

*A History of
the Rotary Club of
New London, Connecticut*

1917-2017

*A Century of Service
to Southeastern Connecticut & to the World*

*A History of the Rotary Club
of New London, Connecticut
1917-2017*

A Century of Service
to Southeastern Connecticut & to the World

Created on the Occasion of the Centennial of the Club

by Past District Governor Pamela Akins

2nd Edition

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

Contents

The New London Rotary Club	1
Who Are We? What Do We Do? How Do We Do It?	
Thanks to the Recordkeepers & Historians	2
New London Club Presidents	3
Milestones	4
What is Rotary?	6
The New London Rotary Club: The Beginning	11
The Roaring Twenties	18
Club Song & Cheer, Boys Club & A Member at Rotary Headquarters	
The Depression Years	24
Yale-Harvard Regatta Tradition Begins, Welcome Song & Hurricane of 1938	
The Forties	26
World War II, 25th Anniversary & James Hammond, Governor	
The Fifties	31
Youth-in-Government, Our Birthday Song & Dr. Carl Wies' Spare Parts Program	
The Sixties	37
Rotary Scholars, New Welcome Song & 50th Anniversary	
The Seventies	43
Unsung Hero Award, Paul Harris Fellows & Sport Show '78	
The Eighties	54
New Awards, Women in Rotary & Itzhak Perlman Polio Plus Concert	
The Nineties	70
New London Rotary Foundation, Camp Rotary & Brewfest at the Beach	
A New Century, the 2000s	101
Second Governor from the Club, Matching Grants & Centennial Playground	
Approaching the Club Centennial, 2010-2017	154
Third Governor from the Club, Global Grants & Centennial Pavilion	
New London Rotary Club Honored Awardees	202
Epilogue	204

The New London Rotary Club: Who Are We? What Do We Do? How Do We Do It?

There is something special about the New London Rotary Club that seems almost indefinable. The first Rotary Governor from the club, James Hammond, tried to express it when he said the “finest contribution any Rotary club makes to its community is not open to observation. ... It is an invisible spirit making for better comradeship, understanding, good will and cooperation—a spirit best qualified to minister to the community’s highest welfare.” That invisible spirit comes from the interweaving of the leadership qualities of our membership, the bonds of friendship we share, and the positive attitudes we bring to the job at hand. These three things together create a powerful force for effective, compassionate action in the community.

The first ingredient of that spirit is the people of the club, the business men and women who get things done, the leaders—whether they are in the corner office or not—who make things happen, and the good hearts who know that when you make the world better for others, you’re making it better for yourself and your family. The second ingredient is our fondness for each other. We sing, and laugh, and joke, and party together. James Hammond said, “Rotarians have only one tool to work with, and that is Friendship.” It is this friendship that gives us the foundation for leadership and action. The third ingredient is the upbeat, positive, can-do attitude of our members. We know how to work through difficulties toward solutions. And we’re not afraid to try. Not only do we get the job done, we have fun together doing it.

It is through the combination of these attributes that we have made a difference over the 100 years of this club. We have inspired, and honored, and educated, and cleaned, and painted, and fed. We changed the lives of those less fortunate with small donations and big fundraisers. We nurtured the young through our Boys Club and Camp Rotary, our scholarships and Student of the Year recognitions. We enriched the lives of the elderly with our Old Timers Club and Senior Dinners. We fed people with food drives and at the Soup Kitchen. We met health needs with “Don’t Wait Inoculate,” Bone Marrow Donor Drives, and Gift of Life surgeries. We encouraged vocational excellence with Career Fairs, Literacy Breakfasts and Employee Recognitions. We made our community better through Day of Caring work, the Centennial Playground and a new Centennial Pavilion. Finally, we nurtured peace through Group Study, Friendship and Youth Exchanges, and we changed lives around the world through our international grant projects.

New London Rotary started as a jolly men’s club, a group of “men of good cheer,” as our Welcome Song said, enjoying boisterous camaraderie. It was this camaraderie that kept us together through changing times. May it continue into the future so that we can continue to give back to New London and the world with our good spirit, our generosity and our helping hands. This history shows us what we have done and what we can do. May we continue to make the world a better place for us all.

Thanks to the Recordkeepers & Historians

This history of the New London Rotary Club would not exist if it were not for the diligent care that has been exercised over the years to compile and maintain the club's historical documents. Due to the foresight of the founders and early members of the club, the club's archives still contain the original founding documents. And years and years of recordkeeping have added to those. A special thanks should go to James Hammond for the first history of the club. It is the basis of so much of the early history we are lucky to have today.

Thanks should also go to the recordkeepers over the years, the Club Secretaries, Treasurers, Newsletter Reporters, Editors, Photographers and Publishers, the Webmasters, the Club Historians and even those club leaders who documented their years for District Awards proposals.

And we should say thanks to those who remember and thanks to those who kept the records so that we would have them today. They are all a treasure which are often overlooked, a treasure that cannot be measured.

The first club history was written by Past District Governor James Hammond on the occasion of Rotary International's 50th Anniversary in 1955. For that event, the club hosted a gala and produced a booklet that explained Rotary and contained its history. The history was dedicated to the Founder of the Club, Leon Sprague, and a Foreword recognized Jim Hammond for the extraordinary effort of compiling and writing that first history.

A group of New London Rotarians added to that history 12 years later for the 50th Anniversary of the Club in 1967. Again in 1992, a committee, consisting of Henry Savin, Edward Cramer, Robert Weller, Russell Lewis, Philip Burns, Donald Mitchell, Frank Laycock and Norman MacLeod, documented the 25 years from 1967 to 1992. To bring the history current in 2017, Pamela Akins researched old club newsletters, club minutes, photo albums, scrap books, worldwide web, and numerous other sources of information—not to mention club members' memories—to put together this 100th Anniversary Club History. Special thanks goes to Barry Levinson for the seven years he was the *Anchor* editor and Club Webmaster and for his research assistance in the production of this book.

Finally, thanks goes to all those who labored over the years, especially the Club Presidents, to give the New London Rotary Club this history. In giving of their time and energy, they have given the community a gift of service and engagement. The intent of this history is to document the club's accomplishments for posterity and inspire new and old club members for years to come.

New London Club Presidents, 1917-2017

Leon A. Sprague, 1917-18
Waldo E. Clarke, 1918-19
Cornelius C. Costello, 1919-20
James P. Sullivan, 1920-21
James P. Sullivan, 1921-22
J. Romeyn Danforth, 1922-23
J. Romeyn Danforth, 1923-24
Edward E. Regan, 1924-25
Edward E. Regan, 1925-26
Frederick W. Edgerton, 1926-27
Thomas A. Woodruff, 1927-28
Ward T. Alling, 1928-29
William A. Holt, 1929-30
Morris Lubchansky, 1930-31
Frederick M. Whittemore, 1931-32
Frederick S. Weld, 1932-33
Frederick S. Weld, 1933-34
J. Lawrence Erb, 1934-35
Oliver W. Bell, 1935-36
Oliver W. Bell, 1936-37
Winslow Ames, 1937-38
Adelard A. Nourie, 1938-39
James G. Hammond, 1939-40, DG 1947-48,
Assistant RI Secretariat 1927-30
Carl H. Wies, 1940-41
Palmer A. Niles, 1941-42
H. Fremont Alderson, 1942-43
John K. Balentine, Sr., 1943-44
John K. Balentine, Sr., 1944-45
Howard L. Morehouse, 1945-46
Robert E. Groebel, 1946-47
Chester W. Kitchings, 1947-48
Harry M. Shalett, 1948-49
Wilson L. Highmore, 1949-50
George H. Grout, 1950
John C. Albohm, 1950-51
Arthur Moss, 1951-52
Bryan F. Mahan, 1952-53
John M. Kamercia, 1953-54
Frank J. Laycock, 1954-55
Merrill Dreyfus, 1955-56
Ralph Wadleigh, 1956-57
Donald Vines, 1957-58
Robert C. Weller, 1958-59
Thorburn S. McGowan, 1959-60
Harry G. Shalett, 1960-61
Dudley Butler, 1961-62
Paul Wilbur, 1962-63
Joseph M. Sullivan Jr., 1963-64
Hugh MacNamee, 1964-65
John Sillery, 1965-66
William T. Doughton, Jr., 1966-67
Nicholas Staub II, 1967-68
Benjamin A. Levinson, 1968-69
Ernest Johnson, 1969-70
Harlan Sturgis, 1970-71
Andre Savard, 1971-72
Alexander Guida, 1972-73
Kenneth Johnson, 1973-74
Francis Roche, 1974-75
William Foye, 1975-76
Joseph V. Medeiros, 1976-77
Edward I. Cramer, 1977-78
David Ginsberg, 1978-79
John F. Mirabito, 1979-80
Pierce F. Connair, 1980-81
Robert H. Bartlett, 1981-82
Roderick M. White, 1982-83
Fernand M. F. Deltgen, 1983-84
Norman L. Zercher, 1984-85
Joseph M. Stellato, 1985-86
William F. Murray, 1986-87
Jay C. Bloom, 1987-88
Roger Gross, 1988-89
Barry A. Levinson, 1989-90
Philip A. Maniscalco, 1990-91
Mildred E. Devine, 1991-92
Henry I. Savin, 1992-93
Brian A. Cole, 1993-94
Brian A. Cole, 1994-95
Philip A. Turner, 1995-96
Pamela S. Akins, 1996-97, DG 2004-05
Diana L. Ketner, 1997-98
Michael S. Stryker, 1998-99
Richard F. Gipstein, 1999-00
Tracee Reiser, 2000-01
Harold Weiner, 2001-02
Barbara Candy, 2002-03
Christopher Neilan, 2003-04
Andrew Russell, 2004-05
Jerome Fischer, 2005-06
Catherine Foley, 2006-07
William Edwards Sr., 2007-08
Michel Belt, 2008-09
Anna Lathrop, 2009-10
Geraldine Tom, 2010-11, DG 2015-16
Vivian Stanley, 2011-12
Kathleen Neal, 2012-13
Meredith Diette, 2013-14
William Schmidt, 2014-15
Julia Kushigian-Secor, 2015-16
Nicholas Fischer, 2016-17
Thomas Hogsten, 2017-18

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

Milestones

1917 First Meeting of New London Club, April 11
1917 Application Submitted to International Association of Rotary Clubs, May 1
1917 Charter Approved, June 6
1917 1st Recognition of Club Members' Birthdays with Flowers from Fisher Florist
1921 First Annual Picnic
1920 Sponsored Norwich Club
1923 Started Boys' Club
1923-43 Boy Scout Troop #12
1925 James Hammond Nominates Donald Adams of New Haven for Rotary International President
1927-30 James Hammond, Assistant Secretariat, Rotary International
1938 Club Meeting, 2 Days after Hurricane of 1938
1942 World War II Troop Send-Offs
1942 25th Anniversary Celebration
1943 District Governor's Citation as the Outstanding Club in the District
1944 Teen Canteen
1944 Established Do Good Chest
1947-48 James Hammond, First District Governor from Club
1948 1st Serviceperson of the Month Recognition
1950 Started Old Timers' Club
1950 1st Yale-Harvard Regatta Luncheon
1954-2005 Youth-in-Government Program
1954 Sponsored Mystic Club
1955 Sponsored Groton Club
1960 Sponsored Niantic Club
1966-2010 Rotary Scholars Recognition for New London High School Juniors and Seniors
1967 50th Anniversary Celebration
1978 1st Unsung Hero Award
1978 Fred Deltgen, Group Study Exchange Team Leader to India
1978 Sports Show at Ocean Beach
1979 1st Club Honored Paul Harris Fellow, Robert Groebel
1981 Established New London High School Robert Groebel Award
1983 Sponsored Montville Club
1984 New London Rotary Banner in Space aboard *Spacecraft Challenger*
1986-90 Auction Fundraiser
1986 1st Carl Wies Award, Stephen Percy
1987 1st Women Inducted into New London Rotary
1988 1st Outstanding Teacher Award
1989 Established New London High School Community Service Award
1989 Itzhak Perlman Polio Plus Concert

1990 Awarded Rotary Foundation 1st Carl P. Miller Discovery Grant
1991-92 1st Woman President, Millie Devine
1992 75th Anniversary Celebration
1992 1st Student of the Year Recognitions
1992 1st Charles Pettengill Award from District
1994 Established New London High School Harry Birenbaum Music Scholarship
1994 Established New London Rotary Foundation
1995 Carmelina Kanzler, Group Study Exchange Team Leader to England
1995 Community Service Award Renamed Benjamin A. Levinson Community Service Award
1995-Present Camp Rotary
1996 1st Native Son/Daughter Recognition
1996-Present Brewfest at the Beach Fundraisers
1996 1st Rotaract Club
1997 1st Holiday Literacy Program
1998 2nd Charles Pettengill Award from District
1998 1st Senior Dinner
2000-2014 Charles Lee Scholarship
2000 1st Rotary Foundation Matching Grant, Barranco, Peru
2000 1st Employee Recognition Luncheon
2000 3rd Charles Pettengill Award from District
2000 OpSail 2000 International Cadet Welcome Party
2002 1st New London Soup Kitchen/Community Meals Service
2002 William Edwards, Sr., Group Study Exchange Team Leader to Central America
2003 1st Rotary After Hours (RAH)
2003 1st Delivery of Sand Buckets to Elderly
2004-05 Pamela Akins, 2nd District Governor/1st Woman Governor from Club
2005 1st Dictionary Project
2005 Tracee Reiser, Group Study Exchange Team Leader to Chile
2005 Centennial Playground Dedicated
2005 1st Liberty Bank Thanksgiving Turkey Drive
2007 Pamela Akins, International Training Leader at the Rotary International Assembly
2007 Rotary Zones 31/32 Institute at Mystic
2009 Started New London Rotary Morning Group
2010 1st Global Grant in the World
2011 PDG Pamela Akins & Past President Barry Levinson Participate in National Immunization Day in India
2011 Barry Levinson Receives District Donald Adams Award
2012 New London Gateway Signal Flag Dedication
2015-16 Geraldine Tom, 3rd District Governor from Club
2017 District-Wide Centennial Gala
2017 100th Anniversary Celebration
2017 Centennial Pavilion at Ocean Beach Park Groundbreaking

What is Rotary?

Rotary is a worldwide fellowship of 1.2 million business and professional community leaders in over 35,000 clubs who accept the “Ideal of Service” as the basis for success and happiness in business and community life. In Rotary, thoughtfulness of others is regarded as the basis of service, and helpfulness to others its expression. Together they constitute the “Ideal of Service.” Working together we make our communities and the world better.

How Rotary Began



Paul Harris

Rotary started in the heart of a lonely man in a great city. Paul Harris, a young Vermont lawyer practicing in Chicago, usually lunched alone in a restaurant, and every day, he saw four other men also lunching alone. One day Harris introduced himself to these men and to each another: Sylvester Schiele, a coal dealer; Gustavus Loehr, a mining engineer; Hiram Shorey, a merchant tailor; and Harry Ruggles, a printer. These five men began to look forward to their luncheons together, and soon another joined them: Will Jensen, a real estate dealer. One day Paul Harris suggested it would be a good idea if they formed their new-found camaraderie together into a club or organization that they might share their

friendship with other men. The group met for a time in Schiele’s office; then in Paul Harris’s office; another week in some other place. Paul Harris thought it fitting, since they “rotated” so much, that they name this happy pioneer group a Rotary Club; and thus, the Rotary Club of Chicago, Club Number 1, was established on February 23, 1905.

Other businessmen, educators, manufacturers, and professionals, visiting Chicago on business and hearing of this new



Gustavus Loehr, Sylvester Schiele, Hiram Shorey, Paul Harris

type of organization, would drop in at the noon meetings to see what Rotary was all about. The idea and the ideals of Rotary began to spread and take root everywhere.

By 1910, Rotary had spread to Canada, making Rotary an international affiliation of clubs, and the broader organization took on the name of the International Association of Rotary Clubs. By 1922, the organization had changed its name to Rotary International (RI).

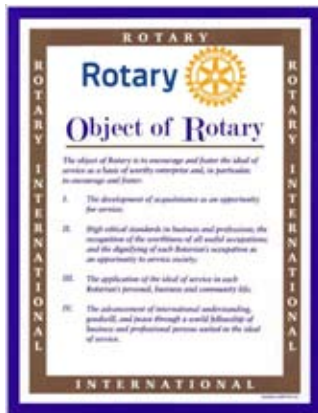
In 1917, the same year the New London Club was founded, Rotary International created The Rotary Foundation, its own charitable foundation. Today, The Rotary Foundation is one of the highest rated charitable organizations in the world.

In 2017, Rotary had 1.2 million members in over 35,000 clubs in over 200 countries.

Rotary Customs and Practices

As with any 100-year-old organization, Rotary has a number of things that distinguish it from other civic and service organizations. The first and foremost are Rotary's guiding principles. These are stated in The Object of Rotary and The Four-Way Test. These principles have been developed over the years to provide Rotarians with a strong, common purpose and direction. They serve as a foundation for our relationships with each other and the action we take in the world.

The Object of Rotary



The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

1. The development of acquaintance as an opportunity of service;
2. High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying by each Rotarian of his occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
3. The application of the ideal of service by every Rotarian in his personal business and community life;
4. The advancement of international understanding, good will, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional men and women united in the ideal of service.

The Four-Way Test

The Four-Way Test is a nonpartisan and non-sectarian ethical guide for Rotarians to use for their personal and professional relationships. The test has been translated into more than 100 languages, and Rotarians recite it at club meetings.

The Four-Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do—

- 1. Is it the TRUTH?**
- 2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?**
- 3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?**
- 4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?**

The Rotary Wheel, Mottoes & Camaraderie

Rotary is known worldwide by its wheel logo. The Rotary “wagon wheel” was the first of many wheel emblems used by different Rotary Clubs until 1912, when a geared wheel was adopted. This was followed by authorization of an official emblem consisting of a wheel of six spokes, 24 cogs, and a “keyway.” The Rotary wheel is the basis of the pins we wear to all Rotary events and found on welcome signs at the entrance to the communities where Rotary clubs meet.



Rotary’s universally adopted mottoes are “He Profits Most Who Serves Best” and “Service Above Self.” Rotarians emphasize friendliness, honesty, integrity of character, service to one’s community and to the world, and world peace and understanding.

Singing at club meetings has a long tradition in Rotary and is customary in many Rotary clubs. The Rotary Club of New London prides itself on being a singing club; we typically sing “My Country Tis of Thee,” the club’s Welcome Song, a special Birthday Song, an Anniversary Song, and a song for the day.

Visiting Rotarians and guests are welcomed into club meetings, and in many clubs, Rotarians customarily share personal news with Happy/Sad Dollars.

Rotary International

Rotary clubs are chartered and supported by Rotary International. And the organization supports the clubs in the way of training, materials, and the broader connections of a worldwide organization.

Rotary



Rotary International publishes an official monthly magazine named *The Rotarian* in English. Other periodicals are independently produced in more than 20 different major languages and distributed in 130 countries. Rotary International also has a website, rotary.org. Each club is encouraged to have a newsletter or some regular means of communication with members, and many clubs also have their own websites. The New London Club’s newsletter is called the “Anchor” because of the city’s long maritime history, and the website for the club is newlondonrotary.org.

Rotary International headquarters are in Evanston, Illinois. For administrative purposes, clubs throughout the world are grouped into Rotary Districts, with each District supervised by a District Governor. Districts are grouped into Zones headed by a Director who sits on the RI Board of Directors. Each District is also divided into areas consisting of several clubs; those areas are supervised by an Assistant Governor.

Each Rotary District meets annually in a conference convened by the District Governor. In our District, the District Governor is selected by a committee consisting of Past President representatives from a rotating list of clubs from each area plus a group of the most recent Past Governors. District Governors Elect are trained in the responsibilities, duties and leadership required of their

office at gatherings of regional Rotary Governors called Zone Institute Governor Elect Training Seminars (GETS) and at the worldwide International Assembly. They are then declared officially elected at the annual Rotary International Convention held near the end of the Rotary Year in June. All up and down the line of command, from Club President to District Governors to the President of Rotary International, all officers serve for one year and a new slate of officers starts July 1.

Rotarians worldwide come together annually at the Rotary International Convention to exchange ideas on projects, make connections and be inspired.

The Rotary Foundation

The Rotary Foundation is Rotary International's nonprofit corporation that supports its efforts to achieve world understanding and peace through humanitarian, educational and cultural programs.

It is supported through the generous donations of individual Rotarians, Rotary clubs and friends of Rotary who contribute to its Annual Fund, World Fund and Endowment Fund in a variety of ways including direct gifts, bequests and designated funds.

The Rotary Foundation was created in 1917 by RI President Arch Klumph as an endowment for Rotary to “do good in the world.” It was started with an initial contribution of \$26.50 and has grown to more than \$1 billion. Over the years, it has given out over \$3 billion for life-saving, sustainable projects.

The Rotary Foundation's primary programs are Polio Plus, its worldwide effort to eradicate polio; humanitarian grants; and educational programs.

Since the Polio Plus program's inception in 1985, more than two billion children have been immunized against the wild polio virus. Polio Plus has reduced the number of polio cases from 387,000 cases in 1985 to only nine cases worldwide as of August 2017: six in Afghanistan and three in Pakistan. Rotary has mobilized hundreds of thousands of volunteers in this effort, including Rotarians who participate in National Immunization Days in polio-endemic countries. Additionally, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has committed hundreds of millions of dollars toward the effort that is joined by the World Health Organization, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, UNICEF, and hundreds of governmental entities.

The Foundation's humanitarian grants are its international Global Grants and District Managed Grants. The large international Global Grants focus on sustainability and conform to six areas of focus: Peace and Conflict Resolution, Water and Sanitation, Maternal and Child Health, Education, Economic Development, and Disease Prevention. District Managed Grants are smaller humanitarian grants for local community and smaller international projects. In addition to specific humanitarian projects, the grant funds may also be used for Vocational Training Teams.

The Rotary Foundation also funds scholarships for the purpose of humanitarian service, education and world peace, including its World Peace Scholarship Program at six Peace Centers.



District Governor James Hammond on Rotary

The follow is excerpted from the history that the first District Governor from the New London Club, James Hammond, wrote on the occasion of Rotary International's 50th Anniversary. Its ideals are worthy of our review in 2017.

Rotary is rooted in morality. It does not lie in the quality of a luncheon. Rotary touches the very springs of kindness in the minds of men and points the way to a fuller understanding of their fellows. Rotary teaches men to obey their emotions but does not rouse their passions with a drum. Whether Rotary is spreading its clubs all over the world, or pushing its ethical standards to high Heaven, is merely incidental to the great truth that this movement is rich in individuals who are trying to show other men how to be happy. In this endeavor, Rotarians have only one tool to work with, and that is Friendship.



Rotary clears the mind of prejudice and sets sympathy on that silent path which leads to "Equal and exact justice to all men of whatever tongue or state or religious or political urge." The spirit of Rotary is like the gentle rain from Heaven. It cleans away selfishness, turns competition into cooperation, reveals the beauty of life and the inherent nobilities of every man. A Rotarian needs no applause to commend work well done. Some wise and considerate Rotarians today are now practicing a new approach toward trade and commerce, conscious of the ever shifting social order in such a state of flux and finding that what is new today is outmoded tomorrow. These Rotarians are enjoying this new concept tremendously and find it both stimulating and challenging. They forget the word "competition" and substitute the word "cooperation" and are practicing and using the much friendlier words of "trade relations."

Yes, Rotary and the spirit of Rotary is everywhere. The finest contribution any Rotary club makes to its community is not open to observation. It is not something to be seen, handled easily and appraised. It is an invisible spirit making for better comradeship, understanding, good will and cooperation—a spirit best qualified to minister to the community's highest welfare.

It is fitting, therefore, that we re-emphasize the Object of Rotary as a formula of faith.

The spirit of Rotary is invisible, intangible, indefinable, but it is the most real thing about Rotary. It changes casual acquaintances into glowing friendships and transforms routine, dull duties into inspiring privileges.

Where the spirit of Rotary is there is liberty. It sets us free from the bondage and bigotry, and binds us together by the ties of understanding and brotherhood.

Take Rotary seriously, but don't take yourself seriously. Keep Rotary simple. Make Rotary realistic. If we Rotarians do this, we may achieve far beyond our own vision of Rotary, just as Rotary has always exceeded the vision of everybody who has ever thought about it.

We grow in Rotary as Rotary grows in us. The more successful a human being is, the wider the range of the organization to which he belongs and to which he contributes his ability. The average person belongs to a club, a church, a professional, athletic or political group in which he is developing a sense of belonging to a larger "we." It is this feeling of belonging to a larger "we" which is the challenge and essence of Rotary.

The New London Rotary Club: The Beginning

The Rotary Club of New London, dedicated to comradely friendliness and service, was conceived during a time of anger and conflict.

Five days before the club was created, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed war on Germany. And so, as a group of New London's leading citizens gathered at the Crocker House at noon on Wednesday, April 11, 1917, the main topic of conversation was war. The British had just taken Vimy Ridge and 9,000 German prisoners. An explosion in a munitions plant at Chester, Pennsylvania, had killed 150, and officials laid it to war plotters.

The war was even felt locally. A secret wireless station had been reported in operation by German sympathizers at Great Neck. A piece of mine cable had been dredged from the Thames River near the State Pier. A battalion of the Second Regiment was protecting the city.

In 1917, a Maxwell automobile cost \$635. Bread was five cents, sugar nine cents, butter 43 cents, and oranges 15 cents a dozen. Steak cost 20 cents a pound and roast beef 18 cents. Women paid \$2 for a blouse and \$1.50 for doeskin or chamois gloves with gold stitching. A 54-inch by 90-inch sheet cost 59 cents. Men's shirts cost 65 cents, shoes \$3.50. Hod carriers were on strike, asking for \$3.25 (a day). To help combat this high cost of living, children were being urged to plant gardens.

The musical comedy, "The Miss Matched Miss," was playing at the Lyceum Theatre in downtown New London. The Empire Theater was showing a "flicker" starring Francis X. Bushman and Beverly Bayne, with a New London girl, Marie Doucette, included in the cast.

The First Meeting: April 11, 1917

Such was the flavor of the day as the 21 men walked into the Crocker House that noon and up the stairs to the main dining room on the second floor overlooking State Street.

A large, round table in the center of the room had been set for the gathering. At each place was a Rotary wheel patriotically decorated with red, white and blue ribbon. After the meal (cost: 75 cents), Leon A. Sprague, who had organized the meeting, rose to call the group to order. At his suggestion, each man stood in turn around the table and introduced the man seated to his right.

Then Sprague introduced Lester P. Winchenbaugh of Boston, the New England Rotary District Governor. He outlined Rotary's objectives and boasted that the organization now consisted

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

Leon Sprague, Founder

In early 1917, Leon Sprague, the commercial manager of the Connecticut Power Company in New London, visited a Rotary Club in Haverhill, Massachusetts, where he had family. Upon returning to New London, he immediately began organizing a Rotary Club in New London. With District Governor Lester Winchenbaugh's advice to "start with first class material" of men "understanding the higher principles and ideals of Rotary," he sent letters out to New London's key business men, asking them to come to a meeting on April 11th. There, a motion was made to create the Rotary Club of New London. Within a few short weeks, Leon had brought together 32 men of good character as charter members of the club.

Leon served as President of the New London Club until his job took him to New Britain in February 1918. There he started another Rotary Club. He often came back to visit the New London Club and was a guest at the 50th Anniversary celebration when he was 83.

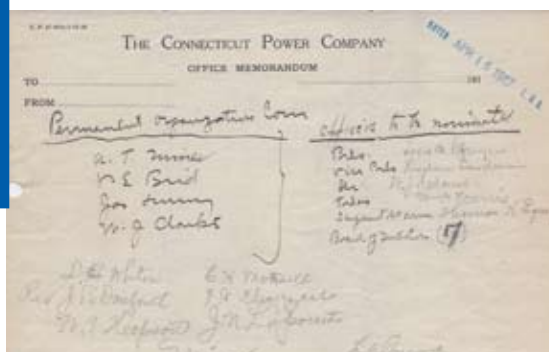


of 200 clubs embracing 45,000 members. Connecticut had three clubs already, and Massachusetts had six.

A resolution formally organizing the Rotary Club of New London was adopted. Sprague was elected temporary chairman and J. William Clarke, temporary secretary. Three committees were appointed:

- Constitution and Bylaws—George E. Fisher, Perry B. Kenyon, Henry C. Chappell.
- Permanent Organization—Theodore Bodenwein, J. William Clarke, Frederic W. Mercer, Graham Hislop and Edwin C. Ford.
- Membership—Waldo E. Clarke, Rev. J. Romeyn Danforth, W.D. Harris, Edwin C. Ford, Atty. Frank L. McGuire, James F. O'Leary, L. Tracy Sheffield, James. P. Sullivan and J.W. Stueck.

Guests at the meeting were Albert E. Newton of the Worcester Rotary Club and James L. McGovern, Collector of the Port of New London.



Leon Sprague's notes on first committees

Charter Members

Two days later, the club met again and, after hearing the membership committee's report, voted favorably on 32 applications. Club minutes list these charter members:

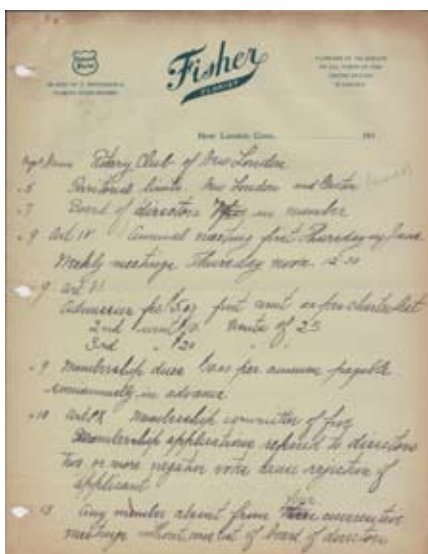
- Viggo E. Bird, manager, Connecticut Power Company
- Theodore Bodenwein, president & treasurer, The Day Publishing Company
- Henry R. Bond, secretary & treasurer, New London Ship & Engine Company
- Walter E. Canfield, president & treasurer, New London Business College
- Harry C. Chappell, manager, F.H. & A.H. Chappell Company
- F. Valentine Chappell, president & treasurer, F.H. & A.H. Chappell Company
- Waldo E. Clarke, resident engineer, Rivers, Harbors & Bridges Commission
- J. William Clarke, proprietor, Clarke & Keach, Printers
- J. Romeyn Danforth, minister, First Congregational Church

The New London Rotary Club: The Beginning

- Edward S. Doton, district manager, Mutual Life Insurance Company
- Hamilton R. Douglas, president, H.R. Douglas Company, Building Contractors
- Thomas K. Egan, general superintendent, Reed-Prentice Company, Printing Press Manufacturers
- George E. Fisher, president & treasurer, Fisher Florist, Inc.
- Edwin C. Ford, manager, Southern New England Telephone Company
- Richard D. Forrester, representative, Rockwell-Forrester Company, Women's Ready to Wear
- William D. Harris, secretary, Putnam Furniture Company
- Graham Hislop, manager, James Hislop Co., Dry Goods
- William T. Hopson, president, Hopson & Chapin Manufacturing Company
- Perry B. Kenyon, manager, Kenyon's Studios, Photography
- Joseph N. LaPointe, president, J.N. LaPointe Co., Broach Manufacturers
- Richard W. Law, manager, Crocker House
- Frank L. McGuire, partner, Hull, McGuire & Hull, Attorneys at Law
- Frederic W. Mercer, president & treasurer, New England Carpet Lining Company
- Alton T. Miner, manager, A.T. Miner Stores, Groceries
- Charles H. Motsett, division superintendent, N.Y.N.H. & H.R.R. Company, Railroad
- James F. O'Leary, president & treasurer, Keep Smiling Restaurant
- L. Tracy Sheffield, president & treasurer, Sheffield Dentifrice Company
- Leon A. Sprague, commercial manager, Connecticut Power Company
- J. William Stueck, manager, Connecticut Baking Company
- James P. Sullivan, manager, Monte Cristo Garage
- James Sweeney, president, James Sweeney, Inc., Architects
- Lucius E. Whiton, secretary & treasurer, D.E. Whiton Machine Company, Lathe & Drill Chucks

Constitution, Bylaws, Officers & Committees

A constitution and bylaws were adopted, and officers elected:



George Fisher's notes on Bylaws, pg 3

- President: Leon A. Sprague
 - Vice President: Theodore Bodenwein
 - Secretary: J. William Clarke
 - Treasurer: William D. Harris
 - Sergeant-at-Arms: Thomas K. Egan
 - Directors: Alton T. Miner, Lucius E. Whiton, J. Romeyn Danforth, William T. Hopson, Charles H. Motsett, F. Valentine Chappell and Joseph N. LaPointe
- Sprague named these committees:
- Entertainment and Luncheon: Law, chairman; Fisher, Kenyon, Harry Chappell, Forrester
 - Fellowship: Hislop, chairman; Egan, Bird, J.W. Clarke
 - Public Affairs: Miner, chairman; Bodenwein, Whiton
 - Membership: W.E. Clarke, chairman; Danforth, Harris, Ford, McGuire

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

Membership in International Association of Rotary Clubs

International Association of Rotary Clubs
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

To the Secretary
of the International Association of Rotary Clubs
910 Michigan Avenue, Chicago, U.S.A.

Dear Sirs:

Rotary Club of New London of the State of Connecticut

herewy make application for membership in the
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ROTARY CLUBS
in accordance with the provisions of Article III of the Constitution
of said Association.

Upon notice of our admission to such membership we will make payment
of per capita tax and subscriptions to "The Rotarian" as provided
and warrant and deliver to you a ratification of the constitution
of said Association.

