



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 NOVEMBER 7, 2024

Thanksgiving Turkey Drive

Local families in need will again be treated to free Thanksgiving dinners thanks to Liberty Bank and New London Rotary.

Pam McNulty-Hennessey is again overseeing for New London Rotary the 21st annual drive. The Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut also has contributed to the drive, as will shoppers at some local food markets. The Liberty Bank Foundation also will contribute 25 cents for every dollar donated, up to \$200,000.

New London Rotary's donations will benefit the New London Community Meal Center, Gemma E. Moran United Way/Labor Food Center and Salvation Army, all located in the city.

The Liberty Bank Foundation is teaming with the Community Foundation of Middlesex County and 45 local Rotary clubs on the drive. More than \$6,000 already has been raised through online donations. Since 2004, Liberty Bank Foundation in partnership with Rotary clubs throughout the state, has raised more than \$4 million to ensure families have a happy holiday.

Donations can be made via checks written and mailed to the New London Rotary Foundation or the Community Foundation of Middlesex County. Online donations also are accepted via the Community Foundation of Middlesex County website. The drive ends on Nov. 18.

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 After Hours



A big thank you to Tim and Victoria Mueller for hosting a Rotary After Hours (RAH) on November 6th at their new business The Dutch. We had a great turnout. Stay tuned for the next RAH date and location.

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.



TODAY'S PROGRAM

Veteran's Day Program

Rep. Anthony Nolan

Weekly Meeting
12:00 Noon

at THE LIGHTHOUSE INN
6 West Guthrie Place, New London

Nov 21 Ulysses Hammond

Nov 28 Happy Thanksgiving
No Program

Dec 5 German Consul

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: 875 1538 8112
PW: 055551

GREETER

Nov 7 Jerry Fischer

INVOCATION

Nov 7 Jerry Fischer

SONG LEADER

Nov 7 Jerry Fischer

BIRTHDAYS

None

ANNIVERSARIES

None

CLUB NEWS NOVEMBER 7, 2024

ALEWIFE COVE CONSERVANCY'S
Annual Benefit Bash
LIVE MUSIC BY
FUSION
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www.AlewifeCove.org
SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 9TH, 2024
7:00 PM
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OCEAN BEACH PARK
NEW LONDON, CT
RAFFLES * AUCTIONS * FOOD & FUN
DONATE
TICKETS
In Loving Memory of Rachel Spaulding

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Celebrating
The Rotary Foundation and You
Saturday, 16 November 2024
11am | 2pm
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[https://Registrations.DACdb.com/
Register/index.cfm?EventID=
77790114&NoCaptcha](https://Registrations.DACdb.com/Register/index.cfm?EventID=77790114&NoCaptcha)
RSVP by November 11, 2024

PURCHASE TICKETS TODAY

Rotary projects around the globe

Guatemala

The Rotary Club of Guatemala La Reforma's Upcycling Art Festival featured whimsical sculptures and paintings created with cast-off materials such as paper and cardboard, wood scraps, glass, plastics, metal, rubber, and electronic waste. Like many countries, Guatemala struggles with solid waste management, notes Esther Erol, a past club president who pioneered the event in 2023. "Pushing artists out of their comfort zone by challenging them to create works of art from waste has generated wonderful results," including raising funds for club projects and The Rotary Foundation, she says. The club partnered with the Rotaract Club of Guatemala La Reforma and the Rotary Club of Los Altos Quetzaltenango to organize the three-week exposition and sale that concluded 5 June.



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

CLUB REPORT **OCTOBER 28, 2024**

Reported by Gail MacDonald

Tommy Toy Fund: 50 Years Making Christmas Brighter for Local Children

When a young girl wrote a letter to the Norwich Bulletin in 1974 saying she feared her little brother would not receive any Christmas presents that year, the Tommy Toy Fund was born. The girl wrote that she had heard her mother talking about the family's financial distress and, although she wasn't concerned about herself, the girl wanted her brother Tommy to enjoy a Christmas with presents.

