



# 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 OCTOBER 31, 2024

### Thanksgiving Turkey Drive

Local families in need will again be treated to free Thanksgiving dinners thanks to Liberty Bank and New London Rotary.

Pam McNulty-Hennessey is again overseeing for New London Rotary the 21st annual drive. The Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut also has contributed to the drive, as will shoppers at some local food markets. The Liberty Bank Foundation also will contribute 25 cents for every dollar donated, up to \$200,000.

New London Rotary's donations will benefit the New London Community Meal Center, Gemma E. Moran United Way/Labor Food Center and Salvation Army, all located in the city.

The Liberty Bank Foundation is teaming with the Community Foundation of Middlesex County and 45 local Rotary clubs on the drive. More than \$6,000 already has been raised through online donations. Since 2004, Liberty Bank Foundation in partnership with Rotary clubs throughout the state, has raised more than \$4 million to ensure families have a happy holiday.

Donations can be made via checks written and mailed to the New London Rotary Foundation or the Community Foundation of Middlesex County.

Online donations also are accepted via the Community Foundation of Middlesex County website. The drive ends on Nov. 18.

### 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.



### Rotary After Hours

Join your fellow Rotarians at a gathering of fellowship on Wednesday, November 6th @ 5pm. This RAH will be at The Dutch! Now owned by our very own Victoria Mueller and her husband Tim.

The Dutch is located at 23 Green Street in downtown New London. This is the perfect opportunity to check it out and see what they have done with this historic and renowned New London institution.

Hope to see you there.

Val

### SHAWL RAFFLE - LAST CHANCE!

Today is the final day for the shawl raffle.

The shawls are donated from Mark and Juner Patnode to raise money for our club. Raffle tickets will be sold for \$10 a piece. You can specify your raffle ticket for either the red or blue shawl.

Tickets are available at today's meeting and from Tracee Reiser, 860-287-3642 or [tlrei@conncoll.edu](mailto:tlrei@conncoll.edu)

## TODAY'S PROGRAM

United Way  
Tommy Toy Fund  
Carli Herz

Weekly Meeting  
12:00 Noon

at THE LIGHTHOUSE INN  
6 West Guthrie Place, New London

Nov 7 Veteran's Day Program

Nov 21 Ulysses Hammond

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

Oct 31 Mary Lenzini

### INVOCATION

Oct 31 Mary Lenzini

### SONG LEADER

Oct 31 Mary Lenzini

### BIRTHDAYS

Oct 31 Anna Lathrop

Nov 1 George Fisher

### ANNIVERSARIES

Nov 2 Eric & Kerry Garofano

Nov 6 Mark & Juner Patnode

# CLUB NEWS OCTOBER 31, 2024

**ALEWIFE COVE CONSERVANCY'S**  
Annual Benefit Bash

LIVE MUSIC BY  
**FUSION**

Get your tickets at  
[www.AlewifeCove.org](http://www.AlewifeCove.org)

**SATURDAY**  
**NOVEMBER 9TH, 2024**  
**7:00 PM**

**PORT 'N' STARBOARD**  
OCEAN BEACH PARK  
NEW LONDON, CT

RAFFLES \* AUCTIONS \* FOOD & FUN

**DONATE** **TICKETS**

In Loving Memory of Rachel Spaulding

Kindly Join Us for a Brunch

*Celebrating*  
The Rotary Foundation and You

**Saturday, 16 November 2024**  
**11am | 2pm**

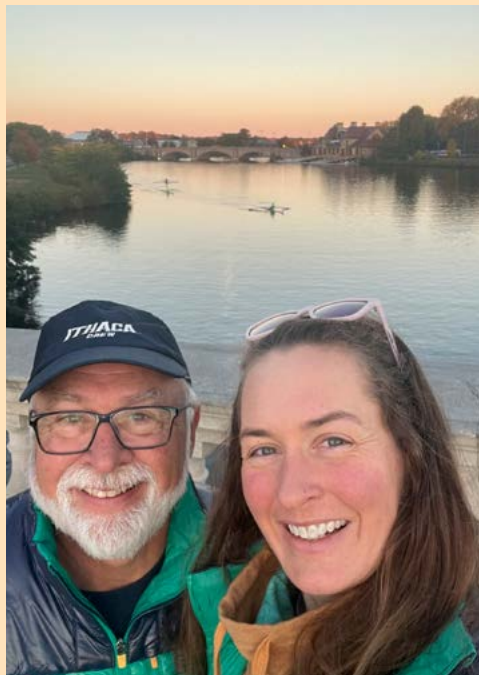
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RSVP by November 11, 2024

