



CLUB NEWS SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

Upcoming Events for Rotary Club of New London

9/18 Brewfest at the Beach

Ocean Beach Park
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

9/22 Mystery

*An Evening of Magic
with Todd Gipstein*
Lighthouse Inn, New London
5:30 pm

SUMMER CELEBRATION

at the home of
Ted and Ruth Rossi

TONIGHT

35 Beach Pond Road,
Groton CT 06340

RSVP to Gail MacDonald



COME TOUR WITH US

From President Gail MacDonald:

As I mentioned at last week's meeting, the new tour company begun and operated by me and Barbara Neff — **Uncovering New London; One Story at a Time** — would like to offer our Rotary club members **FREE tickets to two specific tours.**

These tours are:

New London in the American Revolution

— What was life like for New Londoners in the years leading up to the Revolution? Who was walking our streets and what unfolded on one of the darkest days in the city's history - Sept. 6, 1781 - when former friend and patriot Benedict Arnold led British troops to attack and burn our port city? 10 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 26

Whaling City Confidential

— This interactive, trivia-packed tour reveals the hidden history, fun facts and quirky truths about New London, from its earliest days to contemporary times. 10 a.m., Sunday, Oct. 4 (A special fun ending will be arranged)

We are offering 10 FREE tickets to NL Rotary members for EACH of the two tours. These are walking tours through historic downtown New London and begin at our tour booth inside Union Station. They are 90 minutes and we travel about a mile.

Claim your FREE ticket today by emailing me at: gbraccimac@gmail.com (Also, to ask any questions.) For more information about all our tours, go to downtownnewlondonassociation.com.

Let's build fellowship while we work to make lasting impact!

TODAY'S PROGRAM

No In Person Meeting

*ClubRunner Seminar
over Zoom*

Meeting ID: 713 4577 0514
Passcode: 422563

Weekly Meeting 12:00 Noon

at THE LIGHTHOUSE INN
6 West Guthrie Place, New London

Sep 17 Evening Meeting
No Noon Meeting

Sep 24 Mark Walsh
United States Coast Guard Museum

GREETER / SONG LEADER
Sep 10 Mel Foti

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES
Sep 13 Kate Bellandese '20
Sep 13 Kris Magnussen '20
Sep 16 Mel Foti '06

BIRTHDAYS
Sep 10 Aaron Domingo

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES
Sep 14 Gary & Lynn Decker

*"I help people
as a work on myself,
and I work on myself
to help people."*

— Ram Dass

CLUB NEWS

SEPTEMBER 10, 2026

◆ SET SAIL · SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026 ◆

ALL ABOARD

The District 7980 Learning Assembly

Learn. Connect. Lead — out on the open water of Long Island Sound.

TIME	ALL ABOARD	DEPARTS
8:00 AM – 3:00 PM	Cross Sound High-Speed Ferry	New London, CT



This year, the Assembly leaves the dock.

A morning of sessions to grow your club — leadership, membership, public image, and AI for good — then cast off from New London for a two-hour Classic Lighthouse Tour. One ship. One unforgettable day.

Every Rotarian welcome.

REGISTER NOW → [d7980.org](#)

SAVE THE DATE · OCT 3

FLIP OVER → Full schedule & the Classic Lighthouse Tour on the back

◆ DISTRICT 7980 LEARNING ASSEMBLY

OCTOBER 3, 2026

CHARTING THE DAY

The Day's Course

8:00 – 9:00	Breakfast & Rotary Fellowship
9:00 – 9:40	Breakout Sessions - Round One Club Presidents, President-Elect & Nominee, Secretary, Treasurer & Members
9:45 – 10:25	Breakout Sessions - Round Two Role-based tracks for every club leader and member
10:30 – 11:10	Membership Engagement Through AI
11:15 – 11:55	Public Image
12:00 – 12:55	Lunch & Keynote
1:00 – 3:00	Set Sail — Classic Lighthouse Tour Two hours along New England's most spectacular coastal waters

◆ 1:00 – 3:00 PM · THE GRAND FINALE ◆

A Two-Hour Classic Lighthouse Tour

Cruise New England's most spectacular coastal waters past Revolutionary-War battlegrounds and centuries-old lighthouses — history unfolding off both rails.