Rotary Club of New London was organized April 11th, 1917
and at the time of making this application has 25 members, of
whom a complete roster list is hereto attached in duplicate.

Attached hereto is copy of our constitution and by-laws. It is
understood and agreed that no change in, or amendment to, the
club's constitution herewith submitted, nor any amendment to the
club's by-laws which will conflict with the constitution of the
club or of the Association, will be made without first submitting
same to the Secretary of the Association for approval by its board
of directors.

The present officers and directors are: **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President - Leon A. Sprague	Isaac E. Whiton
Vice President - Theodore Bodanwein	Rev. J. Roswyn Danforth
Treasurer - William B. Harris	William T. Hopson
Secretary - William J. Clarke	Charles E. Motenett
Sergeant-at-Arms - Thomas E. Ryan	Frank T. Chappell
	J. E. Lepointe Alton T. Minor

Regular meetings are held (insert place, day and hour):

Crocker House on Thursday at 12:30 sharp.

What is approximately the present population of your city? 25,000

Approximately how many manufacturing plants has your city? 100

Approximately how many retail stores has your city? 500

All the foregoing we certify to be facts.

Date May 1, 1917 Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut

Attest:

W. J. Clarke Secretary.

Isaac E. Whiton Its President

30 Union Street
Address.

Application for membership in
International Association of Rotary Clubs
dated May 1, 1917

The club voted to apply for membership in the International Association of Rotary Clubs of the United States, and the application was submitted May 1st. In June, the club received a letter back from IARC President Arch Klumph that the Rotary Club of New London had been accepted into the International Association of Rotary Clubs.

**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF
ROTARY CLUBS**

7 June, 1917 File 200-New London

J. W. Clarke, Rotarian
Secretary, The Rotary Club
New London, Conn.

My dear Mr. Clarke, we are pleased to advise you that the application of
your club for membership in the International Association has met with the
approval of the Board of Directors of the Association by whose vote the
Rotary Club of New London has been made an affiliating Rotary club.

Invoice for per capita tax, etc., will be sent you under separate cover.

Charter will be engrossed and forwarded to your club very shortly.

With a hearty welcoming hand-clasp into the fellowship of International
Rotary, and at your service always, I am

Yours Rotarily,
International Association of Rotary Clubs
Charles E. Perry, Secretary.

Charter Approval Letter, June 7, 1917

Elected to membership during the club's first two months were: Charles B. Gardner, Frederick C. Chidsey, Reginald M. Rowland, Walter T. Murphy, Henry L. McGuire, George Bathgate, William B. Goggart, Byron A. Fones, Samuel M. Prentis, Dr. James R. Linsley, Ward T. Alling, Dr. Harry M. Lee, Ralph Melcer, Daniel S. Marsh, Jr., Edward S. Neilan, Edmund D. Steele, W. Kyle Sheffield, Robert C. Burchard, E.E. Regan, F.S. VonHoff, Cornelius C. Costello, Frank A. Comstock and Charles C. Perkins.

The War Years, 1917-18

Wartime topics occupied the club during its first meetings. There were talks on first aid, spouses rolling bandages, food conservation, and even the evils surrounding military facilities and the necessity of removing those temptations, the War Fund Campaign, Thrift Stamp Savings Plan, Liberty Bond drives, YMCA Military Fund, and New London's \$100,000 share of the Red Cross Million Dollar War Fund.

Rotarians named a committee to help raise money for the War Work Activities Fund, and donated a dollar each to Harry Lauder's Million Dollar Fund for Maimed Men. Rotarians were on duty every night at the Army and Navy Canteen, and they sent cigarettes to naval hospitals. Food and coal shortages were discussed at meetings.

Charter member Richard Forrester left June 21, 1917 to join the Aviation Corps in France and, according to Leon Sprague's recollections at a later date, he was killed in action in France, making him the first member of the New London Club to give his life in World War I.

Visiting speakers told of experiences in trench warfare in France, life on a submarine, a Zeppelin raid in England, and the German invasion of Belgium. The club entertained officers and men of the French transport *Koung-Si*. Felicitations were sent October 4th to the London, England, Rotary Club in response to its expression of approval at the United States' entry into the war. Thirty enlisted men from naval bases were guests November 8th with a program of chorus singing led by seven young ladies.

Club Programs During the War

Although the club was founded at a time of war, not everything was about the war. The minutes for the meeting of July 5, 1917, note the first recognition of members' birthdays. On July 19th, each member had as his guest a "youngster from the city streets," 36 in all. The boys and girls were of all nationalities. An article in *The Day* reports: "When the cake and ice cream were served, the boys ceased to take part in the program and not a great deal of business was transacted before the youngsters had finished." The club sent each child home with two loaves of bread furnished by William H. Steuck of the Connecticut Baking Company. The meeting also featured the music of the Jazz Band of New York City, who had been contracted to play at the casino for the season.



The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

On July 27th, the general manager and vice president of the Southern New England Telephone Company talked about the growth of the telephone infrastructure and its importance to business. When the famed French actress Sarah Bernhardt failed to appear, two actors promoted the opening of their New Orpheum Theater. The secretary of the National Board of Motion Picture Censorship urged New London to allow motion pictures to be shown on Sundays to reduce crime and mischief. An efficiency expert from Kansas promoted clean, safe work environments and good pay for labor to improve productivity. He cited the Rotary motto of “He profits most who serves best” as a “vital, scientific truth.”

At the August 23rd meeting, the Crocker House waiters were on strike, so Rotarians served the luncheon themselves.

On October 11th, New London Rotary was the first to support a \$150,000 fundraising campaign for Memorial Hospital following the hospital’s public announcement of its campaign at the club meeting.

In its first year, the club also created a committee consisting of Mayor Ernest R. Rogers, Postmaster Bryan F. Mahan and Professor Frederick S. Hitchcock, to see to the placing of Rotary highway signs at the boundary of the city.

In the spring of 1918, Leon Sprague announced to the club that he was moving to New Britain for his job and that April 1, 1918, would be his last meeting in New London.

A Case of Impersonation

At the meeting of August 1, 1918, the speaker was a young woman motorcycle dispatch rider, Lieutenant Beatrice Duke, resplendent in uniform. L.B. “Abe” Lincoln, a reporter for *The Day* who always covered the club meetings, didn’t think some of her statements added up and questioned her after the meeting. It developed she was not a lieutenant and was not even in the service. Soon the Rotarians watched as she was escorted from the room “on the arm of the law.”

Sprague Departs

At an evening meeting of March 28, 1918, Leon Sprague, the club’s founder and first president, presided for the last time. After dinner, a flashlight photograph of the gathering was taken. There were 40 members and 18 guests present.

Jim Hammond presented a gold watch chain and diamond-set charm to Sprague “as a token of the deep regard in which he is held by the members of the club.” William E. Bamburgh, President of the Boston Rotary Club, gave an address on the Spirit of Rotary.

At the next week’s meeting, with Vice President Theodore Bodenwein presiding, the club voted to “felicitate our former President Sprague by telephone on his assuming his new position as secretary of the New Britain Chamber of Commerce,” designated him an honorary member of the club, and decreed that on all succeeding club rosters the word “founder” would appear after his name. (Upon his move to New Britain, Sprague also founded the first Rotary Club there.)

Upon Sprague’s departure, Theodore Bodenwein completed Sprague’s term as President. Programs and activities for the remainder of the year continued to focus on the war effort. On April 25th, club members raised \$9,750 for the Third Liberty Loan drive. LaPointe said he’d double any amount raised by members present. So Bodenwein and Mahan contributed \$1,000 each and



Farewell Dinner for Leon Sprague, March 28, 1918, Flashlight Photo

Most of these men have been identified, although not positively in all cases. On the outside rim of large circular table, starting at lower left and moving clockwise: Atty. Daniel M. Cronin, possibly County Detective William Jackson, Sidney H. Miner, Edward S. Neilan, Theodore Bodenwein, Frank A. Comstock, Walter E. Canfield, (?), (?), W.D. Harris, Cornelius C. Costello, (?), George D. Lansing of Providence, Leon A. Sprague, probably W.C. Bamburgh (president of the Boston Rotary Club), J. William Clarke, Waldo E. Clarke, James G. Hammond, William A. Mercer, J. Taylor Armstrong, Robert L. Smith, Ira Comstock, (?), (?), Maurice Sherman, Sheriff Sidney A. Brown, Walter Lewis, (?), (?), John Church, Thomas Egan, possibly Sheriff Nelson Brown, Edward S. Doton, P. Leroy Harwood, Clifford H. Belden and Carlos Peck.

On the inside of large table, starting at lower left and moving clockwise: Edwin C. Ford, Tryon Smith, H.R. Douglas, J.E. Underhill, John B. Collins, Louis B. Lincoln, (?), Leroy A. Nash, (?), F.W. Mercer, (?), (?), Thomas C. Dillon, Rev. J. Romeyn Danforth and Viggo E. Bird.

The three seated at the small table in the center are unidentified. Eighteen guests were at this meeting, many from out of state, making complete identification almost impossible. Perry B. Kenyon was in the room; he took the flashlight photograph.

another \$1,250 was contributed by other club members, all of which LaPointe matched.

Waldo E. Clarke became the club's second President on June 7, 1918.

World War I ended November 11, 1918, and the New London Rotary Club stepped up to address its aftermath. After the war, there was a wave of speeches on the need for saving the starving peoples of war-ravaged countries, and so, on December 12th, the club adopted a French war orphan, Eduard Payen Morbihan.

In 1919, Cornelius Costello became President July 1st. August 28th, the club donated funds to the Welcome Home and Peace Day celebration at Ocean Beach on Labor Day. On September 11th, the club moved its meetings from the Crocker House to the Mohican Hotel.

During the next few years, a great number of Rotarians took longer trips, and many addressed the club about their trips—on the Nile, to the Near East, around California, over to England and many other places abroad.

The Roaring Twenties: Club Song & Cheer, Boys Club & A Member at Rotary Headquarters

The next decade was a busy one for the New London Club with the sponsoring of a new club in Norwich, the adoption of a club cheer and song, and the formation of a new Boy Scout Troop in New London. Plus one of the club's own members worked at Rotary Headquarters in Chicago.

Sponsored Norwich Club, 1920

On February 12, 1920, New London Rotarians met in the Wauregan Hotel in Norwich with a group of Norwich businessmen—all prospective members of a new club. President Costello, Jim Hammond and Rev. Romeyn Danforth gave “wonderful addresses on Rotary.” A Maine guide was the featured speaker and Mayor Desmond of Norwich welcomed the New London Rotarians. On March 11th, a preliminary organization meeting was held for the new Norwich Rotary Club with President Connie Costello reporting that “a fine lot of men were on the charter list, and that things looked very promising.” On March 24th, the New London Club joined the Norwich Club for an evening celebration of its founding.

In the spring of 1920 after the founding of the Norwich Club, the two clubs began holding regular joint ladies' nights and baseball games—both would continue for a number of years. The first inter-club baseball game was held at the Submarine Base. At New London's noon meeting before the game, New London hosted Norwich Club members and Jim Hammond recited “Casey At the Bat.” Jim's rousing oratory must have helped—New London won the game.

The New London Club baseball team also played the officers at the Submarine Base (New London lost), as well as a group of local lawyers (score unknown). In a rematch with the Norwich Club on the State Hospital Grounds in October, New London lost (6 to 4).

July 1920, James Sullivan became the fourth President of the New London Club; he would serve two terms.

In December 1920, New London Club members went to the Norwich Rotary to help it sell the idea of forming a Rotary Club in Willimantic. By early 1921, talks were well underway with the Norwich Club for the formation of a Willimantic Rotary Club, with Past President Connie Costello and Jim Hammond taking the lead; the Willimantic Rotary Club was chartered April 1, 1921.



In January 1921, the club gave \$30 for the European Relief Fund to feed three orphaned children in post-World War Europe. Baseball and golf matches with Norwich continued with alternating wins.

The club began displaying an American flag and a club banner.

An annual August picnic was established, with the first held at the Oswegatchie Casino from noon till midnight for club members and their families. In October, the club voted to start wearing name badges at all meetings or be fined 25 cents.

Spirits were so high in 1922 that by February 2nd, the club had adopted a Rotary Cheer. But also in early 1922, so many members were ill, that the club decided to defer its 5th anniversary until a later date.

The club voted to form a Boy Scout Troop among older boys of high school age, with Cliff Belden, Tom Donohue and Sime Ewald appointed to study the matter. Henry Kaiser and Tryon Smith were named to help in the troop's organization, and on April 13th, Waldo Miner was announced as the Scoutmaster for the

Club Cheer

Oh, Your Pep. Your Pep.
You've Got It! You've Got It!
Dog-gone It. Don't Lose It.
Your Pep. Your Pep.
Rotary! Rotary! Rotary!
New London!



Enough Already!

Meetings must have begun to run long by early 1922 because on March 30th, the club voted to have a warning bell rung at 1:55 p.m. so that speaking would stop at 2 p.m.

new troop of Sea Scouts.

In May 1922, James Hammond, Bill Mercer and Ed Neilan were appointed to help persuade the Oxford and Cambridge crews to row in the Yale-Harvard Regatta on the Thames River—it's not clear that challenge ever came about.

Rev. J. Romeyn Danforth was elected President for 1922-23; he too would serve two consecutive terms.

On August 16th, the New London Club joined with the Hartford Club in a celebration of the opening of the Hartford-New London Highway. And the following day, the club met at the Boy Scout Camp, while Thorne Lathrop and Rube Smith provided autos for taking disabled veterans to Norwich. In November, New London Rotary also kept up its sports profile, but sadly lost a game of volleyball to the New London Lions.

To Eat or Not to Eat Thanksgiving Program

Oddly, two weeks before Thanksgiving 1922, the November 16th program was presented by club members weighing 200 pounds or more. Not sure what that was about.



HAIL, NEW LONDON!

CLUB GENTS Invited to

NEW LONDON
FREDERICK CLUB

By

Frederick Coit Wight.

RESIDENCE CLARK, NEW LONDON, CONN.

(OFFICIAL BALLOT)

NOMINEES FOR DIRECTORS

VOTE FOR SEVEN

<input type="checkbox"/> J. E. Bailey	<input type="checkbox"/> J. C. Blumenthal
<input type="checkbox"/> A. C. Cannon	<input type="checkbox"/> H. W. C. Dierckx
<input type="checkbox"/> D. B. Marshall	<input type="checkbox"/> A. P. P. Acquistapace
<input type="checkbox"/> E. T. Cavanah	<input type="checkbox"/> C. B. Ryan
<input type="checkbox"/> L. M. Smith	<input type="checkbox"/> P. M. Lathrop
<input type="checkbox"/> A. W. Northgate	<input type="checkbox"/> M. E. Goodrich
<input type="checkbox"/> F. W. Edgerly	<input type="checkbox"/> S. H. Harris
<input type="checkbox"/> J. J. Withee	<input type="checkbox"/> M. M. Minor
<input type="checkbox"/> G. E. Fisher	<input type="checkbox"/> R. E. Pearce
<input type="checkbox"/> A. J. Smith	<input type="checkbox"/> F. W. Haines
<input type="checkbox"/> N. Lewis	<input type="checkbox"/> J. Forster
<input type="checkbox"/> A. L. Nash	<input type="checkbox"/> J. A. J. Mansfield
<input type="checkbox"/> E. A. Woodruff	<input type="checkbox"/> C. B. Smith
<input type="checkbox"/> J. P. Sullivan	<input type="checkbox"/> C. B. Haddock
<input type="checkbox"/> M. S. Mercer	<input type="checkbox"/> L. E. Enck
<input type="checkbox"/> A. Dendler	<input type="checkbox"/> J. H. Newman
<input type="checkbox"/> J. F. Ayers	<input type="checkbox"/> A. E. Underhill
<input type="checkbox"/> B. E. Brown	<input type="checkbox"/> E. E. Donahue
<input type="checkbox"/> C. C. Corbitt	

In addition to extensive involvement with the Rotary Boys' Club and Boy Scout Troop 12 (see special sections), 1925 featured several civic activities to enhance the community's and club's standing. In January 1925, the club named a committee to establish a landing field for aircraft.

A black and white photograph of the USS Oregon (BB-3) at sea. The ship is shown from a starboard profile, moving towards the left. It features two prominent funnels and two masts. The hull number '3' is visible on the bow. The ship is creating a white wake in the dark water. The sky is overcast.

A black and white portrait of a man with a mustache, wearing a suit and tie. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera. The photo is mounted on a light-colored card.

On June 18, 1925, as the club's delegate to the Rotary International Convention, Jim Hammond nominated New Haven Rotary's Donald Adams for President of Rotary International for the Rotary Year 1925-26.

‘Red’ tirade” against capitalists, and then in a further surprise, revealed himself as a WWI veteran and refuted his previous assertions.

In April 1926, the club hosted the Arctic Explorer Donald B. MacMillan. In July, the club’s Ladies’ Night at the Lighthouse Inn highlighted Jim and Clara Hammond in the skit, “The Old Crab.”

On May 18, 1927, 40 New London Rotarians attended the charter night celebration of the Saybrook Club. In June, the New London Club continued its sports competition with the Norwich Club, with the club’s golf team losing the match; President Tom Woodruff fined the club golfers 15 cents.



Arctic Explorer
Donald MacMillan

In August, the club met at Camp Trumbull in Niantic, as guests of Major General Morris B. Payne and Captain Allan B. Lambdin.

Jim Hammond Appointed Assistant Secretariat for RI

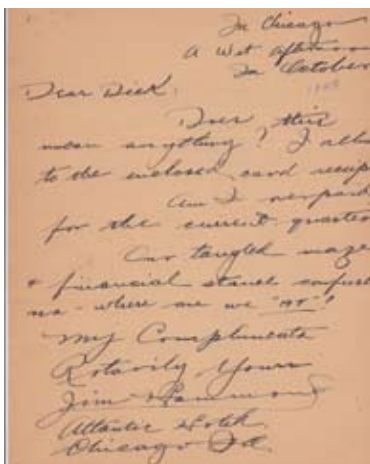
The big news of 1927 was that the club’s own Jim Hammond had been appointed Assistant Secretariat of Rotary International. He would serve in that position until 1930, and he often regaled the club with stories about Rotary’s founder, Paul Harris.

Early 1928, on February 16th, the New London Rotary Club, Lions and Chamber of Commerce met jointly to hear Commodore Herbert Hartley, who had served as commander of *The Leviathan* 1923-1928 and was in New London to inspect the harbor as a possible terminus of a Four-Day Line to Europe.

On July 19, 1928, Jim Hammond returned from Rotary International Headquarters and, after a rousing welcome, delivered his report as a delegate at the Rotary International Convention. In September, the club attended the charter night for the Clinton-Madison-Guilford Club.

1928 Television—a New Technology

On March 15, 1928, Connecticut College Professor G.K. Daghlion explained a new image technology called “Television.” Who knew what that meant back in 1928!



Hammond letter from Chicago

In January 1929, eight Rotarians (Costello, Belden, Winship, Woodworth, Bob Smith, Lathrop, Coit and Bill Clarke) formed a double quartet to sing at meetings. On May 2nd, over 80 club members were accompanied by the Coast Guard Band and a quintet of Rotarian musicians. Meanwhile, Jim Hammond posted letters from RI Headquarters in Chicago.

Not only did the New London Club support the Boy Scouts, they also lent their support to the Girl Scouts. On May 9, 1929, the club named a club committee to help and donated \$75 toward creating a water supply for the Girl Scout Camp.

With the Crash of 1929, the club decided it didn’t have the spirit for a club cheer, but the club’s double quartet still sang at meetings.

New London's First Boys' Club, 1923

Generally, juvenile delinquency was not widespread in the 1920s, but it was beginning to appear in New London in those days. One crowded section of the city spawned a “gang” of youngsters from eight to 15 years of age who were constantly getting into trouble. What may have started as boyish pranks was developing into breaking and entering, vandalism, and petty thievery.

The New London Rotary Club recognized this as a challenge, rolled up its sleeves and went to work. A Boys Work committee was formed and the section of the town surveyed for options to address the problem. At first, the boys resented the appearance of well-dressed, prominent businessmen in their narrow streets, but they soon found these men were pretty good fellows after all.

The Rotarians stopped to talk with the boys and gradually were able to win their friendship. The gift of a baseball, a bat, or a bag of fruit from time to time cemented the growing friendships. Then word spread that there was to be a meeting of all the boys in the neighborhood—with free refreshments. At the time of the meeting, the hall was packed.

When the fatherly Rotarians announced they were going to organize a Boys' Club—a business-like organization with a membership fee—the boys were delighted. The next few days saw them cutting wood, carrying coal, selling papers, raking leaves, doing anything to earn an honest 10 cents for membership.

By October 1923, the Boys Work committee had been authorized to rent the old police station on Potter Street for \$300 per year—if the funds could be raised—for use as a Boys' Club. The Boys' Club opened November 19th.

By May 1924, the Boys' Club had grown so that they needed to find another location. So Rotary asked the YMCA if the Boys' Club could meet there. Rotary agreed to fund as many boys as it could at \$9 each, and, effective May 19th, the Rotary Boys' Club was established at the YMCA. Ben Marshall offered the use of Connecticut College campus and athletic equipment for the Boys' Club. Nearly 40 boys were guests of Jim and Clara Hammond at the Lyceum Theatre on November 28th, and December 22nd, the club entertained the boys with a Christmas dinner at the Mohican Hotel.

At club meetings, the boys were taught fair competition in supervised play, honesty, fairness and respecting the rights of others. Rotarians supplied boxing gloves and set up a ring to teach formal boxing; they also outfitted baseball teams.

Deacon Harris, with a lot of help from Charter Member George Fisher, was largely responsible for the Boys' Club's success. It met three times a week, twice for gymnastics and games, and once for scout work and entertainment. The boys elected their own officers, conducted patriotic exercises, introduced guest speakers and in general conducted the club's business themselves. Summers, the boys were sent to Boy Scout Camp.

At one time the Rotarians, through the Boys' Club, were sponsoring a league of eight baseball teams. On May 25, 1925, the Boys Work committee reported on games played by four teams of the Boys' Club: the Sullivans defeated the Costellos, the Danforths downed the Clarkes. In October, the club initiated a new Boys' Club activity, consisting of a 15-minute talk every Monday night at the Boys' Club by a Rotarian. In November, Deac Harris thanked members for seeing that every member of the Boys' Club attended the YMCA father-and-son banquet.

On January 28, 1926, the New London Rotary Club met with the Boys' Club and the Boy Scout Troop at the Mohican Hotel. The boys provided the program entertainment under Deacon Harris' direction. Ed Regan presented a cup to the winning Clarkes team in the baseball league. Jim Sullivan and Connie Costello gave talks.

A feature story in *The Day* newspaper of February 10, 1926, reported the great success of the Rotary Boy's Club that had opened a few years earlier in a room in the old city jail and within a month moved to the YMCA. In the club, seven nationalities and four religions "were united by the zeal and eagerness of the man who cannot seem to do enough for them," the paper said. In return, the boys did all they could for Deac Harris—by winning prizes in Halloween costume parades, donating to the Community Chest, and ranking among the highest of all Rotary Boys' Clubs in New England.

On January 23, 1927, the New London Rotary, Lions and Chamber of Commerce met jointly to pay tribute to Deacon Harris for his untiring devotion to the Rotary Boys' Club. In November 1928, Harris and others took the Rotary Boys' Club to the Yale Bowl to see the Yale-Maryland football game.

Over the years, parents took interest, and crime and juvenile delinquency all but disappeared. Many of those boys became respected, successful businessmen in their own right. Some even became Rotarians.



Boy Scout Troop 12

New London's Boy Scout Troop 12 was formed as an offshoot of the Boy's Club; Boy Scout records show that the troop was chartered in August 1923.

The troop met at the YMCA like the Boys' Club; Deacon Harris was the chairman of the troop committee. In August 1924, nearly 40 boys were sent to Boy Scout camp for one week by the club. In August 1925, New London Rotarians built a "Rotary Cabin" at the Camp Wakenah Boy Scout Camp. (Camp Wakenah is BSA's oldest Boy Scout Camp in America.)

The Rotary club expended an average of \$1,000 per year on the Boys' Club and Scout Troop over a period of 16 or 18 years, raising the funds by assessments on the membership. And the Rotary Boys' Club and Scout Troop also expressed several times their appreciation for the New London Rotary Club. For example, on June 16, 1927, the Rotary Boys' Club and Rotary Scout Troop presented the club with a silk flag and standard for club meetings and gatherings.

The records of the Pequot Council of the Boy Scouts show that the troop continued until 1943, but there has been no Troop 12 in New London since then.

Some Scouts became Rotarians, and one became the President of the New London Rotary Club.

The Depression Years: Yale-Harvard Regatta Tradition Begins, Welcome Song & Hurricane of 1938

There's no denying the Great Depression's effect on the New London Rotary Club: With the Crash of '29, the club decided it didn't have the spirit for a club cheer and club records show several letters to club members about keeping current with their dues. But the Rotary Club of New London didn't waiver in its continued involvement in the community and Rotary. And Jim Hammond set new records for make-ups all around the country.

In April 1930 for the club's 13th birthday, all 79 members were at the club's first 100-percent-attendance meeting, and in July, Jim Hammond gave a report on the Silver Anniversary Rotary International Convention. Meetings moved from the Dutch Room to the Ballroom of the Mohican Hotel. In November, with stories and song, Jim Sullivan and Connie Costello won cake for all the New London members at an inter-city meeting at the Norwich Inn with the Norwich, Willimantic, Putnam and Danielson Clubs.



Mohican Hotel

On January 22, 1931, the club wired congratulations to the New Britain Rotary Club on its tenth anniversary, noting that its founder, Leon Sprague, had previously formed the New London Rotary Club. In October 1931, the club donated funds to the Newington Home for Crippled Children for the care of a little girl on referral from the New London VNA.



Dr. Katharine Blunt
Connecticut
College President

Connecticut College students related to New London Rotarians were guests of the club at a meeting February 25, 1932, at which Attorney Morris Lubchansky presented a check for \$50 from the club to Dr. Katharine Blunt, the first woman president of the college, to be used by girls needing financial assistance.



Newington Home for
Crippled Children Letter

Nearly 200 gathered in New London October 19, 1933, for an inter-city meeting with Rotarians from Danielson, Norwich, Putnam, Saybrook, Willimantic, and Middletown, at which each

club staged a stunt. Another inter-city meeting with the Norwich, Saybrook, Danielson and Willimantic Clubs took place at the Mohican Hotel on February 7, 1935. The Rotary Boy Scout Troop staged an exhibition wand drill, and Don Fraser, ventriloquist, performed.

Donald A. Adams of New Haven, former President of Rotary International, was the speaker at a District Fall Conclave at the Griswold Hotel, September 24-25, 1937. Club President Winslow Ames greeted the 375 attending. The Fall Conclave of September 17-18, 1938 was also held at the Griswold Hotel with about 200 attending. Club President Ad-elard Nourie was the event's chief host. This event was just days before the destructive hurricane of September 21st—and not long before the outbreak of what would become World War II.



Griswold Hotel



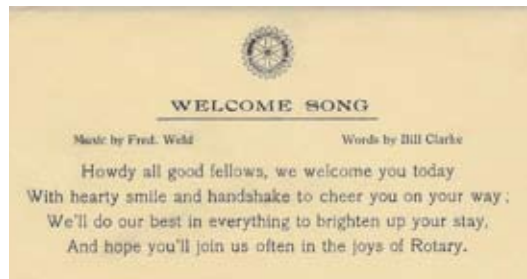
1938 Hurricane Couldn't Stop Rotary

Two days after the 1938 hurricane, the club, not deterred by the destruction around them, met for the weekly meeting at the Mohican Hotel and shared cold sandwiches.

Left: Destruction along New London waterfront

In the 30s, Professor Fred Weld of Connecticut College and Bill Clarke wrote a Welcome Song for the club that was sung after the introduction of visiting Rotarians and guests. All New London Rotarians would stand, cross arms, join hands in a series of chains, and sing:

Howdy all good fellows,
We welcome you today.
With hearty smile and handshake
To cheer you on your way.
We'll do our best in everything
To brighten up your stay.
And hope you'll join us often
In the joys of Rotary.



This Welcome Song was sung for over 30 years until it was replaced in the 1960s with the one written by Chester Kitchings that is still sung today.

Yale-Harvard Regatta Observance Begins

It was during the 1930s that the New London Rotary Club, Kiwanis and Lions began jointly celebrating the Yale-Harvard Regatta at the meeting prior to the long-standing race by hosting the team captains and coaches with the drawing of the race's lane assignments. This tradition continues today.



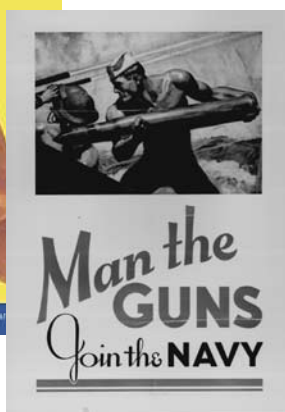
The Forties: World War II, 25th Anniversary & James Hammond, Governor



Less than 25 years after its founding during WWI, the New London Rotary Club was back in the middle of a Second World War. And like all of America, the Rotary Club of New London was consumed by support on the homefront for the war effort.

But with the coming of peace, the club began to turn toward more community service. And with that peace came the New London Club's first District Governor, James Hammond.

When war erupted in Europe, Rotary International adopted a "respect for human rights" resolution: "Where freedom, justice, truth, sanctity of the pledged word and respect for human rights do not exist, Rotary cannot live nor its ideals prevail." By then all 42 German clubs had disbanded.



The New London Rotary Club, born during the First World War, pitched in collectively and individually to do its part during World War II. The membership took over the responsibility for manning one night each week the area's air raid warning center (first at the Niagara Engine Company and later in the Post Office Building) in four-hour shifts of two men each from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Jim Hammond became known as the "Marrying Parson," because, as a Justice of the Peace, he would marry any serviceperson going off to war for free.

At the club meeting of September 10, 1942, the club hosted new inductees for a special send-off, with Harry M. Shalett as chair, but the club's service to departing military personnel didn't stop there. The



First New London WWII Inductees

club distinguished itself by giving service to those leaving for war. Whenever a group of draftees departed for camp, one or more Rotarians were on hand at the railroad station to shake the hand of each soldier, wish him luck and present him a pack of playing cards with the club's compliments. At the start, each deck was imprinted with the draftee's name, but as the draft calls increased in frequency and numbers, this personal touch had to be omitted. The club continued to give each enlistee a deck of cards throughout the war and afterwards, at a cost of several hundred dollars.

It was this sort of community service, plus an increase in meeting attendance, that won for the New London Club, during John Balentine's second term as president, the District Governor's Citation as the Outstanding Club in the District. "Bal" later was asked if his name could be placed in nomination for District Governor, but his school duties prevented him from acquiescing.

The war called two of the club's presidents to active service while they were in office. Carl Wies was called up, and his term was completed by Palmer Niles. Niles, elected in his own right for the year 1941-42, also was called to duty, and his Vice President, Fremont Alderson, took over for the rest of his term.

New London Rotary's 25th Anniversary

On April 10, 1942, New London celebrated its 25th anniversary at a dinner dance at the Mohican Hotel Roof Garden. The gathering of Rotarians and Rotary Anns paid tribute to J. William Clarke, the only secretary the club had had up to that time and one with an unbroken attendance record of 25 years. The club also recognized founder Leon Sprague, who was in attendance. District Governor Dr. Ralph C. Jenkins of Danbury spoke, and Event Chair Harry M. Shalett presented a radio to Bill Clarke. President Palmer Niles was home on leave, but Vice President Fremont Alderson presided over the event.



In February 1944, the club voted to take over the sponsorship of the Teen Canteen at 117 State Street. In addition to financial support, almost every evening club members supervised the dances and other events held for local high school students. Later, the canteen moved to Huntington Street. The Canteen work was launched by a committee composed of Rev. Ollie W. Bell, Bryan Mahan, W.D. Harris, Fremont Alderson, Maurice Grubner and Hector LeBeau.

Started in 1944, the Do Good Chest—at times throughout its history called the Rotary Community Service Fund and Do Good Fund—is now part of the New London Rotary Foundation.

A preflight training program was started by the club on March 6, 1945, with Bob Groebel in charge. Forty-one boys and girls from four high schools—Chapman Tech, Bulkeley, Williams Memorial Institute and Fitch—were selected to take the 10-week, 40-hour course, meeting twice weekly. The club offered five scholarships for flight training to those ranking highest in the pre-flight course. Three actually received pilot licenses.

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

In 1945, 46 members renovated the Rotary Cabin at Camp Wakenah; the club gave canoes to the camp and sent underprivileged girls to the Girl Scout camp.



Herbert J. Taylor
Rotary Director

On May 4, 1946, New London Rotarians hosted some 500 visiting Rotarians and their spouses at the Spring District Conference at the Mohican Hotel. Herbert J. Taylor of Chicago, a Rotary International Director, was the speaker. Fremont Alderson was Conference Chairman and Howard Morehouse was Club President. Taylor would become RI President in 1954-55.



Camp Wakenah

Early 1947, the club sponsored a community-wide meeting attended by all the service clubs and public officials, at which Connecticut Governor Raymond E. Baldwin presented a traffic safety award won by New London to the City Mayor.

The 30th Anniversary of the club was observed April 10, 1947, at a dinner dance at the Mohican. The event was marked by the attendance of three of the club's charter members: J. William Clarke, Edward S. Doton and W.D. Harris. Club President Bob Groebel welcomed the group, and Jim Hammond introduced the District Governor, Leo Golden of West Hartford.