**PURCHASE TICKETS TODAY**



HEAD OF THE CHARLES 2024 OCT 18-20			
1 - Men's Senior Veteran/Grand Veteran Singles [70+, 80+, 90+]			
<b>Blood Street Sculls (Bow 46)</b> Cole-Chu, L. - Senior-Veteran II 27:21.886			
Riverside	Weld	CBC	Finish
06:32.37	15:26.39	22:54.88	27:21.88
06:32.37	08:54.01	07:28.49	04:27.00
Athletes			
1   Cole-Chu, Leeland			

Our own Lee Cole-Chu participated in the Head of the Charles Regatta in the Men's Senior Veteran/Grand Veteran singles bracket. Representing the Blood Street Sculls, Lee finished in an impressive 27:21.886. Also part of the event, were Andy Russell and daughter Lisa. Way to go you New London Rotarians!!!

# CLUB REPORT OCTOBER 24, 2024

Reported by Todd Gipstein

## World Polio Day

Club Member **Kris Magnussen** spoke to us on World Polio Day, the day that honors Jonas Salk's birthday. Salk developed the first vaccine against Polio in 1955. Some of us can remember the fear of polio that could cause spinal and respiratory paralysis. One out of two-hundred people who contracted polio became paralyzed. People avoided crowds, fairs, swimming pools and other public places, especially in late summer and fall when the virus was most active. Our time dealing with Covid was a vivid reminder of the toll a virus can take.



In 1955 there were 29,000 cases of poliomyelitis in the U.S. Two years after implementation of the vaccine, the infection rate plummeted to less than 6,000.

When we think of polio we envision leg braces and the iron lung. The last living person in an iron lung died this year at the age of 78.

Polio has been eradicated in most countries, but unfortunately Afghanistan and Pakistan continue to see outbreaks primarily due to the fundamentalists who feel that immunizations are a Western plot to kill them. It was eradicated in the US in 1979 but there was a case in Rockland County, NY in 2022. He was a 20-year-old Hungarian who came to the U.S. He had been vaccinated abroad before he came here.

The first vaccine developed by Jonas Salk was an injection, but there was such a demand by the public with long, long lines that a Dr. Sabin developed an oral vaccine that was much easier and faster to give. Kris asked how many of us remembered getting a sugar cube with the polio vaccine in school? The vaccine tasted so bitter it was put on sugar cubes so kids would take it. The oral polio vaccine is the choice when doing campaigns such as in Gaza as it is easy to give, doesn't require training, and is cheap at around \$3 per dose.

In 1988 the World Health Assembly adopted a resolution for worldwide eradication of polio: the Global Polio Eradication Initiative that included the WHO, Rotary International, CDC, UNICEF and national governments. They have reduced polio cases by 99.9% since their first project to vaccinate children in the Philippines in 1979. Rotary has contributed more than \$2.1 billion and countless volunteer hours to protect nearly 3 billion children in 122 countries. Rotary's advocacy efforts have played a role in decisions by governments to contribute more than \$10 billion to the effort.

As always, international conflicts have affected the situation. Polio was found in wastewater in Gaza in June and they had their first confirmed case in 25 years a few months later. As 90% of the population is displaced and healthcare and infrastructure are destroyed,

there is an increase risk of polio and other infectious diseases. There was a pause in fighting to allow healthcare workers to vaccinate



640,000 kids under 10 years with the oral polio vaccine. Unfortunately, they did not reach their goal. They had planned another push to vaccinate, but it was put on hold due to the increase violence, bombardment and displacement of the population. To prevent the transmission of polio, at least 90% of the population needs to be vaccinated with 3 doses. Israel should be concerned about polio in Gaza as 17% of Israel's population is ultra-orthodox and are exempt from Israel's vaccination requirements. Should the virus take hold it will spread like wildfire. Science can find solutions to many health problems. But it takes more. It takes governments and aid groups and popular acceptance to truly eradicate a disease that can take an enormous human toll.

Regarding polio, this year, Rotary is focusing on a global mission to vaccinate every child. For more info please go to: [www.rotary.org/en/our-causes/ending-polio](http://www.rotary.org/en/our-causes/ending-polio)

Kris added a final note of interest: Mary Harkness in 1952 deeded what is now known as Camp Harkness to the State of Connecticut for perpetual use of those stricken with polio.

**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 Estelle
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**

<b>Rotary Youth Service</b>	
Todd Gipstein, <i>Director</i>	
Student Of The Year	Christine Hammond/ Barry Neistat
High School Awards	Barry Neistat
<b>Rotary Membership</b>	
Mary Lenzini, <i>Director</i>	
Fellowship/RAH	Val West
Classification	Andy Russell
Information	Kris Magnussen
Sunshine	Brian Cole
Diversity/Membership Dev.	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	
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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