



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 JANUARY 9, 2025

### Upcoming Events for Rotary Club of New London

- 1/30 Chinese New Year Dinner**  
“Breaking Bread and Building Bridges” with the Ledyard Rotary Club  
Oriental Bar + Grill, 867 Norwich-New London Turnpike Uncasville, CT  
(rsvp to [westv8804@gmail.com](mailto:westv8804@gmail.com) needed by 1/21/2025)
- 2/26 Haitian Dinner + Cultural Awareness event** to benefit the Haitian Health Foundation  
Favorites Bistro Bar, 171 Bank Street New London, CT
- 3/4 Germany, US & CT: Partners for Peace Luncheon** with guest speaker Dr. Kreibich  
The Lighthouse Inn, 6 Guthrie Place, New London, CT @ Noon
- 4/25 Peace in Nature Event** on Arbor Day  
Time and place TBD
- 5/3 Opus for Peace** at the Hygenic, a Juried art show opening event  
Hygenic Art, 79 Bank Street, New London, CT 6pm to 9pm
- 5/17 New London Rotary Club Epic Day of Service**

### 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).

## TODAY'S PROGRAM

Club Updates

**Weekly Meeting**  
12:00 Noon

at **THE LIGHTHOUSE INN**  
6 West Guthrie Place, New London

**Jan 16 No Program**

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

Jan 9 Rick Gipstein

### INVOCATION

Jan 9 Rick Gipstein

### SONG LEADER

Jan 9 Rick Gipstein

### BIRTHDAYS

Jan 4 Mirna Martinez

Jan 5 Michael Passero

Jan 5 Mark Spinnato

### ANNIVERSARIES

Jan 1 Mark & Nancy Spinnato

### Epic Day of Service Scheduled

New London Rotary club President Carmelo Foti announced the 2025 Epic Day of Service is scheduled for Saturday, May 17. Foti asked members to consider possible service projects for the day. In 2024, club members weeded, mulched and planted gardens at the Homeless Hospitality Center. The 2023 service project provided Boys and Girls Club participants with first aid kits through the New London Salvation Army.

For more information about Club happenings, visit our Facebook page, [facebook.com/NLRotary](https://facebook.com/NLRotary)

# CLUB NEWS JANUARY 9, 2025

## Correction - Elected Members

At the New London Rotary Club's annual meeting on December 12, 2024, the following members were elected to the Board of Directors for three-year term:

Siri Belgum, Gary Decker, Valerie West

The following Officers were elected for a one-year term:

Secretary – Kristin Magnussen  
Treasurer – Alan Lyon  
Vice President – Gail MacDonald  
President Elect – Mark Spinnato  
President – Mary Lenzini

Nominating Committee Chairman Ed Cramer brought the names forward and they were unanimously approved by club members. All terms begin July 1, 2025.

## 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).



## Rotary After Hours



Tox Brewing hosted our latest Rotary After hours on January 2nd. It's a great space and offers a great selection of craft brews.

We sampled a variety of pizzas and craft brews. All were delicious!!

# CLUB MEETING DECEMBER 18, 2024

Reported by Gail MacDonald

## New London Food Center Takes a Bite Out of Hunger in Region

**A** labor strike. A serious illness. The added financial stresses of the holiday season.

These types of income shocks are generally at the root of hunger in the region, **Anne Stockton**, vice president of the Gemma E. Moran United Way/Labor Food Center, told members of the New London Rotary Club on Dec. 18.

The food center, which was established after a major Electric Boat strike in the late 1980s, helps keep families fed while they deal with such income shocks. The center, located in a 20,000 square foot warehouse building on Broad Street, New London, now distributes food to 65 food pantries and provides 23,500 meals a month, Stockton said.

“It’s about being an income support,” she said.

Stockton pointed out that the food center was built largely through the efforts of two strong women - Gemma Moran for whom the center is named, and Sara Chaney, who was hired to oversee operations soon after the food center was established. Chaney died in 2024 at age 88 and Moran died a year earlier at age 99.

Stockton said that the center provides much more perishable food now than when it was first established. About 43% of the food it now distributes is perishable, consisting of fresh fruits and vegetables and meat, she said.

While the center’s main source of food donations is retail establishments such as supermarkets that donate about a million pounds of food annually, Stockton said smaller donors, private and business-originated food drives and local farms and giving gardens are other sources.

“We ask people what kinds of food they want,” she said. The giving gardens then grow the foods customers are requesting.

There are just seven paid staff members working at the center, so volunteers are vital to its operations. Stockton said there are more than 1,200 volunteers who work at the center at various times throughout the year.



The food center supports community kitchens, children’s programs, food pantries, schools, shelters, churches, HUD housing and municipalities. It also operates five mobile food pantries in Norwich, New London, Griswold, Groton and Stonington. The United Way of Southeastern Connecticut is the only United Way to own a food bank, Stockton said.

The need in the community also is growing. Food pantries in the region report a 20% increase in the number of people coming to their pantries and more people also are coming to community meal centers to eat. Families also are more often requesting pet food, period products, diapers and household items.

Stockton said many of those who are served by the food center are employed and do not qualify for federal nutrition programs. Many are what has been labeled as ALICE, or Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. About one in seven residents are food insecure, while one in six children are food insecure.

Besides providing food that is healthy and culturally relevant, the food center also has responded to its clients by locating food distribution sites in places that can be readily accessed.

“The access to food is where it’s easy and safe,” she said. That is why the center has mobile distribution sites in schools and neighborhoods.



New members Kristi Holohan and Robert Duleau were inducted at the December 18 meeting.

**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

**Gordon's Yellow Front**  
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