In late June 1947, Past President Jim Hammond was elected to be District Governor for District 200 for the Rotary Year 1947-48 at the Rotary International Convention in San Francisco.

James G. Hammond, First District Governor from New London Rotary

- **"Mr. Rotary" & "Uncle Jim"**
- **Assistant RI Secretariat, 1927-30**
- **New London Rotary Club President, 1939-40**
- **District Governor, 1947-48**

James Hammond missed being a charter member of the New London Club because of a meeting at the Chamber of Commerce where he worked. But he was an enthusiastic visitor, often leading the club in song and oratory long before he became a member in January 1918.

Our First "Mr Rotary," he attended early Rotary Conventions and at the 1925 Convention seconded the motion to elect New Haven's Donald Adams as President of Rotary International. Even before becoming president of the New London Club in 1939-40, Jim served as Assistant Secretariat of Rotary International in 1927-30, working with Rotary founder, Paul Harris. He served as District Governor in 1947-48, and had perfect attendance for 29 years, in part because he made up at Rotary Clubs all over the country—a record 414 of them over 20 years. He also wrote the first history of the New London Club for its celebration of Rotary's 50th Anniversary in 1955.

"Uncle Jim," as he liked to be called, was known for his big personality, good humor and engagement with the community. In his younger days, he was a theater and silent movie actor and loved quoting Shakespeare. During World War II, he was called the "Marrying Parson" because he performed free weddings for servicemen. He was Secretary of the War Savings Society, Connecticut Fisheries and Game Commissioner, and State Representative 1945-57. He also hosted a radio show and sponsored his own Uncle Jim Clubs for boys and girls.





On June 26, 1947 in a ceremony at the Mohican Hotel, Chester Kitchings, owner of Coca-Cola Bottling of New London, was installed as Club President with Harry M. Shalett as Vice President.

Soon after the start of his year as governor, Jim Hammond presided over a District Assembly hosted by the New London Club at the Mohican Hotel on July 11, 1947. Past Governor Leo Golden, now a Rotary International Director, headed a panel discussion for incoming club presidents. Past Governors Philip Dean of Middletown, Ellis Thayer of Norwich, Karl Knabenschuh of New Haven, and John Casson of Springfield also led sessions. New London Secretary Wilson Highmore and Howard Pierce handled registration, Pierce and Arthur Quimby led a round of singing, and the Boy Scouts assisted with parking under the direction of Vice President Harry Shalett. The reception committee consisted of Ed Doton and Nestor Dreyfus, and lunch was managed by Shalett with the assistance of Robert Sullivan, Howard Morehouse, Eli Lemonis and Ralph Wadleigh.

Do Good Chest, The Early Years

The Club's Do Good Chest was started in 1944. In the beginning, the committee had the authority, not only to offer financial support to needy individuals, but also to underwrite, support, and direct a number of community activities and charities. Here are examples of its work in the early years:

- Financial contributions, as well as leadership and guidance, were offered to the Juvenile Courts to help in the rehabilitation of young mischief-makers and nascent criminals. The committee was asked by the local Juvenile Court to provide recreation and equipment for children awaiting disposition of their cases before the court. The committee addressed this need with an appropriation of \$25, and extended advice, guidance and friendliness to the boys.
- The committee organized and financed a baseball club in the "Little Big League" for boys from 13 to 15 at a cost of more than \$225 for uniforms, bats, gloves and other equipment.
- The committee spent \$30 to provide braces and special shoes to a poor crippled boy, age eight.
- When the New London High School band turned to the community for support in raising the money to buy new uniforms, the Do Good Chest appropriated \$200 for this cause.
- The committee appropriated \$300 to help maintain a local boy at the Junior Republic School in Litchfield.
- More than \$200 was given to the Children's Village of Hartford orphan asylum.
- When the committee learned that several boys—sons of widows and poor parents—longed to join the YMCA, it appropriated \$100 to the YMCA for 15 memberships.
- When a poor boy was in immediate need of surgery, \$75 was given for his hospitalization.
- Another \$232 sent girls to Scout camps, rest camps and farms for the summer.
- A boy in urgent need of dental treatment received \$45, while a young girl needing special dental work was also assisted.
- A boy was given an eye operation that saved his sight.

In addition, the committee funded summer camp for a number of poor boys. And sometimes, club members provided well-paying summer work such as mowing lawns, raking leaves, and weeding gardens to help boys earn the funds they needed for camp.

The Do Good Chest went beyond financial assistance to reach out to those in need. For example, the committee purchased many boxes of Christmas, Thank You, Get Well, Valentine, Easter, Birthday and New Year's cards and provided stamps for distribution to the poor, invalids and shut-ins. In some cases, this included flowers and gifts.

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

On July 17, 1947, New London Rotary joined the Lions and Kiwanis Clubs to honor Admiral W.H.P. Blandy, Commander in Chief of the Atlantic Fleet. Blandy was best known as the commander of the task force that carried out the atom

Admiral Blandy Declares
World Disarmament Is Not
Desirable Goal at Present

The Day, July 17, 1947, Headline

bomb tests at Bikini Atoll. He arrived at State Pier on his flagship, the *Pocono*, and attended the luncheon meeting, with District Governor James Hammond presiding, at the Mohican Hotel prior to his inspection of local naval installations. The extensive guest list also included Rear Admiral James Fife, commander of submarines of the Atlantic Fleet, Rear Admiral W.D. Johnson of Admiral Blandy's staff, Mayor Fred Benvenuti and City Manager Edward Henkle.

Cancelled during the war years, the annual picnic was reinstated on August 27, 1947, at Ocean Beach Park. The clambake, originally scheduled for the Gam Restaurant Terrace, was moved into the dining room because of threatening weather. The event included a vaudeville show and golf tournament on the park's mini-golf course. Seventy-seven Rotarians, family members and guests attended.

In October 1947, District Governor Jim's official visit to the New London Club saw a record turnout from the club, including 16 Past Presidents and six Charter Members. President Chester Kitchings presided over the meeting, which included remarks by Club Founder Leon Sprague. An article in *The Day* reported that Governor Jim talked about his attendance at an assembly of district governors from many nations in Sun Valley and the internationalism and love for our fellow man that is a part of Rotary. The article also reported that Jim Hammond had attained a record of attending 16 meetings in one week and had a perfect attendance record of 27 years.

Other programs for 1947-48 were: State Senator Robert Anderson, Rev. Walter Euston on mountain-climbing in the White Mountains, USN Ensign Jones of the patrol bomber that rescued six survivors off Cape Cod, State Comptroller Fred Zeller on the state budget, a WWII veteran who talked about escaping the Japanese, Boy Scout Day, U.S. Congressman Horace Seely-Brown,

and a holiday program by the Joseph Lawrence School of Nursing Choral Club.

Armed Forces Day Observance

The spring of 1948 saw the club's first Armed Forces Day observance. This special recognition of service members in the community became an annual event on the Thursday nearest Armed Forces Day. With the Coast Guard Academy, Naval Underwater Sound Laboratory, Submarine Base, and Coast Guard Training Station in the area, the club often had high-ranking officers participate, including an admiral or two. Speakers were often generals or admirals from one of the branches of the service. The Lions, Kiwanis and exchange clubs would also join Rotary in these gatherings.

A reunion of the Rotary Boys' Club took place May 9, 1948, as a testimonial to Deacon Harris, who had been supervisor of the club for most of the 18 years it operated between 1920 and 1938. In total, over 1,200 boys held membership in the Boys' Club.

On December 2, 1948, the New London Club edged out Norwich in a three-month attendance contest by a margin of eleven one-hundredths, and later dined at the expense of the losers.

The Fifties: Youth-in-Government, Our Birthday Song & Dr. Carl Wies' Spare Parts Program

The 1950s saw further extension of the club's ideals into service for the elderly, youth and the handicapped. The decade also brought the extension of Rotary through two new clubs in the region (Mystic and Groton) and greater involvement in the Rotary organization in Connecticut.

In 1951, the club initiated an annual meeting to promote the employment of the physically handicapped, including wounded war veterans. Members of the other service clubs also joined in the program, with the meeting rotating among Rotary, Lions and Kiwanis. Speakers advised employers on accommodating disabled workers, and handicapped employees explained their jobs to show that they were as productive as their fellow "abled" workers. The program continued until 1954.

The Griswold Hotel was again the scene of the District Fall Conclave on September 12-13, 1952.

In 1953 with Harry M. Shalett as chair, the club began sponsoring *Herald Tribune* Fresh Air vacations for innercity children in southeastern Connecticut. Bryan Mahan was chairman in 1954. The committee procured homes in southeastern Connecticut where boys and girls from New York's crowded boroughs could spend a week or two at the Connecticut shore or countryside in August.

Youth-in-Government Program

To promote civic understanding and engagement among the city's youth, the club began a Youth-in-Government program in March 1954 with the cooperation of New London High School. The program was under the auspices of the club's Youth Service Committee with Fremont Alderson as chair.

Students "campaign" to be "elected" for various city offices, including the posts of Mayor, City Councilor, City Manager and other key positions in city departments. They were "sworn in" by the City Clerk at a regular City Council meeting. Then the students spent a day shadowing their adult counterparts and observing the workings of government.

Afterwards, the Youth-in-Government students were guests of the New London Rotary Club, where they talked about their experiences as "city officials" and what they had learned about city government. The program continued in association with New London High School's history and civics department for over 50 years.

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

Sponsored Mystic Club, 1954

After many years of trying to establish a club in a community that is partly in the Town of Groton and partly in the Town of Stonington, New London was finally able to launch the new Mystic Rotary Club in 1954. The work was done by a committee consisting of President John M. Kamercia, Maurice Grubner, Fremont Alderson, Wilson L. Highmore, Frank J. Laycock and Harry M. Shalett.

The new club, consisting of 22 of Mystic's business and professional leaders, conducted its first provisional meeting at the Lantern Hill Homestead on April 26, 1954. Its officers were: President George L. Farnham, Vice President E. Winfield Gaskell, Treasurer Dr. Robert A. Gray, and Secretary Maurice P. Morisette.

The meeting of June 3, 1954, became a farewell party, planned by Attorney Merrill Dreyfus, for Rev. O.W. (Ollie) Bell who was leaving the Methodist Church here for a pastorate in Bath, Maine. A Rotarian for 21 years and in the ministry for 31 years, Ollie was the club's senior chaplain and a Past President. As he stood before a huge sign that read, "By Golly, Ollie, We're Solly," President John Kamercia gave him a piece of luggage as a gift from the club, and then members filed by and handed him personal gifts, most of which were humorous.

Dr. Carl Wies' Spare Parts Program

Also in 1954, Carl Wies, co-chair of the club's Do Good Chest committee, proposed that the club appropriate \$200 to support a "Spare Parts Program," which would provide single shoes and gloves to amputees and others without two hands and two feet.

Dr. Wies told about a patient born without a left arm who received three pairs of gloves for Christmas. When Dr. Wies asked what he did with the left ones, the man said his wife probably had thrown them away—but she hadn't. Another patient of Dr. Wies had feet that were not the same size, so she would buy two pairs of shoes to get one complete set that she could wear. And another person with an artificial hand found that he wore out more gloves with his artificial hand than with his real hand, so that he, too, would end up with gloves he could not use.

So Dr. Wies, using notices through medical journals and associations, hospitals and publicity in *The Rotarian*, collected spare shoes, slippers, overshoes and gloves and made them available to others needing single items. The Do Good Chest funding covered the cost of shipping the "spare parts" across the nation. Although after this initial sponsorship, the program essentially became a one-person project conducted by Dr. Wies, it still made national news and brought the club great recognition. And the club honored Carl Wies in later years by naming a special recognition of a Rotarian who has benefitted the club the Carl Wies Award.



Frank Laycock, who would eventually achieve more than 62 years in Rotary, was President of the New London Club in 1954-55, a momentous year as it was the 50th Anniversary of the founding of Rotary International. The New London Club celebrated Rotary's Golden Anniversary with a dinner in February 1955 at the Norwich Inn with 300 in attendance and a seven-foot birthday cake (see sidebar next page).

In 1955, the club entertained 25 men from local military bases and had as the program the nurses' chorus of the Joseph Lawrence School of Nursing.



Frank Laycock's
Badge

Rotary International's Golden Anniversary Celebration

On February 23, 1955, the New London Club joined with other clubs in Eastern Connecticut in a banquet at Norwich Inn to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the founding of Rotary International. Frank Laycock was the President of the New London Club and presided over the event.

Attending were members of the New London, Norwich, Willimantic, Putnam, Danielson and Mystic Clubs. As the father of the Norwich and Mystic Clubs, and the grandfather of the Norwich-sponsored clubs to the north, the New London Club was surrounded by its offspring.

For the occasion, Past District Governor James Hammond wrote a 40-page history of the New London Club for the celebration of Rotary International's 50th Anniversary. That history is the basis for the first 38 years of this history.

A special photo was taken of the club members for inclusion in the booklet. To provide ample space for the club photograph, the club meeting of February 3, 1955, was conducted in the Mohican Hotel Ballroom. Ironically, despite advance notice, only 51 of the 72 club members were present. Almost any other week would have seen an attendance of between 60 and 70.

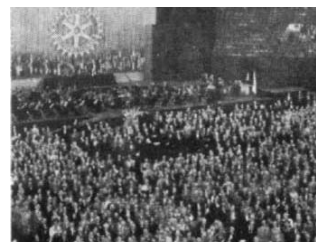


New London Rotary Club, February 3, 1955

Left to right, first row (kneeling)—Blessing, Kitchings, Douton, Vines, M. Dreyfus, Holland, Alling. Second row (seated)—Harris, Lubchansky, Murphy, Colby, H.G. Shalett, Laycock, Hunnewell, Highmore, Elwood, Grubner, Belden, Whittemore, N. Dreyfus, H.M. Shalett, Hammond. Third row (standing)—Savard, Blank, Wies, McEwen, Sturtevant, Staub, Savin, Hansen, Baratz, Wadleigh, Arnold, Hancock, Kamercia, Johl, Creem. Rear row—Doherty, Scarpa, Goff, Smith, Lemonis, Payne, Sampson, Groebel, Radway, Kaplan, Mahan, Moss, Mason, Richman.

May 29-June 2, 1955, President Frank Laycock attended the Rotary International Convention held in Chicago. U.S. Vice President Richard Nixon was the keynote speaker.

When Rotary celebrated its 50th Anniversary, there were 400,000 members in 8,400 clubs in 89 nations.



**Rotary Convention
Chicago, 1955**

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

Rotary International's Golden Anniversary Stamps

Through the efforts of Max G. Johl, whose hobby is philately, all first and second class mail that passed through the cancellation machine at the New London Post Office between February 23rd and May 31st bore a special slogan cancellation: "Golden Jubilee—Rotary International—1905-1955." New London was the first city in the United States to receive authorization from Washington to use the Rotary postal cancellation imprint. The first letters to receive the cancellation on February 23rd were sent by the club, one to President Eisenhower, the second to President of Rotary International Herbert J. Taylor, and a third to Connecticut Governor Abraham Ribicoff.



Jim Hammond's Closing Remarks On Rotary's 50th Anniversary

The following is an excerpt from the Epilogue that Past District Governor James Hammond wrote for the 38-year history that he compiled for the club's celebration of Rotary International's 50th Anniversary. By 21st Century standards, it may seem overly sentimental, but it is worth consideration for the love, pride and high regard it shows that he and so many men of his era felt toward Rotary and its ideals.

It has been said that we understand and appreciate best the things in which we participate. There is one fundamental conflict in the thinking of members of the human race everywhere: the conflict between altruism and selfishness. Stop and think.

Recently, I was making a change of clothes which required the removal of my Rotary button from one coat to another. I paused to examine it, and asked myself, "Why do I wear this? What does it mean to me, anyway?"

Ideas and thoughts came so fast, I just sat down and pondered. "Yes, it is pretty," I thought, "and it is something which I am proud to wear. Why?"

It grants me a great and honorable privilege. Anywhere I go, every wearer of this noble badge is my friend. Into their precincts I may go with assurance of a warm welcome. I may enjoy their gatherings with a hearty cordiality unequalled these days. With these prized associations, no creed, race, business restrictions or political views may enter to restrain friendly enthusiasm and dampen their quality.

It symbolizes that I belong among the finest of mankind. With that goes the inspiring influence to be one of the finest. That never-ending challenge of performance in every-day behavior. Well, fellows, I came near not putting the little beauty back in the buttonhole when I came to realize how much I must be and do to have the right to wear it.

He continued with information about the new Rotary Headquarters in Evanston and offered a personal story about Paul Harris when Jim was the Assistant Secretariat at Rotary International. And he signed off in his usual style as "UNCLE JIM."

James Hammond was truly devoted to Rotary.

Sponsored Groton Rotary Club, 1955

In 1955, New London Rotary sponsored a new club of 33 members in Groton, and on June 21, President Frank Laycock's last official duty for the New London Club was installing the Groton Rotary officers. Max G. Johl (a former member of the New London Club) was Groton's first President, with Gilman Gunn, Sr., as Vice President, Paul Richardson as Secretary, and William Bastian as Treasurer.

The event, held at the Mohican Hotel, was attended by over 150 Rotarians and guests, representing 11 Rotary clubs. Merrill Dreyfus of New London was toastmaster, and Past Rotary International President Donald Adams was the keynote speaker. Guests also included Groton Lions Club President Frank Whitcomb and Groton Kiwanis Club President Charles Haffey. District Governor Henry Moeckel, Jr., presented the club with its charter, while Past District Governors offered gifts for the new club: a club banner from Howard Dickerman of Hamden, an American flag from Judge Harold Beardsley of Waterbury, a Rotary gong from Carl Knabenshuh of New Haven, badges and buttons from David North of North Haven, and a secretary's book from James Hammond of New London.

1955-56, under President Merrill Dreyfus, started with a picnic at the home of Dr. Carl Wies and was followed by a joint meeting with the Kiwanis Club to honor the Babe Ruth League teams sponsored by the two clubs. In the fall, 40 young people from the Youth-in-Government Program were honored at the club. And in December, as part of the club's Serviceperson of the Month recognition, several members of the military were guests at the club's holiday party.

In February 1956, on the occasion of Rotary International's 51st Anniversary, Past Governor James Hammond addressed the community on WNLC radio station as part of his radio show.



April 11, 1957, 40th Anniversary
at Mohican Hotel

April 11, 1957, under President Ralph Wadleigh—who would be a member for more than 50 years—the club celebrated its 40th Anniversary with a birthday cake at the Mohican Hotel. Later that Rotary year, the club assisted and contributed to the restoration of the New London Town Mill. On July 11, 1957, Past District Governor Jim Hammond gave an address and inducted the new club leadership for Rotary year 1957-58: President Donald Vines, Vice President Robert Weller, Secretary William Douton, Jr., Frank T. Creem, and Sergeant-at-Arms Harold Terry.

Robert Weller, the 38-year-old President of Mitchell College, became President of the Rotary Club of New London as of July 1, 1958. Bob would later serve in a number of other capacities in the club, including making the facilities and resources of the college available to the club, during his 55-year membership.

Dr. Thorburn McGowan became President for 1959-60. During his term of office, the club's most significant achievement was the establishment of a new club in Niantic. He, too, would be a member for more than 50 years.

The Old Timers Club: New London's First Senior Center

In the 50s, New London Rotary initiated the city's first senior center as the Old Timers Club. The Do Good Chest Committee, consisting of Wilson Highmore and Larry McEwen, co-chairs, George Fisher, Bob Groebel, Ralph Dempwolf, Jack Albohm and John Kamercia, conducted a survey and found that some 200 seniors were living alone without family or friends. The committee decided to address the social needs of these elderly men and women by bringing them together for fellowship and companionship.

The Learned House offered a meeting space, and Grace Latimer, superintendent of the Bacon-Hinkley Home for Men, accepted the assignment as temporary director. News stories in the press, letters to potential members, and visits to individuals' homes promoted this new concept of a community of seniors. The Old Timers

first meeting on September 19, 1950, was well attended. Bylaws were adopted and officers elected. This social club for the elderly was well-launched as a place for companionship and friendship. Within four years, the Old Timers Club membership had climbed to 100.

At least one Rotarian was always present at weekly meetings to assist as needed. Connecticut College students majoring in social work prepared and served lunch or refreshments. The Old Timers conducted their own meetings, appointed committees, planned refreshments, and staged programs. They gathered almost daily for card parties, sewing bees, basket weaving, needlecraft, bridge tournaments, and dancing—with the music provided by their own orchestra. In addition to being entertained, the club's members, who included monologists, poets, and playwrights, also entertained others, including the New London Rotary on November 20, 1953.

In those early years, Mrs. Latimer did much to ensure the club's success. She drove members in her beach wagon around the city, through the countryside or to the homes of sick and shut-in members. She supplied flowers from the Bacon-Hinkley greenhouses to brighten up the meeting room, and she took Old Timers on picnics and outings. The Rotary Club received many letters of thanks from the seniors and even heard that some physicians regarded membership in the Old Timers Club as good therapy and advised elderly patients to join.

Old Timers' Wedding

Cupid joined the Old Timers Club in 1952. On April 8th, an 83-year-old member blushing said, "Yes" to another Old Timer, aged 82. The Rotary Club ensured that the couple had a wedding to remember, and the event attracted wide notice in the press.

The day of the wedding, Rotary Anns decorated the Learned House and served wedding cake and punch, ice cream and cookies. Flowers were provided by George Fisher. More than 100 people, including Old Timers Club members, witnessed the ceremony. Bob Groebel offered to provide a ring but the bridegroom declined, saying that he "had one left over from the last time."

Doc Pierce played the wedding music, Mrs. Wilson Highmore sang a solo, John Kashanski, assistant director at Learned House, gave the bride away, and John Kamercia, Learned House director, was the couple's witness. Then the newlyweds drove off in a chauffeured limousine provided by Fremont Alderson.

The couple had nearly three years of happiness until the bridegroom died in January 1955.

New London's Birthday Song

In the late fifties, Chester Kitchings gave us new words for the birthday song we still sing today. The lyrics are:

Happy Birthday to you. Here's a flower for you,
And with it, we're hoping, That your best wish comes true.

Even today, club members are given a flower from Fisher Florist—a custom maintained since the founding of the club, when George Fisher was a charter member.

The Sixties: Rotary Scholars, New Welcome Song & 50th Anniversary

By the 1960s, the club had several established programs: its Do Good Chest which met a variety of charitable needs, Armed Forces Day observance, the annual Yale-Harvard Regatta with the Lions and Kiwanis Clubs, the Old Timers Club, and the Serviceperson of the Month recognition, also with the Lions and Kiwanis Clubs. Over the next decade it began to be more involved with the New London Public Schools, particularly in recognizing scholastic achievement. During the 60s, the club also founded a new club, celebrated its 50th Anniversary—with founding members attending—and adopted a new Welcome Song.

One of the first things that President Harry G. (Griff) Shalett did in Rotary year 1960-61 was oversee the charter night of the Niantic Club. He also got the club involved in conducting a Junior Achievement Program in a rented building on Meridian Street with funding by the Do Good Chest.

1960-61 also featured two Ladies' Nights, a Las Vegas party at the Norwich Inn, and a

Sponsored Niantic Club, 1960

New London sponsored a new club in Niantic that was admitted to Rotary on June 8, 1960. The charter banquet was held July 11, 1960, at the Morton House in Niantic. The Niantic Club's first President was Daniel L. Miller III, with Edwin Perkins as Vice President, Elias Lemonis as Secretary, Edwin C. Rice, Jr. as Treasurer, Edwin Higgins, Jr., as Sergeant-at-Arms, and Directors Bertrand Booth and Craig Fisher.

Harry G. Shalett, President of the New London Club, introduced the head table guests who included Presiding District Governor Gilman C. Gunn, Sr., of Groton, Past District Governor Karl Knabenschuh of New Haven, Past RI President and Past Governor Donald Adams of New Haven, Past District Governor James (Uncle Jim) Hammond of New London, Past District Governor Arnold H. Schroeder of Cheshire, Past District Governor George B. Lovell of New Haven, and Past President of the New London Rotary Club Thorburn S. McGowan.

Thorburn McGowan read the roll call of attending Rotary clubs. PDG Arnold Schroeder, as the governor under whom the charter had been requested, presented the club charter to the new Niantic President Daniel Miller.

Past RI President Donald Adams spoke on "Your Place in Rotary." PDG Jim Hammond offered a "Rotary Education." And PDG George Lovell closed with a Rotary Address.

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

Mitchell College Day in which two teams of club members competed for best attendance—the one that lost paid for dinner. An outstanding and entertaining speaker at one club luncheon was Connecticut College President Dr. Rosemary Park. She initiated the college's first fundraising campaign and oversaw the construction of many of the halls and centers on campus today.

Dr. Rosemary Park
Connecticut
College President



The Passing of James Hammond



Photo Courtesy of *The Day*

In January 1962, the Rotary Club of New London lost one of its biggest personalities: Past District Governor James Hammond, age 82. "Uncle Jim," as he liked to be called, was born in a log cabin in Oregon, where his father was a school teacher. While studying at the University of Oregon, he was introduced to Shakespeare and got the acting bug. He came east and graduated from the Stanhope Wheatcroft Dramatic School in New York City. Soon after, he landed a job in the Bowdoin Square Stock Company, playing young men in Shakespearean plays—later in life he could quote the bard at the drop of a hat. His acting career took him around the country, and even included parts in the early days of silent movies, supporting

such stars as Lon Chaney, John Barrymore, Mary Pickford, Tyrone Powers, Frank Keenan, and Douglas Fairbanks. Eventually, he settled down in New London, where he was the executive secretary of the Chamber of Commerce for 10 years. He also served in the Connecticut State Legislature and as State Fish and Game Commissioner.

He joined the New London Rotary Club in 1918 and served as Assistant Secretariat for Rotary International 1927-30 in charge of boys' work and schools, working in Chicago with Rotary founder, Paul Harris. Following his time at RI headquarters, he became the national field representative of the Rockefeller Foundation Fund and later



Jim Hammond's Letters to
Club Treasurer



the Isaak Walters League, lecturing before sportsmen's groups, Rotary clubs, and high school assemblies on conservation of America's woods, waters and wildlife. But even while traveling,

he still attended Rotary meetings and is legendary for having the record number of make-ups (414 over 20 years)—something the club archives attest to with several letters from him on hotel stationery from across the nation. He became the New London Club President for 1939-40. During World War II, he was known as the Marrying Parson—as a Justice of the Peace, he would perform for free the wedding ceremony for any service member going to war. He served as Rotary District Governor for 1947-48, and often spoke about the spirit of Rotary. He had 29 years of perfect attendance and loved to expound on the spirit of Rotary.

In retirement, Jim continued to be involved in the community. He served on the Waterford Board of Tax Review and on the State Conservation Advisory Council. He had a radio show on WNLC, under the moniker, "Uncle Jim," and organized and sponsored Uncle Jim Clubs for boys and girls.

He wrote the New London Club's first history and authored "Through the Windshield," a descriptive travelogue of trips around the U.S., Mexico and Canada. He lived a long, full life that was made all the richer because of Rotary. As he said—he'd "rather wear out than rust out."

In 1962-63, under President Rev. Paul Wilbur, several programs and activities added an international flavor. The club received a letter from Rotary in France requesting accommodations for two French young men, age 21, who wished to live in the area for a few days, and later a French student, Christian Chandler, studied at St. Bernard High School.

In December 1962, Matthew Mandel, age 17, gave a program on his recent trip around the world. Then, J.F. Brown of Stonington, who had been part of an American group of farmers touring the Soviet Union, told the club about the problems facing the Russian farmers. And Janet Tucker, Supervisor of Nursing at Lawrence and Memorial Hospitals, talked about Nursing Around the World.

On Armed Forces Day, the meeting was held at the U.S. Naval Underwater Sound Laboratory jointly with the Kiwanis and Lions. Rotarian Capt. Burton Andrews, Commanding Officer of the Sound Lab, addressed the gathered assembly.

That year the club also hosted a joint meeting with the Kiwanis and Lions to observe National Hire-the-Handicapped Week. David Silberstein, President of the National Foreman's Institute/Bureau of Business Practice, which published business management periodicals, spoke about the opening of their newly built facility in Waterford on Rope Ferry Road.

In 1963-64, under President Joseph M. Sullivan, the effectiveness of the Do Good Chest program was reviewed. In the previous five years, the chest had distributed \$5,848 to 17 recipients, with \$1,033 distributed in the past year to six recipients, all New London individuals with a one-time need not covered by local charities. In addition to Do Good donations, many Rotarians also volunteered for the Cancer Crusade and 17 members assisted in the United Fund Drive. The club also supported the Junior Achievement Organization until it became self-sustaining.



During 1963-64, Connecticut Governor John Dempsey named Rotarian Bar Colby to serve on the Nathan Hale Committee and Rotarian Arthur Barrows to serve on the Advisory Committee for the Connecticut Health Planning Project. Some interesting programs for the year were:

- Vivien Kellems, well known for challenging the constitutionality of the party lever on voting machines and the constitutionality of provisions of the national income tax laws that discriminated against single people.
- Mardy Walker of Connecticut College, who was "dead center" in a civil rights incident in Georgia.
- Ed Henkle, past Mayor of New London and retiring City Manager.
- Carl Anderson of New London Mills, a textile manufacturing company.



During 1965-66, President John Sillery committed the club to the Rotary Scholars Program. It was the beginning of what became an annual event. The Scholars Awards was meant to give scholastic achievement the same recognition afforded athletic achievement. A few years later, the program added a Rotary Community Service Award, also given on Rotary Scholars Day to two stu-



Headline and photo coverage of New London
Rotary Club's 50th Anniversary Celebration

First President Honored On Rotary's 50th Year



Rotarians All—Leon Sprague of Newington, second from left, who organized and served as first president of the New London Rotary Club, is congratulated by President William T. Douton, Jr., at the 50th anniversary observance. Others are Harry G. Shalett, left, program co-chairman, and Secretary Robert E. Groebel, right.

During Rotary year 1967-68, Dr. Hartman, in an address to the club, honored Dr. Carl Wies for his many contributions to the well-being of the New London community and mankind in general through his well-known Spare Parts Program.

Also during that year, Judge Donald Waeche spoke to the club about the problems encountered in conducting the business of the Juvenile Courts, and later Dr. Zeitz addressed the club on the disastrous effects of the drug LSD being used by young people.

In 1969 the Rotary Scholars Program honored eight top students from the New London and Waterford High Schools at a luncheon meeting.

William Moore, in an address to the club, advocated bringing industry into New London by

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

Rotary Scholars Program

Rotarians Donald Mitchell and Fremont Alderson initiated the program in which two junior and two senior New London High School and Waterford High School students receive awards for their academic success. In that first year, William Foye, principal of the New London High School, made presentations to students that included Dave Ginsberg's daughter and Ben Levinson's son, who was the top student in his class.

*First Rotary Scholars
Recognized in
The Day*

Seated, from left:
Jane Loeser, Jane
Ginsberg, Susan
Taylor and
Patricia Garrison.

Standing, from left:
Dana MacNamee,
Andrew Levinson, Candice Weigle and Joan Conley.

Far right: Don Mitchell, chairman of the Rotary Scholar Awards committee.



dents who have distinguished themselves in the larger community as well as in school. That award was later named the Benjamin A. Levinson Community Service Award in the 1990s. The club also sponsored the team that won the Babe Ruth League championship.

President William Douton, Jr., oversaw the New London Rotary Club's 50th Anniversary celebration May 17, 1967, with Colvert Morre and Harry G. Shalett as co-chairs.

New London Rotary's Golden Anniversary Celebration



The New London Rotary Club celebrated its Golden Anniversary in 1967, with a gala dinner dance at the Griswold Hotel in Groton, attended by 235 Rotarians, spouses, friends, and guests.

The climax of the celebration was the introduction of the founder and first president of the club, Leon Sprague, then a very lively 83 years of age. He explained how much his participation in Rotary had meant to him over the years.

President William Douton, Jr., expressed the club's gratitude for its founder's outstanding service and presented him with an engraved ship's clock. During the evening, Christian Bayreuther, President of the Niantic Rotary Club, gave the New London Club \$100 in newly minted Kennedy half-dollars, and the New London Rotary Club gave \$500 to The Rotary Foundation.

Unfortunately, before the festivities began, President Douton announced with regret that Morris Lubchansky, honorary chairman of the 50th Anniversary Committee, could not attend because of illness that required hospitalization.

After the cake cutting, the music began and everyone danced the night away.

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

having a profit-oriented group address the problem. Other speakers were William Miner who presented a slide show of his recent trip to Russia and Russell Lewis who gave an illustrated account of his experiences in Vietnam.

New Rotary Welcome Song

During the late 1960s, Harry Birenbaum and Kenneth Johnson wrote a new Welcome Song that we still sing today. The lyrics for the song were:

Welcome to Rotary,
Men of Good Cheer.
Enjoy Our Fellowship,
Sing Loud and Clear.
Service Before One's Self,
We'll Always Be.
We Welcome You Today
To Ro-ta-ry.

In 1987, the second line of the song was changed to "From Far and Near" when women were welcomed into the club. The song, an aspect of pride for this singing club, is now often sung at Rotary district events.

The Seventies: Unsung Hero Award, Paul Harris Fellows & Sport Show '78

The 1970s saw many changes in New London and the region, as the area grew with the expansion of Lawrence & Memorial Hospital, Pfizer and Electric Boat. The city also experimented with revitalization efforts for its downtown. In the New London Rotary, club members, as in the past, were the leaders in the community, and served in many organizations for the benefit of the community. But late in the decade, the club began to focus on fundraising as a way to have a greater visibility and greater impact on the welfare of the city and the southeastern Connecticut region.

