



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 FEBRUARY 12, 2026

TODAY'S PROGRAM

Member
Appreciation Week

Read Across America

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

The week of March 2nd is Read Across America and Dr. Suess' birthday celebrations. New London Public Schools are welcoming guest readers that week.

As part of our literacy focus, Rotarians are among the guests invited to read.

If you are interested in reading in a classroom, I will need the following information from you by 2/18/2026.

- Name
- Dates and time availability during the week of March 2nd
- Name of book if you will bring your own selection (if you don't have a preference the teacher will make a selection).

I will submit all our information and get back to you with a confirmation of time and place.

As part of that week's celebrations, 12 local authors will be visiting the schools with their books and stores about the writing and publishing process.

Thank you.

Valerie

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.

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.



Little Free Libraries

Our Little Free Libraries are in need of children and young adult books. The libraries at our parks were very busy this summer and we have depleted our supply of children's books. We have a strong flow of adult books but children books are in need. Please pass on to your family, friends and neighbors for children and young adult book donations..

We are happy to pick up or they can be dropped off at the Lighthouse Inn. Contact Val West (westv8804@gmail.com) or Gail MacDonald (gbraccimac@gmail.com)

Weekly Meeting
12:00 Noon

at THE LIGHTHOUSE INN
6 West Guthrie Place, New London

Feb 19 Evening Meeting
No Noon Meeting

Feb 26 Dennis Moore
Artificial Intelligence

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: 889 4401 1589
PW: 573867

GREETER / SONG LEADER

Feb 12 Mel Foti
Feb 19 Tracee Reiser
Feb 26 Victoria Mueller

BIRTHDAYS

Feb 18 Tracee Reiser

ANNIVERSARIES

Feb 12 Lee Howard & Libby Friedman

CLUB NEWS FEBRUARY 12, 2026

Rotary projects around the globe

Jamaica

Called Jamaica's storm of the century, Hurricane Melissa swept across the island in October, devastating southwestern coastal communities. "Trees and power lines had fallen, roofs had been blown away, and some buildings had collapsed," says Dominica Pradère, a past president of the Rotary Club of Montego Bay, one of the worst-hit areas. Two members' homes were severely damaged, and all were left without electricity or running water for weeks. "Once we were able to communicate, we began to explore ways to assist people whose situations were far worse than our own," Pradère says. Club members provided relief packages to several communities, working in partnership with the Rotary clubs of Kingston and Ocho Rios, and ShelterBox and Food For The Poor. "Fortunately," Pradère says, "we have a network of Rotary friends and other organizations around the world who want to assist as we help communities and institutions to get back to normal."



Hungary

A charity wine auction by the Rotary Club of Budapest-Margitsziget in November sold off over 100 bottles. Local wineries and three other clubs — Berlin-Gendarmenmarkt, Milano Sud-Ovest, and Paris-Quai d'Orsay — donated signature wines from their countries. The fundraiser's attendance nearly doubled from 2024 and helped raise about \$17,000 for the Fellegajtó Nyitogatók Foundation, which is constructing a residential home for children with disabilities. "We are delighted by the outcome, which far surpassed our expectations," says Ferenc Szénási, the club president. "It is a great joy to see how the strength of community can bring real change."



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?

*"There are three kinds of people:
Those who make things happen,
those who watch things happen,
and those who say, 'what happened?'"*

