Rotary
Club of Guilford, CT

This Week's Speaker: **Lisa Jones, Guilford Center for Children**

President's Message:

Happy St. Patrick's Day, everyone! Today, we celebrate a holiday rich in history, culture, and—let's be honest—some great food and drink! Whether you're indulging in corned beef and cabbage, wearing your best green attire, or simply embracing the spirit of luck and generosity, I hope this day brings a bit of joy and camaraderie to all. In many ways, St. Patrick's Day aligns with our Rotary values—bringing people together, fostering goodwill, and spreading a little extra kindness in the world.

Speaking of bringing people together, I'm thrilled to announce that we are officially inducting a new member this week! Please join me in welcoming Chris Weiler to our Rotary family. This is an exciting moment for our club, as every new member brings fresh perspectives, enthusiasm, and a willingness to serve. Let's make sure they feel at home and fully embraced by our community.

Lastly, I want to share a bit about my experience at last week's President's Training. It was an eye-opening opportunity to connect with other club leaders, learn best practices, and gain insights on how to strengthen our impact. A key takeaway for me was the importance of engagement—keeping members involved, making meetings meaningful, and ensuring our projects align with Rotary's core missions. I'll be looking for ways to incorporate some of these ideas into our club's initiatives in the coming months, and I welcome any thoughts you have on how we can continue to grow and thrive.

Looking forward to another great week of service and fellowship. See you all at the meeting!

Upcoming Events:
- Guilford Rotary Budget Committee- Wed, March 19th 5:30 - Community Center
- Earth Day on the Guilford Green, Sunday, May 4th (we need to respond go/no-go)
- Shred Event- Saturday, May 10 (9-12PM)
- Keeping Society House Tour-May 31st
- District 7980- Magical Mystery Tour District Conference - May 30- June 1
- LobsterFest!!! - June 21

Member Announcements:
- TBD

Future Speaker Schedule:
- 3/26- Michael Mikolay, Corporate Jets
- 4/9- Steph Jacobs, Memorial Education Fund

Member Updates:
- Birthdays this week: Tom Terribile, March 18
- Rotary Anniversaries: Jack Phelan, 12 years

Community News:
- Guilford Budget Meeting April 1st (Budget Referendum is April 8)
- New playground at Jacob's Beach is in progress (complete by May?)

Recent Club Donations:
- Sept 13th- Native American Veterans Assistance (NAVA)- $2,000
- Oct 3rd- Soundview YMCA LiveStrong Event - $100 (partnering with 4 other local Rotary Clubs)
- Oct 3rd- The Cove Center for Grieving Children- $1,000 donation to sponsor 1 child for a year.
- Oct 3rd- Meals on Wheels- $9,400 donation to cover budget shortfall due to drastic increase in food costs.
- Oct 3rd- Grass Island Red Shack restoration - MATCHING donation $5,000
- Oct 8th- Rotary District 7980 for Hurricane Helene Relief- approx $500 in supplies + various individual donations from Club Members (about $1,000 total)
- Nov 7th- New Haven Reads - $1,800 to support their Chapter Book Challenge, which promotes literacy through incentives for students.
- Nov 7th- Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS) - $2,500 to cover "activity costs" for their program assisting young immigrants with secondary education preparation
- Nov 7th- Guilford Rotary Memorial Education Fund - $7,500 which will go into the endowment to support scholarships for local students in need.
- Nov 7th- Warm the Children - $2,500 to support the program's efforts to provide clothing to children in need in the Guilford/Madison area. (Partnership with Madison Rotary Club)
- Dec 5th, Columbus House - $2,500 to support outreach, shelter, and housing for New Haven County's homeless.
- Feb 6th- SCORE- $500
- Feb 6th- Guilford Keeping Society- $2,500- to underwrite the Inaugural House Tour, that will raise money for Guilford historic museum upkeep and education
- Feb 6th- Feed Our Neighbors (Rotary District 7980) - $1,250 - for shoreline food banks
- Feb 6th- Native American Veterans Assistance- $2,500- firewood for up to six veterans and their families.
- Mar 13- Call to Care Uganda- $6,000 for a new water-well
- Mar 13- Project Graduation - $500 donation for after-graduation celebration
- Outstanding Requests, On-hold until budget is complete and/or we have more information- Guilford Interfaith Volunteers, IRIS, NAVA, Memorial Education Fund, Columbus House

Club Donations Total (since Sept, 2024) - $48,550

Volunteer Opportunities:
- May 4th, Earth Day on the Green
- May 10th, Shred Event
- May 31st- Keeping Society House Tour- Guilford Rotary is a sponsor- need volunteers

Sponsorship Acknowledgments:
- Sponsor's are still coming in! Keep it going…

Rotary International & District News:
- No news this week

Club Member Highlight:
- Work in progress

Call to Action:

In the spirit of St. Patrick's Day, let's channel the luck of the Irish into something even more powerful—action!

🍀 **Welcome & Engage** – This week, we're inducting a new member! Let's all take a moment to introduce ourselves, share why Rotary is meaningful to us, and help him feel at home. A strong club starts with strong connections.

🍀 **Put Training into Practice** – Last week's President's Training emphasized the importance of engagement and impact. Let's reflect: Are we making the most of our Rotary membership? Whether it's attending events, joining a committee, or taking on a leadership role, there's always a way to get more involved.

🍀 **Share Rotary's Mission** – St. Patrick was known for spreading his message far and wide—let's do the same for Rotary! Invite a friend to a meeting, share a Rotary event on social media, or talk to someone about the great work we do. The more people know about our mission, the bigger difference we can make.

Let's take these small but meaningful steps to grow our club, strengthen our impact, and continue the great work of Rotary. Together, we can turn goodwill into action!