



# 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 APRIL 17, 2025

### Upcoming Events for Rotary Club of New London

- 4/25 Peace in Nature Event** on Arbor Day  
An Arbor Day event in collaboration with New London Trees on The Lighthouse Inn grounds, New London Tree planting and peace pole unveiling @ 9am
- 5/3 Opus for Peace** at the Hygenic, a Juried art show opening event Hygienic Art, 79 Bank Street, New London, CT 6pm to 9pm
- 5/17 New London Rotary Club Epic Day of Service**
- 6/2 5th Annual NLRC Golf Tournament**  
Great Neck Country Club  
Registration 10:30am - Noon

### 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](mailto:anna@gourmet-galley.com). We begin at 4pm and are done by 6:15pm. Your help is always appreciated.

### Happy Birthday Paul Harris!



April 19 marks the 157th anniversary of the birth of our founder. Paul Harris and three of fellow Chicago business leaders gathered on February 23, 1905 seeking camaraderie and fellowship. This first meeting Eventually led to an international organization of service and fellowship. By the time The Rotary Club of Chicago published the first members roster in October of 1905 the Club had grown to twenty-one members.

A fitting birthday gift for Rotarian Paul? Perhaps a donation to the Rotary Foundation ?

[Rotary.org](http://Rotary.org)

## TODAY'S PROGRAM

**Julia Kushigian-Secor**  
*Rotary Action Plan 101*

### Weekly Meeting 12:00 Noon

at **THE LIGHTHOUSE INN**  
6 West Guthrie Place, New London

**Apr 24 Patrick Flaherty & Kathleen Cosgrove**  
*Department of Labor*

**May 1 Josh Miller**  
*Seabird Enterprises*

**May 15 Students of the Year**  
*Barry Neistat & Christine Hammond*

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**  
Pam McNulty-Hennessey

**INVOCATION**  
Alan Lyon

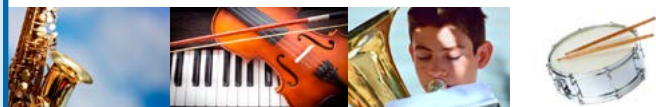
**SONG LEADER**  
Chris Neilan

**BIRTHDAYS**  
Apr 18 Andy Russell

**ANNIVERSARIES**  
None

## New London Rotary Club EPIC DAY OF SERVICE

Collection of used musical instruments to benefit the  
**YOUTH ORCHESTRA OF ECUADOR**



Drop off Saturday, April 26, 2025  
Garde Arts Center, evening

**Saturday, May 17, 2025**  
**10:00 A. M.- 2:00 P.M.**

**New London High School**  
**490 Jefferson Ave, New London**

Email [jakus@conncoll.edu](mailto:jakus@conncoll.edu) with questions

# CLUB NEWS APRIL 17, 2025

## Rotary Assembly, Meeting, Training, Conference, Convention Dates & Links

(Register on dacdb for many events):

**May 30, 31 June 1: Magical Mystery Tour Rotary District Conference** Southbridge, MA  
<https://www.dacdb.com/Calendar/Event.cfm?EventID=77792474&CalClubID=6741&R=0.20222391992683875>

**June 21-25 2025: Rotary International Convention**, Calgary  
<https://convention.rotary.org/en-us/>

**Peace Calendar:** <https://opus-for-peace-community.rotary7980.org/events>

## 18TH WALK TO END ANNUAL HOMELESSNESS



**Sunday, April 27, 2025**

New London's Parade Plaza, kickoff 1 p.m.

**NLHHC.ORG/WALK**



Proceeds benefit New London Homeless Hospitality Center

## HAPPY ARBOR DAY!

You're invited to join  
**New London Trees & The Rotary Club of New London**  
 for our April 25th Arbor Day  
 planting event  
 at The Lighthouse Inn!

