



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 MARCH 20, 2025

### Upcoming Events for Rotary Club of New London

- 4/25 Peace in Nature Event** on Arbor Day  
An Arbor Day event in collaboration with New London Trees on The Lighthouse Inn grounds, New London Tree planting and peace pole unveiling @ 9am
- 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**
- 6/2 5th Annual NLRC Golf Tournament**  
Great Neck Country Club  
Registration 10:30am - Noon

### 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.

*“Many persons have a wrong idea of what constitutes true happiness. It is not attained through self-gratification but through fidelity to a worthy purpose.”*

– Helen Keller

### TODAY'S PROGRAM

Jennifer Keatley  
United Cerebral Palsy

#### Weekly Meeting 12:00 Noon

at THE LIGHTHOUSE INN  
6 West Guthrie Place, New London

Mar 27 Violet Johnson  
New London Landmarks

Apr 3 MaryLou Gannotti  
Alzheimer's Association

Apr 10 Suzi Schell  
Waterford Country School

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**  
Pam Hennessy

**INVOCATION**  
Tracee Reiser

**SONG LEADER**  
Tracee Reiser

**BIRTHDAYS**  
None

**ANNIVERSARIES**  
Mar 25 Ted & Ruth Rossi

### S.T.E.P.S. Inc.



A check for \$550 was presented to Beatrice Jeannette and Vivian Harrison the co-founders of S.T.E.P.S., Striving Toward Empowered Personal Success.

The funds were raised at an international women's day, wine pairing dinner hosted by the Lighthouse Inn with the Rotary Club of New London. The money was raised to support STEPS Young Womens Leadership day held on March 15 at Mitchell College.

# CLUB NEWS

## MARCH 20, 2025

### **Rotary Assembly, Meeting, Training, Conference, Convention Dates & Links**

(Register on dacdb for many events):

**May 30, 31 June 1: Magical Mystery Tour Rotary District Conference** Southbridge, MA  
<https://www.dacdb.com/Calendar/Event.cfm?EventID=77792474&CalClubID=6741&R=0.20222391992683875>

**June 21-25 2025: Rotary International Convention**, Calgary  
<https://convention.rotary.org/en-us/>

**Peace Calendar:** <https://opus-for-peace-community.rotary7980.org/events>

### **2024 4th Annual Golf Tournament Funds presented to The Community Meal Center**

The Rotary Club of New London voted to disburse the remaining 2024 golf funds to The Community Meal Center to meet the daily needs in providing healthy meals to those in need in our community.

The allocation of the balance of our Community Meal Center Fund of \$11,000 is split between two grants for use at the Center. The grants are:

#### **Plumbing Plus Account of \$5000.00**

**Purpose:** For plumbing and other repairs to the center

**Reporting Requirement:** are an itemized report of invoices due March 1, 2026 or when funds are fully expended

#### **Supplemental Food Account \$6000.00**

**Purpose:** To purchase foods needed for meal preparation at local supermarkets.

**Reporting Requirement:** an itemized report of sales slips, credit card bills or other documentation of expenditures due March 1, 2026 or when funds are fully expended.

President elect Mary Lenzini, on behalf of the entire Club, thanked Executive Director MaryAnn Martinez and her team for their services to those in need of healthy meals and warm friendships.

**HAPPY ARBOR DAY!**

You're invited to join  
**New London Trees & The Rotary Club of New London**  
 for our April 25th Arbor Day planting event  
 at The Lighthouse Inn!  
 10 am

New London Trees logo and Rotary International logo.

Come celebrate Rotary's Year of Peace by planting 8 native trees and establishing a Peace Pole at The Lighthouse Inn. Help New London Tree's mission of increasing New London's tree population through community planting and care, education, and advocacy! Hope to see you there!

FOR MORE INFORMATION: HELLO@NEWLONDONTREES.ORG      ALL ARE WELCOME

**APRIL 25, 10AM AT THE LIGHTHOUSE INN**

### **New Member**



*Past-president Jerry Fischer alongside the newest New London Rotarian, Dr. Peter Greenwald. Jerry oversaw the induction, and Peter passed the intensive Rotary Induction Quiz with flying colors! Welcome to New London Rotary, Peter!*

# MEETING REPORT MARCH 13, 2025

## ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT IS TRAGIC, COMPLEX

by Gail MacDonald

The Hamas attack on Israel on Oct. 7, 2023 occurred predominantly because of failures on the part of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Jerry Fischer, a New London Rotarian and retired head of the Jewish Federation of Eastern Connecticut, told the club at its regular meeting on March 13 that Netanyahu's administration ignored the country's own intelligence information warning that Hamas was planning a possible attack.



"They have to learn to live with each other," he said.

Tragically, however, too many on one side believe Israel must be destroyed as a country and, on the other, too many ultra-conservative Jews believe the Palestinians must be removed from land they've long occupied.

Historically, there were times in the past, when a solution leading to peaceful co-existence could have been worked out.

The current government in Israel believed that by playing the secular Palestine Liberation Organization against Hamas, a two-state solution that would grant the Palestinians autonomy, could be prevented, Fischer said. Complacency about Hamas, along with the intelligence failure, led to the attack that resulted in the deaths of some 1,200 Israelis and another 250 being taken hostage, he said.

However, leaders on one side or the other repeatedly took steps that prevented this from happening. For example, Fischer said that David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister from 1949 to 1963, accepted a proposal for two states - one for the Palestinians and the other for the Jews or Israelis. But the Arab leaders at that time did not accept the proposal.

In addition, retaliatory strikes by Israel into Gaza, resulted in the deaths of more than 46,000 Palestinians, according to information from Al Jazeera news.

In a June 17, 2024 op-ed published in The Day of New London, Fischer wrote about the situation following a 10-day Memorial Day visit to Israel to commemorate his cousin's husband's death there.

The tragedy in Israel hit Fischer and his family personally as his cousin Liat Beinun Atzili was taken hostage and her husband Aviv was killed defending the kibbutz where they lived. Liat Atzili's release was negotiated with the aid of Congressman Joe Courtney's office.

"Islamists, and particularly Hamas leader Yahyaa Sinwar, emphasize the implementation of Sharia, pan-Islamic political unity, the creation of Islamic states (eventually unified), and rejection of non-Muslim influences," Fischer wrote in the article. "At the same time it is true that radical Jewish nationalists, some of whom are sitting in the current Israeli government, seek to implement a Jewish state based on pre-Talmudic Torah Judaism and to build a Third Temple. We must repudiate each of these groups."

Fischer said the practice of "divide and conquer" when dealing with the Palestinians has proven to be unworkable and unsuccessful. Both the Palestinians and the Israelis have a right to the land, he said.



*Jerry Fischer provided an up-to-date account of events occurring in Israel, Gaza, and Lebanon from a historic and personal perspective.*

**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**

**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	
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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