



CLUB NEWS AUGUST 20, 2026

Upcoming Events for Rotary Club of New London

- 9/10 Community Meal Center**
Club service opportunity
4:00 pm - 6:16 pm
Contact Anna Lathrop to volunteer
- 9/18 Brewfest at the Beach**
Ocean Beach Park
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

👉 NOTICE 👈

If New London Rotary members are not receiving club correspondence, please check your settings in ClubRunner or your spam filter. This message will appear in the printed version of the Anchor for the next 4 weeks.

Any questions? Contact Brian Cole.

TODAY'S PROGRAM

NO NOON MEETING

**Weekly Meeting
12:00 Noon**

at THE LIGHTHOUSE INN
6 West Guthrie Place, New London

Aug 27 Ann Shapiro
*Executive Director
Storytelling Center of CT*

POSTPONED

SUMMER CELEBRATION

at the home of
Ted and Ruth Rossi

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, September 10, 2026

35 Beach Pond Road,
Groton CT 06340

RSVP to Gail MacDonald



*Speaker Jennifer Muggeo MPH & Gail McDonald
at the August 13 club meeting.*



Andy Russell gets another gem for his 6k total

GREETER / SONG LEADER

Aug 20 No Noon Meeting
Aug 27 Andy Russell
Sep 3 Chris Neilan /
Catherine Foley

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

Aug 13 Kate Bellandese '20
Aug 13 Kris Magnussen '20
Aug 16 Mel Foti '06
Aug 23 Julia Kushigian-Secor '07

BIRTHDAYS

Aug 17 Barry Levinson
Aug 18 Petrit Marku
Aug 21 Ed Cramer
Aug 22 Marvin Espy
Aug 25 Caitlin Meyer

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Aug 15 Clem & Gay Buths

*"You make a living
by what you get.
You make a life by
what you give."*

– Winston Churchill



CLUB NEWS

AUGUST 20, 2026

Italian Visitors Last Week

Two visitors from Italy attended last week's meeting. **Roberto Scalmana** who belongs to the Rotary Club of Brescia sud-est Montichiari introduced his friend, **Angelo**, who is his webmaster for his website <https://theidealtown.com/>. Roberto is currently in CT on his vacation building 1:25 scale Romanesque buildings in East Haddam. An engineer by profession, Roberto has been designing and building his "ideal town" in the garden of his family's home since 2000 when he was a teenager. The medieval "town" covers 250 square meters (0.06 acres) and includes a hundred buildings, crossed by a road network, water canals and a Renaissance cathedral.

Roberto was pleasantly surprised by the singing at the Rotary meeting and shared that on holidays he sings operatic selections for his Rotary club. He commented that he was concerned about coming to the US based on the political climate but was pleasantly surprised how welcoming everyone has been, especially by our Rotary Club.

This link is also interesting [The ideal city, the incredible project by Roberto Scalmana](#)

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

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CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR EVENT UPDATES!

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 NLRF Do Good Fund.

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.



CLUB REPORT AUGUST 13, 2026

From Sea to Service Memoir of Marc Hung Nguyen

Reported by Tracee Reiser



Dr. Michael Graner graduated from Fordham University in 1971, completed a Master's Degree at Columbia Teachers College, attended Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as a Coast Guard officer. In the mid-1980s he served as a Humanities instructor at the CGA; while at the Academy, he earned a Ph.D. in Education from the University of Connecticut. He retired as a Captain from the US Coast Guard Reserve in 2002. He served as a high school principal and as the Superintendent of Schools in Putnam, Ledyard and Groton.

In 2021 Dr. Graner retired and wrote ***From Sea to Service, A Memoir of Marc Hung Nguyen***. Dr. Graner shared the astonishing story of Marc Hung Nguyen with the Rotary Club members. He began his tale with background information about Vietnam.

For decades Vietnam was a colony of France until Ho Chi Men led a revolution and defeated the French. The country was divided up at the Geneva conference with the north led by the Communists and the South led by Democrats. Following the 1964 Gulf of Tonkin agreement, the USA sent 600,000 troops to war with North Vietnam. The 1973 Paris peace accords were signed and in 1975 the government of South Vietnam fell. 1.4 million Vietnamese left by boat. This was a harrowing and chaotic departure and 600,000 drowned. President Ford ordered US vessels of any kind in the area to pick up refugees. A range of vessels rescued 800,000 people. Marc Hung Nguyen and his family were picked up and Marc said if "I ever make it out alive, I will pay it back."

Marc's family got to Guam and Catholic Charities moved them to New Orleans. It was very hard there and Marc was sent to an uncle, a Catholic priest at Boston College who found a family to host him until he graduated high school.

Marc excelled in school and was selected to Boy's State leadership training and learned about the service academies. He applied to them all. He was rejected because he was not a USA citizen. He wrote to Ted Kennedy who wrote back and said if he was awarded his citizenship Kennedy's office would insure, he got into the Coast Guard Academy. Marc applied for and received his citizenship and entered the CGA where he did very well.

However shortly before his graduation he was accused of plagiarism because Marc did his footnotes incorrectly and was going to be expelled. Fortunately, Dr. Graner was able to assist Marc in an appeal process and Marc graduated. He served honorably and retired in 2007 as a full commander.

Marc and his wife, a pharmacist, created and for the past ten years sustain a remarkable program leading medical missions from the USA to Vietnam. The participating USA medical professionals pay all of their own costs to be a part of the project and the missions serve the poorest people, many of whom have never seen a doctor or dentist. The hospitals that host the missions turn over their facilities for two weeks and the mission medical professionals serve 2,500 patients. The project provides wheelchairs and other devices as well. For the full remarkable story, you can read ***From Sea to Service***, which can be purchased at FromSeatoService.com

"The story of emigration is not just a chronicle of sorrow and regret. It is also a story of contribution and adaptation."

Mary Robinson
Former President of Ireland

Club Officers, 2026-2027

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

Board Of Directors

2027	Gigi Gonzalez-Cottrell, Robert Duleau, Ed Cramer
2028	Sirisota Belgum, Gary Decker, Valerie West
2029	Karen Bergin, Christine Hammond, Peter Greenwald

Club Committees

Youth Service
Valerie West, *Director*

Membership
Chris Neilan, *Director*

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

Community Services
Gigi Gonzalez Cottrell, *Director*

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

International Service
Jerry Fischer, *Director*

Peace Building	Tracee Reiser
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Rotary Club Service

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

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