



CLUB NEWS

JANUARY 11, 2024

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: **January 25th**.

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

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. We begin at 4pm and are done by 6:15pm. Your help is always appreciated.

Waterford Rotary

Meetings First and Third **Tuesday** of the Month, beginning November 21, 2023 at Filomena's in Waterford.

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.

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 Rotary.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.

Thank you for supporting the Rotary International Foundation.

TODAY'S PROGRAM

David Allard
Senior Manager
Officer Talent Acquisition
Eastern Workforce Investment

Weekly Meeting 12:00 Noon

at THE THAMES CLUB
290 State Street, New London

Jan 18 No Program

Jan 25 Cynthia Ritchie
Superintendent,
New London Public Schools

For those unable to attend in person, please join us for our weekly Rotary meeting via Zoom. Go to ZOOM.COM and click "JOIN A MEETING" and enter the info below.

ID=895 9471 7490
PW=512184

GREETER

Jan 11 Gigi Gonzalez Cottrell

INVOCATION

Jan 11 Gigi Gonzalez Cottrell

SONG LEADER

Jan 11 Gigi Gonzalez Cottrell

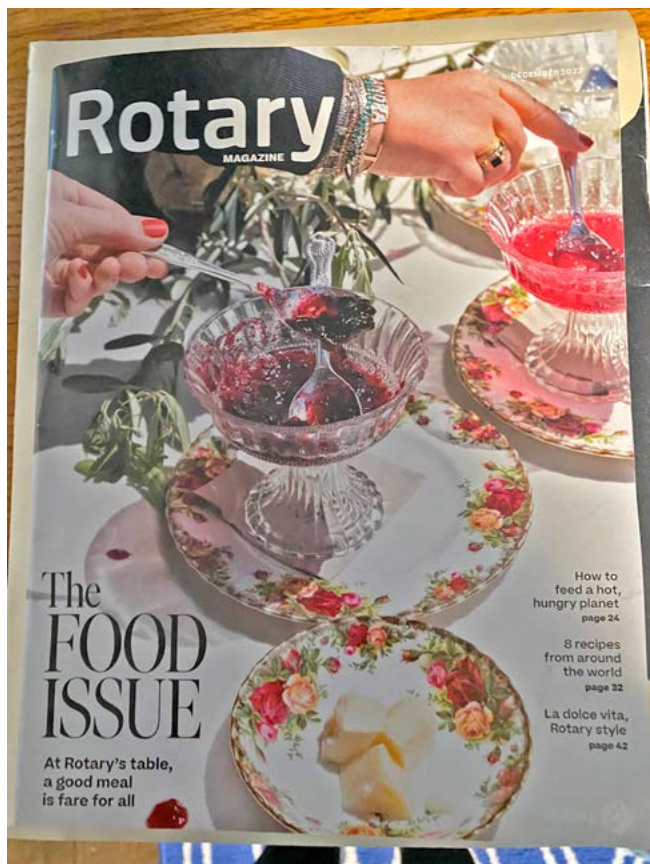
BIRTHDAYS

Jan 16 Carmelo Foti
Jan 16 Barry Neistat

ANNIVERSARIES

Jan 16 Keith & Emily Turner

Save those Rotary Magazines!



Over the next few months, please save your monthly Rotary magazines. In the spring, we will collect the magazines from members and put them out into the community.

Thank you to vice president Mary Lenzini for this idea to help spread the good work of Rotary into our local community.

One July day in 1961, my mother and I landed at Idlewild Airport (now JFK) to join my father in America. My parents made the decision to emigrate from Scotland in search of a better life for their two-year old son and any other children who might follow. That move would eventually include my two sisters.

Today, January 9th, marks the 45th year of American citizenship for me. I remain as grateful now as I was that day in 1979 when I raised my hand and chose to turn my permanent resident status to citizenship, swearing my allegiance to the United States of America.

