDonald

“OPUS FOR PEACE” PART OF LONG ROTARY PEACE-BUILDING HISTORY

Rotary’s current peace initiative may seem daunting or confusing at first glance - just how does one Rotary club foster world peace? In reality peace begins in individual communities and in efforts to bring people together, building ties and bonds that lead to greater understanding, safer neighborhoods, an improved business climate and a more equitable sharing of resources.

The program at the New London Rotary club’s regular meeting on Aug. 8 strove to explain the peace initiative, including the district’s “Opus for Peace” that aims to foster peace through the arts. The program also reviewed the events and programs already planned and considered other ways the club can be a peace-building group.

Rotarian Julia Kushigian-Secor, who is part of the club’s peace committee, urged members to participate in Rotary International’s Institute for Peace. The online institute features a series of short videos that provide an overview of the initiative, but also provide some concrete ideas for ways to build peace locally. Among activities planned locally are an Aug. 15 gallery talk by artist and Rotarian Marvin Espy, a Sept. 17 panel discussion at the Public Library of New London, the Sept. 21 International Day of Peace that will feature the unveiling of the club’s portable peace pole, a peace-building project that will connect the local club with one in Haifa, Israel, and a planned peace film series. The library panel focuses on Kushigian-Secor’s book “The Resilient Apocalypse” as it relates to peace and the gallery talk on Espy’s exhibition “Up From the Asphalt.”

In addition to events and programming, Kushigian-Secor, Jerry Fischer, Gail MacDonald and Mary Lenzini reviewed and explained pieces of the overall peace initiative.

With the roots of Rotary in the business community, Fischer talked about the intersection of peace and economic well-being. While negative peace is the absence of active violent conflicts such as wars, positive peace that incorporates a sound business environment and an effective government requires some work to maintain, but ultimately is more resilient.

War not only causes death, injury and property destruction, it also requires a tremendous amount of money to support military personnel and equipment. Kushigian-Secor said the least peaceful countries spend as much as 34% of their gross domestic products on the military, while the most peaceful countries spend as little as 2.9%.

MacDonald reviewed the eight pillars on which positive peace is built. These are: a well functioning government, a sound business environment, low levels of corruption, equitable distribution of resources, good relations with neighbors, a free flow of information, high levels of human capital and the acceptance of the rights of others. Building positive peace, which is future oriented, requires stimulating all eight pillars at once or focusing on boosting the weakest among the pillars.

Lenzini reviewed some of the history of how Rotary has long been involved with peace-building. For example, Rotary was instrumental in the formation of the United Nations organization UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization). Rotarians also have served in many top leadership capacities at the UN.

In 1914, the Rotary convention adopted a resolution pledging support to maintaining peace and just after World War I, the 1921 convention added a section to the Rotary constitution saying the organization would aid in the advancement of world peace. The 1940 convention in Havana, Cuba adopted a resolution to advance human rights for all.

Lenzini also pointed to the seven focus areas of Rotary grants and showed that they interconnect with peace-building. These areas include promoting literacy and education, improving access to clean water, respecting the environment and aiding in maternal and child health.

Kushigian-Secor invited club members to get involved in the club’s peace building committee to help brainstorm and carry out peace-building events locally and also to participate in the online institute to fully appreciate the scope of the initiative.

CLUB REPORT AUGUST 8, 2024

Opus for Peace 2024-2025, New London Rotary Club Events

September 13: Bridgeport History Center & Library, “Seeking Peace Before the Apocalypse,” (Leader Julia Kushigian-Secor) Hispanic Heritage Month Book Talk: *The Resilient Apocalypse. Narrating the End from Early Spanish Visualizations to Twenty-First Century Latin American Articulations, 2024.* Julia Kushigian, Connecticut College, NLRC.

September 17: Public Library of New London, “Seeking Peace Before the Apocalypse,” (Leader Julia Kushigian-Secor) Hispanic Heritage Month Book Talk: *The Resilient Apocalypse. Narrating the End from Early Spanish Visualizations to Twenty-First Century Latin American Articulations, 2024.* Julia Kushigian, Connecticut College, NLRC.

September 21: International Day of Peace, Unveiling the multilingual Peace Pole, Lyman Allyn Museum (Leader, Julia Kushigian-Secor) Lyman Allyn Museum Panel: 4:00 p.m., “Art, Race, Peace and Social Justice.”

The panel is presented in collaboration with Marvin Espy’s exhibit, “Up from Asphalt. Voices from the Ground,” at the Lyman Allyn Museum through October 20, 2024.

The panel speakers will reflect on the power of art to address the underlying causes of conflict, poverty, discrimination, and access to counteract them while promoting social justice and understanding. They will explore points of overlap where art meets intractable social issues to promote healing.

Participants: Marvin Espy, artist & NLRC member; Prof. Amanda Russhell Wallace, Asst. Prof. of Art, CC; Prof. Sufia Uddin, Professor of Religion and Anthropology, CC.

Julia Kushigian-Secor, moderator, NLRC

February-April, 2025 date tbd “Hip-Hop Healing” at the Garde Theatre. Many students post-Covid and under current Covid conditions are experiencing mental stress, high absentee rates, and difficulties in coping. The program being developed by the City of New London, Child & Family

Services, the Garde Theatre and the New London Rotary Club encourages the use of hip hop as a healing and learning mechanism to deal with complex emotions and real-life difficulties. It also aligns students with Rotary mentors and other civic organizations for support and community outside their families and friend circles.

Spring, 2025 Peace Film Series, Rick Gipstein, Commentator, Public Library of New London/Garde Arts Theatre? (Leader, Rick Gipstein)

TBD Peace Initiative with Haifa, Israel Rotary Club including Palestinian West Bank Rotarians (Leader Jerry Fischer)

April 25, 2025 Planting Trees for Peace, New London Rotary Club, Arbor Day, in conjunction with planting trees for peace in Israel. (Leaders Val West & Jerry Fischer)

TBD A Moveable Feast: Cultural Dinners for Peace (leader, Gail MacDonald)

Preparing, sharing foods from around the globe and telling stories of how recipes, cultivating and harvesting foods bring people together peaceably.

Monthly District Peace Meeting on Zoom for members of the NLRC Peace Committee

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87877878063>

Meeting ID: 878 7787 8063



BREWFEST
at the Beach

SEPTEMBER 13
6:00pm – 9:00pm

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE!



SCAN ME

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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