Revolutionary War Battlegrounds

Fort Griswold 3778
Where Colonel Ledyard heroically defended American independence as Benedict Arnold attacked from across the harbor.

Fort Trumbull 3777
Named for Connecticut's wartime governor and witness to Arnold's dramatic British assault on the harbor.

Legendary Lighthouses

1849
North Dumpling Island Light
A private island with just five owners in nearly 400 years.

1898
Orient Point Light
Marking Long Island's eastern tip with classic, no-frills charm.

1943
Avery Point Light
Built in secret during WWII and kept dark for a year for fear of invasion.

Don't miss the boat.

Save October 3rd & Register Today.

REGISTER → [d7980.org](#)



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OUR HOUSE 08.16.26 7:00 PM	REVISITING CREEDENCE 08.23.26 7:00 PM	MAGIC ROCKS! 09.26.26 8:00 PM
FRAGGLE ROCK 10.09.2026 8:00 PM	FRAGGLE ROCK 10.11.26 3:00 PM	HARRY CHAPINS 10.17.26 8:00 PM
GRACE PLAYS GRACE 10.25.2026 7:00 PM	USE CODE: ROTARY2627 ON THESE SELECTED SHOWS!	

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. Online 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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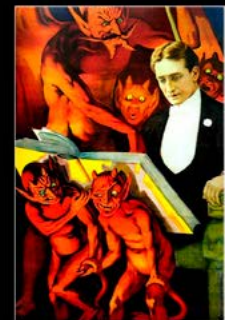
CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR EVENT UPDATES!

The New London Rotary Club Invites you to

MYSTERIUM

An evening of magic with Todd Gipstein

A fundraiser to support our community projects



Tickets \$100

Tuesday, September 22, 2026

At the Lighthouse Inn

Cocktails 5:30 Magic 6:00 Dinner 7:30

RSVP by Sept. 19 to: rduleau68@gmail.com

CLUB REPORT SEPTEMBER 3, 2026

Combating Loneliness: The New London Senior Center Builds Connection

Reported by Todd Gipstein



Our speaker was **Marina Vracevic**, Aging Services Coordinator, New London Senior Center.

Marina talked to us about the health issue of loneliness.

Loneliness can affect people at any age, but it is an especially serious concern for many older adults. As friends and family members move away, mobility becomes more difficult, or loved ones are lost, seniors can find themselves increasingly isolated.

The consequences can be serious. Social isolation and loneliness have been associated with increased risks of heart disease, stroke, depression, anxiety, dementia, and earlier death. Social connection, on the other hand, can help people live longer, healthier lives and improve both physical and emotional well-being.

The New London Senior Center is helping ensure that older adults remain connected, active, valued, and involved in the life of our community. Its programs include exercise and wellness activities such as yoga, Tai Chi, and health and wellness classes, along with trips, arts activities, technology classes, discussion groups, book clubs, special events, and other gatherings. The Center also provides transportation services, helping remove one of the barriers that can prevent seniors from participating in community life. Its programs offer more than exercise, entertainment, or education—they offer something that may be even more valuable: a sense of belonging.

Just as importantly, the Senior Center gives older adults opportunities to contribute. Members participate in volunteer projects and community activities, from supporting food programs and nursing home visits to assisting local charitable efforts. These activities demonstrate an important truth: combating loneliness is not simply about keeping people busy—it is about helping people feel connected, useful, and valued.

That idea is especially meaningful to Rotarians. Rotary has always understood the power of fellowship and service. A friendly conversation, an invitation to lunch, a ride to an event, or simply taking the time to check on someone can make a real difference in another person's life.

The New London Senior Center is a valuable community resource and a reminder that connection is one of the most important services we can provide one another. By bringing people together through learning, recreation, wellness, friendship, and service, the Center is helping ensure that older adults remain an active and vital part of the New London community.

Perhaps the lesson for all of us is simple: one of the best ways to fight loneliness is to make sure no one feels forgotten.

For Rotary clubs and individual Rotarians, the challenge is clear. We can all help combat loneliness by reaching out, including others, supporting organizations that create connection, and remembering that sometimes the most important service we can provide is simply letting someone know: You are not alone.

For more information about the New London Senior Center and its programs, visit the City of New London's Senior Services page: <https://newlondonct.gov/senior-center>

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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