The community ensured Tommy had a merry Christmas and now, the United Way oversees the growing program.

"We're now entering our 50th year of supporting the community," **Cali Herz**, community impact director for the United Way of Southeastern Connecticut, told members of the New London Rotary Club at its regular meeting on Oct. 31.

The Tommy Toy program annually collects new, unwrapped toys to donate to families in need throughout eastern Connecticut, she said. In 2023, the program served more than 3,000 children, Herz said.

"We know the need is growing," she said.

One recent focus of the United Way is helping so-called ALICE families, an acronym that stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. These working families earn above the federal poverty guidelines, but remain on a financial precipice. Herz said many of these families get along fine as long as an emergency doesn't occur. They also don't have money for so-called extras, such as big holiday meals and pricey Christmas presents. This is why support from programs such as the Tommy Toy Fund are needed, she said.

United Way data shows that about half of all children are growing up in families struggling with financial hardships. These include being unable to comfortably afford basics such as food, housing, healthcare, child care, technology and taxes. A relatively high cost of living in the Northeast means that household income should be at \$95,000 or more annually to afford these basic needs, Herz said.

"In southeastern Connecticut, about 40% of the population are ALICE," Herz said.

The Tommy Toy Fund is one way the United Way strives to help these families. Herz said United Way works with some 32 non-profit organizations throughout the area whose



clients register to receive holiday gifts for their children through the fund.

While many organizations and businesses sponsor Tommy Toy Fund drives, any group or individual can donate new, unwrapped toys suitable for children from birth to age 12. Donations are accepted until Dec. 5 and gifts can be dropped off at any of three locations: the Gemma E. Moran Labor Food Center, 374 Broad St., New London; 2 Cliff St., Norwich or 2123 Killingly Commons Drive, Dayville.

Herz also said the United Way will regularly assess its toy inventory and then make known what types of gifts are especially needed.

Club Officers, 2024-2025

President	Carmelo Foti
President-Elect	Mary Lenzini
Vice President	Mark Spinnato
Secretary	Andy Russell
Treasurer	Alan Lyon
Sergeant-at-Arms	John Estelle
Immediate Past President	Valerie West

Board Of Directors

2025	Lee Cole-Chu, Pam McNulty Hennessey, Todd Gipstein
2026	Andrew Gilday, Mirna Martinez, Mark Spinnato
2027	Gigi Gonzalez-Cottrell, Gail MacDonald, Kristin Magnussen

Club Committees

Rotary Youth Service	
Todd Gipstein, <i>Director</i>	
Student Of The Year	Christine Hammond/ Barry Neistat
High School Awards	Barry Neistat
Rotary Membership	
Mary Lenzini, <i>Director</i>	
Fellowship/RAH Classification	Val West
Information	Andy Russell
Sunshine	Kris Magnussen
Diversity/Membership Dev.	Brian Cole 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*

Peace Building	Val West
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Rotary Club Service
Lee Cole-Chu, *Director*

Audit	
Awards	
Paul Harris	Val West
Carl Wies	Anna Lathrop
Tom Wetmore	Julia Kushigian Secor
Phil Turner	Mary Lenzini
Nominating	Ed Cramer
Anchor	Gail MacDonald/Todd Gipstein
Music	Chris Neilan
Program	Mark Spinnato
Fundraising Committee	Mary Lenzini
Golf	Kate Lee/Alex Marku
Brewfest	Keith Turner/Victoria Mueller
By-Laws	Lee Cole-Chu
Picnic	Val West/Ted Rossi
Anchor Ad Sales	
Installation Committee	Victoria Mueller
Public Relations	Gail MacDonald/ Sophia Gipstein Scirrico
Website	Gail MacDonald/ Sophia Gipstein Scirrico
RI Foundation	Ed Cramer

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