— Casey Stengel

CLUB REPORT FEBRUARY 5, 2026

Reported by Lee Cole-Chu

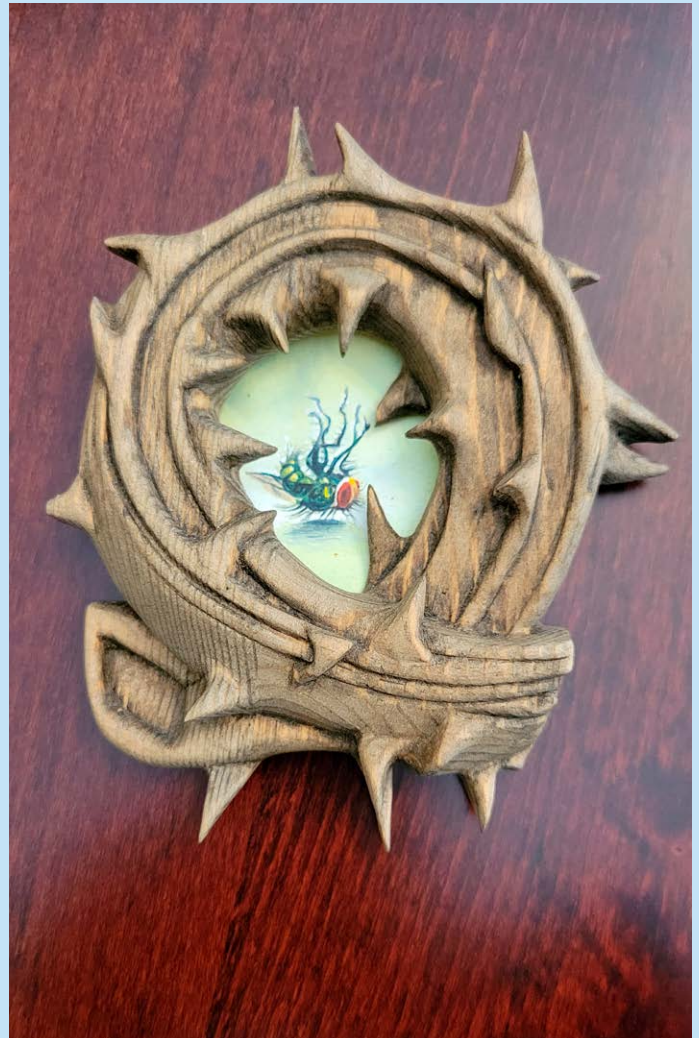
Mel Foti introduced **Aliyah Lacombe** and **Ariel Miner** as our guest presenters. They are both resident artists at the Hygienic Arts Collective (<https://www.hygienic.org/artists>). They are both students of, and artists in, woodcarving, among other forms of art. Aliyah became interested in entrepreneurship at an early age. She decided to study, cultural anthropology, including art, on a trip to Costa Rica. Ariel, who is from Andover, Connecticut, discovered wood carving in an indirect way – by becoming intrigued by the art of making wood frames for paintings.

Our guests spoke about wood as a medium – soft woods for beginners, harder woods as skills increase. Ariel showed us her first carved wood carving (photo), to which this reporter’s reaction was astonishment.

Wood carving traditions in Nigeria are ancient and widely-recognized. Yale University has a program supporting Nigerian wood carvers. Aliyah and Ariel are planning a trip to Nigeria to study wood carving through both apprenticeship, research, and immersion in Nigerian culture. For this trip, they have a \$1000 grant from our club; they hope to receive about \$2000 in “crowd funding” (gofundme.com and the like); and over \$1000 in personal donations, either to them directly or to Hygienic Galleries (an IRS § 501(c)(3) organization), with designation to their trip. They gratefully welcome contributions from individual club members.

After they return from Nigeria, Aliyah and Ariel plan to curate and produce an exhibition of wood carvings, to lead an artists’ workshop, and to share what they learn in Nigeria about materials – kinds of wood, likely to include some species that are exotic here – and to encourage young people to expand their horizons, their perceptions of possible student pathways of learning.

Club members wished Aliyah and Ariel well and encouraged them to contact Rotarians in Nigeria for support and contacts in that nation.



REMINDER CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

Thursday, Feb 19

6:00 pm

MR. CRAB

507 Gold Star Highway, Groton

NO NOON OR EVENING MEETING

Club Officers, 2025-2026

President Mary Lenzini
President-Elect Gail MacDonald
Vice President Chris Neilan
Secretary Kristin Magnussen
Treasurer Alan Lyon
Sergeant-at-Arms John Estelle
Immediate Past President Carmelo Foti

Board Of Directors

2026 Andrew Gilday, Tracee Reiser, Mark Spinnato
 2027 Gigi Gonzalez-Cottrell, Robert Duleau, Ed Cramer
 2028 Sirisota Belgium, Gary Decker, Valerie West

Club Committees

Youth Service
Valerie West, *Director*

Membership
Gail Macdonald, *Director*

Classification Kris Magnussen
Fellowship/RAH Valerie West
Recruitment Jerry Fischer
Orientation Ed Cramer/Andy Russell

Community Services
Gigi Gonzalez Cottrell, *Director*

Literacy Valerie West
Little Free Libraries Robert Duleau
Yale-Harvard Regatta Lee Cole Chu
Food Insecurity Anna Lathrop

International Service
Jerry Fischer, *Director*

Peace Building Tracee Reiser

Rotary Club Service
Lee Cole-Chu, *Director*

Finance Committee Carmelo Foti
Awards Leader Mary Lenzini
Nominating Ed Cramer
Anchor Brian Cole
Sunshine Brian Cole
Program Chris Neilan
Greeters/Song Leaders Gail MacDonald
Fundraising Gail MacDonald
Golf Alex Marku, Kate Lee
Brewfest Victoria Mueller, Keith Turner
By-Laws Lee Cole Chu
Picnic Valerie West
Anchor Ad Sales Andy Russell
Installation Victoria Mueller
Information/Communication/
Public Relations Kris Magnussen
Rotary International Foundation Ed Cramer

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