



CLUB NEWS

FEBRUARY 1, 2024

RAH

Please mark your calendars and join your fellow Rotarians for a **RAH celebrating Chinese New Year**. Jerry Fischer, Mark and Juner Patnode, and President Val have taken the lead to make this event happen.

When: **Monday February 12th, 6:30pm**

Where: Golden Palace, 2173 Norwich-New London Turnpike (Route 32)
Uncasville, CT 06382

Cost: \$25/person

RSVP and any questions to President Val — westv8804@gmail.com no later than **February 8th** at our regular meeting.

A full dinner will be served. The event is limited to 25 people, so make your reservation with President Val ASAP. The event will be published in the Anchor for the next two weeks.

Intra Club Meeting

Area 12 will hold an intra club meeting at noontime on **March 13th** at Flanders Fish House in Niantic. Guest speakers from Safe Futures will address the attendees. Additionally, an Unsung Hero will be named from each club. President Val will provide details and deadlines for nominating the New London Unsung Hero over the next several weeks.

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.

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 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.

Thank you for supporting the Rotary International Foundation.



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

TODAY'S PROGRAM

No Program

Weekly Meeting

12:00 Noon

at THE THAMES CLUB
290 State Street, New London

Feb 8

Mayor Passero
State of the City

Feb 15

Liz Binger
Conflict Resolution

Feb 22

Emmet Cosgrove
Mediation

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

Feb 1 Pam Hennessey

INVOCATION

Feb 1 Mel Foti

SONG LEADER

Feb 1 Ed Stoltz

BIRTHDAYS

None

ANNIVERSARIES

None



Mediterranean Wine & Dinner



Friday, February 02, 2024 at 6:30 PM
6 West Guthrie Place, New London, CT 06320
\$80 per person

Discover the rich flavors of the Mediterranean at our 5 Course Wine Dinner and Educational Wine Seminar. Indulge in exquisite dishes paired perfectly with carefully selected Mediterranean wines. Join us for an unforgettable culinary experience.

Course 1

Mediterranean Nacho - Crisp pita chips, hummus, olive tapenade, feta cheese paired with Wines of Illyria Stone Cuvee

Course 2

Strawberry Bruschetta - Prosciutto goat cheese, honey, crostini paired with Wines of Illyria Tamjanika

Course 3

Caponata - Roasted eggplant with celery, onions, tomato over polenta paired with Wines of Illyria Plavac Mali

Course 4

Rack of Lamb - Edamame cous cous, mint chimichurri paired with Wines of Illyria Blatina

Course 5

Chocolate mousse - paired with Wines of Illyria Vranac

For more information and reservations

Lighthouse Inn 860.709.7883
 Ed Cramer winetalk177@aol.com
 Indira Bayer indirabayer@winesofilluria.com



Members accepted a recognition plaque (below) on behalf of the club for the donation of 2023 state championship rings to the New London High School Girls Basketball team, June 30, 2024.



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.

"We relish news of our heroes, forgetting that we are extraordinary to somebody too."

– Helen Hayes

Rotary District 7980 ~ Area 12

People of Action



Area 12 Inter-Club Luncheon / Social



*Area 12 ~ Assistant District Governor ~ Michael Barnett
Cordially invites you to our joint Inter-club luncheon*

Our Guest Speakers will be Kathy Verano, Marie Kenny, Ken Edwards ~

Area 12 Clubs

Groton

Niantic

New London

Mystic

Waterford

Safe Futures started in 1976 as the Women's Center of Southeastern CT for Information, referral, rape crisis hotline for women. It has become so much more to this community.

It will become "The Center for Safe Futures" implementing the family justice center model of operation.

Join us to hear their plans for the new center to be built on Route 85 in Waterford and how it will impact the people of Southeastern CT.



Buffet Lunch will be \$15.00

RSVP to your club President

Wednesday
March 13, 2024
At 12:15 pm
Flanders Fish
22 Chesterfield Rd
East Lyme, CT
Parking is limited ~
carpool is encouraged

Questions?

Call Michael 860.463.7634 or

Deb Fountain 860.303.0968

**All members are encouraged
to attend. Please try to sit
with those from other clubs!**

CLUB REPORT JANUARY 25, 2024

by Gail MacDonald

Managing several learning pathways, serving the needs of a large number of homeless students, teaching a highly transient student population and providing programming to many students whose first language is not English, are among the daily challenges in the New London Public Schools. Despite these challenges, a dedicated faculty and staff and an engaged and smart student body, make leading the district extremely rewarding, the city's schools superintendent said.

"There's a new challenge every day, but it's really rewarding work to see the kids thrive,"

Dr. Cynthia Ritchie, New London's superintendent of schools, told members of the New London Rotary Club at the regular meeting Jan. 25.

Ritchie said the district has three learning pathways - visual and performing arts, international education and STEM (science, technology, engineering, math). The three pathways are a streamlined version of a former plan to have individual tracks at each school in the district. Ritchie said, however, the earlier plan proved to be too costly to implement, not sustainable and somewhat chaotic.

Currently, the STEM pathway is in place and incorporates learning at both Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School and New London High School, she said. The visual and performing arts track begins at Nathan Hale Elementary and those students then go directly to the high school campus, where they are housed in a distinct area of the school.

The international education pathway developed after determining that an earlier plan to have the district be part of the acclaimed International Baccalaureate program was not a good fit for the city. Ritchie said the IB program is very costly and requires 100% staff training at all times, which can be challenging.

The current international education pathway begins at Jennings Elementary School and incorporates many career pathways and partnerships with local businesses and industries, Ritchie said. There are partnerships and programming for students who want to go directly into the workplace after high school graduation, as well as preparation for those students planning to head to college.

Students in the international program can opt for training for manufacturing jobs, hairdressing and nail tech work,

the culinary arts and other fields. They also can connect to students in other countries such as China, she said.

Classroom innovation, a dedication to fully supporting all types and ages of students and operating under the vision of uniting in excellence has resulted in big gains in standardized test scores and state and national recognitions for the district, Ritchie said. Both Winthrop Elementary School and New London High School have been cited for excellence and Ritchie said the middle school has improved so dramatically that representatives of numerous other school districts will soon be visiting the school for a first-hand look.

Despite the gains and accolades, the school system also faces many challenges serving a population that includes many new immigrants, homeless families and many who live in poverty, Ritchie said. There are 600 special education students, some 330 homeless students and most students qualify for free or reduced lunches.

"The number of homeless students has tripled in the past several years," she said. "We watch this every day. We do a lot of work every morning to make sure every student has what they need."

In addition, the school system has dedicated special efforts to both the youngest students and those who are older than traditional high school-aged students. The preschool center that was opened with the help of COVID relief funds at the former BP Learned mission serves more than 80 students a day. The center also sponsors numerous family and community events in which some 200 families have participated, she said. The center provides families with items ranging from books and winter coats to car seats and diapers. Healthcare and other support services also are provided, Ritchie said.

At the other end of the age spectrum are older students, often new immigrants, who come to New London with little or no previous high school education. Because many of these students are parents and work full-time, attending traditional high school classes is not practical for them, Ritchie said. The district has established alternative pathways to earning a high school diploma for such students, she said.

"I'm really proud of our teachers and staff," Ritchie said. "The systems we've put in place are powerful and are working."



Club Officers, 2023-2024

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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Eric J. Garofano
Attorney at Law

38 Huntington Street • P.O. Box 1351
New London, Connecticut 06320-1351
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