



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 JULY 23, 2026

### Upcoming Events for Rotary Club of New London

#### 7/30 RAH

Favorites Bistro  
90 B Bank Street, New London  
5:00 pm to 7:00 pm  
*Appetizers will be provided*  
*Cash Bar*  
*Waterfront Patio available if*  
*weather permitting*

#### 8/20 Summer Celebration

at the Rossi home, Groton  
*Details to follow*

#### 9/18 Brewfest at the Beach



### Little Free Library Steward Update

Thank you for the great response to the request looking for more Little Free Library Stewards to help maintain our 7 Little Free Libraries in New London.

Our Stewards are:

- Valerie West
- Ray Krisciunas
- Christine Hammond
- Kris Magnussen
- John Kirkland
- Catherine Foley
- Elyse Landesberg
- Keith Turner

We are also very appreciative of the help with maintenance of the libraries by Clem Butts and Murry Rubin. Lastly, a very big thank you to Robert Duleau and The Lighthouse Inn for storing our book donations and supporting the effort of collecting and picking up books as needed.

Valerie West

### 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?

## TODAY'S PROGRAM

### CLUB BIO

Jackie Conn

### Weekly Meeting

12:00 Noon

at THE LIGHTHOUSE INN  
6 West Guthrie Place, New London

Jul 30

RAH

*No Noon Meeting*

### GREETER / SONG LEADER

Jul 23 Chris Neilan

### CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

None

### BIRTHDAYS

Jul 29 Bill Hennessey

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Jul 25 Andy & Pam Russell

*"Never doubt that a  
small group of thoughtful,  
committed citizens can  
change the world.  
In fact, it's the only thing  
that ever has."*

— Margaret Mead

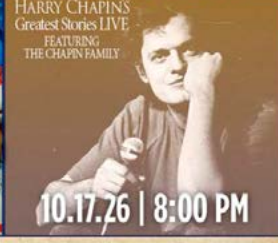
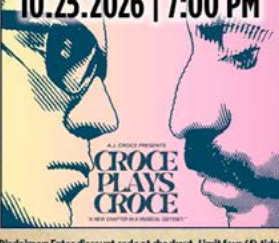
# CLUB NEWS JULY 23, 2026

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|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p><b>OUR HOUSE</b><br/>08.16.26   7:00 PM</p>             |  <p><b>REVISITING CREEDENCE</b><br/>08.23.26   7:00 PM</p>               |  <p>09.26.26   8:00 PM<br/><b>MAGIC ROCKS!</b><br/>ILLUSIONIST LEON ETIENNE</p>                                 |
|  <p>10.09.2026   8:00 PM</p>                               |  <p>10.11.26   3:00 PM<br/><b>FRAGGLE ROCK</b><br/>BACK TO THE ROCK</p> |  <p>10.17.26   8:00 PM<br/><b>HARRY CHAPIN'S</b><br/>Greatest Stories LIVE<br/>FEATURING THE CHAPIN FAMILY</p> |
|  <p>10.25.2026   7:00 PM<br/><b>CROCE PLAYS CROCE</b></p> |  <p>USE CODE:<br/><b>ROTARY2627</b><br/>ON THESE SELECTED SHOWS!</p>   |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

Disclaimer: Enter discount code at checkout. Limit four (4) tickets per order. Offer not valid on previously purchased tickets or be combined with other offers or discounts. Order processing and per ticket fees not discounted. Some exclusions or restrictions may apply. Limited quantities available. All purchases are final, once the order has processed discounts cannot be applied. No refunds. No exchanges. Need help? Call the Garde box office! (860) 444-7373 ext. 1

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CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR EVENT UPDATES!

## Rotary projects around the globe

### India



Nearly two dozen members of the Rotaract Club of Coimbatore Gaalaxy spent Valentine's Day transforming a school. Guided by school staff, Rotaractors from the Tamil Nadu-based club "engaged in painting, restoring, and designing murals that brought color and life to the campus," says Club President Srivarshan R.R. "The school caters to a diverse and often vulnerable group of students," including orphaned youth, the children of prisoners, and families in poverty, Srivarshan says. The club also assists the institution by paying school fees for select children, providing handwashing stations, and offering career guidance for graduating students.

*This story originally appeared in the June 2026 issue of Rotary magazine.*

## 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](http://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](mailto:winetalk177@aol.com).



## Do Good Fund

You can make a big difference in the life of a neighbor in New London.

**The need in New London is great!**

- 35% of children aged 0-17 live in poverty.
- 54% of all households cannot afford basic expenses.

For over 80 years Rotarians and friends have generously donated to the Do Good Fund to provide New London citizens with one-time grants of up to \$250 for emergency or short-term assistance expenses such as:

- Eyeglasses for a grade school student from a low-income family
  - Retreat for a person on hospice
  - Air conditioner so an elderly woman could be released from hospital
  - Bus pass so a working mom of 3 could get to work
- And so much more.