10 am



Come celebrate Rotary's Year of Peace by planting 8 native trees and establishing a Peace Pole at The Lighthouse Inn. Help New London Tree's mission of increasing New London's tree population through community planting and care, education, and advocacy! Hope to see you there!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
[HELLO@NEWLONDONTREES.ORG](mailto:HELLO@NEWLONDONTREES.ORG)

ALL ARE WELCOME

**APRIL 25, 10AM AT THE LIGHTHOUSE INN**

## Rotary projects around the globe

### Netherlands

An annual sale of used books, puzzles, and other items speaks volumes for the fundraising prowess of the Rotary Club of Venlo-Maas en Peel. Over three days in January, thousands of bookworms bought \$75,000 worth of books, a record sum directed to the club's charitable foundation, says Peter Elbers, governor-elect of District 1550. Around 140 Rotarians and other volunteers staffed the fair, which the club co-founded 36 years ago. The event is the culmination of a year's work, with Rotarians sorting and categorizing about 450,000 books each year in warehouse space donated by a club member, Elbers says. Books left unsold are pulped for recycling. "Some people come every year to buy a few bags full of books and return them as a gift a year later," Elbers says, "and then, of course, buy new books again — a good way of implementing environmentally friendly circulation."



*This story originally appeared in the April 2025 issue of Rotary magazine.*

# MEETING REPORT APRIL 10, 2025

## WATERFORD COUNTRY SCHOOL PROVIDES EDUCATIONAL, THERAPEUTIC PROGRAMS TO KIDS IN NEED

Reported by Gail MacDonald

**W**aterford Country School tailors its programming to fit students' needs and deal with whatever issues and challenges they have. The school's philosophy is to do whatever it takes to help children succeed. Rather than take privileges away when they display inappropriate behavior, students are instead taught how to better cope with the challenges they face.



"Our kids have been through life challenges. They are kids who need extra attention," Waterford Country School development coordinator **Suzi Schell** told members of the New London Rotary Club at the group's regular luncheon meeting on April 10. "We build trust and relationships with

both the kids and their families."

The school's director of development **Julianna Velazquez** also was on hand to talk about the school and its unique programming.

Many of the school's students have experienced trauma and other challenges and the school provides mentoring and mental health services, along with educational programming and the opportunity to be outdoors and interact with animals and nature.

Waterford Country School was founded in 1922 by Ettie and Henry Schacht of Brooklyn, New York. In 1929, they bought a summer camp property in Quaker Hill. That property, now the permanent location of Waterford Country School, has 320 acres and the founding family remains involved in guiding the school, Schell said.

The school serves 382 children and is home to more than 100 animals ranging from cows and horses to chickens and sheep. All the animals are rescues and the children help care for them.

Schell said the school's 150 staff members all are trained in the so-called CARE model, that emphasizes programs that are developmentally focused, relationship based, trauma informed, competence centered and ecologically oriented.

There are nine distinct programs at the school: a special education day school, a therapeutic boarding school for boys, a summer camp, the STTAR emergency shelter for boys, an outpatient children's mental health center,



foster care placement, a quality parenting center, outdoor education and wildlife rehabilitation.

Schell said the animals are especially popular with the school's students. Many students who have difficulty trusting and talking to adults, will easily talk to and form bonds with the animals as they help to care for them, she said. The students also enjoy being outdoors and experiencing simple pleasures such as gardening, sometimes for the first time.

Schell said, for example, the students grew tomatoes last summer. At the end of the growing season, they used the tomatoes to make tomato sauce and then got to enjoy eating both the tomatoes and the sauce.

The school's summer camp program specializes in accepting children who would likely not succeed at a regular summer camp. Giving these children a traditional summer camp experience is very special, Schell said.

"It's special to see the bond the kids create with each other," she said.

Schell also said the school has a group of volunteers who regularly help with special events, by serving on committees, giving tours and in a variety of other capacities. New volunteers are always welcome, she said.



Suzi Schell (L) and Julianna Velazquez address the club about the programs of The Waterford Country School

**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, Tracee Reiser
2027	Gigi Gonzalez-Cottrell, Gail MacDonald, Kristin Magnussen

**Club Committees**

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

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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