1970-71, President Harlan Sturgis

Harlan Sturgis, President for 1970-71, was the principal at Harbor Elementary School. During his year, in addition to the regular programs and activities such as the summer picnic, Rotary Scholars, Armed Forces Day, and the Yale-Harvard Regatta joint meeting with the Lions and Kiwanis, Maestro Victor Norman and Norma Spitz enlightened the club about the many activities of our own Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra.

Arvid Anderson described the building program in progress at the Lawrence and Memorial Hospital. The resulting campaign and construction was strongly supported by the club and its members; many have since had reason to be grateful for the resulting new wing.

In the second half of 1970, 40 French students were hosted by the New London Club as part of Rotary's goal of promoting international understanding through student exchange visits.

Andre Savard was installed as Club President in June 1971, with Alexander Guida as Vice President.

1971-72, President Andre Savard

President Savard owned and operated Savard's, a men's clothing store on State Street in downtown New London. During his year in 1971-72, the club saw the finalization of plans for the State Street Mall (eventually named Captain's Walk) and the expansion of the local U.S. Postal Service. Both were explained in detail at meetings and generated considerable discussion. Club members also heard about Iwo Jima, the operations at the



Captain's Walk

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

Lantern Hill Silica Mine, and the problems facing East Lyme First Selectman Dennis Murphy.

June 15, 1972, Merrill Dreyfus emceed the traditional Yale-Harvard Regatta luncheon with city officials, the Lions and Kiwanis Clubs and the crimson and blue varsity teams.

At the passing of the gavel dinner, the club installed Alexander Guida as President with Kenneth Johnson as Vice President.

1972-73, President Alexander "Al" Guida

Alexander Guida of Guida Dairy was President during New London Rotary's 55th year. The club continued its annual picnic in August and Serviceperson of the Month recognition in the fall.

In 1972, 10 top students at New London and Waterford High Schools were honored as Rotary Scholars. The club also recognized New London High School Youth-in-Government students at a luncheon meeting chaired by the program's founder, Fremont Alderson.

June 14, 1973, the club held its annual Yale-Harvard Regatta under the chairmanship of Merrill Dreyfus. The luncheon meeting included the Lions and Kiwanis Clubs, city officials and the Yale and Harvard coaches and teams.

The annual installation banquet in June included an evening Ladies Night. Kenneth Johnson was installed as President with Frank Roche as Vice President.

1973-74, President Kenneth "Ken" Johnson

President Kenneth Johnson, a commercial banker with the Connecticut Bank & Trust Company, led the club through its traditional events and programs such as the annual picnic, Veterans Day observance, Youth-in-Government and Rotary Scholars recognitions. He also added his melodious voice to meetings and led club songs because he was well known for performances in local musical and operetta productions.

During the year, redevelopment plans for Shaw's Cove and Union Station were the subjects of discussion by the community and at Rotary meetings. The Shaw's Cove plan, as explained to the club, was something that could be almost universally supported, but the presentation that advocated the demolition of Union Station was not so well received, particularly since some club members were involved in the effort to save the station.



Union Station

Other programs of interest were Big Brothers/Big Sisters Adopt and Match Program, a presentation of new developments relating to the Eastern Connecticut Symphony by Conductor Victor Norman, Harve Stein of Stoneledge Galleries speaking on "Fine Art as an Investment," and a talk by Attorney Gilbert Shasha on Circuit Court Judge interference in the Brayman case.

In June, the club evening installation banquet saw the induction of Francis "Frank" Roche as President with William Foye as Vice President, Robert Groebel as Secretary, Arthur Moss as Treasurer, and Phil Burns as Sergeant-at-Arms.

1974-75, President Francis "Frank" Roche

President Frank Roche took time from his architectural firm, Lindsay, Liebig & Roche for his Rotary year. During 1974-75, the community was concerned about the dredging of the Thames River, and Past President Nicholas Staub explained the operation to the New London Club, including the details of how it was done and why it was needed.

Jay Bloom alerted the club to the needs of the elderly poor, and Arvid Anderson explained the services that would be supplied by Lawrence & Memorial Hospital's new Pequot Clinic. Other programs included USCGA Professor of History Irving King on the beginnings of the Coast Guard, Richard Loomis of the Chamber of Commerce of SECT on "Tourism in 1976, Our Bi-Centennial Year," and a proposal for a New London Coliseum.



USCGA
Prof. Irving King

As in previous years, students from New London and Waterford High Schools were honored as Rotary Scholars and as Youth-in-Government participants.

At the installation banquet in June, William Foye was inducted as President with Joseph Me-deiros as Vice President, Robert Groebel as Secretary, Arthur Moss as Treasurer, and Phil Burns as Sergeant-at-Arms.

1975-76, President William "Bill" Foye

William Foye was the Principal of New London High School and was the go-to man for all the club's programs in regards to New London students, particularly Rotary Scholars and Youth-in-Government. The annual picnic was held August 20th at Mitchell College.

During 1975-76, club members were asked through their business and social contacts to help allay the fears of those concerned about nuclear waste from the region's various nuclear facilities: Millstone Nuclear Power Plant, United Nuclear Technologies and the nuclear submarines built at Electric Boat and stationed at the Submarine Base in Groton. A Mr. Fox assured the club that technology existed to prevent nuclear waste from becoming a health hazard. Also Dr. Stephen Levinson, the son of Past President Ben Levinson, helped club members enter the computer age by delivering an address on the kinds of things computers could do.



Miss Nude America

A rather curious and unprecedented event occurred in July 1975. One of the programs failed to materialize as planned and a substitute program was needed in a hurry. At the time the speaker was to appear, Miss Nude America, one Miss Donovan, was presented to the surprised members. She was "out of uniform," i.e., she was not nude. She was then appearing in an Ivoryton Playhouse production entitled "This Was Burlesque." She spoke about her career and left the general impression that she was not part of the feminist movement. The records do not identify the Rotarian who was responsible for the program.

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

Of course, the year did not end with Miss Nude America. The club also recognized the Serviceperson of the Month, Youth-in-Government students, Rotary Scholars, and others at club meetings. As was their custom, New London Rotarians volunteered for a number of community charity programs.

The District began recognizing clubs and individual Rotarians for exceptional service, respectively with the Charles W. Pettengill Award and the Donald A. Adams Award.

At the passing the gavel banquet in June, the club installed Joseph Medeiros as President, Ed Cramer as President Elect, Bob Groebel as Secretary, Ralph Wadleigh as Treasurer, and Phil Burns as Sergeant-at-Arms.

1976-77, President Joseph “Joe” Medeiros

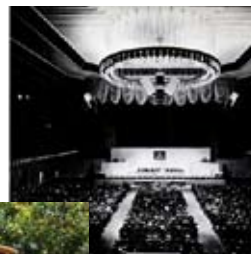


Joseph
Medeiros

Under the presidency of Joseph Medeiros, who was the New London Superintendent of Schools, the club continued with the same ongoing projects and programs of previous years. But it also undertook a re-write of the club bylaws. One of the changes was to add the office of President Elect to chair the community service/fundraising project for the year. It was hoped that the project would involve the entire club, would be a way for the President Elect to become acquainted with all the members of the club, and would give the second-in-command a specific responsibility.

In June 1977, the club sent President Elect Ed Cramer to the Rotary International Convention in San Francisco. This was not the first time a member of the club had been to an International Convention since the club founder, Leon Sprague, Past Governor James Hammond and others had been to International Conventions. However, it was the first time that the club specifically sent the incoming president.

President Elect Ed came back infused with the spirit of Rotary and resolved to convey to the club the inspiration he had felt at the convention and move the club into action. His two major goals were membership development and broad membership participation in a major club project.



Above: San
Francisco
Convention
Hall



Left: Cable car

1977-78, President Edward “Ed” Cramer

The club installation banquet was held at the Lighthouse Inn on July 7, 1977 (a propitious date 7/7/77). Ed Cramer was installed as President with David Ginsberg as President Elect. The evening installation was combined with a special celebration of the club’s 60th anniversary and the recognition of its oldest members (see sidebar).

In August of the new Rotary year of 1977-78, the club moved its annual picnic from the West Mystic home of Sumner Wilson to Mitchell College. District Governor Rolly Mettler of Hamden also visited the club in August.

New London's 60th Anniversary Celebration

On July 7, 1977, the club combined its officer installation banquet with its 60th Anniversary Celebration. The event was held at the Lighthouse Inn with dinner tickets priced at \$12 per person. Past President Fremont Alderson installed the club's new officers: Ed Cramer, President; Dave Ginsburg, President Elect; John Mirabito, Vice President; Bob Groebel, Secretary; Ralph Wadleigh, Treasurer; and Phil Burns, Sergeant-at-Arms. The club's 60th birthday was marked with a large cake and incoming President Ed was assisted in cutting the cake by the club's two oldest members, Laurence McEwen and Benjamin Kaplan. Both had joined in 1929. Pete Connair served as Master of Ceremonies and entertainment was furnished by three instructors from the American School of Dance at Connecticut College who performed several dance routines.



Benjamin Kaplan, left, Edward Cramer and Laurence McEwen

In September, the club sponsored a Bloodmobile Drive at Mitchell College where 200 pints of blood were collected. Club members not only donated blood, but also worked as volunteers at the event.

New London Rotary's founder, Leon Sprague, visited the club in October with Richard Syrett, the President of the New Britain Rotary Club—the second Rotary club that Sprague founded only a few years after starting the New London Club. At the time of the visit, he was 93 years old and had 42 years of perfect attendance at club meetings. Sprague's visit to the club was partly to reciprocate the visit of Ed Cramer and Bob Groebel to the New Britain Club a year earlier. Sprague wryly noted that he thought he was old when he turned 75, but that he guessed "St. Peter's not ready for me yet. He's afraid I'll start a Rotary Club."



New London Rotary Club welcomes
93-year-old founder Leon Sprague

In November, four New London High School girls were recognized as Rotary Scholars at a club meeting, including Kathleen Foye, daughter of Rotarian and New London High School Principal Bill Foye.

December 1977 featured a traditional holiday program with special emphasis on the Rotarians' college-age children who were invited to the meeting between Christmas and New Year's. December also marked the beginning of plans for the biggest and most extensive club project to date: the Sport Show '78.

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

In January 1978, Bill Lockwood, president of the S.E. Connecticut Chamber of Commerce spoke to the club about New London and the region's future. He commented on the recently released Pentagon report on the effects of layoffs at General Dynamics, Electric Boat. The report must have cost thousands of dollars but it contained nothing new. All it said was what club members and local leaders had been saying all along: the region must diversify.

Rotarian Fred Deltgen Led Group Study Exchange Team to India

While planning for the Sport Show was underway, a call came from the District Governor to help staff a Group Study Exchange (GSE) team to India for a six-week exchange. A group of Indians had spent several weeks in Connecticut the previous year. In addition to recruiting young businessmen and professionals who were not Rotarians, the team also required a Rotarian team leader. Fred Deltgen, who was an international project liaison

The Day

**City men
in India
exchange
program**



Fred Deltgen, left, and W. Allan Clearwaters with map of India

officer at the Naval Underwater Systems Center (NUSC), was selected by the District to be Team Leader for the group going to India. This was the first time a New London Rotarian had been chosen as a GSE Team Leader. W. Allan Clearwaters, a computer scientist also with NUSC, was chosen as a member of the team. Other participants included a Hamden lawyer, a Southport real estate agent, a Stamford banker, and a Wallingford teacher. The team members stayed with Indian families during their visit, and The Rotary Foundation paid for the group's travel expenses. Some members kept a diary of the trip and gave presentations at Rotary clubs in the district on their return.

First Unsung Hero Awards



Ed Cramer (left) and Pete Connair (right) present Unsung Hero Awards to Samuel Moss and Alfonso Passero

February saw the formation of the Rotary Unsung Hero Award Committee, consisting of Dean Avery as chair, Larry Greenberg, Ralph Merrill, Allen Cutting, and Vice President Pete Connair. Nominations were solicited over a two-month period.

In April, they chose Samuel Moss and Alfonso Passero to be recognized as the club's first Unsung Heroes. Samuel Moss was cited for his volunteer services at Lawrence & Memorial Hospital and the Jewish Council of Greater

New London. Alfonso Passero was recognized for his work with the Boy Scouts and St. Joseph's Home School Association. They were among 13 nominated for having performed exemplary public service that improved the quality of life in New London. Bishop Daniel Reilly was the speaker for the award presentation and unexpectedly sang "Danny Boy" in his beautiful Irish tenor voice.

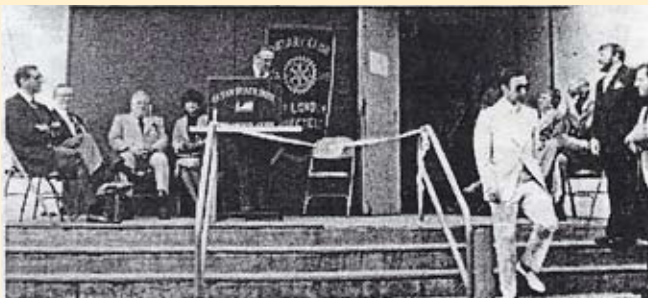
Sport Show '78 at Ocean Beach

In 1977-78, the club decided to do a Sport Show at Ocean Beach Park to raise the profile of the club through publicity and attendance and generate funds for the club's charitable projects.

President Elect Dave Ginsberg was named chair, with the show dates set for May 6-7. In addition to Dave, the Sport Show planning committee consisted of Dean Avery, Pete Connair, Ed Cramer, Bob Groebel, Howard Kaplan, Frank Laycock, John Mirabito, Don Mitchell and Ralph Wadleigh. By January 1978, it was expanded to include Frank Roche for layout, Frank Laycock for tickets, Bill Miner and Jim McGuire for legal affairs, Larry McEwen for insurance, George Spreccace and Merrill Dreyfus for opening ceremonies, Pete Connair for celebrities, Bob Vilbert for boats, Doug Reynard for recreational vehicles, and Don Mitchell and Phil Burns for general exhibits.

Virtually every club member, plus spouses, friends, and children, were asked to participate. Burt Federman was appointed co-chair for space allocations, John Balentine, Jr., for food concessions, Ralph Wadleigh as treasurer, and Gerald Jacobs for exhibit display areas.

The weekend of the show was blessed with great weather, and the Connecticut Regiment Fife and Drum Corps opened the show. Opening ceremony dignitaries included Connecticut Governor Ella Grasso, U.S. Senator Abraham Ribicoff, State Senator Richard Schneller, Representatives Ralph Wadleigh and Patricia Hendel, City Councilors Terry Brennan and Carl Stoner, MC Merrill Dreyfus, and Rotary District Governor Rolly Mettler.



Sport Show '78 Opening Ceremonies

The show featured exhibits of equipment and accessories for a wide range of sports: boats, recreational vehicles, bicycles, motorcycles, tennis, golf, fishing, kites, and sports clothing. Displays also included representation from the Coast Guard Academy, Boy Scouts, Powerboat Association, and the city's Marine Commerce and Development Committee.



Ted Williams

A number of sports celebrities headed by baseball great, Ted Williams, made appearances at the show. Williams, in addition to accommodating the usual autograph seekers, put on a fly-fishing exhibition in the parking lot. Andy Russell, an all-pro linebacker with the Pittsburgh Steelers, was also on hand both days. They were joined by former Boston Red Sox Walt Dropo and Arnie Pinkston, a standout halfback on the Yale Football Squad. The schedule for the two-day event included fly-tying demonstrations, a petting zoo, YMCA gymnastics, a jogging clinic by Jan Merrill, Judy Fontaine, and Amby Burfoot, a program by Sword Excalibur Drum and Bugle Corps, a weight-lifting demonstration by Karl Snitkin, kite-flying demonstrations by Henry Savin, and films on fishing and racquet ball.



Karl Snitkin

With more than 70 indoor and outdoor attractions, the Sport Show attracted 6,000 spectators and raised more than \$6,000, and the proceeds were evenly split between the New London Public Library for a kitchen in the Community Room and Lawrence & Memorial Hospital to provide for automatic doors for the Emergency Room entrance.

The Sport Show was so successful that it resulted in the New London Rotary Club being honored with a district award at the 1978 District Conference in Great Gorge, New Jersey.



Gymnastic Demonstration

Sport Show '78 Publicity



Near the end of the Rotary year, President Ed Cramer led a delegation of four Rotarians to the District Conference in Great Gorge, New Jersey, where the club won awards for outstanding club service and membership development. For the District Outstanding Club Service Award, the club was cited for the success and member participation of its major project, the Sport Show. It was also recognized for its Career Day program, Unsung Hero Award program, Youth-in-Government and scholarships, the Bloodmobile Drive, and for sponsoring a Babe Ruth League team, YMCA basketball team, Big Brothers/Big Sisters match, the Old Timers Club, and needy New London youngsters at summer camp. The club was also recognized for having achieved the greatest percentage increase in membership of any club in its category in the district.



Youth-in-Government Student, Jeffrey Keitelman with President Ed Cramer

In June, the club installed David Ginsberg as President with John Mirabito as President Elect for Rotary year 1978-79. Also at the end of Rotary year 1977-78, the club established a new tradition of recognizing someone from the club or the community for their service to New London as a Paul Harris Fellow with a gift of \$1000 to The Rotary Foundation. Robert Groebel, a long-time member who was President in 1946-47 and served for many years afterwards as Club Secretary, was named the club's first Paul Harris Fellow. Dr. Carl Wies was recognized for 43 years of perfect attendance.



1978-79, President David "Dave" Ginsberg

In July, the club hosted Rotary Youth Exchange Student Cynthia Gund from Sweden. The annual picnic was at Mitchell College on August 10th, with more than 100 members and guests attending.

The club also honored its New London High School Rotary Scholars on November 16th. On Pearl Harbor Day, December 7th, the club recognized its Serviceperson of the Month: C.P.O Dejeet of the Submarine Base. December 21st, the club held a holiday luncheon with spouses invited. (A note in the weekly newsletter, *The Anchor*, said, "President Dave said to give Ladies Day wide coverage in the Anchor, so bring a broad next week.")

Other programs were: Boston Marathoner Amby Burfoot, Jim Anderson who told the club that 60% of Connecticut's energy was produced by nuclear power, can-



John Ellis

didates for State Senate Dick Schneller and Jan Fenger, Thomas Havens on post-WWII Japan, long-distance swimmer Phil Ross, USCG Capt. Ron Kollmeyer on iceberg research, Atty. Linda Mariani on civil rights, Texas Ranger

John Ellis, Professor Peter Hardi on "Euro Communism," Charles Luce and Jane Bredeson on Connecticut College's new skating rink, seven international students at Mitchell College, Dr. David Lauler on his visit to mainland China, Yale Professor Paul Johnson on the economic changes in Russia and China, Coast Guard Band bassoon and tuba players, and Connie Drath of the Tobacco Institute.



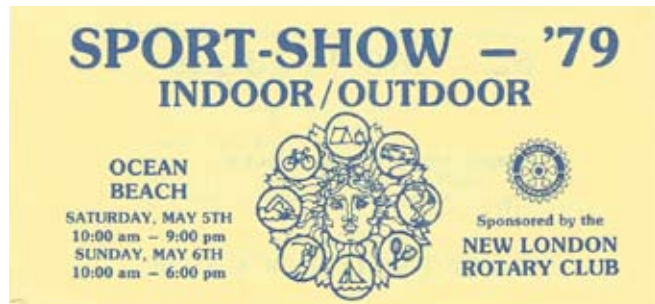
Amby Burfoot

During Rotary year 1978-79, the club contributed \$3,000 to the New London Library and \$3,000 to the Lawrence and Memorial Hospital from the proceeds of the previous year's Sports Show. The club also contributed to the District's Rotary Wheels Program and England Handicap Exchange. Smaller donations were made through the Rotary Service Fund (Do Good Chest) to the 2nd Connecticut Regiment Continental Line, L&M Hospital, Boy Scouts Indian Trails Council, New London YMCA and Babe Ruth Leagues, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Easter Seal Rehabilitation Center, Thames Science Center, Norwich State Hospital Canteen,

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

YWCA Ladies Beware Program, Connecticut Sickle Cell Disease Research Foundation, Drop In Learning Center and the Prince Hall Acres Camp for two New London children.

President Elect John Mirabito served as chairman for the Second Sport Show held in May 1979. With more exhibitors than were needed, the fundraiser earned \$3,000, which was distributed in the following year for the benefit of the New London community. Rotarians also served as volunteers for the L&M Fair.



Five club members attended the District Conference in Cape Cod; Fred Deltgen reported that there was “a move afoot to admit female members.”



State Senator
Dick Schneller

New London Rotary joined with the Lions and Kiwanis at the Holiday Inn for the annual Yale-Harvard Regatta luncheon on June 7th. Past President Merrill Dreyfus introduced State Senator Dick Schneller, New London Mayor Carl Stoner and the presidents of the visiting clubs. Ken Johnson led the singing.

At the installation banquet on June 28th, Howard Kaplan served as the Master of Ceremonies. District Governor Elect Joe Carlson inducted John Mirabito as President, Pete Connair as President Elect, Dick Creviston as Vice President, Bob Groebel as Secretary and Ralph Wadleigh as Treasurer. Dr. Carl Wies was named the club's second Paul Harris Fellow for his community and world service through his Spare Parts Program and for his 44 years of perfect attendance at weekly meetings.

1979-80, President John Mirabito

July 10th, President John Mirabito, Bob Groebel, Dave Ginsberg, Ed Cramer, Ralph Wadleigh, Dick Creviston, Dave Chambers, Pete Connair, and Milt Lapin attended the District Assembly at the Submarine Base Officers Club.

The club held its annual picnic at Mitchell College with BYOB and BYOLC (bring your own lawn chairs) on August 16th; the assessment for the picnic was \$6.50.



Starr Street Project

On September 20th, the club met at the Brainard Masonic Lodge for a special luncheon with Robin Honiss of the Savings Bank of New London speaking on its Starr Street investment; the meeting concluded with a tour of the Starr Street project. On October 16th, New London joined with the Lions and Kiwanis for a program on addressing the needs of the handicapped.



In October, a group of New London Rotarians attended an eight-state Rotary Area Assembly on “Managing Your Business or Profession in Today's World” at the New York Hilton. Speakers were John Chancellor of “NBC Nightly News,”

popular speaker Dr. Anthony Campolo, Dr. Thomas Haggal sponsored by General Motors, and Dr. Norman Vincent Peale. The keynote speaker was Lowell Thomas, world-renowned writer, traveler and broadcaster for NBC radio, CBS TV and Public Broadcasting.

November 8th, the club recognized its Rotary Scholars for 1979. December 7th, the club held a joint Christmas dinner dance with six other clubs at the Seaman's Inne to celebrate Rotary International's 75th Anniversary; over 300 attended and Richard Creviston was honored as Outstanding Rotarian from the New London Club. December 13th, the club recognized the Serviceperson of the Month, Petty Officer Michael O'Mara. Late December, Vice President Richard Creviston notified President John that he would not be able to move up the club chairs.

The first program of the new year on January 9th was a joint meeting with Lions and Kiwanis with Senator Lowell Weicker as speaker.

During the year, the proceeds of the previous year's Sport Show were distributed to New London charitable organizations. The Do Good Chest gave small donations to the Prince Hall Acres Camp and YMCA for summer camp scholarships.

The club hosted New London High School Youth-in-Government students on April 24th, and the Unsung Hero Award was presented to Hubert Lang on May 1st.

April 26-28, six business and professional men from the Philippines spent a week in the New London area as part of a six-week Group Study Exchange sponsored by The Rotary Foundation. President John Mirabito welcomed them at a luncheon meeting. Club members hosted them in their homes and took them to the area's tourist and business sites for vocational days.



Leo Jackson,
New England's
First Black Mayor

June 5th, the club hosted the annual Yale-Harvard Regatta luncheon with the Lions and Kiwanis, with Merrill Dreyfus as chair; Mayor Leo Jackson (the first black mayor in New England) drew the selections for lane assignments.

Other notable programs during 1979-80 were: Rev. Norm MacLeod on "The Venerable Bede," Dr. Fred Dey on his service in Africa, Joyce Schmidt's "Sign Talk," Rick Powers on plans for The Garde Theater, Azar Artoul, a Catholic Israeli Arab from Nazareth on prospects for peace in the Middle East, the Boy Scout Jamboree in Sweden, and Captain O.B. Nelson on the Trident Program at Electric Boat ("The Russian subs outnumber us 5 to 1 and our sub force is our only line of defense against first attack").

A number of club members attended District Governor Joe Carlson's Conference in Ferncroft, Massachusetts, and Howard Kaplan led tours to the Rotary International Convention May 27-June 5 in Chicago. The club agreed to participate in a Rotary Foundation 3-H (Health, Hunger, Humanity) Grant presented at the conference.

At the June 18th installation banquet at the Holiday Inn, Pierce Connair was inducted as President with Rev. Robert Bartlett as President Elect, Roderick White as Vice President, Robert Goebel as Secretary, and Ralph Wadleigh as Treasurer. No Paul Harris Fellow was named in 1980. The dinner cost \$15 per person.



Senator
Lowell
Weicker



Trident submarine
under construction in Groton

The Eighties: New Awards, Women in Rotary & Itzhak Perlman Polio Plus Concert

The 1980s saw major changes to Rotary International and to the New London Club, particularly with the introduction of leading businesswomen to the club ranks. The decade also saw increased fundraising activities and the resulting largesse to the community, as well as more involvement in the international activities of Rotary.

1980-81, President Pierce “Pete” Connair

Under President Pete Connair, who was the manager of the New London Sears Roebuck store, club meetings were held in the Red Room of the Holiday Inn with lots of boisterous camaraderie and bad jokes (“He preferred not to exchange digs with an undertaker”), bad puns (“Get Weller Soon Card”) and bad wordplay (“Greetings to the Unhung/Unstrung/Unslung Hero/Nero/Zero”).



Since a repeat of the Sport Show was becoming less viable because of similar Chamber events, President Elect Robert Bartlett chaired the Rotary Bargain Bonanza (originally named the Giant Junk Jamboree) fundraiser, a large flea market of antiques, collectibles, and white elephants held at Ocean Beach on September 13th. The fundraiser netted about \$1,000.

The Old Timer Club held a 30-year anniversary meeting on September 30th. Larry McEwen and Moe Savin attended.

October 16th, a group of New London Rotarians again attended a Rotary Area Assembly on “Managing Your Business or Profession in Today’s World” at the New York Hilton. Speakers for the 1980 event were CBS News correspondent Douglas Edwards, President of Columbia University Michael Sovern, Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, and keynote speaker New York Governor Malcolm Wilson. The club heard from the two candidates for the 40th District, Betsey Gibson and Sarah McGirr, at the club meeting on October 30th.

The club honored New London High School seniors for their scholastic standing with the Rotary Scholars on November 13th and hosted the Youth-in-Government students in May. November 20th, the club recognized HM1 Petty Officer Virgil Hibbs of the *USS Fulton*.



Thamespex 80 Honored RI's 75th Anniversary



The 75th Anniversary of Rotary International was recognized at THAMESPEX 80 with an exhibition by the Thames Stamp Club at Ocean Beach Park on October 19th. United Nations stamp material was displayed, as well as a special cacheted cover noting Rotary International's 75th Anniversary.

Stamp exhibit to honor Rotary

NEW LONDON — The 75th anniversary of Rotary International will be "celebrated" during "Thamespex 80," the annual collection of the Thames Stamp Club, Sunday at Ocean Beach Park, according to club members.

The club's 75th anniversary will be noted in a special cacheted cover noting Rotary International's 75th anniversary. The cover will be displayed during the stamp exhibit, which will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the park grounds.

A special cacheted cover noting the 75th anniversary of Rotary International will be displayed during the stamp exhibit, which will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the park grounds.

The club will again host the Connecticut Philatelic Society, and the U.S. Postal Service will operate a special office for the day in the clubhouse.

"Thamespex 80" stamp collection will be opened at 10 a.m. and will be closed at 2 p.m. In addition, the United Nations will operate a special office for the occasion, but U.N. stamps will not be available. However, United Nations money orders will be dispensed.

The Central Business Publications Bureau will provide a number of stamps from the occasion collection.

The Thames Stamp Club of the International Stamp Convention Society will exhibit stamps from its collection.

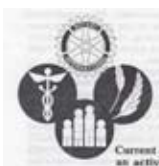
In a past year, Thames Stamp Club members will be displayed. There will be other stamp exhibits.

A special cacheted cover noting the 75th anniversary of Rotary International will be displayed during the stamp exhibit, which will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the park grounds.

The club will again host the Connecticut Philatelic Society, and the U.S. Postal Service will operate a special office for the day in the clubhouse.

"Thamespex 80" stamp collection will be opened at 10 a.m. and will be closed at 2 p.m. In addition, the United Nations will operate a special office for the occasion, but U.N. stamps will not be available. However, United Nations money orders will be dispensed.

The Central Business Publications Bureau will provide a number of stamps from the occasion collection.



Late November, the club was recognized by Rotary International for its contributions of \$15 per member to the Rotary Foundation Health, Hunger and Humanity Program.



Charles Chu

At a holiday program on December 18th, Rabbi Rosenberg explained Hanukkah and lit a menorah, Rev. Norm MacLeod spoke to the similarities between Judaism and Christianity, and the club's "Dynamic Duo" Ken Johnson and Bob Bartlett performed a medley of holiday hits. Connecticut College Professor Charles Chu surprised the club with a performance on his one-stringed violin, and resident pianist Harry Birenbaum accompanied the group on traditional carols.



USCGA Rear Admiral Malcolm Clark

January 27, 1981, at a service at the Coast Guard Memorial Chapel, New London Rotarians mourned the passing of one of their own, Rear Admiral Malcolm E. Clark, Superintendent of the Coast Guard Academy.

Other programs of note were: Mitchell College student Mary Ellen Chicoigne on "Going to College in a Wheelchair," Arthur Ziegler of the New London Landmarks/Union Railroad Station Trust, Jay Levin of the City's Charter Revision Commission, Henry Savin on Connecticut Public

The Year of the Handicapped



Rotary Wheels



Camp Harkness

1981 was designated "The Year of the Handicapped" by Rotary International with an emphasis on club support of programs to assist handicapped individuals. New London Rotary responded not only through a donation to the Rotary Wheels program, but also by providing host families for the Rotary Wheels Exchange participants and having several programs related to the handicapped, including presentations by a handicapped student at Mitchell College, the Hearing Ear Dog Program, Project First Step for mentally handicapped transition into society, Waterford Country Day School, Easter Seal Rehabilitation Center, Seaside Regional Center and Camp Harkness.



Seaside Regional Center

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017



Ottobeuren Abbey

Broadcasting, and Richard Arms' slide show on Ottobeuren, a Bavarian Abbey with one of the best examples worldwide of Baroque Rococo architecture and decor.

The cost of meals at the Holiday Inn went up to \$5.50.

On April 9th, the club recognized Ben Kaplan's upcoming 90th birthday.



On April 21, 1981, President

Pete sent the New Britain Rotary Club a Western Union Mailgram, congratulating them on the 60th anniversary of their founding by Leon Sprague, the founder of the New London Club in 1917.



Robert Groebel Award Established

In April 1981, the club was saddened by the passing of Past President Robert (Bob) Groebel. Bob was known for his devotion to the club, for his sweet smile, and especially for serving not only as President in 1946-47, but also as Club Secretary for many years. Initially, the club explored naming its Do Good Chest the Robert Groebel Rotary Fund, but it was decided that would require a by-laws change. The club also considered naming its Unsung Hero Award for him, as well, but during a June 9th board meeting, the directors decided that the club would

set aside \$1,000 for a fund to be used to provide an annual award to a deserving student at New London High School. The award would be named the Robert Groebel Award and the recognition would be not only for scholastic achievement, but also for a willingness to accept responsibility and demonstrated service to the school.

The April-May issue of *RI News*, a newsletter from the RI General Secretary for club presidents and secretaries, stated that as of March 1, 1981, there were 19,062 Rotary clubs and an estimated 878,250 Rotarians in 154 countries and geographical regions. Rotary was growing—and so was The Rotary Foundation. As of the start of the 1980-81 Rotary year, contributions to the Foundation had surpassed \$100 million.

Pete Connair, Fred Deltgen, Howard Kaplan and Rod White attended the District Conference in the Poconos, May 15-17. At the conference, the club won an award for all the things it did to recognize “The Year of the Handicapped.”



May 28th, in a joint meeting with the Lions and Kiwanis Clubs, New London Rotary hosted the Yale-Harvard Regatta coaches and teams. Merrill Dreyfus chaired the program with Mayor Wayne Vendetto providing a welcome and Ken Johnson singing “Bingo, That’s the Lingo” and “Boola, Boola.” That year, the Marine Commerce and Development Committee also created a number of events around the regatta, including a dinner cruise, concert on City Pier with the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra, and viewing of the race on the Block Island Ferry. All the Boola, Boola and Hoopla must have worked some kind of magic

because Yale won late Sunday, breaking an 18-year-long streak of Harvard wins.

May 29-31, the club participated in the Chamber of Commerce Expo '81 at the Groton/New London Airport with a booth and auction. The auction started on Saturday, the 30th, and continued until Sunday. In addition to the many Rotarians and Rotary Anns who worked the event, 84 businesses donated gift certificates, merchandise and services. The event netted over \$1,000.



Throughout the year, Howard Kaplan promoted the Rotary International Convention in Sao Paulo, Brazil, May 31-June 4, 1981, at club meetings, district events, and in *The Rotarian* magazine. And come May 31st, he led an escorted tour of Rotarians to the convention.

Howard also handled Youth Exchange travel arrangements during the year for the district—even bringing the students to the club for a program, with the assistance of Bill Foye—and provided information for students at the pre-convention YE gathering.

