



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 DECEMBER 12, 2024

### Kushigian-Secor Chosen As Future Rotary District Governor

New London Rotary Club Past President **Julia A. Kushigian-Secor** has been selected to serve as the District Governor for Rotary Southern Connecticut District 7980 in the 2027-2028 Rotary year.

“We are inspired by Julia’s vision and leadership as she begins her preparation to guide our district,” District Governor Robert Friend said in announcing the selection.

Kushigian-Secor also reflected on her selection. “I am proud and humbled to have been selected the District Governor Nominee Designate,” she said. “Our district of 54 Rotary Clubs and almost 2,000 members dedicates itself to the compelling vision of ‘Service Above Self.’ Our goal is to create lasting change locally, globally and in ourselves. The area of focus I have chosen for the 2027-2028 Rotary year will be literacy as it engages a broad spectrum of issues from basic needs to peace and conflict prevention, the environment, community development and maternal and child health through clean water and disease-free communities.”

A New London resident and a member of the New London Rotary Club since 2008, Kushigian-Secor is a dedicated and enthusiastic supporter of Rotary and its mission of service. She currently heads the New London club’s International Service

Committee and has secured through district-managed grants thousands of dollars to support service projects in Latin America, Asia and Africa. The projects include water sanitation initiatives in India and educational programs in Ecuador, along with regular support of groups such as the Norwich-based Haitian Health Foundation and Stonington-based Chikumbuso Project in Zambia. She also is helping spearhead the club’s opus for peace initiatives and positive peace activities in the current year.

In addition, she created and oversees the club’s Little Free Library program that promotes literacy in English and Spanish via nine libraries located throughout New London and on the Eastern Pequot Reservation.

Among her Rotary honors are four Paul Harris Awards and the International Community Service Award.

Kushigian-Secor is the Hanna Hafkesbrink professor of Hispanic Studies at Connecticut College. The position is a prestigious endowed chair. She also has been a Fulbright specialist to Ecuador, has written numerous books and served as a visiting faculty member at Yale University. She is grateful for the support of a wonderful, loving family, husband Charlie Secor, daughter Francisca, son John and daughter-in-law Shannon.

### Thank You!

A big thank you to Rotarian **Joe Short** from Bartol Heating and Cooling and his associate Jeffrey Zaks for fixing the warming unit at the Community Meal Center. The unit was purchased by our club from Golf Tournament funds and had been sorely missed by the meal center staff and volunteers. We thank Joe and Jeffrey for quickly identifying the problem and getting the warming unit fixed.

### Holiday Book Drive

We are collecting donations for our annual holiday book drive. This year we will be sending 80 books to the BP Learned Mission. Any donations are greatly appreciated!

## TODAY'S PROGRAM

### ANNUAL CLUB MEETING

Weekly Meeting  
12:00 Noon

at THE LIGHTHOUSE INN  
6 West Guthrie Place, New London

Dec 19 Gemma Moran  
Food Bank

Dec 26 No 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: 875 1538 8112  
PW: 055551

GREETER  
Dec 12 Andy Russell

INVOCATION  
Dec 12 Andy Russell

SONG LEADER  
Dec 12 Andy Russell

BIRTHDAYS  
None

ANNIVERSARIES  
None

# CLUB NEWS DECEMBER 12, 2024

## 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.

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](mailto:winetalk177@aol.com).



## 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.

## Little Free Libraries

The Little Free Library project is a daily club initiative to locate books, secure, label and distribute them throughout the city. Please bring books to our meetings or let one of our stewards (Gail, Christine, Mel, Ray or Julia) know if you need someone to pick them up. Good sources of material are family, libraries, schools, friends, neighbors, places of worship and workplaces. Contact Julia Kushigian-Secor with questions [jakus@conncoll.edu](mailto:jakus@conncoll.edu).

## Rotary projects around the globe

### Canada

The annual Concert to Feed the Need has raised nearly \$90,000 since 2018 to offer meals in the Durham region in Ontario, through a network of food banks, meal and snack programs, shelters, and other social service providers. Feed Ontario reports an increase of 47 percent in the number of employed people using food banks since 2018. “With the rising cost of food and the impact of the pandemic still being felt, food bank use is soaring,” says Joe Solway, a member of the Rotary Club of Bowmanville, which initiated the event. Members of six other Rotary clubs also sell sponsorships and tickets and promote the show, an eclectic mix of pop, folk, country, rock, blues, gospel, “and maybe this year some opera,” Solway says. Media attention surrounding the concert and its acclaimed performers helped it yield nearly \$23,000 in 2023. The 2024 event will take place on 8 December.



