



CLUB NEWS

SEPTEMBER 3, 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
- 9/10 Summer Celebration**
at the home of
Ted and Ruth Rossi
25 Beach Pond Road, Groton
5:00 pm
- 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.

SUMMER CELEBRATION

at the home of
Ted and Ruth Rossi

**THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 10, 2026**

35 Beach Pond Road,
Groton CT 06340

RSVP to Gail MacDonald

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?

BREWFEEST
at the Beach

SEPTEMBER 18
6:00pm – 9:00pm

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE!

SCAN ME

TODAY'S PROGRAM

Marina Vracevic
*Director of New London
Senior Center*

Weekly Meeting
12:00 Noon

at THE LIGHTHOUSE INN
6 West Guthrie Place, New London

Sep 10 ClubRunner Training

Sep 17 Evening Meeting
No Noon Meeting

Sep 24 Mark Walsh
United States Coast Guard Museum

GREETER / SONG LEADER

Sep 3 Chris Neilan /
Catherine Foley

Sep 10 Mel Foti

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

Sep 8 Gail MacDonald '22

BIRTHDAYS

Sep 4 Jerry Fischer

Sep 4 Pam McNulty-Hennessey

Sep 4 John Estelle

Sep 4 Gigi Gonzalez-Cottrell

Sep 9 Lee Howard

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

None

*"I feel the greatest
reward for doing
is the opportunity
to do more."*

— Jonas Salk

CLUB NEWS

SEPTEMBER 3, 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 1778
Where Colonel Ledyard heroically defended American independence as Benedict Arnold attacked from across the harbor.

Fort Trumbull 1777
Named for Connecticut's wartime governor and witness to Arnold's dramatic British assault on the harbor.

Legendary Lighthouses

1840
North Dumpling Island Light
A private island with just five owners in nearly 400 years.

1888
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



SCAN TO REGISTER

THE GARDE ARTS CENTER: THE CULTURAL HEART OF NEW LONDON AND BEYOND.



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
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) 444-3379 ext. 1

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CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR EVENT UPDATES!

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 27, 2026

Storytelling Center of CT

Reported by Tracee Reiser



Ann Shapiro, Executive Director of the Storytelling Center of CT, is an award winning story teller and a teaching artist. She has led the Center for years. A Professor at Connecticut College created the Center which until the pandemic was housed at the College. The Center hosted the Connecticut Storytelling Festival there for forty years and has continuously implemented school and community based programs throughout

Connecticut. They moved their office from the College to the Thames Club on State Street in New London and continue to offer a wide variety of programs.

Story Jam, which meets for 2 hours on Saturday afternoons has professional storytellers and members of the general public come together at the Center. During the first hour, they share their stories and during the second hour they tell triggering stories about their own lives. Often those attending make delightful connections.

The Storytelling Center hosts storytelling performances at the Thames Club which are open to the public. Another program builds relationships with other organizations and the Center places specific storytellers who bring content related to the organizations's focuses, such as history, preschool level stories, and health and wellness.

The Center has a large School Program which touches over 8,000 children all over Connecticut. These programs include having professionals in residence in individual classrooms one day a week throughout the year. Often the learning goals focus on different cultures. Children learn about differences and also about common similarities among people. Connecticut has many Spanish speaking students and the Storytelling Center has increased its capacity to deliver programs in Spanish. Play in a Day is one of the school based programs. The storyteller comes to a classroom, tells a story and then the classroom students turn the story into a play which they perform.

Ann spends time writing grants and getting resources for the programs and building relationships with school systems and community based organizations. However, her favorite part of her work with the Storytelling Center is being in the schools with the children and youth. The Storytelling Center has a long term working relationship with the New London Public Schools as well as schools throughout Connecticut. Storytelling is an effective literacy development strategy with the three foundational elements of listening, speaking and visualizing. In this age of pervasive technology, storytelling is the essential human activity that shapes our identity, preserves our heritage, and connects across generations.

For more info please go to: <https://connstorycenter.org>

Tell me the facts and I'll learn.

Tell me the truth and I'll believe.

*But tell me a story and it will live
in my heart forever.*

— Native American Proverb

New Member



The club welcomed new member Nicole Cruz-Winston at the August 27 noon meeting.

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

Gordon's Yellow Front
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