At the passing the gavel dinner on June 16th, incoming District Governor Charles McNiece installed Rever-

end Robert Bartlett as President, with USCG Captain Roderick White as President Elect, Fernand Deltgen as Vice President, Robert Weller as Secretary, Ralph Wadleigh as Treasurer and Henry Savin as Sergeant-at-Arms.

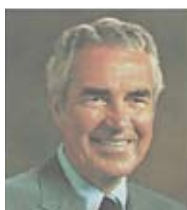
Also that evening, Ralph Wadleigh was named a Paul Harris Fellow. He had been a club member since 1945, was President in 1956-57, and had been Club Treasurer for many years.



Changing of the Guard: left, incoming District Governor Charles McNiece, incoming New London President Robert Bartlett and outgoing President Pete Connair

1981-82, President Robert "Bob" Bartlett

Robert Bartlett was the pastor at the First Baptist Church in New London. He had stepped into the position of President Elect in the prior year when Richard Creviston of the Savings Bank of New London, who was slated to be Club President for 1981-82, was elected vice-chair of the Savings Banks Association of Connecticut. But the club didn't lose any speed in the change of leadership succession—under President Bob, there was a large increase in membership with the number of New London Rotarians passing the 100 mark. RI President Stanley McCaffrey asked the club to emphasize the internationality of Rotary, with a President's Theme of "World Understanding and Peace Through Rotary."



RI President Stanley McCaffrey

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

District Governor Charles McNiece visited the club on July 30th and the annual picnic was held on August 20th.

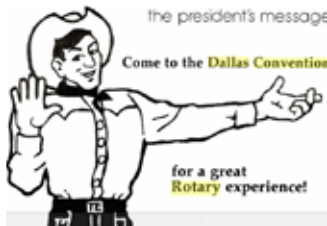
In January 1982, the club hosted the Serviceperson of the Month. At the end of the school year, the club's first Robert Groebel Award was given to a deserving New London High School student.

President Elect Rod White and Past President Pete Connair attended the District Conference in Hyannis, Massachusetts, May 14-16, 1982.



1982 District Conference in Cape Cod

The club hosted its traditional Yale-Harvard Regatta program June 10th. Yale pulled off a four-lengths win on the Thames that Saturday in near darkness at 8:20 p.m. after a rough water delay. The race completed an unbeaten season in the Eastern division for the Yale varsity and was the second year the Elis had bested the usually dominant Harvard team.



RI Convention in Dallas
Promotion in *The Rotarian*

June 6-9, 1982, the club sent President Bob Bartlett to the Rotary International Convention in Dallas, Texas, and he came back with extra enthusiasm for all things Rotary.

At the installation banquet, USCG Captain Roderick White was inducted as President with Fernand "Fred" Deltgen as President Elect. Joseph Medeiros was recognized with a Paul Harris Fellowship for his service to the club.

1982-83, President Roderick "Rod" White



USCG Capt.
Roderick
White

During his Rotary presidency, USCG Captain Roderick White was the Academic Dean at the Coast Guard Academy. Rod was known for the new bow design he developed for ice breakers, having been recognized



SS *Manhattan*
"White" Bow

in 1969 in Washington, D.C., by the American Society of Naval Engineers with a Gold Medal for his contributions to the science of naval engineering and naval architecture for his adaptation of the "White bow" to the *SS Manhattan*, making it the world's largest icebreaker and merchant marine ship.

During the year, the club enjoyed several social activities such as the annual picnic and a Ladies Night held at Ocean Beach. The area also hosted a District Golf Tournament under District Governor Russell Weaving of Naugatuck.



USCG Rear Ad-
miral Thomas
Wetmore III

The Serviceperson of the Month was Coast Guardsman Donald Eslich. The club also hosted the students of the Youth-in-Government Program at a luncheon meeting and recognized its New London High School Rotary Scholars at a school awards ceremony.

That year, USCG Retired Rear Admiral Thomas Wetmore III, who had been inducted into Rotary in 1981, was selected for the Coast Guard Athletic Hall of Fame.

In May, President Rod and Past President Pete Connair attended the District Conference in Maine.



In 1983, one of the biggest events in New London was a weeklong Yale-Harvard Regatta Celebration. On the Thames, the Yale Bulldogs varsity posted a record win against Harvard for the third year in a row the Saturday after the New London Club's Yale-Harvard Regatta luncheon.

In June, the club installed Fernand M.F. Deltgen as 1983-84 President, with Norman Zercher as President Elect. Robert C. Weller, President of Mitchell College, Past President in 1958-59, and a club member since 1952, was the fifth of our members to be honored with a Paul Harris Fellowship for his many years of service to the club and the community.

1983-84, President Fernand "Fred" Deltgen

In 1983, in addition to its usual activities such as the annual picnic, Serviceperson of the Month program and Do Good Chest donations, the club made a \$2,400 unrestricted donation to the Pequot Foundation, the newly established endowment meant to serve New London and the 10 surrounding towns.



Founding Officers of Pequot Community Foundation, L to R: Thomas T. Wetmore III, Benjamin A. Levinson, Francis J. Pavetti, Esq., Mary A. Doherty & Robert W. Marrion, Esq.

New London Rotarian Retired USCG Rear Admiral Thomas Wetmore was selected to be the foundation's executive director. Past New London Rotary President Ben Levinson was also a founding officer of the new foundation. The donation was the first contribution to the foundation by a local service club. The Pequot Foundation would eventually become the Community Foundation of Southeastern Connecticut, the primary publicly funded foundation in the region.

In addition to the donation to the Pequot Foundation, \$400 was given to a children's food program sponsored by the World Community Service of Rotary International.

Sponsored Montville Club, 1983

New London Rotary sponsored the Rotary Club of Montville, with a charter date of July 15, 1983. A large contingent of New London Rotarians attended the new club's charter night festivities. Fremont Alderson exhibited his well-known talents as toastmaster for the evening.

During the year, the club also continued its commitment to the youth of New London with its Youth-in-Government Program, Rotary Scholars and the Robert Groebel Award.

The 119th Yale-Harvard Regatta was held on June 3, 1984, with the drawing of the lanes earlier in the week at the joint New London Rotary/Kiwanis/Lions meeting. Yale varsity won the upstream race for the fourth straight year in a row. They bested the Harvard crew by a 13-second lead.

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

At the end of the '83-84 year at a June banquet, Norman Zercher was inducted as the 1984-85 President with Joseph Stellato as President Elect. Frank Laycock—who had been in the club since 1950, served as President in 1954-55 and oversaw the club's Rotary International Golden Anniversary Celebration and the charter of the Groton Club in 1955—was honored as a Paul Harris Fellow.

1984-85, President Norman “Norm” Zercher

New London Rotary Banner Aboard Spacecraft Challenger



In June 1984, New London Rotarian Paul Scully-Power, a New London Naval Undersea Warfare Center Scientist and Oceanographer, was chosen by NASA to be a Payload Specialist on the 13th Shuttle mission in order to observe the oceans from space. The mission, which was launched from and returned to the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, was October 5-13, 1984, aboard STS-41-G *Challenger*. During the eight-day mission, Australian-born Scully-

Power traveled 3.4 million miles in 133 orbits, logged over 197 hours in space, and carried the New London Rotary Club banner onboard. Upon his return to New London later that year, the club presented him with a plaque recognizing him for bringing the club its “Highest” honor.



President Norm Zercher (right) congratulates New London Rotary's only astronaut, Paul Scully-Power

Club leadership continued to search for a new fundraising idea. They settled on the sale of 500 color prints of an original painting by Lou Bonamarte of the Coast Guard Barque *Eagle* sailing by New London Ledge Light. The prints sold for \$25.

That same Rotary year, the club reinstated the Unsung Hero Award to recognize individual community members who had performed exemplary volunteer services that had gone largely unrecognized. The club also recognized the New London High School Rotary Scholars, Robert Groebel Award winner, and Youth-in-Government students.

At the June installation banquet, Joseph Stellato was inducted as 1985-86 President with William Murray as President Elect. Past President Benjamin A. Levinson, a member who had channeled a large amount of his spare energy into club activities and the community for more than 20 years, was made a Paul Harris Fellow.

1985-86, President Joseph “Joe” Stellato

In August 1985, the club picnic was held again at Mitchell College. President Joseph “Joe” Stellato also became the president of the newly created Bank of Southeastern Connecticut in August 1985.

In the fall, the club recognized the Serviceperson of the Month at a noon luncheon. Later that Rotary year, the club again recognized New London High School students in the Youth-in-Government Program, as Rotary Scholars and with the Robert Groebel Award.



New London Rotary Inducts Nine New Members

In February 1986, President Joe Stellato (third from left), with the assistance of District Governor Theodore "Ted" Martland (second from left) and District Governor Nominee Jerry Scarano (far left), welcomed nine new members at a luncheon meeting at the Holiday Inn—the largest number ever inducted into the club at one time. The new inductees (from left to right) were: Leo Messina, James Stephenson, Barry Levinson, Raymond Holmes, Jay Levin, John James, Charles LaCour, Jr., Steve Zelson and Walter Makepeace. Barry Levinson would become President for Rotary Year 1988-89, and Walter Makepeace would serve as Club Treasurer for a number of years.

That year, nine new members, shown above, brought a renewed enthusiasm and level of energy for Rotary activities, including a commitment to find a successful fundraiser. That fundraiser, chaired by Stephen Percy, was an auction held in the spring at Mitchell College. It consisted of an open bar, buffet dinner, a silent auction of smaller items, and a live auction with a great number of valuable products and services, including a painting by Connecticut College Professor Charles Chu. The auction netted \$10,000.

First Carl Wies Award Goes to Stephen Percy

By June 1986, the club had created a new award, the Carl Wies Award, to recognize a club member who had contributed to the club through exceptional service. At the installation banquet, Stephen Percy became the club's first Carl Wies Award recipient because of the success of the auction.



The club inducted William Murray as the President for 1986-87 with Jay Bloom as President Elect and Roger Gross as Vice President. Long-time Sergeant-at-Arms Phil Burns, who was known to club members as "Mr. Rotary," was designated a Paul Harris Fellow in recognition of his 21 years of dedicated service to the club.



Phil Burns

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

1986-87, President William "Bill" Murray

During 1986-87, the auction funds from the previous Rotary year were distributed to the New London Public Library, Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center, Lawrence & Memorial Hospital, New London Landmarks, and Trinity Soup Kitchen.

New London Rotary Donations Coverage in The Day Newspaper



"William F. Murray, president of the New London Rotary Club, hands a \$1,000 check to the Rev. Wade Hyslop. The money will be used by the soup kitchen at 60 Blackhall Street, operated by the Trinity Missionary Baptist Church. At right is Joni Harrison, who has lived on Crest Street in New London for many years."

Unsung Hero Award: Jeanne Lena

In 1986, the Unsung Hero Award was given to Jeanne Lena who had served the Child & Family Agency of Southeastern Connecticut for 20 years.

Pictured right are Rotarian Barry Levinson, Unsung Hero Recipient Jeanne Lena, and Rotarian and Child & Family Agency Executive Director Tom Gullotta



Unsung Hero recipient Jeanne Lena, with Rotarians Barry Levinson at left, and Thomas Gullotta



Rotary sings praises of NL's Jeanne Lena

Also in 1986-87, the club recognized New London High School students through the Rotary Scholars and Robert Groebel Awards.

MUNICH CONVENTION TOUR
First departure sold out! Join our second!
MAY 29-JUNE 11. Escorted. 7 day deluxe Rhine
Cruise HOLLAND/FRANCE/GERMANY with all
meals then 5 days Munich Novotel. KLM Air.
All transfers. *1995 Complete
KAPLAN TOURS, New London, CT 06320
Call 1-800-243-0775 for details

Kaplan Travel Ad in
The Rotarian, 1987

Howard Kaplan escorted a tour to the Rotary International Convention in Munich, Germany, June 7-June 10, 1987.

A special award was given to Benjamin Kaplan, 96, who had been a member of Rotary for 52 years. Even at the age of 96, Ben Kaplan still walked about three miles from his home to attend weekly Rotary meetings.

Additionally, Richard Creviston was recognized with a Paul Harris Fellowship for his support of many charitable organization through The Savings Bank of New London. As a Past Club President and Retiring President of Mitchell College, Robert C. Weller was given the second Carl Wies Award.

1987-88, President Jay Bloom

The club started this Rotary year holding its weekly meetings at the New London Holiday Inn. The annual picnic was held on the grounds of Mitchell College.

Women Enter Rotary, 1987

The Rotary Year of 1987-88 saw a major change in the make-up of Rotary membership. In September 1987, after the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in May that women should be allowed into Rotary within the U.S., the New London Rotary Club welcomed business and professional women into its ranks. Jane Holdsworth, Executive Director of the Thames Science Center, and Carmelina Kanzler, Executive Director of Southeastern Connecticut Speech & Hearing and Mayor of New London 1985-88, were the first women inducted into the New London Rotary Club, with President Jay Bloom presiding over this momentous occasion. Shortly after, Isabelle Singer, Executive Director of the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra, and Mildred Devine, Trust Officer of the Hartford National Bank, were inducted. Faye Vathauer, owner of Quality Printers, and Pamela Akins, V.P. of Marketing & Operations of Messina Advertising, followed before the end of the year. Barbara Richards of the Groton Club was the club's first female guest Rotarian.

Carmelina
Kanzler



Jane
Holdsworth



Isabelle
Singer



Mildred
Devine



Faye
Vathauer



Pamela
Akins



Welcome Song Change

In recognition that the New London Rotary was no longer a group of men only, the club Welcome Song was changed. Instead of "Men of Good Cheer," the second line of the song was changed to "From Far and Near." We are all still of good cheer.

In 1988, the club noted the 20th anniversary of the Rotary Scholars Program and the 30th anniversary of Youth-in-Government, initiated by Fremont Alderson. June 3rd, Merrill Dreyfus chaired the Yale-Harvard Regatta Celebration for the 38th year. June 5th, Harvard crimson beat Yale blue by 8 ½ seconds.

The club added a new recognition in 1988—the Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award.

The club also began featuring member biographies as meeting programs, as a way to introduce members to each other and to supplement invited speaker programs. One of those invited speakers

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

was Bill Miller, Tribal Manager of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe. His speech was a harbinger of the changes that were to come with the establishment of both the Pequot and Mohegan casinos.

In May 1988, the club's major fundraiser, a third annual auction, chaired by David Quinn, raised \$13,500. During this Rotary year, the club also moved its meeting to the new Radisson Hotel in a show of support for downtown New London development.

President Elect Roger Gross and Vice President Elect Barry Levinson attended the Rotary International Convention in Philadelphia, May 22-25, 1988, where Rotary announced it had raised \$220 million for the Polio Plus Campaign. They came back inspired to include the New London Rotary Club in that effort.

RI Convention, Philadelphia, 1988



Installation Banquet, June 1988



Above:
Bill & Rose
Murray (left),
Rick & Reina
Lombardi
(right)



From left: Pam Akins, Toni & Jay Bloom, Millie Devine

At the installation banquet in June 1988, Roger Gross was installed as President for the Rotary year 1988-89, with Barry Levinson as President Elect, Philip Maniscalco as Vice President, Gary Root as Treasurer, Richard Lombardi as Secretary, and Denis O'Brien as Sergeant-at-Arms.

Barry Levinson received the third Carl Wies Award for outstanding contributions to the club, and Fremont Alderson, Edward Cramer and Stephen Percy were honored by the club with Paul Harris Fellowships through a donation of \$3,000 to The Rotary Foundation. It was noted that Fremont Alderson had been a member of the club for more than 56 years, Steve Percy was recognized for his community involvement, and Ed Cramer for both his civic and club efforts. In addition to these recognitions, Immediate Past District Governor Gerald Scarano of the Groton-Ledyard Club gave a Paul



Harris Fellow to New London for its financial support of the district-sponsored Haitian Dental Clinic in Port au Prince, founded by Norwich Rotarian Dr. Jerry Lowney.

1988-89, President Roger Gross

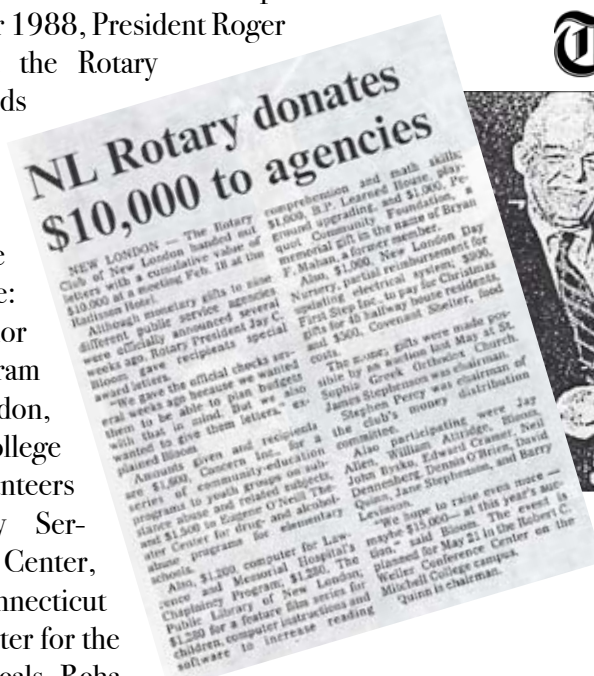
Inspired by the 1988 Philadelphia Rotary Convention announcement that Rotarians had raised over \$220 million for Rotary's Polio Plus Program, President Roger Gross appointed a committee to develop a fundraiser that would raise funds for polio eradication and raise awareness of Rotary's involvement. With Millie Devine as chair, the committee developed plans for a concert with the world-renowned Itzhak Perlman, and the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra. The neighboring clubs of Groton-Ledyard, Mystic, Niantic and Waterford were also engaged in planning the event. It was decided that to get the broad support of the community, the beneficiaries would be Lawrence & Memorial Hospital and the Polio Plus Fund.

In November 1988, President Roger announced that the Rotary

Auction proceeds from the previous year's event had been distributed. The recipients were: Retired Senior Volunteer Program of New London, Connecticut College Office of Volunteers for Community Service, Garde Arts Center, Southeast Connecticut Community Center for the Blind, Easter Seals Rehabilitation Center of Southeastern

Connecticut, Inc., The Public Library of New London, New London Public Schools Gifted and Talented Program, New London High School Senior Class Parents Inc., New London County Parent Aide Program, First Step Inc., Eugene O'Neill Center's Theater in Education Program for its S.O.S. Drug and Alcohol Abuse Program, Trinity Missionary Baptist Church's Soup Kitchen, Marine Commerce and Development Committee Halloween Committee, and New London Health Services Clinic.

During the 1988-89 Rotary year, the Rotary Community Service Award for a New London High School student involved in community service was given for the first time, and the Unsung Hero Award was presented to Naomi Rachleff for her volunteer work for Lawrence & Memorial Hospital.



The Day



Stephen Percy presents a mock check to Stephen Dorfman, executive director of Concern, Inc., one of nine organizations to receive funding from the Rotary Club in 1988-1989.

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

Rotarians Faye Vathauer and Jeanne Johnson compiled and published a club directory that contained the contact information for all club members, as well as the date they came into Rotary, offices held, and recognitions received.

Bruce Baratz chaired the fourth annual Rotary Auction held May 21st in the Robert C. Weller Conference Center at Mitchell College.



Howard Kaplan led tours to the Rotary International Convention in Seoul, Korea, May 19-25, 1989.

In June 1989, Barry Levinson was installed as President, with Philip Maniscalco as President Elect, Mildred Devine as Vice President, Gary Root as Treasurer, Richard Lombardi as Secretary and Denis O'Brien as Sergeant-at-Arms. Because of the success of the auction in May, the club recognized three Rotarians with \$1,000 donations each to The Rotary Foundation, making each a Paul Harris Fellow: William Miner, Gary Root, and Carl Stoner. Millie Devine was given the Carl Wies Award for the work she had already done on the upcoming area-wide Polio Plus fundraiser.

1989-90, President Barry Levinson

The Itzhak Perlman Concert, held October 12, 1989 at the Garde Arts Center, was the highlight of the 1989-90 Rotary Year. District Governor Abraham Gordon and Rotary International President Hugh Archer were special guests, and the fundraiser netted over \$70,000 for Lawrence & Memorial Hospital and Polio Plus. As part of the event, the club recognized Perlman as a Paul Harris Fellow with a \$1,000 donation to The Rotary Foundation (see sidebar on next page).

Also that year, the club joined with Partner of the Americas in an International Exchange Program conducted with the Joao Pessoa-North Rotary Club in Joao Pessoa, capital of the State of Paraiba in Northeast Brazil. A donation of \$500 was made to start the effort and Immediate Past President Roger Gross provided the leadership for the exchange.

Bruce Baratz announced that the \$11,903 proceeds of the auction held in May had been distributed to First Step, Literacy Volunteers, Waterford Country School's Children-in-Crisis Program for New London Students, New London Public Library for Children's Programs and Books, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Southeastern Connecticut, Community Resources Commission for Substance

The Day



Violinist Itzhak Perlman

Rotary clubs will bring Perlman to New London

Staff report

Five local Rotary clubs have signed the contracts which will bring together renowned violinist Itzhak Perlman and the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra in a landmark local benefit concert, Oct. 12 at the Garde Arts Center in New London.

The monies raised from the concert, sponsored by the Rotary clubs of Groton/Ledyard, Mystic, Niantic, Waterford and New London, will be donated to the Rotary International's Polio Plus Program and Lawrence and Memorial Hospital. It is anticipated that \$100,000 will be generated for the two organizations. Perlman's fee is \$40,000.

Isabelle Singer, the symphony's general manager and a Rotary member, said that one of the most exciting aspects of Perlman's appearance is that he will be playing with the ECSO.

"Of the 90 or so concert appearances he makes each year," she said, "only about a dozen are with orchestras — usually major orchestras such as the New York Philharmonic. It is, therefore, especially important that he has agreed to appear with the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra."

Itzhak Perlman Polio Plus Concert

After Rotary International announced at the 1988 Philadelphia Convention that Rotarians had raised over \$220 million worldwide for Rotary's polio eradication program called Polio Plus, President Elect Roger Gross and Vice President Barry Levinson returned to New London with a new excitement about Rotary and a commitment to contribute to the Polio Plus effort.

After much discussion, it was decided that the club should create a large event to raise awareness and funds for the effort. A committee was established with Millie Devine as chair, and plans were made for a concert with the world-renowned Itzhak Perlman, a polio victim, and the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra, thanks to ECSO's Executive Director Isabelle Singer. New London Rotary reached out to its neighboring clubs of Groton-Ledyard, Mystic, Niantic and Waterford to help with the promotion and planning of the event. The beneficiaries would be both the Lawrence & Memorial Hospital and the Polio Plus Fund.



For the next year, the committee worked on getting concert sponsorships; program book ads; ticket sales; event promotion through *The Day*; coordination between Perlman's agent and the ECSO; and planning a preconcert dinner for the participating clubs, District Rotarians, and the President of Rotary International.

The event took place at the newly renovated Garde Arts Center on October 12, 1989. In addition to District Governor Abraham I. Gordon, Rotary International President Hugh Archer attended. At the concert, Itzhak Perlman was named a Paul Harris Fellow. The event netted \$73,000, with \$30,000 going to Lawrence & Memorial Hospital and \$43,000 going to Polio Plus.

The Day

"Perlman wears stardom like a gentleman"



Perlman in practice—World renowned violinist Itzhak Perlman, right rehearses for an evening performance at the Garde Theater in New London with the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra. Commanding Perlman's attention at left is Paul Phillips, the symphony's conductor and music director.

from *The Rotarian* 1989

THE PRESIDENT'S TRAVELS

Connecticut, U.S.A.—President Hugh Archer presents Paul Harris Fellow recognition to **Itzhak Perlman**, on behalf of the five Connecticut Rotary clubs who sponsored the famous violinist's appearance at a concert with the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra. The gala event, jointly sponsored on 12 October by the Rotary clubs of Groton-Ledyard, Mystic, New London, Niantic, and Waterford, raised \$75,000 for The Rotary Foundation of R.I.—60 percent of it goes to PolioPlus—and local community projects. Also pictured (from left): Abraham I. Gordon, governor of R.I. District 798; and Isabelle Singer and Mildred Devine, both members of the Rotary Club of New London and co-chairman and general chairman respectively of the concert.



The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

Abuse Prevention and Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs, Hospice of Southeastern Connecticut, New London Museum Consortium for New London History Days, Centro de la Comunidad, Retired Senior Volunteer Program Transportation Assistance, Health and Welfare Community Services Soup Kitchen, New London Public Schools POPS Multi-Media Personal Worth Program, and Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra Music in the Schools Program.

Rotary Convention in Portland, Oregon



A number of New London Rotarians, including President Elect Phil Maniscalco, Vice President Millie Devine, Past President Barry Levinson, Bettye Fletcher, and Pamela Akins, attended the Rotary International Convention in Portland, Oregon June 24-27, 1990.

Millie, Bettye and Pam were the designated voting delegates for the club; they heard and decided on a challenge to the incoming presidency of Rotary International President Elect Rajendra Saboo.



Saboo won the challenge with our club's votes.

Howard Kaplan escorted a tour to the convention and handled travel for the Eastern Region's Youth Exchange students for the pre-convention YE conference.



At the club's installation banquet, Philip Maniscalco was installed as President for Rotary year 1990-91 with Millie Devine as President Elect and Henry Savin as Vice President. Eight New London Rotarians were named Paul Harris Fellows: Mildred Devine, Howard Kaplan, Norman MacLeod, Jr., Thorburn McGowan, Donald Mitchell, William Murray, David Quinn, and Thomas Wetmore, III.

First Paul Harris Sapphires Given

The club also named its first Paul Harris Sapphires, an additional recognition for any individual already named a Paul Harris Fellow. Philip Burns received his second Paul Harris Fellow for his "Mr. Rotary" commitment to the club and many years as Club Sergeant-at-Arms. Millie Devine's PHF sapphire was from the five clubs she brought together for the Perlman concert. The club also recognized District Governor Abraham Gordon as a Paul Harris Fellow for his efforts in getting the President of Rotary International, Hugh Archer, to the Perlman concert.

Additionally, District Governor Abe Gordon recognized Roger Gross for his initiation of the Itzhak Perlman Concert and for his efforts in establishing a volunteer exchange program with Rotary Clubs in Brazil. David Quinn received the Carl Wies Award.

The Nineties: New London Rotary Foundation, Camp Rotary & Brewfest at the Beach

The last decade of the century saw an exponential growth of the club in activities and energy, and the emergence of many new programs that would last for decades.

1990-91, President Philip "Phil" Maniscalco

During 1990-91, the club restored the clock outside City Hall and contributed toward the re-opening of the Captain's Walk portion of State Street.



Planning began for a significant event to mark the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the Rotary Club of New London. It was decided the anniversary would be celebrated with a gala at the Radisson Hotel. Also, a number of New London Rotarians began working on generating a club history for the 75th Anniversary. The History Committee was chaired by Past Presidents Edward Cramer and Robert Weller, who was also Club Historian at the time. When Bob Weller could not continue to work on the historical research, Russell Lewis stepped in as Interim Historian. The committee was expanded to include Phil Burns, Don Mitchell, Frank Laycock and Norm MacLeod. Also a directory of club members was published in 1991.



City Hall clock



First Carl P. Miller Discovery Grant

Past President Roger Gross received The Rotary Foundation's first Carl P. Miller Discovery Grant to travel to Brazil with Dr. Lawrence Hall to develop an exchange with Brazilian Rotary Clubs and identify do-able projects for future joint efforts.

First Woman President of New London Rotary

In June 1991, Mildred Devine was installed as the first woman President of the New London Club. Henry Savin was named President Elect with Brian Cole as Vice President.



Roger Gross was recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow with a \$1,000 donation to The Rotary Foundation and Rick Lombardi was given the Carl Wies Award for his continued service as Club Secretary.

1991-92, President Mildred "Millie" Devine

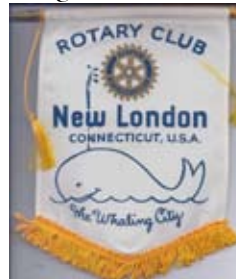


Preparations continued for the 75th Anniversary of the club under President Millie Devine. The gala date was set for April 11, 1992, and plans proceeded for a dinner dance with a program focused on the club's history.

Work also moved forward on the club's published history written by Henry Savin, Russ Lewis, and Ed Cramer, with input from a number of others, and produced by Jeanne Johnson and Faye Vathauer.

The club also decided to design a new club banner to signify its 75 years of existence. The old banner showed a simple graphic of a spouting whale and the subtitle "The Whaling City." The new design used a whaling ship to signify the city's past as the third largest whaling port at the height of the whaling era.

The club also had a group photo taken at the Radisson Hotel in March 1992.



Pre-1992
Club Banner



Post-1992
Club Banner



New London Rotary Club, March 1992

Seated, left to right: Carl Stoner, Carl Astor, Jerome Fischer, Donald Mitchell, Philip Maniscalco, Richard Lombardi (Secretary), Henry Savin (President Elect), Mildred Devine (President), Brian Cole (Vice President), Walter Makepeace (Treasurer), Sheldon Gardner (Sergeant-at-Arms), Carmelina Kanzler, Pamela Akins, Caroline DeBiasi-Conover, James Mallove, Edward Cramer.

Standing, 1st row: William Garcia, Philip Burns, David Candler, Benjamin Levinson, Janet Pearce, James Mosher, Eileen Bennett, Frank Laycock, Joseph Stellato, Michael Meachem, Holly Jermar, Carolyn Brotherton, Charles Boucher, Faye Vathauer, Penny Knowles, Thomas Wetmore III, Helen Edgecombs (pianist), Walter Anderson, Diana Ketner.

Standing, 2nd row: Robert Weller, Thorburn McGowan, Russell Lewis, David Sandell, Richard Gipstein, Barry Levinson, Barry Bienstock, Harold Weiner, Bruce Baratz, Lewis Buckley, Anne Schmidt, Judy Samokar, James McGuire, Pierce Connair, Thomas Matteson, Michael Hewitt.

Standing, 3rd row: Norman MacLeod, Richard Kistner, Roderick White, Philip Turner, Gary Root, David Quinn, Stephen Percy, John Bysko, Stephen Danenburg, Stephen Culbertson, Isabelle Singer, Roger Gross, George Sprecace.

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

The 75th Anniversary Gala

An evening devoted to remembrance, celebration and dancing, the 75th Anniversary Gala was a black-tie affair held on April 11, 1992, at the Radisson Hotel in New London. President Millie Devine presided over the evening with Past President Barry Levinson as Masters of Ceremonies for the program. Two new members, Attorney Valerie Alexander and Computer Data Professional Dennis Lavallee, were inducted into the club by District Governor Al Ross.



President Millie led the club in singing the Rotary Song for the year, "Look Beyond Yourself," and the club welcomed all visitors in our "usual and customary fashion" with our Welcome Song. In addition to city and community leaders and Rotary family members, a number of guests were former members who traveled great distances to join us.

Barry Levinson took the club down memory lane with a brief history of the club. Norm MacLeod, with Don Mitchell, Phil Burns and Ralph Wadleigh led the club in the original club cheer from the 1920s:



Oh, Your Pep, Your Pep.
You've Got It. You've Got It.
Dog-gone It. Don't Lose It.
Your Pep. Your Pep.
Rotary. Rotary. Rotary.
New London.



A barbershop quartet of Pete Connair, Steve Sigel, Sheldon Gardner and Mike Hewitt sang the club's greeting song from the 1930s, 40s and 50s, "Howdy All Good Fellows:"



Howdy all good fellows,
We welcome you today.
With a hearty smile and handshake,
To cheer you on your way,
To brighten up your stay
And hope you'll join us often
In the joys of ROTARY.

Rounding out the program, Pam Akins sang a parody rendition of "Tomorrow" with words by Steve Sigel, with "profound apologies to Martin Charnin."

I've got to get up, it's Thursday. Gotta find the suit that's got my only Rot'ry pin.
I need a big stash of singles. Isabelle's got her eyes on my wallet once again.
When the day gets too long, too hard, too boring, I just look at my pin and grin and say—
Oh, I'm heading' on out to Rot'ry. Tell the boss to take my calls, I'll be back around 2.
To Rotary, to Rot'ry, I'm going to Rot'ry, And next week I might take you.
Six years by the phone I waited. Waited for someone to nominate me for the club.
I walked home alone, deflated. Drowned my sorrows playing cards and soaking in my tub.
Then I got a new job, and God smiled on me. Now I schlep down the road to Ro-tary!
Oh, the sun will come up each Monday,
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, even weekends too!
My time is all taken, as soon as I waken, I've given my life to you.
To Rot'ry, to Rot'ry. Thank God, I'm in Rot'ry. There's never a day a-way!



The 75th Anniversary Cake with the new banner whaling ship image was served up, and the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Swing Band provided music for dancing to round out the evening.

Bill Schmidt recalls that it was at the 75th Gala that he met Anne Paul, who later became a member of the club. They were introduced, danced, and a budding romance developed that very evening that led to their marriage.