### Bulgaria

In 2007, the Rotary Club of Sofia-Balkan teamed up with the Bulgarian Basketball Federation and the National Sports Academy to form a basketball club for wheelchair users, and the project has kept growing. Over the years, the club has lured coaches from the European Wheelchair Basketball Federation to offer a player clinic, cultivated referee skills, and established a Rotary Community Corps to help. On 13 February, in conjunction with a Rotary zone event, the Bulgarian team faced off against a Serbian team for a friendly match. RI's president at the time, Gordon McInally, sounded the starting whistle and tossed the ball into play. The club's signature project is a point of pride for Rotarians, says Past Club President Krasimir Veselinov, and several organizations that advocate for people with disabilities have signed on to support the venture.



*This story originally appeared in the November 2024 issue of Rotary magazine.*

# CLUB REPORT DECEMBER 5, 2024

Reported by Gail MacDonald

## U.S.-German Ties Are Strong, Will Continue

Despite political changes on the horizon in both Germany and the United States, the two countries will remain close allies and trade partners into the future, **Dr. Sonja Kreibich** told members of the New London Rotary Club at the group's regular luncheon meeting Dec. 5.



"Germany pledges to remain a close ally to the U.S.," she said.

The recent U.S. election and collapse of the German coalition government will likely bring some major policy shifts in both countries. Still, the economic and educational ties will remain.

For example, Kreibich said Germany is nervous about president-elect Donald Trump's emphasis on raising tariffs on imported goods.

"Germany is export driven," she said. "But the job of a diplomat is to establish good relations with whatever government is in place."

Kreibich serves as consul general of Germany to the United States, a position she has held since 2022. She works from offices in Boston.

Besides looking ahead to the future of the U.S.-German relationship, Kreibich reflected on the current status of trade between the two countries. For example, she said:

- German companies provide more than one million jobs located in all 50 U.S. states
- 83% of German liquid natural gas imports are from the U.S.
- In the first half of 2024, there was more than \$139 billion of trade in goods between the U.S. and Germany
- The U.S. and Germany are the two major military supporters of Ukraine
- An educational partnership between Germany and Connecticut provides many dual degrees for students through the Eurotech and Eurobiz programs
- Germany is a major investor in the U.S., providing 12% of all direct investment in the country

Specifically addressing the relationship with Ukraine, Kreibich said German support for Ukraine is directly related to Germany's own security.



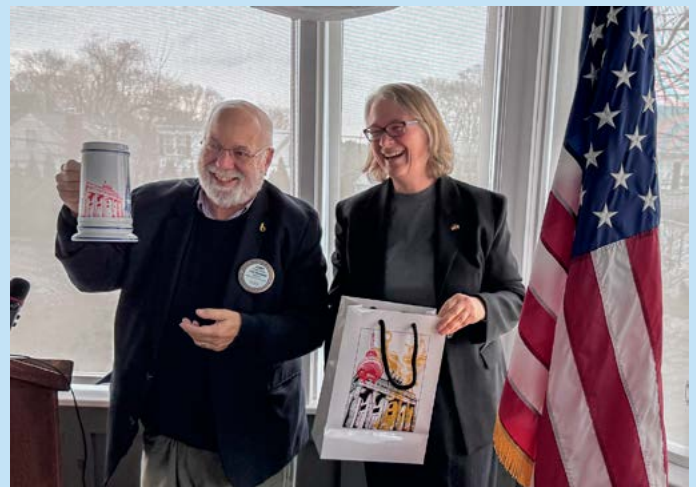
"We fear that Russia will invade other countries," she said.

Germany has helped train the Ukrainian military and also hosts some 1.1 million Ukrainian refugees, most of whom are women and children. While living in Germany, these refugees have access to all German services and benefits such as healthcare, she said.

While anti-refugee attitudes do exist in Germany, Kreibich said German business representatives recognize the country's need for skilled workers from other nations because Germany has an aging population. The country seeks to bring 200,000 workers from other nations to Germany, she said. That effort is a global one.

Turning to the relationship between Connecticut and Germany, Kreibich said Germany is the state's largest export market. Gov. Ned Lamont, in recognition of the importance Germany plays to Connecticut's economy, traveled to Germany on a trade mission earlier this year, she said.

"Germany and Connecticut have a special partnership," she 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 Estelle
Immediate Past President	Valerie West

**Board Of Directors**

2025	Lee Cole-Chu, Pam McNulty Hennessey, Todd Gipstein
2026	Andrew Gilday, Mirna Martinez, Tracee Reiser
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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