Given the events of the last 45 years and with a particular emphasis on what is referred to as the “current state of America”, I think it is easy for those born in the USA to be overly pessimistic about where we are as a country. When viewed from the outside, the USA remains a beacon of opportunity and hope for millions.

On the brink of my 65th birthday, I do find one troubling aspect of our “American experiment”. More and more Americans are involving themselves less and less in the daily affairs of our communities. The very existence of our institutions and republic depends upon people of all philosophies and backgrounds to put in the work. **Our democracy requires vigilance.** Get involved as a volunteer. Run for elective office or serve on local boards and commissions. If everyone leaves it up to the other guy, you end up with a small group of fringe individuals holding power—sound familiar?? It is time for our citizens to emerge from their self-absorption, time to put aside obliviousness to the lives of others, time to, as President Kennedy famously said, “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.”

I cherish my Scottish heritage and the family I have who still live there. It is a constant source of pride and a pretty good conversation starter! However, each night before I fall asleep, the knowledge that I am an American provides me comfort and reinforces the fact that I am among the fortunate. God Bless America—thank you for making me one of your own.

— Past President Brian Cole

Rotary Around the World

Brazil

Improper disposal of household cooking oil is not only an ecological hazard, it's also a missed opportunity to recycle the waste into new products. Oil poured down drains also increases water treatment costs. Members of the Rotaract Club of Penápolis in São Paulo state distributed 400 funnels to help residents collect oil in bottles, along with pamphlets explaining the benefits of recycling and how to do it. Members of a recycling cooperative in Penápolis gather the bottled oil and sell it to be turned into biodiesel, homemade soap, paints, resin, and animal feed. “It's essential to reduce and prevent pollution in all its forms,” says club member Lucas Silveira de Campos.



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

CLUB REPORT JANUARY 4, 2023

by Lee Cole-Chu

Town Hall

Past President Ed Cramer, President Val, and Past President Julia Kushigian-Secor reminded members of the importance, and mechanics, of donating within our means to the Rotary International Foundation - and of imagining and pursuing ways to apply for RI Foundation and District Foundation funds for public service projects in this area.

Ed Cramer reported that our club is putting together teams of five people, each of whom will donate at least \$200 annually to the RI Foundation for five years. Each year, one member of the team - or a third party the team selects - will receive a Paul Harris award. (Contributions to RI are converted to points which can be transferred to one honoree selected each year. 21 members have already agreed to participate.

Julia discussed the types of District Managed Grants (DMGs) the Club has received and could apply for in the future that reflect one of the five areas of Rotary service and the needs of our local, domestic and/or international communities. The benefits of the DMGs revolve around having the project's budget doubled (up to \$7500 for projects from multiple clubs/\$2500 single club) with district funds made available from the funds donated to the Rotary International Foundation. By donating to the RI Foundation, the funding potentially comes back to our club in the form of a matching grant. Those interested in proposing a NLRC project for a DMG should contact Julia for help in formulating the proposal.

About meeting programs, President Val suggested that, during some future meeting, we break up into small groups by table, or perhaps two groups

per table, to gather and give feedback about which of our programs impress us and why. That would be useful to Vice President Mary Lenzini in planning the rest of this year's programs - and to Mark Spinnato, who takes on that office next year. Mary asked members to save their copies of Rotary magazine for a new program to kick off in the spring. The magazines will be distributed to professional offices and to libraries and other public places to spread word about Rotary service.

The February theme of RI* is conflict prevention. On Feb. 15, we will have a speaker on the related topic of conflict resolution. [Judge Emmet Cosgrove will, as of press time, speak at another February meeting.]

Our next "Town Hall" meeting will be in April.

** These are Rotary International's monthly themes: Jan. Vocational Service; Feb. Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention; Mar. Water, Sanitation & Hygiene; Apr. The Environment; May Youth Service; June Rotary Fellowships; July Maternal & Child Health; Aug Membership and New Club Development; Sept. Basic Education and Literacy; Oct. Community Economic Development; Nov. Rotary Foundation; Dec. Disease Prevention and Treatment.*

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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