Left: Isabelle Singer, Carmelina Kanzler, Henry Savin, Millie Devine

Below: Steve Sigel, Barry Levinson & Pam Akins



Below: Ben & Doris Levinson



Below: Millie Devine, Ellen & Brian Cole

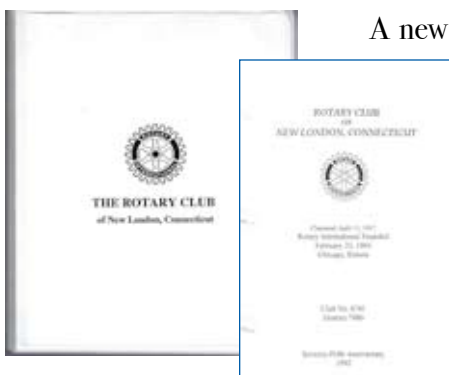
Below: Alma Wies (Carl Wies' widow) & Millie Devine



Right: Roger & Sidney Gross, Barry Levinson & Pam Akins, Roger & Martha Hassard, Fred Deltgen, Barry & Phyllis Bienstock



The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017



A new club directory was published for the 75th Anniversary. It was a white three-ring binder with individual pages for each club member. It also contained the bylaws, awards descriptions, list of Paul Harris Fellows and Carl Wies awardees, and various other club information. The club maintained this directory, with semi-annual additions of new members and updated pages for club information, until 2005 when everything was placed online.

In May 1992, the District celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the founding of The Rotary Foundation with a dinner at Port 'N Starboard after a Rotary "Fly In" at the Groton Airport.

At the District Conference of 1992 in Mt. Laurel, Pennsylvania, New London Rotary was awarded the Charles W. Pettengill Award. This district award was given for distinction during the prior three years (1988-89, 1989-90, 1990-91) in all four areas of service: Club Service, Community Service, Vocational Service and International Service. It included the Itzhak Perlman Concert for Polio Plus, successful auction fundraisers, club member involvement at the International Convention, and the Carl P. Miller Discovery Grant work done in Brazil by Roger Gross.



Above: Club's display at District Conference.



Left: New London Club members receive Charles Pettengill Award from District Governor Al Ross.

Senator Chris Dodd & the 75th Anniversary

President Millie Devine says that the 75th Anniversary Year aged her by 25 years—thanks to Senator Chris Dodd's office. Here's how: The club tried to put together a parade in New London to celebrate both the 75th Anniversary of the club and of The Rotary Foundation, but that didn't pan out. State and federal senators and representatives had been invited to participate in the parade. When that had to be cancelled, Millie asked Senator Chris Dodd's office if they could provide congratulatory letters—one for the club and one for The Foundation. Instead, they sent one letter to President Millie wishing her a very happy 75th birthday!

In June 1992, the installation banquet was held at the Lighthouse Inn, and Henry Savin was inducted as President for 1992-93, with Brian Cole as President Elect and Jeanne Johnson as Vice President. Barry Levinson and Carmelina Kanzler were named Paul Harris Fellows with a donation to The Rotary Foundation, and Diana Ketner was given the Carl Wies Award.

The club also named several past members and community leaders Honorary Members of the

Rotary Club of New London for their contributions to the club or community: Alma Wies (widow of Dr. Carl Wies), H. Fremont Alderson, Chester W. Kitchings, Barnard Colby, and Charles Chu. Marie Ann Gravell was recipient of the Unsung Hero Award, and another 35 honored friends were named because of their involvement and close connection to the club.

1992-93, President Henry Savin

During Rotary Year 1992-93, in addition to its ongoing community service activities, the club began to consider more international service. It took up a sponsorship of a child in El Salvador through the international nonprofit Save the Children after a program at a club meeting. For a number of years thereafter, the club received regular communications from Roberto Carlos, the child we sponsored in El Espino, El Salvador, with photographs and translations of his letters, as well as progress reports from Save the Children's field office in El Salvador.



Roberto Carlos

The club also donated funds to the Haitian Health Foundation, founded by Norwich Rotarian Dr. Jerry Lowney, who had moved his dental clinic from Port au Prince to Jeremie, Haiti, and began several initiatives to supply farm animals to the poor Haitians there. Along with many clubs in the district, in 1992 the club sponsored Creole pigs given to Jeremie families.

Club Initiates Student of the Year Program

In 1992, the New London Rotary Club initiated the "Student of the Year" program. This program continues today and recognizes an exemplary student from each of the public and private schools in New London. Each school sets its own criteria for the selection of the student and the students are recognized at a club meeting with their parents, teacher and principal of the school. Each school has a plaque and each Student of the Year honoree's name is added to the plaque annually.

"Gift of Life" Surgery for Angela Maria Rivera



In the winter and spring of 1993, the club, through the work of Rick Gipstein, was able to participate in the Gift of Life program that provides heart surgeries to children with heart defects. Rick Gipstein was the key player to arrange for major heart surgery for a Colombian girl, Angela Maria Rivera of Bogotá, Colombia. She was born with a serious heart defect called "transposition of the arteries" which reduces the amount of oxygen in the blood. Children with this defect who survive the early years of life seldom live through adolescence. Through the efforts of the New London Rotary Club; the Bogotá Norte Rotary Club; the Pinelands, New Jersey, Rotary Club; the Deborah Heart and Lung Center of New Jersey; and several individuals, Angela was flown to the U.S. and her heart was repaired. (A few years later, she organized an Interact Club in her town which collected food for homeless children. And at 18 years old, Angela sent her greetings to the New London Club and all those who helped change her chances at life, literally. For a number of years, Rick and his family continued to stay in touch with Angela and her sister, Olga Lucia, a dentist in Colombia, who stayed with the Gipstein family in 1997 on a six-month visa to improve her English through classes at Adult Education and one-on-one tutoring through Literacy Volunteers. She also spent time shadowing a New London dentist and observed procedures in Dr. Jerry Lowney's office in Norwich to learn current dental care techniques. Angela herself lived with the Gipsteins in 1998. At the writing of this history in 2017, she is 38, is married, has a son and lives in Texas.)

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

In the fall, the club hosted the Youth-in-Government students at a noon luncheon. In December 1992, the club lost Club Treasurer Gary Root, who came into Rotary in 1985.

In the spring, the club recognized outstanding New London High School students with the Rotary Scholars, Robert Groebel Award, and Community Service Award.

In June 1993, Brian Cole was installed as President with Jeanne Johnson as President Elect and Philip Turner as Vice President. Past President Philip Maniscalco was recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow and Phil Burns received the Carl Wies Award.

1993-94, President Brian Cole



In addition to the usual activities like the annual picnic, Serviceperson of the Month luncheon, and Yale-Harvard Regatta, during this year, the club established a committee to create a separate 501(c)(3) nonprofit for its charitable operations. The club had increasingly raised significant funds and felt that having a formal nonprofit foundation would allow for even greater fundraising efforts. Attorney James McGuire did the IRS filing for the New London Rotary Club Foundation (see sidebar).

In December 1993, the club mourned the loss of Bar Colby, retired publisher of The Day Newspaper and long-time member of the New London Rotary, who was known for his Sunday "Say What You Mean" column in the paper.



Percy Family at Rotary Picnic at Mitchell College

New London Rotary Foundation (NLRF) Established

The New London Rotary Foundation began operations as a 501(c)(3) organization in 1994, putting all of the club's fund-raising activities under the nonprofit auspices of the Foundation. The club established a committee chaired by Past President Henry Savin in 1993 to investigate the formation of a separate tax-exempt foundation. Other clubs in the district and beyond were also doing this, and Fairfield Rotarian and CPA John (Mac) Leask provided assistance as needed within the district. Rotary clubs are classified as social welfare organizations under section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code. They are exempt from taxation, but contributions to them are not deductible by the donor. At that time, the club wished to increase its fundraising activities, not only to support current and ongoing projects, but also to build a permanent endowment to support its future work. Rotarian Atty. Jim McGuire worked with the committee to prepare the certificate of incorporation, bylaws and other documentation for the New London Rotary Foundation, Inc., and he completed the filing with the State of Connecticut as a non-stock corporation effective March 16, 1994. Club Treasurer Walter Makepeace filed the exemption application with the IRS and oversaw the approval process. Once IRS approval was given, the NLRF board voted to set aside ten percent of all funds raised for an endowment. Since its formation, the foundation has conducted major fundraising events such as the twice-annual Brewfests and funded major club projects such as Camp Rotary, the Centennial Playground, and the Ocean Beach Pavilion, as well as scholarships, international grants, and numerous smaller donations for the betterment of life in New London and in the world. In addition, the foundation built an endowment that has provided additional support for local and international causes and for continued funding in the future.

During 1993-94, Carmelina Kanzler served as Assistant Governor to District Governor Fred Ahlberg, accompanying him on visits to all the Rotary clubs in the District and assisting with his governor duties.

The club continued its support for the Haitian Health Foundation with a donation for chickens for Haitian families and for Roberto Carlos, the child sponsored in El Espino, El Salvador, through Save the Children.



Don't Wait, Inoculate Flyer

In the spring of 1994, the New London Club participated in a project, called “Don’t Wait, Inoculate” to vaccinate at-risk New London preschoolers against childhood diseases and connect their families with a primary care health service or physician. The project became a cooperative effort of various New London organizations involved in public health, including the Health Department of New London, Lawrence & Memorial Hospital, in-school Well Child Clinics, and others. The City Health Department provided an attendant nurse; the State of Connecticut provided the vaccine; and our club provided the additional medical supplies (such as a refrigerator to keep the vaccines chilled) and covered labor costs.

The club conducted a Career Expo in the spring of 1994 at the New London Community Center. A wide variety of employers and organizations participated in the Expo. These included area businesses, not-for-profits, colleges, three military services and the New London Fire Department. Representatives emphasized the educational needs and opportunities in their respective careers and many students learned about both the opportunities available as well as the education needed to succeed.

Several New London Rotarians were involved in putting together a Literacy Business Breakfast with five other area Rotary Clubs. The first Literacy Business Breakfast took place in 1994 with featured speaker, Harold McGraw of the publishing company McGraw Hill. The New London Rotary Club provided marketing and organizational support and had the largest attendance of any Rotary club at the event. The business breakfast raised \$2,500 for the Literacy Volunteers of America—Greater New London Affiliate.



USCG Capt.
Lew Buckley

U.S. Coast Guard Band Conductor Capt. Lew Buckley wrote “Rotary Pride” using the USCG anthem music and lyrics focusing on the 4-Way Test. He also penned an anniversary recognition song to the tune of “Let Me Call You Sweetheart,” which is still sung today in recognition of members’ wedding anniversaries.

The club continued its Student of the Year Program, recognizing an outstanding student from each of the city's schools. The club recognized New London High School students through its Youth-in-Govern-



Career Expo



The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

ment Program, Rotary Scholars, Robert Groebel Award, and Community Service Award. It also named a new NLHS award for Harry Birenbaum, the club's pianist.

Harry Birenbaum Music Scholarship Established

In 1993, on the death of Harry Birenbaum, New London Rotary's long-time pianist and co-writer of the club's Welcome Song, the club established a new music studies scholarship named for him. The award, still given in 2017, provides a scholarship to a New London High School senior who has distinguished himself/herself in the music field.

Carmelina Kanzler attended the Rotary International Convention in Taipei, Taiwan, June 12-15, and presented a program on it in September 1994.

In the spring of 1994, President Elect Jeanne Johnson stepped down from her position, and President Brian Cole agreed to serve a second term. At the installation banquet in June, President Brian was re-installed for the year 1994-95 with Phil Turner as President Elect and Pamela Akins as Vice President. Rick Lombardi was recognized with a Club Honored Paul Harris Fellowship for his service as Club Secretary. Also Holocaust survivor and New London businessman Sigmund Strochlitz was recognized with a Paul Harris Fellowship. Club Treasurer Walter Makepeace was given the Carl Wies Award.

1994-95, President Brian Cole

In July 1994, the club sold hot dogs and hamburgers at Sailfest. A large number of club members and their families staffed the booth for the two-day festival on the waterfront in downtown New London.

In September 1994, we participated with a number of Rotary clubs in a Chili Cook-Off to benefit the United Way Food Center. The Food Center supplies over 40 soup kitchens



Sailfest Booth,
July 1994



and pantries throughout New London County. For this project, New London Rotarians cooked and served their own favorite chili recipes. Club members also got area restaurants, including the kitchens of the landmark Lighthouse Inn and the Radisson Hotel, to contribute chili and salad dishes. The project raised over \$4,000 for the Food Center.

The club moved its Career Expo to the New London High School. Club members participated in planning the event, marketing the project to area businesses and organizations, and organizing the activities for the school day.

In November 1994, the New London Rotary Club joined the rest of the District in the Skip-A-Meal program. One meeting was chosen at which no meal was served yet everyone attending paid the full meal price. Attendance was not diminished, and the proceeds were donated to the local soup kitchen.



Carmelina Kanzler Led Group Study Exchange Team to England



Carmelina Kanzler led the District's Group Study Exchange (GSE) to England in 1995, and the club funded the gifts she presented to Rotary Clubs in England. She found herself in clubs that did not allow women as Rotarians, and she had to insist on being included in all the GSE events. For the incoming team, Phil Maniscalco and Bessie Dallas assisted the area coordinator for the Group Study Exchange from England, and New London club members hosted GSE team members in their homes, arranged tours of local businesses, and provided transportation.

In December 1994, the club lost Attorney Merrill Dreyfus who had been a member of the New London Rotary since 1952, was president in 1955-56, and for over 40 years chaired the Yale-Harvard Regatta event.

In February 1995, we celebrated Rotary's 90th Anniversary of its founding with a display of Rotary facts, photos and other materials in a window display in downtown New London.

The club provided funding to guarantee the dinner theater space for a performance by the Footlight Players to do a benefit for the S.E. Connecticut AIDS Project (SECAP). We underwrote the initial space reservation costs and supported the event by selling tickets. The production was a success and the club had no out-of-pocket expense.



In the spring of 1995, Rick Gipstein enlisted club members and the greater New London community to become members of the International Bone Marrow Donor Registry. The club sponsored and funded donor drives with the assistance of the New England Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) and the American Red Cross. The drives resulted in the recruitment of over 250 new potential marrow donors, many of whom were from much needed minority groups, whose names and marrow types were added to the International Marrow Donor Registry. The club covered the funding to pay for the blood tests for the recruited donors and handled the promotion of each drive. Club members also provided volunteer assistance to the NMDP staff in interviewing donors and other needed on-site tasks.

Benjamin A. Levinson Community Service Award

The club lost Benjamin A. Levinson in April 1995. Ben had been a club member since the 1950s and served as President in 1968-69. Following his death, the club named the club's Community Service Award, given to one male and one female New London High School senior who demonstrate a special awareness of community needs and have played an active role in voluntary community service, the Benjamin A. Levinson Community Service Award.

Significant programs during the 1994-95 year were: a visit to the new Community Health Center in Shaw's Cove, Trails & Rails Action Coalition (TRACS) presentation by Penny Parsekian, a performance by an O'Neill Cabaret graduate, Bob Weller's Club Bio complete with the Army helmet he used during the invasion at Anzio, gene therapy by Dr. Lauler, the Israeli Consul for Information Talya LaDor Fresher, "Drugs of the Future" by Pfizer scientist Eric Larson, Connecticut College Professor of Art David Smalley presentation on the computer and the arts, the

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

Base Realignment Closure Process, Mashantucket Pequot Tribal History, traditional Irish music by Forebitter, “Drugs from Plants” by Dr. Paul Armond of Pfizer, “Radio Ablation and Space-Age Pacemakers” by Dr. Peter Milstein, “The Merchant Marine Academy” by USCG Retired Rear Admiral Thomas Matteson, Connecticut College Madrigal Singers, “HIV: How fast is it spreading and what you can do” by Betsy Ryan, a visit to the Red Top in Gales Ferry for the Yale-Harvard Regatta, and Archaeologist and Connecticut College Professor Dr. Harold Juli. In April, the club joined the Norwich Club for a program by the Norwich Navigators.

During the school year 1994-95, the New London and Waterford Rotary Clubs worked on the Waterford/New London Schools Partnership, selling at least five raffle tickets per Rotarian to raise money for joint learning exchange programs which focus on diversity training. The project involved a radio station and 35 local businesses.

The club continued its Student of the Year and Youth-in-Government Programs, Rotary Scholars, Robert Groebel, Benjamin A. Levinson Community Service, and Harry Birenbaum Awards. The club also honored Unsung Hero Mary Ann Jordan, a volunteer at the United Way Food Center, who worked long hours sorting and packing non-perishable food for over 40 food sites.

Walk-a-thon Fundraiser, 1995

The club's major fundraiser in 1994-95 was a community-wide “Don't Wait, Inoculate Walk-a-thon.” Corporate sponsors, McCue Mortgage and the Savings Society, provided major donations toward the event. Walkers enlisted sponsors to fund their walks or runs along Pequot Avenue and back to the finish at Mitchell College. Through the efforts of club members, radio, newspaper and outdoor banner advertising, food, prizes, T-shirts with event sponsors and Rotary logos, and myriad small services and supplies were donated. The “Walk-A-Thon” raised approximately \$6,000.



A number of New London Rotarians attended the District Conference in Greenwich, CT. In June 1995, Barry Levinson and Pamela Akins attended the Rotary International Convention in Nice, France.

At the end of the month, President Philip Turner was installed, along with President Elect Pamela Akins and Vice President Diana Ketner. Richard Gipstein was named a Paul Harris Fellow for his Gift of Life, Don't Wait, Inoculate and Bone Marrow Donor registry work. Henry Savin was given the Carl Wies Award for his work on the establishment of the club's new foundation and many years of service to the club.



RI Convention Center, Nice, France

Camp Rotary Created

In early 1995, President Brian Cole, Shiloh Baptist Church Reverend Ben Watts, and Connecticut College Office of Volunteers Coordinator Tracee Reiser met with City of New London officials to determine how the club might contribute to the common good of the city. All agreed that providing positive youth activities during the summer would be a priority. Camp Rotary became a collaborative effort bringing together service organizations, higher education, industry, professionals, public schools and community organizations to design and implement an academic and recreational program guided by the Rotary ideals of service.

Tracee Reiser spearheaded the organization of the initial Camp for July 1995 by arranging the venues, developing curriculum, hiring personnel, recruiting volunteers, and addressing other organizational details. Originally budgeted to handle 30 children, through Tracee's efforts the camp was eventually expanded to accommodate 60 children for four weeks. Expenses covered transportation, education, physical activities, breakfast and lunch. Supervision was provided by Connecticut College students and the



Program Coordinator through the Office of Volunteers at Connecticut College.

The first year, campers studied the Civil



War and traveled to Gettysburg National Military Park in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. As of the writing of this history in 2017, Camp Rotary still continues.

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

1995-96, President Philip "Phil" Turner

During the summer of 1995, in addition to the first Camp Rotary, the club again had a booth at the city's two-day Sailfest again, selling hot dogs, hamburgers, etc. and just enjoying working together.

Club members also weekly cleaned the Green Harbor public beach in New London, a popular spot for inner-city families, but known for collecting large amounts of seaweed and debris. Each week club members walked the beach, picking up litter, cans, and bottles, and sweeping up and burying seaweed and flotsam, in an effort to improve the image of the city and to provide a cleaner and safer place for urban children to spend their summer days.



Sailfest Booth, July 1995

Special Olympics
World Games
Connecticut 1995



Also in July 1995, New Haven hosted the Special Olympics World Summer Games. The New London club provided homes that could meet the special needs for 18 athletes. We also served as volunteers for some of the races, helped organize and direct contestants, served as timekeepers, referees and starting officials, monitored the swimming events at Ocean Beach, served lunches, etc. At the District Assembly in the spring of 1996, our club was touted as a model for its success in finding host families for the special needs Olympians.

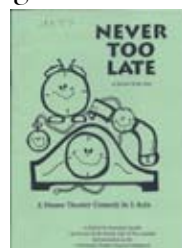
In August, the club enjoyed picnicking again at Mitchell College.

For the Rotary year 1995-96, President Phil Turner proposed a weekly raffle with the proceeds divided equally between The Rotary Foundation, the New London Rotary Club and the individual winner of the raffle. The raffle continues 20 years later and traditionally the winner gives his or her share to a Rotary charity of choice. During 1995-96, we replaced the Walk-a-thon fundraiser with a club raffle featuring a trip to the Bahamas. The raffle netted \$6,200.

In November 1995, the club lost USPHS Retired Captain Thorburn "Mac" McGowan. President in 1959-60, Mac had been a member of the club since 1955. In one club bio program he gave, he talked about being stationed in India during World War II and made veiled references to traveling across China during the war to report on Japanese positions there. Back in the States, he served as a physician in the Public Health Service Commissioned Corps under the U.S. Surgeon General.

The club continued its involvement in the Waterford-New London Schools Partnership and Skip-a-Meal Program. The club also repeated its support for Footlight Players, underwriting the initial costs, with proceeds of \$4,000 from the production going to Habitat for Humanity for home restoration in New London.

The New London Club continued to support the Literacy Business Breakfast through the solicitation of corporate sponsors as well as attendance by club



Native Son/Daughter Award



■ Dr. Morris A. Wessel at the Rotary Club ceremony Thursday honoring him as the first recipient of the New London Native Son award.

Skip Weinberger
The Day

Native son award goes to doctor

From B1
who conveys warmth and humility despite his many accomplishments. For the event Thursday, he wore a colorful tie decorated with elementary-school style drawings of children.

Wessel was awarded the American Association of Pediatrics' Practitioner Researcher Award in 1993. He was one of the first pediatricians to encourage expectant parents to visit him before the birth of their child and one of the first doctors to speak and write on the dangers of lead poisoning. He also has written extensively on a variety of children's health issues.

As a pediatrician working out of a modest office in a poor section of New Haven, he inspired deep loyalty from his patients. Dr. Benjamin Spock, a friend and colleague since Dr. Wessel was a medical student at Yale University in the 1940s, told the New York Times in 1993:

"Morris was one of the first pediatricians in the country who saw the need to focus on development, particularly on stages of emotional development. . . . He is a wonderful person, a kind and thoughtful person."

In addition to his accomplishments in pediatrics, Wessel was among a small group who helped found the Hospice movement in the United States. In 1971, he was a founder of the nation's first hospice in Branford, an idea adopted from the hospice movement in England.

Wessel recalled that his interest in death, dying and bereavement was stimulated by Memorial Day ceremonies he attended in his youth as a piccolo player with the Bulkeley School band. The kind and caring manner of two New London doctors, Charles Burr Graves and Emanuel Heikle, made them role models for the kind of pediatrician he would become.

"Their patterns stimulated me to appreciate the value of house calls and telling parents and children what they could expect in the course of a disease," Wessel said. "I recall with fondness (Dr. Graves') visits when I suffered with croup. He always made my mother and me feel certain I would survive, if I stayed in the steam tent and stopped crying."

Native son honored in NL

Rotary Club selects doctor for new award

By JUDY BENSON
Day Staff Writer

New London — Growing up in New London, Morris A. Wessel learned the qualities that would make him a much-beloved and respected pediatrician with a national reputation.

On Thursday, Dr. Wessel returned to his hometown to receive the New London Native Son Award from the New London Rotary Club. The new honor was created by the group to recognize someone who grew up in the city and has accomplished much in his professional life elsewhere. Wessel, who is 78 and lives in New Haven, practiced medicine in that city for 42 years until he retired in 1993.

CPH member Carl Stoner, who

knew Wessel as a teen-ager, read an article about him in the Sunday New York Times and then suggested to other members of the club that Wessel get the award.

"The black wavy hair and some of the lankiness (of his youth) may be gone," Stoner said, "but in his place is a giant. He has influenced a generation of pediatricians, family practitioners and child psychiatrists."

In addition to the native son award, Wessel also received from Rotary the Paul Harris Fellowship, the highest honor given by the club.

Wessel, admitting that being in his hometown and receiving such honors left him near tears, reminisced about his youth and a visit to the city two weeks ago.

"I realize how intimately and relentlessly one's experiences in childhood and adolescence determine one's adult life," said Wessel.

See NATIVE page B15



In 1995-96, President Phil Turner asked the club to establish an award to honor a native New Londoner who had risen to a position of prominence in a field that reflects well on the City of New London.

The first Native Son/Daughter award was presented to Dr. Morris Wessel, a retired New Haven pediatrician, who established the first Hospice in the United States in Branford, CT.

The event was a huge success, in part to Dr. Wessel's eloquent address at a regular club meeting. The event also served as a fundraiser for Dr. Wessel's foundation and the Hospice of Southeastern Connecticut.

Dr. Wessel was made a Paul Harris Fellow as part of this recognition.

members. The breakfast featured G. Michael "Mickey" Brown, CEO of Foxwoods Casino, who spoke about his own need for remedial reading courses when he reached college and the stringent literacy and math skills required of casino employees.

For the "Don't Wait, Inoculate" program, we moved the clinics closer to where the children lived, holding Kids Care and Family Health Fairs at a local daycare center, Centro de la Comunidad Hispanic Cultural Center, Head Start, Winthrop Low Income Housing High Rise and several elementary schools. We helped the city get financial support from state and federal governments to fund a full-time nurse for this project through a grant proposal. Annually, 12 clinics were held throughout New London and more than 200 records were reviewed for immunizations.



The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

The Club's Unsung Hero Award for 1996 went to Bill Thompson, a volunteer driver for the American Red Cross taking people without transportation to medical appointments at regional hospitals such as veterans' hospitals, UCONN Medical Center, or Yale New Haven Hospital. He logged 175 hours and 4,323 miles in 1994-95 alone.

The club continued its Student of the Year Program, Youth-in-Government Program, Rotary Scholars, Robert Groebel Award, Benjamin Levinson Community Service Award, and Harry Birenbaum Music Award.

At the District Conference held in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, New London Rotary Club received a Project of the Month Award for Vocational Service for its New London-Waterford School Partnership and won the District Award for Community Service.

In June 1996, President Elect Pamela Akins and Past President Barry Levinson attended the Rotary International Convention in Calgary, Canada. While there, they had the pleasure of staying in the home of the President of one of the seven Calgary area Rotary Clubs, whom they had met at the 1994-95 convention in Nice, France. Through this special invitation, they participated in a home exchange dinner and attended the Northwest Zone breakfast. Howard Kaplan was also at the Calgary Convention, handling Rotary tours to the convention and providing travel arrangements for Youth Exchange students.

At the Radisson Hotel in June, the club held its first Silent Auction as part of the annual installation banquet; that fundraiser continues today. Pamela Akins was installed as President for the Rotary year 1996-97, with Diana Ketner as President Elect and Michael Stryker as Vice President. The club recognized Faye Vathauer with a Paul Harris Fellowship for her contributions to the community and Stephen Percy with a second Paul Harris Fellowship for his work as Sergeant at Arms. The club also presented a Paul Harris Fellowship to Connecticut College President Claire Gaudiani for her efforts at revitalizing New London. George Fisher, Club Secretary and grandson of his namesake who was a Charter Member of the club, was honored with a Carl Wies Award.

1996-97, President Pamela "Pam" Akins

For the summer of 1996, the New London Rotary participated in the 350th Anniversary of the City of New London by hosting a booth at the city's Sailfest, selling hot dogs, hamburgers, etc. to the public during the two-day festival.



President Phil with NLHS Principal Lou Allen & Student of the Year



Barry Levinson with Calgary RI Convention Homestay Hosts



Sailfest Booth, July 1996

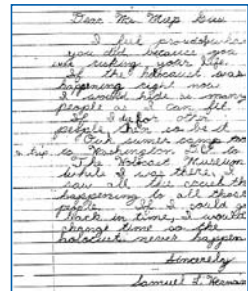




City of New London's 350th Parade

We also represented the club in New London's 350th Anniversary Parade. For a second summer, the club cleaned the Green Harbor public beach. Our annual picnic was held at Mitchell College Beach in August.

Camp Rotary continued at Shiloh Baptist Church with the support of Connecticut College Office of Volunteers. Camp Rotary students read *The Diary of Anne Frank* and wrote letters to Miep Gies, whose family sheltered the Frank family from the Germans during World War II and was the scheduled Convocation speaker at Connecticut College. Camp Rotary students and their families later attended the Convocation ceremonies and read their letters to Miep Gies who wrote them back. Harold Weiner covered the cost to send 60 Camp Rotary students to the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.



Samuel Hernandez's letter to Miep Gies

In August 1996, the club lost long-time member and Past President, Ralph Wadleigh. Ralph joined the New London Rotary Club in 1945 and became President for 1954-55, overseeing the club's celebration of Rotary International's 50th Anniversary and the founding of the Groton Club. He had an active role in the very successful Sport Show of 1978 and continued to serve in club leadership for a number of years. But most of all, he was a generous spirit, offering warm encouragement to new Rotarians in the '80s and '90s.

In August 1996, the club lost long-time member and Past President, Ralph Wadleigh. Ralph joined the New London Rotary Club in 1945 and became President for 1954-55, overseeing the club's celebration of Rotary International's 50th Anniversary and the founding of the Groton Club. He had an active role in the very successful Sport Show of 1978 and continued to serve in club leadership for a number of years. But most of all, he was a generous spirit, offering warm encouragement to new Rotarians in the '80s and '90s.

United Way Day of Caring

In September 1996, we joined in the United Way's "Day of Caring" by providing volunteers to paint the interior of the B.P. Learned Mission, which for many years had provided educational, recreational, cultural and family support services to the underprivileged and needy in New London. The Mission staff supplied paint, rollers and brushes and undertook the preparations while the New London Rotary Club supplied volunteer labor. It was an all-day job and involved a lot of hard work, but provided a wonderful

feeling of accomplishment. Through our invitation, five other Rotary clubs in the area participated in the Day of Caring with hands-on projects in their respective communities, creating a critical mass of Rotary service and a high-profile image within the SECT community for Rotary.

Day of Caring means blitz of volunteer work today

More than 300 volunteers will be painting, building, cleaning, and working on all projects throughout New London County.

Sponsored by the United Way of Southeastern Connecticut, the one-day event will leave many local agencies and communities with a renewed look.

"This year we have expanded Day of Caring to involve all area nonprofit organizations as well as United Way agencies," said Fran Wadsworth, president of the United Way of Southeastern Connecticut and chairman of the event. "This makes the event a true communitywide effort."

From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., volunteers will be working on 25 projects throughout New London County.

Projects include:

- Organizing care boxes for the American Red Cross by Pillar employees.
- Rebuilding a three-story walkway for Big Brothers Big Sisters in Groton by Charter Oak Federal Credit Union.
- Cleaning out the basement and hauling junk to dump for Catholic Charities by workers from J.C. Forestry and window washers by Dave's Window Washers.
- Painting interior of the Community Mental Health Services in Groton by the Groton Senior Center.
- Painting and repairing porches at Family Service Association in Groton by the Charter Oak Federal Credit Union.
- Cleaning grounds at the Christopher Columbus Center in New London by First Bank.
- Constructing six outdoor picnic tables for the Providence.

Day of Caring takes place today

Neighborhood Center by the Sun, Sun, Sun, Sun, Sun.

■ Installing a picnic table for Project Independence of Eastern Connecticut at Union Station by the Sun, Sun, Sun, Sun, Sun.

■ Installing a picnic table for the Sun, Sun, Sun, Sun, Sun.

■ Installing a picnic table for the Sun, Sun, Sun, Sun, Sun.

■ Installing a picnic table for the Sun, Sun, Sun, Sun, Sun.

■ Installing a picnic table for the Sun, Sun, Sun, Sun, Sun.

■ Installing a picnic table for the Sun, Sun, Sun, Sun, Sun.

■ Installing a picnic table for the Sun, Sun, Sun, Sun, Sun.

■ Installing a picnic table for the Sun, Sun, Sun, Sun, Sun.

■ Installing a picnic table for the Sun, Sun, Sun, Sun, Sun.

■ Installing a picnic table for the Sun, Sun, Sun, Sun, Sun.

■ Installing a picnic table for the Sun, Sun, Sun, Sun, Sun.

■ Installing a picnic table for the Sun, Sun, Sun, Sun, Sun.

■ Installing a picnic table for the Sun, Sun, Sun, Sun, Sun.

■ Installing a picnic table for the Sun, Sun, Sun, Sun, Sun.

■ Installing a picnic table for the Sun, Sun, Sun, Sun, Sun.

Far left: Roger Gross

Left: Don Mitchell & John Bysko



The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

First Year of Brewfest at the Beach

For 1996-97, Past President Ed Cramer proposed a new fundraiser, "Brewfest at the Beach," to be held in the fall and spring at Ocean Beach Park. President Pam committed the club to the event, and planning began.

The first Brewfest at the Beach was held in the Port 'N Starboard at Ocean Beach on October 25, 1996. In addition to tastings of over 80 microbrews, the event offered live entertainment by "The Band of Humans" and food by Port 'N Starboard. Featured on the cover of the "Weekend" section of *The Day* newspaper, it attracted a young crowd—not the usual target for most fundraising in the area. Billed as an Oktoberfest, it attracted over 800 people at \$10 each to sample 10 microbrew selections. Hall Communications held a live radio remote broadcast during the event.

Club members provided all the labor for the event checking IDs at the door, tagging eligible attendees, selling drink tickets, assisting the microbrew companies in serving brews, monitoring doorways, and clean-up. Club members also donated extensive time and in-kind services for poster, ad and flyer design, program printing, newspaper advertising, broadcast PSAs, faxed marketing, donated food for volunteers, drink tokens, cups, etc.

For the 1997 Springfest at the Beach, the club had created a display of its service activities. Cigars for purchase were added and vendors provided items for raffle and sale. Harold Weiner donated t-shirts for all Rotarians, family, friends, and Rotaractors working the event. The spring Brewfest attracted over 1,500 and involved the newly formed New London Rotaract Club. The two Brewfests raised over \$23,000 for Rotary year 1996-97.





President Pam led the effort to establish the first Rotaract Club in our area. Initially, potential members were recruited from area colleges including Connecticut College and Mitchell College. After holding a number of informational meetings, 21 members joined the New London Rotaract Club, bylaws were approved, and officers and board members were elected. Meetings and board meetings were held every other week. The Rotaractors participated in some of New London Rotary's hands-on and fundraising projects.

