



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 14, 2023

ANNUAL MEETING

Today is our annual meeting. We will be voting on the slate for the Rotary year 2024–25 officers and Board of Directors. Thank you, Ed Cramer for chairing the nominating committee.

We will be assembling holiday gift bags for home-bound seniors. This will be a fun activity in place of a program. Thank you, Gail MacDonald for putting together this new project.

Community Meal Center

This Thursday is our day at The Community Meal Center. Help is needed from **4 pm to 6:15 pm**. Please join if you can to help Anna Lathrop.

CMC Carol Sing



Prior to reporting for dinner duty, we will gather at The Community Meal Center at **3:30** to do some old-fashioned caroling as the patrons arrive for their nightly dinner. Thanks to Siri Belgium for this activity.

Thursday, December 21st

We are planning some holiday cheer and fellowship at this weekly meeting. Join in as Jerry Fischer leads us singing some holiday classics.

Do you have that holiday sweater, antlers, tree ornament earrings or light-up necklace? Put on your holiday wear — a prize will be awarded to the “most festively” dressed!

It's the holidays, so let's share some desserts. Let Val know if you would like to bring in some cookies or other dessert to share.

Thursday, January 25, 2024

Victoria Mueller will once again host a **Post holiday party** at her home. This is a pot luck event from **6pm to 8pm**. Victoria is always a wonderful host and this is a great opportunity to share fellowship outside our meetings. Spouses and families are welcome. Get the date on your calendar.

We will have a lunchtime meeting that day. Our guest speaker will be New London Public Schools Superintendent Cynthia Ritchie.

TODAY'S PROGRAM

ANNUAL MEETING

Weekly Meeting

12:00 Noon

at THE THAMES CLUB
290 State Street, New London

Dec 21 Holiday Program

Dec 28 No Meeting

Jan 4 Town Hall

For those unable to attend in person, please join us for our weekly Rotary meeting via Zoom.

Go to [ZOOM.COM](https://zoom.us) and click “JOIN A MEETING” and enter the info below.

ID=895 9471 7490
PW=512184

GREETER

Dec 14 Brian Cole

INVOCATION

Dec 14 Brian Cole

SONG LEADER

Dec 14 Brian Cole

BIRTHDAYS

None

ANNIVERSARIES

None

Rotary

Club of New London



THE FOUR-WAY TEST

of the things we think, say or do...

Is it the **TRUTH**?

Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?

Will it build **GOODWILL**
and
BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

Will it be **BENEFICIAL**
to all concerned?

*If you want happiness for an hour,
take a nap.*

*If you want happiness for a day,
go fishing*

*If you want happiness for a year,
inherit a fortune.*

*If you want happiness for a lifetime,
help somebody.*

– Chinese Proverb

Rotary Around the World

Peru



Much of the milk produced in Peru never leaves the farm: It's consumed directly by farming families, fed to calves, and used to make artisanal cheeses. The Rotary E-Club of Fusión Latina Distrito 4465 teamed up with the nonprofit CEDEPAS Norte to help subsistence farmers in the country's northern highlands. Last year the club delivered stainless steel presses and molds to open two cheese production facilities. A global grant of more than \$50,000 helped pay for the equipment, training, management, and marketing. "So far there are 21 new employees and 63 families served, and 25 pregnant cows were gifted" through the Peruvian government program Agroideas, says Club President Fernando Barrera, who lives in Trujillo.

Papua New Guinea



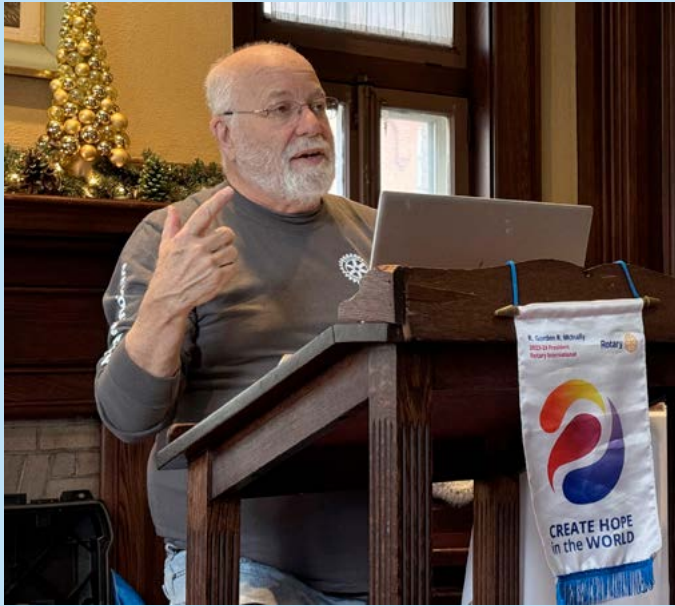
Protein deficiency is a leading cause of stunted growth, which affects about half of children under age 5 in Papua New Guinea. Working with the nonprofit Kyeema Foundation, members of the Rotary Club of Brisbane, Australia, donated about \$2,900 to construct a chicken shed and yard in the town of Wau. The aim is to conserve indigenous breeds of poultry that are better at resisting disease, require less supplemental food, and produce nutrient-dense eggs and leaner meat. After training the villagers and stocking the farm with native breeding hens, the club created a similar facility in Gabagaba village. Celia Grenning, a club member and a director with Kyeema, says the project is a blessing for the community, which previously relied on the overfished and reef-damaged coast for most of its protein. Today, the club and Kyeema operate on land and sea: They have enhanced their work to include coral reef restoration.