Requests come from educational, healthcare, ministry, nonprofit professionals in the community. Checks are sent directly to vendors.

**Make a difference in someone's life. Please give generously.**

Please make checks payable to NLRD Do Good Fund.

# MEETING REPORT JULY 16, 2026

## Evening Meeting

Reported by Alan Lyon

Gail MacDonald opened the meeting by mentioning that our club received the award for **Most New Members** at the District 7980 Awards and Installation of Officers ceremony. The District noted our efforts in the area of food insecurity which included:

- Thanksgiving Drive
- Preparation of 125 apple pies
- Meal packing event which created 18,750 meals-- many of which went to the Mobil Pantry.

Val West was awarded the District 7980 **Unsung Hero** award. Julia Kushigian Secor was installed as District Governor for 2026-2027.

There were several Rotary announcements including:

- a RAH on 7/30 at Favorites Bistro, 90B Bank Street
- another Meal Packing event – date TBD
- Our Summer Celebration at Ted Rossi's home at Eastern Point in Groton on Thursday August 20th.

Outgoing District Governor, Stephanie Phillips, visited our meeting and announced that we received the District 7980 **Achievement Award** for our various services to the community, especially the meal packing event.

Glad & Sorry mentions included Chris Neilan welcoming a new grandson and Jerry Fischer mentioning his recent European travels.

We had the best turnout to-date for our evening meetings which take place on the third Thursday of each month.

## Little Free Library Update

Thanks to Marian Shilstone for her wonderful donation of books and bookcases for our Little Free Library project. Val, granddaughter Emma, Christine, Elyse, Robert, Ray, Jerry, John, and Julia boxed, carried, loaded, stamped and organized books at the Lighthouse Inn. Thanks to all who volunteered. There will be other opportunities in the future if you couldn't make this one.



## Club Officers, 2026-2027

|                                 |                   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>President</b>                | Gail MacDonald    |
| <b>President-elect</b>          | Chris Neilan      |
| <b>Vice President</b>           | Vacant            |
| <b>Secretary</b>                | Kristin Magnussen |
| <b>Treasurer</b>                | Alan Lyon         |
| <b>Sergeant-At-Arms</b>         | John Estelle      |
| <b>Immediate Past President</b> | Mary Lenzini      |

## Board Of Directors

|             |                                                  |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>2027</b> | Gigi Gonzalez-Cottrell, Robert Duleau, Ed Cramer |
| <b>2028</b> | Sirisota Belgium, Gary Decker, Valerie West      |
| <b>2029</b> | Karen Bergin, Christine Hammond, Peter Greenwald |

## Club Committees

**Youth Service**  
Valerie West, *Director*

**Membership**  
Chris Neilan, *Director*

|                       |                                           |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <b>Classification</b> | Kris Magnussen                            |
| <b>RAH's</b>          | Valerie West, Andy Russell, Andrew Gilday |
| <b>Recruitment</b>    | Jerry Fischer                             |
| <b>Orientation</b>    | Ed Cramer/Andy Russell                    |

**Community Services**  
Gigi Gonzalez Cottrell, *Director*

|                              |                  |
|------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Literacy</b>              | Val West         |
| <b>Little Free Libraries</b> | Robert Duleau    |
| <b>Yale-Harvard Regatta</b>  | Jim Millar,      |
|                              | Leeland Cole-Chu |
| <b>Food Insecurity</b>       | Anna Lathrop     |

**International Service**  
Jerry Fischer, *Director*

|                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| <b>Peace Building</b> | Tracee Reiser |
|-----------------------|---------------|

## Rotary Club Service

|                                        |                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Finance Committee</b>               | Carmelo Foti                                                      |
| <b>Awards Leader</b>                   | Gail MacDonald                                                    |
| <b>Nominating</b>                      | Ed Cramer                                                         |
| <b>Anchor</b>                          | Brian Cole                                                        |
| <b>Sunshine</b>                        | Brian Cole                                                        |
| <b>Programs</b>                        | Todd Gipstein, Tracee Reiser, Mel Foti, Kris Magnussen, Ed Cramer |
| <b>Greeters/Song Leaders</b>           | Chris Neilan                                                      |
| <b>Fundraising</b>                     | Chris Neilan                                                      |
| <b>Golf</b>                            | Andy Russell, Alex Marku, Kate Lee                                |
| <b>Brewfest</b>                        | Andy Russell, Victoria Mueller                                    |
| <b>By-laws</b>                         | Mary Lenzini                                                      |
| <b>Picnic</b>                          | Reid Burdick                                                      |
| <b>Anchor Ad Sales</b>                 | Andy Russell                                                      |
| <b>Installation</b>                    | Victoria Mueller                                                  |
| <b>Information/Communication/</b>      |                                                                   |
| <b>Public Relations</b>                | Kris Magnussen                                                    |
| <b>Rotary International Foundation</b> | Ed Cramer                                                         |

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