In late 1996, New London completed an international project organized by Catherine Foley and Rick Gipstein. In 1995, nearly 300 local healthcare providers were asked to donate used but serviceable medical and dental equipment to the Haitian Health Foundation and two other Haitian clinics. A number of pieces of equipment were donated to the

International Service: Eye Surgery for Senegalese Woman

The Rotary Club of New London was very involved with International Service during the Rotary year of 1996-97. One example was Rick Gipstein arranging for a Connecticut College student to bring his mother from Senegal for eye surgery and involving the whole community.

In February 1997, Mohamed Diagne, a senior from Connecticut College, contacted Tracee Reiser for assistance in obtaining urgently needed cataract surgery for his mother, who lived in Dakar, Senegal. Her ophthalmologist in Dakar recommended the operation be performed in the U.S. since Senegal did not have the needed facilities.

Working in cooperation with Connecticut College, Rick Gipstein arranged for the operation to be performed on a donated basis by Lawrence & Memorial Hospital and eye surgeon, Dr. Robert Klimek. In addition, Air Afrique covered the airfare to and from Dakar at half-price. Chris Neilan donated a limo and driver for ground transportation to and from the airport.

In addition, while Mrs. Diagne was here, she had extensive dental surgery also provided free of charge by Dr. Elliot Kimmel. The cataract surgery was successful and allowed her to see her son, Mohamed, graduate.



Mohamed Abdoulaye Diagne sits with his mother at Connecticut College in New London, Senegal. Diagne's mother came to see her graduate in May, but will have cataract surgery on both her eyes in the next two weeks.

The good son

By CARA MATTHEWS
Staff Writer

It's a success story built on a one-way plane ticket to New York City five months ago, a chance to see his mother, and a chance to see his mother's eyes. Mohamed Abdoulaye Diagne, a senior at Connecticut College, is poised to graduate from Conn College and help save his mother's eyesight.

On May 14, Diagne, 25, will graduate with honors in physics and math. This fall, he will pursue a doctorate in electrical engineering and physics at Brown University in Rhode Island on a full scholarship.

While he waits for graduation, Diagne spends each day with a special visitor who came to witness the first in the family to graduate from college — his mother. "We do a lot of talking except that sometimes I tell her 'Shut up, shut up, I've got work to do,'" he said, laughing here and there.

Khadimatah Fall Diagne, 42, wants to see her son graduate, but cataracts in both eyes stand in the way. She can barely see. "I have always believed I was going to go blind," she said in French.



The Day

Groups, individuals pitch in to help African woman to see son graduate

MATT SCHUERMAN
Day Staff Writer

New London — It might not have taken a village, but it took at least nine individuals and six organizations to bring a Senegalese woman to New London to have her cataracts removed.

By the end of last week, Khadimatah Fall Diagne was able to see clearly again, one too soon for the graduation of her eldest son from Connecticut College on May 24.

The journey began last fall when her son, Mohamed Abdoulaye Diagne, was speaking with Conn President Claire L. Gaudin, who had taken an interest in his progress because he was an international student with full financial aid from the school.

The 25-year-old Mohamed mentioned that his mother's condition — present since before he was born — had turned for the worse in the previous two years. She was advised to come to the United States for the operation, as the procedure was relatively new in her country.

Through Gaudin's contacts, and Mohamed's continued persistence, arrangements fell into place.

Tracee Reiser, the director of Conn's Office of Volunteers and Community Service, and a member of the Rotary Club of New London, talked to another Rotarian, Richard F. Gipstein. Gipstein, along with Gaudin, persuaded Lawrence & Memorial Hospital to donate services and staff for the endeavor, and Gipstein recruited his eye doctor, Dr. Robert Klimek, of the Shoreline Eye Group in Waterford and an L&M staffer, to perform the surgery on two dates in late April and early May.

The Rotary Club asked Air Afrique, Senegal's primary airline, to contribute half of a round-trip ticket. Conn asked its travel agency, Bokoff Kaplan Travel Services, to contribute the other half. Another Rotarian, Chris Neilan, would provide one of the limousines from Thomas L. Neilan & Sons funeral directors, to pick up Mrs. Diagne in New York City after her flight. When she arrived, Gipstein arranged

to have his dentist, Elliot Kimmel, perform dental work and fashion dentures. Since her arrival, Mrs. Diagne has stayed, through arrangement with the college, in the suite her son gets to use as a dormitory supervisor. All this surprised Mohamed, and yet he had already tasted the results of his luck and pluck three years ago, when he arrived in New York with \$90 in his pocket and, because the person he came to visit had moved, nowhere to go. He slept at Grand Central Terminal, taught himself English and then applied to Conn, because it was listed next to the University of Connecticut. The school offered him a \$27,000 scholarship.

Now he is heading to Brown University, which has awarded him another scholarship to study electrical engineering and physics. "I would never think that all of this would be possible," he said recently. "But the most important thing is that I will be able to go on and provide for my family, so that we will no longer have to depend on others."

Left: Diagnes at Rotary meeting
Below: With Gipstein family



The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

club, including a blood gas analyzer, dental X-rays and sigmoidoscope. Several items were eventually brought to Haiti, and others were donated to the American Medical Resources Foundation (AMRF) for delivery to facilities in the Third World. In late 1996, the last two donated items, two complete dental chairs, were given to a nonprofit dental clinic being set up in Hartford to serve those afflicted with AIDS.

Rick Gipstein also worked with Connecticut College Brett Goldstein who tried to secure medical equipment from the U.S. for NeuroGhana, a fledgling medical organization in Ghana, West Africa. Unfortunately, the project was suspended due to political problems. However, when Brett returned to this country, he made a remarkable presentation to the club about the difficulties of medical care in undeveloped countries.

The club gave \$1,000 to the New London Health Department to hire a bilingual nurse to better reach and relate to the city's large Hispanic population for the Don't Wait, Inoculate program, and we continued to sponsor and fund bone marrow donor drives with the assistance of the New England Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) and the American Red Cross. The club also gave \$1,000 for the Haitian Health Foundation's new Interact House in Jeremie, Haiti, which would provide accommodations for volunteers working on the HHF's numerous health and economic development projects.

In 1996-97, the club added a weekly auction in which club members donate a product or service to be auctioned off to the club membership at the luncheon meeting. Not only did the weekly auction raise over \$2,000 during its first year, it also provided some good fellowship as bidders tried to outdo each other. The club also purchased a Rotary Wishing Well and placed it at the New London Mall, with club members handling the collection and deposit of funds. The Wishing Well also added over \$2,000 to our club's foundation funds for Rotary year 1996-97.

In the fall of 1996, the Career Expo was videotaped and broadcast on the New London Public Schools cable TV channel, which was popular viewing among students and parents. New London Rotarians also participated in Career Expos at Connecticut and Mitchell Colleges in the spring of 1997.

The Footlight Players again produced a play to benefit Habitat for Humanity; the club underwrote the initial costs with a \$1,500 loan and the production netted over \$4,000 to Habitat for Humanity's restoration of a home in New London.



Unsung Hero Edna Walker

The club honored Edna Walker, an AIDS outreach worker for the Community Resource Commission, as the year's Unsung Hero, and Ralph Roggero as the Outstanding Teacher of the Year. The Native Son/Daughter for 1996-97 was Larry Rachleff, conductor of the Rhode Island Philharmonic.

Spring 1997, with the support of the New London Housing Authority, club volunteers participated in a spring cleanup at the Winthrop High-Rise Public Housing. Working with Rotaractors, club members cleaned up broken glass, cigarette butts, and litter from the public housing unit's sand lot and playground.

The club's Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar candidate, Sarah Schoelkopf, who majored in Hispanic Studies and Sociology at Connecticut College, was selected by the District for the graduate-level scholarship.



Ambassadorial
Scholar
Sarah Schoelkopf

Ivan Sadler chaired the club's Student of the Year Program and delighted in hosting the students at the club meetings. The club also recognized New London High School students through the Youth-in-Government Program, Rotary Scholars, Robert Groebel Award, Benjamin Levinson Community Service Award and Harry Birenbaum Music Award.

New London supported the Business Breakfast for Literacy fundraiser through the solicitation of corporate sponsors and attendance by club members. The keynote speaker was Faith Popcorn, the well-known trend predictor. Dr. Claire Gaudiani also spoke on the importance of literacy in the development of good citizens and the role of volunteerism in the fight against illiteracy. The event drew over 250 individuals and netted Literacy Volunteers over \$2,600.



New London Rotarians with District Governor Ed Osterman

Six New London members attended the District Conference in Falmouth, Massachusetts. New London Rotary won the District Award for Outstanding International



Australian GSE Team

Through the work of Alice Fitzpatrick and Bessie Dallas, the club hosted the Group Study Exchange team from Australia in the spring of 1997 (at the same meeting as the Yale-Harvard

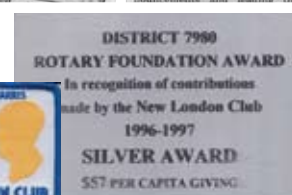


Regatta) and a summer Holiday Youth Exchange for students from Germany and Italy with students of the Fishers Island School.

Yale-Harvard grads singing & lane drawing



The Day



Holiday Youth Exchange

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

During the city's Memorial Day Parade in 1997, we had two decorated vehicles and our Rotary Club banner; we also had a food booth at the city's Sailfest.



At the Glasgow, Scotland International Convention, June 15th-18th, President Pam Akins and Past President Barry Levinson attended the banquet for the International Fellowship of Rotarian Musicians and Ballroom Dancing and enjoyed fellowship at the table of past-RI President, Bill Huntley.

Memorial Day Parade

Top: Phil Maniscalco & Carmelina Kanzler decorate Pres. Pam's car

Middle: Frank Bartol, his truck, Bruce Baratz & Brian Cole

Right: Bob Weller & Carmelina ride in Pres. Pam's car



At the annual installation banquet, Diana Ketner was inducted as President for the Rotary year 1997-98, with President Elect Michael Stryker and Vice President Richard Gipstein. The club named five Paul Harris Fellows: Brian Cole, Pierce Connair, James McGuire, Harold Weiner and Roderick White. The Carl Wies Award went to Ed Cramer for his work on the Brewfest.

1997-98, President Diana Ketner



In July 1997, the club visited Shiloh Baptist Church for a program on Camp Rotary. Campers continued to study math, science, reading and writing. In addition to swimming lessons in the Connecticut College pool, they had career days where they visited local businesses to learn about different kinds of jobs, like healthcare at Backus Hospital or newspaper production at

The Day newspaper, where Tony Cronin helped them create their own *Camp Rotary News* (right and below). They also did community service projects like a clean-up day at Ocean Beach Park (left).



Camp has kids thinking about career options

Program focuses on future, and fun, too

By Barbara Gorman

Staff Writer

By Barbara Gorman

Staff Writer

By Barbara Gorman

Staff Writer

By Barbara Gorman

Staff Writer

By Barbara Gorman

Staff Writer

By Barbara Gorman

Staff Writer

By Barbara Gorman

Staff Writer

By Barbara Gorman

Staff Writer

By Barbara Gorman

Staff Writer

By Barbara Gorman

Staff Writer

By Barbara Gorman

Staff Writer

By Barbara Gorman

Staff Writer

By Barbara Gorman

Staff Writer

By Barbara Gorman

Staff Writer

By Barbara Gorman

Staff Writer

By Barbara Gorman

Staff Writer

By Barbara Gorman

Staff Writer

By Barbara Gorman

Staff Writer

By Barbara Gorman

Staff Writer

By Barbara Gorman

Staff Writer

By Barbara Gorman

Staff Writer

By Barbara Gorman

Staff Writer

By Barbara Gorman

Staff Writer

By Barbara Gorman

Staff Writer

By Barbara Gorman

Staff Writer

By Barbara Gorman

Staff Writer

By Barbara Gorman

Staff Writer

By Barbara Gorman

Staff Writer

By Barbara Gorman

Staff Writer



Charles Wilson, R.D., of The William W. Backus Hospital, introduces to James Cronin, a volunteer, the idea of a career-oriented week. Campers also visited parent floors and the rehabilitation area.

Charles Wilson, R.D., of The William W. Backus Hospital, introduces to James Cronin, a volunteer, the idea of a career-oriented week. Campers also visited parent floors and the rehabilitation area.

Charles Wilson, R.D., of The William W. Backus Hospital, introduces to James Cronin, a volunteer, the idea of a career-oriented week. Campers also visited parent floors and the rehabilitation area.

Charles Wilson, R.D., of The William W. Backus Hospital, introduces to James Cronin, a volunteer, the idea of a career-oriented week. Campers also visited parent floors and the rehabilitation area.

Charles Wilson, R.D., of The William W. Backus Hospital, introduces to James Cronin, a volunteer, the idea of a career-oriented week. Campers also visited parent floors and the rehabilitation area.

Charles Wilson, R.D., of The William W. Backus Hospital, introduces to James Cronin, a volunteer, the idea of a career-oriented week. Campers also visited parent floors and the rehabilitation area.

Charles Wilson, R.D., of The William W. Backus Hospital, introduces to James Cronin, a volunteer, the idea of a career-oriented week. Campers also visited parent floors and the rehabilitation area.

Charles Wilson, R.D., of The William W. Backus Hospital, introduces to James Cronin, a volunteer, the idea of a career-oriented week. Campers also visited parent floors and the rehabilitation area.

Charles Wilson, R.D., of The William W. Backus Hospital, introduces to James Cronin, a volunteer, the idea of a career-oriented week. Campers also visited parent floors and the rehabilitation area.

Charles Wilson, R.D., of The William W. Backus Hospital, introduces to James Cronin, a volunteer, the idea of a career-oriented week. Campers also visited parent floors and the rehabilitation area.

Charles Wilson, R.D., of The William W. Backus Hospital, introduces to James Cronin, a volunteer, the idea of a career-oriented week. Campers also visited parent floors and the rehabilitation area.

Charles Wilson, R.D., of The William W. Backus Hospital, introduces to James Cronin, a volunteer, the idea of a career-oriented week. Campers also visited parent floors and the rehabilitation area.

Charles Wilson, R.D., of The William W. Backus Hospital, introduces to James Cronin, a volunteer, the idea of a career-oriented week. Campers also visited parent floors and the rehabilitation area.



The annual picnic was held at Mitchell Beach with hot dogs and hamburgers for Rotarians and their families. Steve Percy organized an Interfaith Service at Pequot Chapel with Rabbi Carl Astor and Rev. Ben Watts.

In September, the Club participated in the United Way's "Day of Caring." Sarah Rogovin chaired the committee, pulling together over a dozen Rotar-

Chapel service finds hope amid recent extremism

70 people attend annual interfaith service

By David Brown
A local interfaith service at Pequot Chapel Sunday night was a heartwarming event, a testament to the power of faith and community in the face of recent extremism. The service, which drew about 70 people, was held at the Pequot Chapel in the heart of the town. The service was led by Rabbi Carl Astor and Rev. Ben Watts. The service was a beautiful example of the power of faith and community in the face of recent extremism. The service was a beautiful example of the power of faith and community in the face of recent extremism.



Brewfest at Ocean Beach, Year 2

Another successful Brewfest at Ocean Beach!



The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

First Holiday Literacy Program

December 1997, the club held its first Holiday Literacy Program. For this program club members donated children's books or gave toward the purchase of books.

In this first year, 130 books were donated, and the children from local daycare programs were hosted at a club meeting with a special storytelling and book reading.

This project continues in the club's Centennial Year.



Camp Rotary Lauded at Urban Concerns Seminar



In January 1998, District Governor Robert Vossler held an Urban Concerns Seminar in Bridgeport attended by Rotary International President Glen Kinross.

Barbara Gandy created a display on Camp Rotary as an effective project addressing inner-city needs, and Rev. Ben Watts explained how the summer camp was a collaboration of the New London Rotary Club, Connecticut College, and Shiloh Baptist Church.

Rotary leaders were so impressed with the Camp Rotary program that Ben Watts was honored by the District with a Paul Harris Fellowship.



Above: Barbara Gandy with Camp Rotary display.

Left: Ben Watts, President Diana Ketner, and Sarah Rogovin.

Right: Ben Watts accepts Paul Harris Fellowship from RI President Glen Kinross.



Left: Ben & Cynthia Watts

Right: RI Pres. Glen Kinross, NL Pres. Diana Ketner, & Heather Kinross



ians and their families to clear hiking trails in the Connecticut College Arboretum. We repeated this effort for the Science Center of S.E. Connecticut with the help of the Rotaract Club in June the following year.

The Rotaract Club developed an "International Welcome Wagon," purchasing personal and housing needs that they loaned or donated to international students who had little for dorm furnishings and winter clothing.

When students from the B.P. Learned Mission placed 1st in a national relay event in Pennsylvania, we hosted the team at one of our luncheon meetings where they were each awarded a \$50 savings bond.

In November, the club lost Phil Burns, a club member since 1965 who was known as "Mr. Rotary" because he was at every club meeting and, serving on the Membership Information Committee, introduced new Rotarians to the ways of Rotary. The club also lost Reverend Norman MacLeod, minister at the 2nd Congregational Church who had been an active member since 1967.



New London High School Youth-in-Government Students

The club sponsored four students at District Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) seminars in Meriden in the fall and the spring. The club continued its Student of the Year Program, Youth-in-Government Program, Rotary Scholars, Robert Groebel, Benjamin A. Levinson Community Service and Harry Birenbaum Music Awards.



The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

New London donated \$300 for the purchase of a Kay Kon Ton (Happy House) and \$300 to Save the Family to assist Haitian families in providing schooling, clothing and food.

In March, we supported the fourth Annual Literacy Breakfast. Over 300 people and 19 New London Rotarians attended the event to hear Stedman Graham speak about illiteracy in children and children of lesser means. Literacy Volunteers netted over \$8,000. Club members also participated in the April Tree of Life fundraiser for Hospice of Southeastern Connecticut at the Crystal Mall. Rotarians sold ornaments to individuals who wanted to memorialize a special person or show support.



New London Rotarians at 1998 District Conference

At the District Conference in Danvers, Massachusetts, the club won the International Service Award for 1997-98 and the Charles W. Pettengill Award for its activities in all four areas of service for Rotary Years 1994-95, 1995-96, and 1996-97.

On June 10, 1998, New London Rotary and Rotaract members served dinner to senior citizens at the New London Senior Center.

The project bridged two objectives: the senior citizens were treated to a well-deserved dinner and the Rotaract members were able to share in the experience of a hands-on community project.

President Elect Michael Stryker attended the Rotary International Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, June 14-17, 1998, where he and his family volunteered for a tree-planting project.

Mike was installed as President for 1998-99, along with President Elect Richard Gipstein and Vice President Tracee Reiser. Pamela Akins, John Bysko, and Henry Savin were honored by the club as Paul Harris Fellows, and Tracee Reiser was given the Carl Wies Award for her work with Camp Rotary.



RI Pres. Glen Kinross with Stryker family

1998-99, President Michael "Mike" Stryker

In the summer of 1998, Rachel Levinson, the daughter of Rotarians Pam Akins and Barry Levinson, participated in a Holiday Youth Exchange with Daria Scalabrini from Cremona, Italy. When in Italy, Rachel visited Venice and Rome while making friends with high school students there. During her visit to the States, Daria visited Washington, DC, Lancaster, PA, and Ocean City, Maryland, on a trip with Rachel and her parents.

Because of Governor Bob Vossler's challenge to the District's urban, suburban and rural clubs to work together on a joint urban project, New London's Camp Rotary was selected by the Rotary Clubs of Niantic, Waterford and



Summer Youth Exchange:
Daria Scalabrini &
Rachel Levinson



the Stoningtons as the focus of their collective efforts. With the support of these additional clubs, we were able to expand the program's vocational resources. Niantic and the Stoningtons Clubs also provided financial support.

The club picnic was held in August again at Mitchell College Beach.

Also in the summer of '98, Youth Exchange Officer Pam Akins was asked to find housing for a group of touring Youth Exchange students. The Coast Guard Academy offered a night in their dorms (during Scab Week) and Shiloh Baptist Church provided transportation for them from the Mystic Train Depot to the Academy and then the next day to Union Station in New London.



Above Left: YE group with Shiloh bus



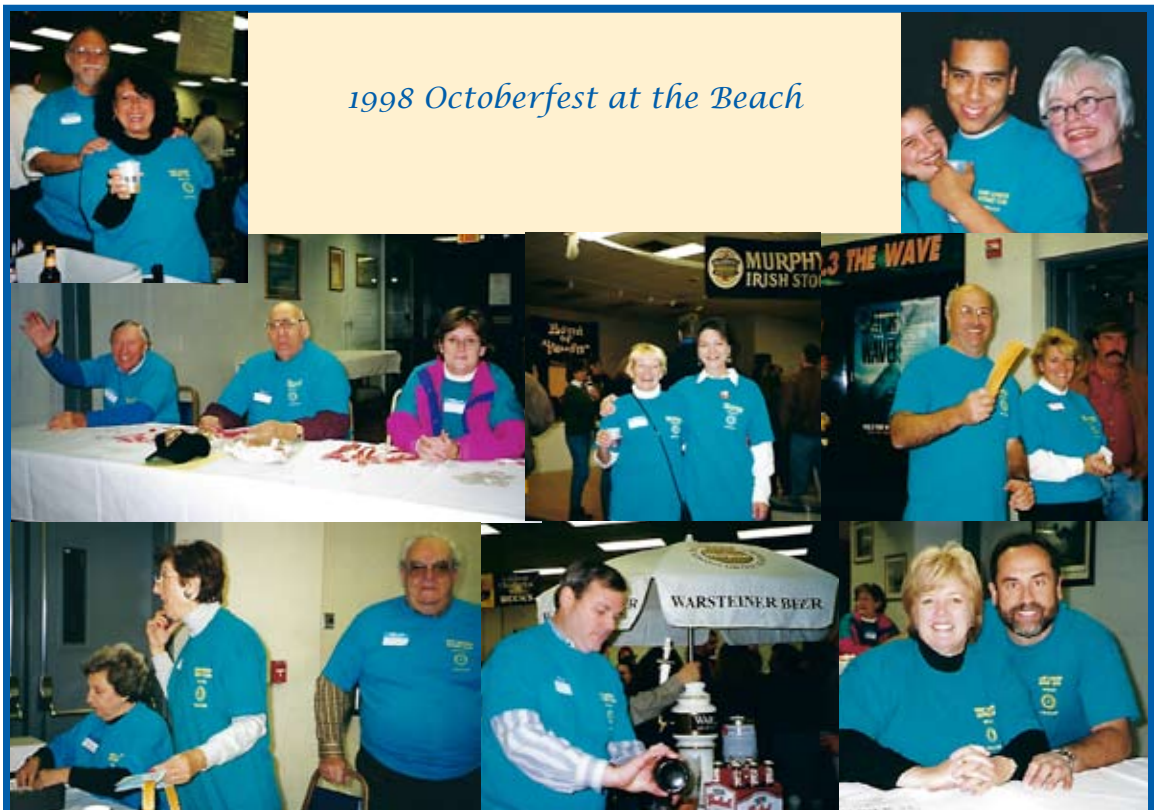
Above: Barry Levinson loads YE group bags into borrowed van



YE Student (right)
Maki Morimoto

In August, the club welcomed Youth Exchange student, Maki Morimoto of Wekayama-shi, Japan. She was hosted by Carmelina Kanzler, attended New London High School, and was tutored in English by Connecticut College Office of Community Service volunteers arranged by Tracee Reiser. After a shoplifting incident on a Youth Exchange field trip to Philadelphia, she was sent home early.

Several New London Rotary Club members routinely volunteered at the New London Soup Kitchen, but in the summer of 1998 the club received an urgent appeal from the Soup Kitchen. The organization's director was battling cancer, and fundraising was down. Through an appeal to club members, \$1,905 was raised and a grant from the Feinstein Challenge added an additional \$500.



The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017



Michel St. Jean
before & after



As in the past, the club donated \$300 to the Save the Children program and \$1,000 to the Haitian Health Foundation. We also responded to an appeal from Dr. Jerry Lowney of HHF on behalf of Michel St. Jean, a Haitian boy who had been badly burned and was being brought to the U.S. for treatment; the club raised \$600 from club members and matched with club funds.

In the spring, Bessie Dallas served as the GSE coordinator for Area 11, organizing the visit of the Group Study Exchange teams from Turkey and Germany, including homestays with New London Rotarian home hosts Alice Fitzpatrick, Lorraine Allen and Mike Stryker. The New London Rotary Club GSE team member to Turkey, Officer Bill Edwards of the New London Police Department, became a New London Rotary Club member later in 1999.

With the graduation of college-age Rotaractors, the group transitioned to a community-based group of young professionals, some of whom later became Rotarians.



Young Professionals
Rotaractors

The club honored Eleanor Hage as the club's Unsung Hero. Hage had been a volunteer since 1988 with the New London Food Coalition and Food Pantry, providing meals to the Covenant Shelter, Women's Shelter, Centro de la Comunidad and various after-school programs. The club continued its Student of the Year Program and recognized New London High School students through Youth-in-Government, Rotary Scholars, Robert Groebel Award, Benjamin Levinson Service Award, and Harry Birenbaum Music Award.

Dr. Charles Lee Science Scholarship



The 1998-99 Native Son was Dr. Charles K. Lee, who had served as a cardiovascular and thoracic surgeon to President Reagan. A graduate of New London High School, Dr. Lee was also honored by the club with a Paul Harris Fellowship. Additionally, in his name, the club established an \$8,000 scholarship for a New London High School graduate interested in a career in the sciences with matching funds from Pfizer Inc. The scholars were selected and funding was administered by the Community Foundation of Southeastern Connecticut. The first Charles Lee

Scholarship was awarded in the spring of 2000 to Ernest Holloway, an outstanding young man from New London High School who was also that year's Martin Luther King Scholarship recipient. The scholarship program continued for 13 years, although Pfizer stopped providing a match in 2006. In total, 13 Charles Lee Scholarships were given to New London graduating seniors who were interested in majoring in science or engineering. One student was unable to complete her schooling, and the leftover funds from that scholarship, plus an additional \$1,000 club contribution, were used to fund the last scholar in 2014. In addition to the first scholar in 2000, Ernest Holloway, the students who received Dr. Charles Lee Scholarships were Marilyn Elcock (2001), Daniel Cruz (2002), Jessica Pedraza (2003, she withdrew after one year), Ariana Wiley (2004), Michael Shell (2005), Clifford Aguele (2006), Jennifer Blanco (2007), Jamie Guzman (2008), Simone Barner (2009), Camille Williams (2010), Yosha Dhungana (2011), and Austin Royal (2014).



Roaring Twenties Night at the District Conference

In the spring, President Mike Stryker, Carmelina Kanzler, Pam Akins and Barry Levinson attended the District Conference in Saratoga Springs, New York.

At the June installation banquet at the Lighthouse Inn, Richard Gipstein was installed as President for Rotary year 1999-2000, with President Elect Tracee Reiser and Vice President Harold Weiner. Bessie Dallas and Walter Makepeace were honored as Paul Harris Fellows, and Donald B. Mitchell was given the Carl Wies Award.

Russian Vocational Exchange

In January 1999, the Center for Citizens' Initiatives contacted President Mike Stryker about the possibility of the New London Club hosting a vocational delegation from Russia. After discussions with Dr. Manuel Kadish of the Norwich Rotary Club, whom CCI had also contacted, and approval of both clubs, a delegation of 12 women accountants arrived from Russia in September 1999 for three weeks.

The Russian accountants visited many companies in Norwich and New London, observing financial practices, logistics and customer service. Some of the companies visited included Defender Industries, Consumers Interstate Corp., Connecticut Beverage Company, Caruso Music, Merrill Lynch, and The Day newspaper. Alexander Gaston of the Honolulu, Hawaii, Rotary Club hosted the Russian accountants at his home on Fishers Island for a weekend.

During their visit to the New London Rotary Club weekly meeting, the group was warmly welcomed. During the program, they were greeted by the club, gave brief remarks about their visit, and were presented with flowers, courtesy of club member and florist, George Fisher.

Later that week, the Norwich and Stonington clubs joined with New London in hosting them for a picnic at Stonington Vineyards, with Russian and American songs exchanged.



1999-2000, President Richard "Rick" Gipstein

Camp Rotary continued to address the needs of inner-city middle-school children in New London through a \$10,000 contribution from New London Rotary, plus contributions from the Niantic and Stoningtons Clubs. In addition to academic studies at Shiloh Baptist Family Life Center, athletic activities at Connecticut College, and field trips, the students wrote essays on the meaning of "The Four-Way Test."

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017



Bruce Baratz, Jim Cranston and son, & Tracee Reiser at Mitchell College picnic

Also during the summer of 1999, the daughter of Pam Akins and Barry Levinson, Rachel Levinson, returned to Cremona, Italy, for a second Holiday Youth Exchange with her “Italian sister,” Daria Scalabrini.

The club picnic was again held at Mitchell College Beach.



Rachel Levinson & Daria Scalabrini, YE “Sisters”

Domestic Abuse Prevention Training for Hairdressers



Early in 1999-2000, the New London Rotary Foundation gave a \$1,200 grant to the Women's Center of SECT to support the Violence is Preventable (VIP) Program, in which hairdressers were taught to recognize signs of domestic abuse among clients and alert them to sources of help.

The program enjoyed national media attention on NBC and CNN and in *The Boston Globe*. It was also publicized internationally by the BBC and Radio Argentina. In addition, the project was featured in a lengthy article in the “Rotary News Basket” section of the RI Website on January 5, 2000.



Tributes to Long-Time Rotarians Bob Weller and Frank Laycock

In July 1999, the New London Rotary held a special meeting honoring Dr. Robert Weller, a member of the club for 47 years. While the main purpose of the program was to give Bob the opportunity to share his engaging stories with us, the club also recognized him for his lifelong contributions to Rotary, his city, state and country. In addition to regular club members, many of Bob's friends and family members attended this special event.



In 2000, Frank Laycock was recognized for his 50th year as a Rotarian at a special surprise program that included Frank's entire family and a number of friends. District Governor Abraham Gordon attended and Bob Weller served as Masters of Ceremonies for the meeting. Frank was surprised and pleased, but in keeping with the Frank Laycock that we all knew and loved, he was as humble as ever.



The club participated in the District's Lyme Disease Prevention and Treatment Program by purchasing and disseminating 2,500 brochures and informational wallet cards to doctors' offices, clinics and each school in the New London system through the city's health department and school nurses.

One particularly interesting program was Chief Roy Sebastian of the Eastern Pequots, who led the club in singing Native American songs.



The Holiday Literacy Program acquired over 400 books for early childhood programs, and the 1999-2000 Native Son/Daughter Award winner, Penninah Schram, a well-known storyteller and writer, read to the children from the Smith-Bent daycare program at the holiday luncheon. The books were distributed to four local agencies: Centro de la Comunidad, Child & Family Agency of SECT, the Drop-In Learning Center, and the B.P. Learned Mission.

New London Rotary's First Matching Grant, Barranco, Peru



During 1999-2000, one of President Rick Gipstein's primary goals was to involve our club in its first ever international matching grant for a humanitarian project. Club member, Alejandro Melendez-Cooper, a native of Peru, identified and applied for a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant for a vocational training center in Barranco, Peru, to teach the handicapped to make brooms and other saleable items and assist them in learning other life skills. The funds raised from the sale of the brooms helped make the factory self-sustaining and provided earnings for the participants. In December 2000, Alejandro's wife, Maria, traveled to Peru and made a videotape of the project to be shown to the club.

During 1999-2000, the Do Good Fund assisted clients of Catholic Charities, the Jewish Federation of Southeastern Connecticut and the Alliance for Living (AIDS and HIV assistance). The club also donated \$800 to the Haitian Health Foundation's "Dick's Kids" goat ownership program.

In March 2000, the club sent 12 New London High and Williams School students to the District's New Generations Conference at Choate Rosemary Hall School. The Student of the Year program recognized one outstanding student from each New London school. The club also continued to recognize New London High School students through the Youth-in-Government Program, Rotary Scholars, and Robert Groebel, Benjamin Levinson Community Service, and Harry Birenbaum Awards. The club also awarded its first Charles Lee Scholarship to Ernest Holloway (see earlier sidebar).



President Rick and Lorraine Allen with Edgerton School Student of the Year, Gregory Hill-Maynard.

In anticipation of New London's hosting the OpSail 2000 Celebration during July 2000, which would involve 10 tall ships with numerous waterfront events, President Rick Gipstein began working with the OpSail organizers in the fall of 1999 to determine how Rotary could partici-

pate in the event. Eventually, the club was asked to host a welcoming party for the cadets of all the international tall ships. As plans progressed, 11 other Southeastern Connecticut Rotary Clubs were invited to join in the planning and execution of the celebration.

Jim Cranston engaged New London Rotarians Pam Akins, Brian Cole and Mike Stryker in a Rotary band, that entertained the club at a few weekly meetings and special events.



Rotary Band

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

First Employee Recognition Program

On May 18, 2000, the first Employee Recognition Program was held at a special luncheon at the Radisson Hotel. Inspired by a similar program in New Hampshire, the program recognized over 20 employees from area businesses who were identified as important to their companies' success. The program was devised as a Vocational Service project to thank some of the unsung heroes in our own businesses.

In February, the club lost long-time member H. Fremont Alderson, owner of Alderson-Prentis Funeral Service, who served as Club President in 1942-43, after filling in for Palmer Niles, who had to leave his term of office as President when he was conscripted into the military during World War II.



Above: Mike Stryker
Left: Bill Garcia.

In May, New London Rotary again participated in the United Way Day of Caring by providing a crew to paint the interior of the Drop-In Learning Center.