This story originally appeared in the December 2023 issue of Rotary magazine.

CLUB REPORT

DECEMBER 7, 2023

by Todd Gipstein



Jerry Fischer spoke to us about Jewish history and Hanukkah, the Jewish eight-day, wintertime “festival of lights.”

The Hebrew word Hanukkah means “dedication,” and is so named because it celebrates the rededication of the Holy Temple.

In the second century BCE, the Holy Land was ruled by the Seleucids (Syrian-Greeks), who tried to force the people of Israel to accept Greek culture and beliefs instead of mitzvah observance and belief in God. Against all odds, a small band of faithful but poorly armed Jews, led by Judah the Maccabee, defeated one of the mightiest armies on earth, drove the Greeks from the land, reclaimed the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, and rededicated it to the service of God.

When they sought to light the Temple’s menorah — the seven-branched candelabrum — they found only a single small jar of olive oil that had escaped contamination by the Greeks. They lit the menorah and, miraculously, the one-day supply of oil lasted for eight days, until new oil could be prepared under conditions of ritual purity. To commemorate and publicize these miracles, the sages instituted the festival of Hanukkah. It symbolizes the triumph of light over darkness, freedom over oppression, and the endurance of the Jewish spirit.

At the heart of the festival is the nightly menorah lighting. The menorah holds nine flames, one of which is the shamash (“attendant”), which is used to kindle the other eight lights. On the first night, just one candle is lit. On the second night, an additional flame is lit. By the eighth night of Hanukkah, all eight lights are kindled.

Special blessings are recited, often to a traditional melody, before the menorah is lit, and traditional songs are sung and special foods served. Originally, the tradition was to give Hanukkah gelt, gifts of money, to children. In addition to rewarding positive behavior and devotion to Torah study, the cash gifts gave the children the opportunity to give to charity. This also spawned foil-covered “chocolate gelt.” Over the years, Hanukkah has evolved. To please Jewish kids who saw their Christian friends getting more than chocolate as gifts on Christmas, more gift-giving was incorporated into the Hanukkah celebration.

Hanukkah is a time for families and communities to come together, kindle the flames of the menorah, and reflect on the timeless message of perseverance and faith that Hanukkah imparts to the world.

After speaking about Jewish heritage and Hanukkah, Jerry fielded a question about the current situation in Israel and the rise of antisemitism in its aftermath. His impassioned response reflected his personal connection to the tragedy (a relative was murdered by Hamas). He explained how antisemitism is historically deep rooted, constantly fueled by extremists, and not likely to go away. Still, Jews light Hanukkah candles hoping to bring some light — and hope — to a dark world.



Club Officers, 2021-2022

President	Valerie West
President-Elect	Mel Foti
Vice President	Mary Lenzini
Secretary	Andy Russell
Treasurer	Alan Lyon
Sergeant-at-Arms	John Bysko
Immediate Past President	Brian Cole

Board Of Directors

2024	John Bysko, Kate Lee, Mark Spinnato
2025	Lee Cole-Chu, Pam McNulty Hennessey, Todd Gipstein
2026	Andrew Gilday, Mirna Martinez, Tracee Reiser

Club Committees

Rotary Youth Service

Todd Gipstein, *Director*

Student Of The Year	Barry Neistat
High School Awards	Barry Neistat

Rotary Membership

Mel Foti, *Director*

Fellowship/RAH	Reid Burdick
Classification	Andy Russell
Information	Kris Magnussen
Sunshine	Millie Devine
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*

Rotary Club Service

Lee Cole-Chu, *Director*

Audit	John Bysko
Awards	
Paul Harris	
Carl Wies	
Tom Wetmore	
Phil Turner	
Nominating	Ed Cramer
Anchor	Todd Gipstein
Music	Chris Neilan
Program	Mary Lenzini
Fundraising Committee	Mel Foti
Golf	Kate Lee, Alex Marku
Brewfest	Keith Turner, Victoria Mueller
By-Laws	Lee Cole-Chu
Picnic	Val West/Ted Rossi
Anchor Ad Sales	Mark Spinnato
Installation Committee	Victoria Mueller
Public Relations	Brian Cole
Website	Catherine Foley, Gail MacDonald
RI Foundation	Ed Cramer

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