Diana Ketner, Alice Fitzpatrick, Sarah Rogovin, Julian Stafford, & Peg Curtin

At the District Conference in Providence, Rhode Island, the New London Rotary Club received its third Charles W. Pettengill Award, for the previous three years 1996-97, 1997-1998, 1998-1999.

President Rick Gipstein attended the Rotary International Convention in Buenos Aires, Argentina, June 4-7, 2000.

At the installation banquet later that month, Tracee Reiser was inducted as President, with Harold Weiner as President Elect and Barbara Gandy as Vice President. The club honored George Fisher, Tracee Reiser, and Phil Turner as Paul Harris Fellows, and the Carl Wies Award went to Frank Laycock for his 50 years of dedicated service to the New London Club.



President Rick in Buenos Aires

A New Century, the 2000s: Second Governor from the Club, Matching Grants & Centennial Playground

The new century kicked off with plans underway for OpSail 2000, peaked in the middle of the decade with the second District Governor from the club and a major gift to the city—the Centennial Playground—and finished with a new Rotaract Club and participation in the first Rotary Foundation Global Grant in the world.

2000-01, President Tracee Reiser

The first Rotary year in the new century had one big event after another, starting with the City of New London celebrating the Tall Ships event called OpSail 2000.



OpSail 2000 International Cadet Welcome Party



On July 12, 2000, the New London Rotary Club joined 11 other area Rotary Clubs in hosting a Cadet Welcoming Party on the Connecticut College campus. Cadets from seven foreign vessels, primarily from South America, were welcomed on their first night in port. Well over 500 cadets attended the party at Connecticut College, along with another 200 plus volunteers, guests and Rotary family members. "The Band of Humans" and a sea chantey group provided entertainment. The highlight of the

evening occurred when several cadets from the tall ship *Guayas* from Ecuador asked to borrow the band's equipment and gave a great impromptu rock and roll performance.



Also in July, the club collaborated with the New London Public Schools, Connecticut College, Shiloh Baptist Church, and CPEP–Discovering the Powers of Science, Mathematics and Engineering to implement the full-day Camp Rotary for four weeks for 40 students age 11-14. Pfizer contributed additional funds to expand the program. Students showed improved academic skills and increased enthusiasm about science, math, reading and writing. They learned about a variety of career possibilities and about Rotary and what “Service Above Self” means, including doing service projects like collecting food goods for the food pantry. Campers celebrated the final day of camp with an experiment: teams of students set off rockets they had built in science class, while others calculated the rockets’ altitude with homemade altimeters made of paper tubes, protractors and fishing weights. This year’s field trip was to the Boston Museum of Science.

The club picnic was held at Mitchell College Beach in August. Rotarians again conducted a career fair at New London High School in the fall of 2000.

Throughout the year, teams of Rotarians assisted with the United Way Day of Caring, Main Street events, Save Ocean Beach and Hospice Tree of Life. For a Gift of Life project, the Club continued to co-sponsor blood drives and bone marrow donor screening for transplant matches, increasing the International Donor Registry by 300.



Jeff Barnhardt & Tracee Reiser with Smith-Bent Children's Center preschoolers.

In December, the club lost Joseph “Joe” Medeiros, a member since 1966. He served as Club President in 1976-77, while he was the Superintendent of the New London Public School System.

After reviewing dozens of applications for worthy community projects, the New London Rotary Foundation distributed thousands of dollars in grants to support education, arts, culture and health initiatives in New London. Through its Foundation, the club continued to sponsor a child in El Salvador through the Save the Children Program and a family in Haiti through the Haitian Health Foundation. The Do Good Fund also provided monetary assistance for individuals in need.



Camp Rotary students conduct food drive for local food pantry

For our popular Holiday Literacy Program, chaired by the club’s pianist, Jeff Barnhardt, the club purchased over 500 books for children and youth, and organized, boxed and delivered them to New London childcare centers and after-school programs. The children each received their own book and the sites received extra books for their resources. As part of this project, the children and teachers of two of the childcare centers attended a luncheon meeting in December, where they enjoyed a special storytelling program.



The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

Early in 2001, Alejandro Melendez-Cooper presented a video on the Matching Grant project with the Rotary Club of Barranco, Peru. The video was produced by Alejandro's wife, Maria, who had traveled to Peru in December to see the project in action.

Throughout the year, the club recognized several with honors and awards: an Outstanding Teacher from the New London Public Schools; an Unsung Hero who quietly served the New London community; and a Student of the Year from each of the 12 New London schools. The club continued its Youth-in-Government Program



Youth-in-Government Program with Rotarians Julian Stafford & Kathleen Neal

with a meeting featuring the students who participated, and it recognized students with its Rotary Scholars and Robert Groebel, Benjamin A. Levinson Community Service, and Harry Birenbaum Music Awards. The club also awarded its second Charles Lee Scholarship to Marilyn Elcock.

President Tracee Reiser visited the Rotary Club of Puebla, Mexico, and established contacts for internships for college students in the fields of architecture,

healthcare and international business. The club also assisted with Group Study Exchange teams from Taiwan and England.

In the spring of 2001, the club held its second Employee Recognition Program honoring employees who made exceptional contributions to their organizations. The club recognized George Milne of Pfizer as a Paul Harris Fellow for his work to revitalize New London through the establishment of the company's Global Research & Development Center in New London.

In early June 2001, the club hosted the Yale-Harvard Regatta Program the Thursday before the regatta with the coaches and crew members, honoring the oldest sporting event in the nation.

RI Convention in San Antonio, the "Rotary Fiesta"

Tracee Reiser, Barry Levinson, Pam Akins, and Peg Curtin attended the Rotary International Convention in San Antonio, Texas, June 24-27, 2001. The presentation of the flags of all the nations with Rotary Clubs was an amazing sight—they were carried in on horseback in true Texas style. Everyone enjoyed dining along San Antonio's beautiful River Walk.



Pam & Tracee with cutouts of Past RI President Frank Devlyn and his wife, Gloriarita

The New London Rotary Club contributed thousands of dollars to the Rotary Foundation, and the club's fall and spring Brewfest fundraisers raised over \$26,000 while weekly auctions and the silent auction at the 2001 installation dinner raised over \$2,000 toward 2001-02 charitable donations.

At the installation dinner, Harold Weiner was inducted as President with Barbara Gandy as President Elect and Christopher Neilan as Vice President. Frank Bartol, Diana Ketner, Walter Clearwater and Russell Lewis were recognized as Club Honored Paul Harris Fellows, and Roger Hassard received the Carl Wies Award.

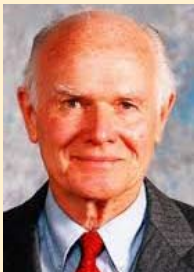
2001-02, President Harold Weiner

In July 2001, the club again collaborated with New London Public Schools, Connecticut College, Shiloh Baptist Church, and CPEP–Discovering the Powers of Science, Mathematics and Engineering for Camp Rotary for New London middle schoolers. Campers enjoyed a field trip to the Museum of Natural History in New York City and a day at Six Flags of New England in Agawam, Massachusetts. They also took local field trips to Pfizer or *The Day* newspaper, did arts and crafts, published a weekly newspaper and learned about health and fitness. At the luncheon meeting at Shiloh Family Life Center, the Camp Rotary students demonstrated quick math calculations.

In August, the club picnic was held at the Ocean Beach Pavilion, with volleyball games on the sand. Oktoberfest at the Beach went forward despite the terrorists attacks on September 11th that took down the World Trade Towers in New York City. Rotary International's insurance company, Aon, had been headquartered there and lost many of its employees in the attack, but they still provided coverage for the club's fundraiser; the chair of the event sent them condolences. It was a sad time for all.

Later in the fall 2001, the club again repeated its career fair at New London High School. The club also conducted bone marrow donor drives.

Matching Grant in Bogotá, Colombia



Tom Wetmore

Long-time Rotarian and retired USCG Rear Admiral Thomas Wetmore III developed a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant for a school in Bogotá, Colombia, through the Bogotá-Usaquen Rotary Club. The grant covered the cost of lab equipment for the Colegio Dio Amor (CDA) Vocational High School in a neighborhood called "Las Cruces" characterized by extreme poverty and crime. The grant project, which totaled \$11,000 with a contribution of \$2,500 from the New London Club, began because, through a Rotary Youth Exchange in a Boston-area high school, Tom's grandson knew the granddaughter of a Past District Governor in Colombia who was a member of the Bogotá-Usaquen Club.

Through the New London Rotary Foundation, the club contributed to the Haitian Health Foundation's Save a Family Program, New London Soccer League, Afghan Solar Ovens, South African Bone Marrow Transplant Assistance, New London Babe Ruth League, New London Pub-

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

District Foundation Dinner



Pam Akins with District Governor John Annick

In November, at the request of District Governor John Annick, Pam Akins chaired the District Foundation Dinner, held at Choate Rosemary Hall. The event attracted attendees from across the District, including President Elect Barbara Gandy, and recognized those Rotarians who were involved in Rotary Foundation programs such as Group Study Exchange, Ambassadorial Scholars, and Matching Grants.



Far right: Pam Akins, Barbara Gandy with District Governor John Annick

2002 Springfest at the Beach



The Fall Brewfest, despite coming just weeks after the September 11 attacks, grossed \$11,488. For the May 2002 Brewfest, the committee added a pizza tasting, thinking that it would be good to provide food with the microbrews. Pizza was donated by Captain's Pizza, Crown Pizza, Lawrence & Memorial Hospital, Mr. G's Restaurant, Mystic Pizza Food Co., Ocean Pizza Restaurant, Pizza Hut, Recovery Room Café, Sbarro Italian Eatery, and Supreme Pizza. Vendors gave the club merchandise it could sell. That Brewfest topped all others to date in attendance with about 1,400 people plus volunteers, and it grossed \$28,574, plus another \$1,480 in sponsorships, netting \$25,451.



lic Schools Learn & Serve Program, and St. Mary Star of the Sea Church Kidney Transplant Assistance. The club's Do Good Fund also provided assistance to individuals in special circumstances.

Pam Akins was asked to be a Training Leader at the multi-district President Elect Training Seminar (PETS) in Nashua, New Hampshire, and helped train President Elect Barbara Gandy for 2002-03.

In Rotary year 2001-02, the club funded a third \$8,000 Charles Lee Scholarship (including the match from Pfizer) to Daniel Cruz. Also recognized were students from New London High School through the Youth-in-Government Program, Rotary Scholars, Robert Goebel Award, Benjamin Levinson Community Service Award and Harry Birenbaum Music Scholarship.

During the year, the club named Past President and Honorary Member Chester Kitchings a Paul Harris Fellow for his long-term service and support to the New London community, particularly Lawrence & Memorial Hospital.



Barbara Gandy at PETS with RI President Elect Bichai Ratakul & Pam Akins

Bill Edwards Led GSE Team to Central America



Rotarian and Police Officer Bill Edwards served as Group Study Team Leader to Costa Rica, Panama, Nicaragua and El Salvador in the spring of 2002. Bill's introduction to the New London Rotary was originally as a GSE team member to Turkey in 1999. That experience led him to join the New London Club, where he became very active in the Group Study Exchange work in the district, serving as area GSE coordinator for a number of incoming and outgoing GSE teams, and finally, serving as a team leader.

June 23-26, 2002, President Elect Barbara Gandy and Rotarian Bettye Fletcher attended the Rotary International Convention in Barcelona, Spain. Upon Barbara's return, she was installed as President of the Club for Rotary year 2002-03 at the passing the gavel event held at the Mystic Marriott. Chris Neilan was installed as President Elect with Andrew Russell as Vice President. Catherine Foley, Roger Hassard and Michael Stryker were recognized as Club Honored Paul Harris Fellows. Past President Ed Cramer received a second Paul Harris Fellow for his work on the Brewfests. Pamela Akins received the Carl Wies Award.

First African American President of New London Rotary Club



Barbara Gandy was the first African American to become President of the New London Rotary. She was installed by Governor Elect Jim Lang (left) at the club installation banquet at the Mystic Marriott and again at the district passing the gavel picnic (right).



2002-03, President Barbara Gandy (Branch)

Club Meeting on Coast Guard Barque Eagle

In 2002-03, the weekly club meetings were normally held at the Radisson Hotel, but President Barbara conducted one of her first meetings in July 2002 during Sailfest on the Coast Guard



Barque Eagle
docked at Fort
Trumbull.



Also during July, the club held its 7th Camp Rotary. President Barbara served as the camp director and actively recruited inner-city at-risk youth for the camp.

In August, the annual picnic for Rotarians and their families was held at Ocean Beach. Games were arranged for the children while entertainment was provided for the adults. Families also competed in an inter-generational round of mini-golf.

Community Soup Kitchen



In what would become a 15-year-plus tradition, Catherine Foley began involving New London Rotarians in monthly meal preparation at the Community Soup Kitchen in New London. In addition to preparing the food, club volunteers also served the meal, cleared the tables, and cleaned everything down to the pots and pans. The club also served meals at the New London Senior Center.

Steve Percy organized an annual ecumenical service at Pequot Chapel, featuring nonsectarian songs, readings and speeches by community religious leaders, including Rotarians Rabbi Carl As-tor and Reverend Benjamin Watts.

Also in August 2002, Past President Pamela Akins was selected to be District Governor for Rotary's Centennial Year 2004-05 and attended the Zone Governor Nominee training in Williamsburg, Virginia, in September. With the Rotary International Centennial coming in 2004-05, the club established a committee co-chaired by Richard Gipstein and Tracee Reiser for the development of a Centennial Project.

Speakers at club meetings included famous forensic pathologist Dr. Henry Lee, Connecticut College President Dr. Claire Gaudiani, Olde Mystic Village owner and developer Joyce Resnikoff, and *The Day* publisher Reid MacCluggage.



Harold Weiner &
Barbara Gandy with
noted forensic patholo-
gist Dr. Henry Lee

The club also volunteered for trash pick up in city parks. Throughout the year, New London Rotarians participated in many annual projects such as the career expo at New London High School, the



Holiday Literacy Program

holiday book program, and bone marrow donor drives. The club continued its successful Brewfest at the Beach fundraisers in the fall and spring, adding free hot dogs for “brew-friendly food.” Mike Stryker’s band, “The Rhythm Method,” provided entertainment at no charge.

Additional fundraising during the year included the wishing well at the mall and a silent auction at the installation banquet in June. Through these efforts, the New London Rotary Foundation contributed to the Hospice of SECT Tree of Life at the Crystal Mall, Haitian Health Foundation’s Happy House Program, Bikes for Kids, New London Soccer Club and Babe Ruth League, and New London Public Schools Learn & Serve Program.

The club’s fourth \$8,000 Charles Lee Scholarship, with a match from Pfizer, Inc., went to Jessica Pedraza. We also recognized students from New London High School through the Youth-in-Government Program, Rotary Scholars, and Robert Goebel, Benjamin Levinson Community Service, and Harry Birenbaum Music Awards.

May 12, 2003, New London participated in an area-wide Polio Plus fundraiser, that was a Broadway musical review featuring John McDaniel, Christine Ebersole and Brent Barrett. Barry Levinson organized the effort, raising \$16,000 for Polio Plus and another \$20,000 for Backus and L&M Hospitals.



The club recognized non-Rotarian Laurence P. Smith of Smith Insurance with a Paul Harris Fellow for his support to Lawrence & Memorial Hospital. He was one of the original major contributors to the Pequot Foundation, which eventually became the Community Foundation of Southeastern Connecticut. The club also recognized an Unsung Hero, Teacher of the Year and Serviceperson of the Month.

The club hosted the Group Study Exchange team from Germany, with Bill Edwards as the Area GSE Rep. Alan and Gail Mayer had the team and all the GSE homestay hosts as guests at their beautiful Pequot Colony home on Montauk Avenue for an evening of gourmet food, drink and song.

In early June, the club again hosted the Lions and Kiwanis Clubs and Yale-Harvard Regatta teams at a luncheon at the Radisson Hotel.



Above: German GSE Team with Herbert Hess as Team Leader

Left: GSE Evening at Mayer’s home



The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

Pamela Akins in Haiti for Haitian Health Foundation

In May 2003, District Governor Nominee Pamela Akins went to Haiti to see the Haitian Health



Foundation projects the club had contributed to for the past 10 years, including the goat program, latrines, Save a Family program, and the Happy House the New London Club sponsored.



Dear Barbara

Dear Barbara,
Thanks for all your work.
You certainly deserve our thanks.

A fine leader and time-keeper,
You kept meetings moving.
They ended on time.

Dear Barbara, you deserve our praise.
You taught us how to raise the bar.

We're grateful to you—
You're the best,
Passed the Four-Way Test.
It's time for you to rest.

Dear Barbara, thank you.

President Barbara's song

At the District Conference in Albany, New York, Pam Akins was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship for her work on the Foundation Dinner. Barbara Gandy received recognition for the club's accomplishments for the year.

The installation banquet was held on June 23, 2003, at Ocean Beach Park's Port 'N Starboard. Steve Sigel serenaded outgoing President Barbara with a song tribute to the tune of "Moon River" (with apologies to Johnny Mercer). Christopher Neilan was inducted as President for Rotary year 2003-04 with Andrew Russell as President Elect and Jerome Fischer as Vice President. William Edwards and Lorraine Allen were recognized as Club Honored Paul Harris Fellows. Rick Gipstein received the Carl Wies Award for his many international service projects and for his work on the Centennial Playground project.



At District Conference,
DG Elect Jim Lang with
President Barbara
Gandy & Bill Edwards

2003-04, President Christopher "Chris" Neilan

July 2003 saw the 8th annual Camp Rotary for New London at-risk middle school students. The summer academic camp included field trips, such as to the American Museum of Natural History in New York City paid for by individual Rotarians.

The club's annual picnic with Rotary families was held in August 2004 at the Ocean Beach Pavilion, with guided walks out along the nature trail in the Alewife Cove marshes and volleyball games in the sand.

In September 2003, Pamela Akins attended the Zone Governor Elect Training Seminar in Burlington, Vermont, where she was given a crystal award recognizing her as a member of The Rotary Foundation's Bequest Society for designating the nonprofit with a major bequest in her will.



Pam Akins with RI President Jonathan Majiyagbe, Past RIVP Frank Collins & Past RI President Frank Devlyn



Rotary After Hours (RAHs)

Reid Burdick, whose motto is "If it isn't fun, it's not worth doing," promoted Rotary After Hours (RAHs) on a monthly basis through arrangements for complimentary hors d'oeuvres at local New London restaurants and bars. E-blast invitations were extended to area clubs, and members from Niantic, Montville, The Stoningtons, Groton-Ledyard and Mystic joined in the fun. RAHs have continued annually since.

Rotary volunteers again staffed the Community Soup Kitchen on a monthly basis, as well as the Hospice Tree of Life at Crystal Mall. Throughout the year, the club had single-item auctions at weekly meetings, with individual club members bringing in items for auction. Brian Cole and Jim Cranston got very creative in soliciting bids for treasures and white elephants alike.

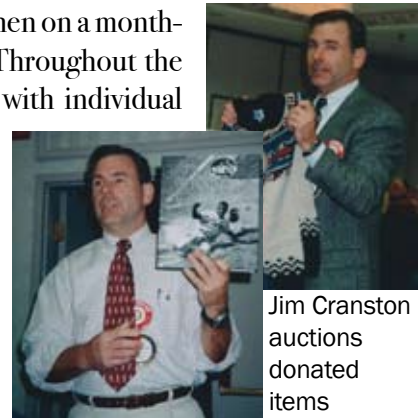
In August 2003, the club lost Honorary Member Chester Kitchings. He was a long-time member of Rotary who served as President in 1947-48 when James Hammond was District Governor. The owner of the Coca-Cola Company of South-eastern Connecticut, he was known for his generosity to many organizations in the area. In December, the club mourned the

loss of Harold Weiner, who joined the club in 1970. President of the club in 2001-02, Harold often funded trips to major museums and sites for Camp Rotary students (sometimes anonymously). He also gave generously to other Rotary causes, including The Rotary Foundation, and enjoyed working the Brewfest fundraisers.

The club hosted the Serviceperson of the Month, Outstanding Teacher Award, and Unsung Hero Award winners at luncheon meetings. The club also hosted the Youth-in-Government participants and Student of the Year awardees at luncheon meetings.



Harold Weiner



Jim Cranston auctions donated items

Sand for Seniors

President Chris Neilan initiated a new project for the club:



delivering sand to the doorsteps of various locales, identified by the VNA and Public Housing Authority, to assist disabled elderly. The club bought the buckets, labeled them with the Rotary logo, and filled them with sand from the city's sand pile. Over 30 Rotarians and friends gathered on a cold Saturday morning to fill and distribute the sand buckets.



Reid Burdick hosted a potluck Rotary After Thanksgiving (RAT) social at his home in New London with beverages donated by Ed Cramer. For St. Patrick's Day, Pete Connair, Brian Cole and Pam Akins gave us a McNamara's Band parade, complete with bass drum, kazoos, cymbals, green hats and four-leaf clovers.



February 2004, District Governor Elect Pamela Akins and her husband Barry Levinson attended the Rotary International Assembly in Anaheim, California,

for Governor Elect training with RI President Elect Glenn Estess and all the Centennial Governors from around the world. The New London Club generously funded special pins for her governor year as well as ornaments of the four featured vessels at the

Mystic Seaport to give as gifts. At the International Assembly, DG Elect Pam met the Rotary Governors in the Chilean and Danish/Lithuanian districts that would be sending GSE teams to Connecticut the following year. Barry gave a Jewish reading at the Interfaith Service.



Above: DG Elect Pam Akins with RI President Elect Glenn Estess

Upper Left: DGE Pam in Anaheim

Lower Left: Barry Levinson at Interfaith Service

Below: DGE counterparts for Lithuanian & Chilean GSE teams in 2005



In spring 2004, the club honored Millie Devine as part of the Women's Center of Southeastern Connecticut's "Celebrating Women" event.



The club held its October and May Brewfests at the Beach fundraisers, with Citizen Bank and Chelsea Groton Bank as major sponsors respectively. The combined proceeds of the two fundraisers netted almost \$27,000. Mike Stryker's band "The Rhythm Method" provided entertainment.



Millie Devine & Sarah Rogovin at "Celebrating Women" event

Club meetings were moved to the Lighthouse Inn in May 2004, and in June the annual joint meeting with the Lions and Kiwanis Clubs was held for the Yale-Harvard Regatta. The club also broke ground for the new "Boundless" Playground that would be completed as its Centennial Project in Rotary International's Centennial Year, 2004-05.

Second Matching Grant with Bogotá-Usaquen Rotary Club

During 2003-04, Tom Wetmore and Rick Gipstein submitted a second matching grant request to The Rotary Foundation (TRF) for a project with the Bogotá-Usaquen Rotary Club. This grant covered the construction of a residual water sewage plant, including use of wastewater for irrigating fields used to grow feed for animals at the Colegio Dio Amor (CDA) school for girls age 3-14. In addition to creating irrigation, the project permitted the relocation and expansion of housing accommodations from 30 to 70 girls who had been victims of sexual and physical abuse. New London's share of the over-\$16,000 grant was \$3,000.



In addition to funding Camp Rotary and a matching grant in Colombia, the club gave out its fifth \$8,000 Charles Lee Scholarship to Ariana Wiley with a match from Pfizer, Inc. The annual Rotary Scholars, Robert Goebel and Benjamin Levinson Community Service, and Harry Birenbaum Awards were recognized by Henry Savin in award ceremonies at New London High School.



In May 2004, Governor Elect Pamela Akins and her husband Barry Levinson attended the Rotary International Convention in Osaka, Japan, where she was sworn in as District 7980's Governor for the year 2004-05, Rotary's Centennial Year. While there, they took a Kaplan Travel tour, seeing major sights in Tokyo, Kyoto, and Hiroshima. They also connected with Youth Exchange Student Todd Spitz.



Top: Barry & Pam with Todd Spitz

Above Left: Barry & Pam in Japanese attire

Bottom: Pam & Barry with Japanese students in Kyoto

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

Donations were made to the New London Soccer Club, Bikes for Kids, and the Haitian Health Foundation Save a Family program and for medical equipment at its Jeremie, Haiti clinic. The Do Good Fund provided emergency funds for clients of several New London charities.

Promoting the Rotary Ranger Round-Up in Lancaster, PA

A large contingent of New London Rotarians attended the District Conference in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, June 10-13, 2004, to help promote District Governor Elect Pam's Conference in 2005, the Rotary Ranger Round-Up, June 2-5, 2005, beachside at Long Branch, New Jersey.



Club members, at the direction of Conference Planner, Catherine Foley, set up a sign-up booth and entertained the '04 conference attendees with a slightly altered version of "Deep in the Heart of Texas"—only this was "Down on the Jersey Shore," with the revised words written by Joyce Schmidt. All the New London Rotarians as well as additional district and zone Rotarians donned their cowboy attire and joined in.

President Chris Neilan received recognitions from the District for the club's Community Service and International Service activities.



In June 2004, the club installation banquet was held at the Coast Guard Academy Officers' Club. District Governor Elect Pamela Akins installed Andrew Russell as President for the Centennial Year of Rotary International 2004-05. Jerry Fischer was named President Elect and Catherine Foley as Vice President. Sarah Rogovin and Joseph Stellato were named Club Honored Paul Harris Fellows, while Michael Stryker was recognized with the Carl Wies Award.



Above: Pam Akins dons Governor's traditional top hat and collar
Left: Governor's Home Club banner



On July 1, 2004, Past President Pamela Akins became the Centennial Rotary Governor for District 7980 for the Rotary year 2004-05, and the Governor's Home Club Banner was transferred to New London. Over 100

New London Rotarians and their spouses attended the installation

banquet at the Mystic Marriott, with a total of over 300 District Rotarians. At the banquet, Geraldine Tom received the posthumous Bequest Society crystal for Harold Weiner's

\$25,000 donation to The Rotary Foundation.



Geraldine Tom (above) & Pam Akins (left), each flanked by RIVPs Frank Collins & Abe Gordon



2004-05, President Andrew "Andy" Russell

Rotary year 2004-05 was a big year of the New London Club. Not only did they maintain all the programs and activities the club had done in the past few years, they also completed their Centennial Project, a handicap-accessible playground, AND they supported Past President Pam Akins as District Governor. It was a very busy year.



Camp Rotary kids and counselors

In July, the club held its 10th Camp Rotary at the Shiloh Family Life Center with Tracee Reiser as the Program Coordinator and camp counselors from Connecticut College. In August the club picnic was at Ocean Beach Park with family miniature golf matches. Also in August, the club lost Nicholas Staub II, who served as Club President in 1967-68.

Throughout the year, Reid Burdick arranged Rotary After Hours (RAH) get-togethers at local eateries.

Reid again hosted the Rotary After Thanksgiving (RAT) potluck social at his home, with beverages donated by Ed Cramer.

In a special meeting, non-Rotarian Edith "Fuzzy" Gipstein was recognized as a Club Honored Paul Harris Fellow for her tireless efforts to bring to light New London's history, art and architectural riches.

The club continued its monthly meal preparation, service and clean up at the



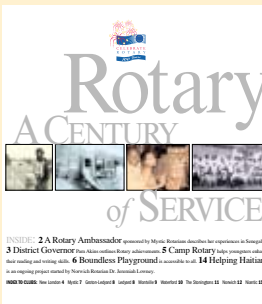
Edith "Fuzzy" Gipstein

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

Pamela Akins, Second Rotary Governor from New London



During her year as District Governor, Pam Akins focused on The Rotary Foundation and deputized Rotarians as her "Rotary Rangers" with a "Yeeha!" when they gave to The Foundation or participated in Foundation projects.



She raised public awareness of Rotary through billboards and radio PSAs and got the primary newspapers in each media market in southern Connecticut to insert Rotary Centennial tabloids featuring club histories and projects.



She visited all 63 clubs in the district and attended ribbon cuttings and grand openings for their Centennial Projects. She also hosted a districtwide Centennial Ball in New Haven, introduced the district's clubs to the Dictionary Project, and encouraged them to link up with Twin Clubs in other countries. She established the district's Paul Harris



Society to recognize annual PHS donors, becoming an annual \$1,000 donor herself, and initiated a silent auction at the district conference to raise funds for The Rotary Foundation.

She called for donations to the District Foundation when a devastating tsunami killed hundreds of thousands in Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, India and Sri Lanka the day after Christmas 2004; this effort ultimately raised over \$30,000 for tsunami relief and re-

sulted in recovery projects in all five countries.

She sponsored two GSE teams to Connecticut and sent a GSE team to Chile led by New London Past President Tracee Reiser. She published two district directories, produced color district newsletters, and created the Council of Presidents



gathering in October to help presidents get focused for the year. She updated the district budget and revised the district bylaws.

The Centennial Year ended at the 300-attendee "Rotary Ranger Roundup" District Conference, beachside in Long Branch, New Jersey, with a focus on fun, fellowship and recognition of the many Rotarians who exemplified "Service Above Self" and the clubs that made things happen during the Centennial Year of Rotary International.



Join us at the Rotary Ranger Round-up

District 7980 Centennial Conference

June 2-5, 2005
On the beach at
Ocean Place Resort & Spa
Long Branch, NJ

★ Texas Barbeque

★ Western Swing Band

★ Centennial Gala

Every room has an ocean view!

District Governor's Visit to the New London Club

District Governor Pam had a lot of fun with her Texas theme and Rotary Rangers, but the best club reception was from New London, which turned out in full cowboy style. Almost everybody had a hat, including Ben Watts who brought his own black Stetson. There were lots of enthusiastic "Yeehas!" Chris Neilan led the club in singing "Yellow Rose of Texas." And President Andy Russell presented her with a bouquet of yellow roses from Fisher's Florists.



The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

Community Soup Kitchen, and in April, club members again staffed the Hospice of Southeastern Connecticut Tree of Life at the Crystal Mall.

The fall and spring Brewfests at the



Beach were expanded to include chili and clam chowder cook-off contests with food donated from local restaurants and other groups such as Lawrence & Memorial Hospital and the New



London Fire Department. The Brewfests, which featured Mike Stryker's "The Rhythm Method" band and District Governor Pam Akins as cook-off judge for the fall chowder and spring chili contests, raised over \$30,000.

These funds were applied to the coming year's Camp Rotary, Charles Lee Scholarship and various other charitable donations, such as the Haitian Health Foundation's Save a Family Program and "Pump Iron for Pam" vitamin supplements for young children. The Do Good Fund also continued to cover one-time emergency needs of individuals recommended for assistance from the Jewish Federation and Alliance for Living.

VITA/EITC New London Assistance

During the 2005 tax season New London Rotarians helped to coordinate and staff a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance/Earned Income Tax Credit (VITA/EITC) site at New London Adult Education. The club partnered with the Community Development Initiative of the New London Development Corporation to ensure that the city's most vulnerable families received no-cost tax preparation and an earned income tax credit if eligible.

Kathy Browne of the New London Youth Organization was recognized as the Unsung Hero with a Paul Harris Fellow. Outstanding Teacher Eileen Shindler was recognized in June. The club held its annual Serviceperson of the Month and Youth-in-Government luncheons. The sixth Charles Lee Scholarship went to Michael Shell. New London High students were recognized with Rotary Scholars and Robert Groebel, Benjamin Levinson, and Harry Birenbaum Awards.

Brian Cole led a McNamara's band on St. Pat's Day, including Uncle Yulius (Pete Connair).



The club upheld its tradition of hosting the Yale and Harvard teams with the Lions and Kiwanis Clubs the Thursday before the Yale-Harvard Regatta Weekend.

In the spring of 2005, Bill Edwards, GSE coordinator for Area 11, arranged for the visits of Group Study Exchange teams from Lithuania and Chile. Bill Edwards and Mary Lenzini were



Bill Edwards & Mary Lenzini with T.S. Anand & his wife Pritty

also involved in a Friendship Exchange with a district in India that received funding from our district to replace fishing boats lost to the December 26, 2004, South-east Asia tsunami.



DG Pam presents T.S. Anand a check for new boats.

Tracee Reiser Led Group Study Exchange Team to Chile



Past President Tracee Reiser served at the Group Team Leader for the GSE team going to Chile in 2005; for that exchange, the club also recruited team member Luis Rodríguez Torres. The team made its presentations in Chile in Spanish and traveled from Patagonia and Punta Arenas in the south up to Santiago.

We mourned the loss of several long-time Rotarians in 2005. In April, the club lost Faye Vathauer, one of the first women inducted into the New London Rotary Club. Owner of Quality Printers for over 30 years, she often volunteered her



Frank Bartol

company's services in support of Rotary projects and was a regular volunteer at the New London Soup Kitchen. In May, the club lost Frank Bartol. Frank was a World War II veteran who in his younger days had played professional baseball with the Brooklyn Dodgers, having attracted the attention of baseball icon Casey Stengel who proclaimed, "Here's a boy who might do." Frank played against such teams as the Jewish House of Davids and the Negro Baseball League's Pittsburgh Crawfords. Having an O-negative blood



Faye Vathauer

type, Frank was a universal blood donor who always responded to calls for emergency blood donations. In June, we lost Russell Lewis, a New London Rotarian since 1967. Russ had been involved in wartime research, developing submarine-hunting technology. In his retirement, he served as Club Historian and helped put together the 75th Anniversary Club History.

Third Matching Grant with Bogotá, Colombia



In early 2005, Tom Wetmore submitted a third matching grant request to The Rotary Foundation (TRF), approved in May. The project covered the purchase of equipment for the FISULAB Rehab Center. The equipment was used to diagnose hearing disorders in children with cleft lips and palates to determine treatment, surgical intervention if necessary, and follow-up. The \$14,000 grant project was completed by September 2005; New London's share was \$3,000.

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

New London Rotary's Centennial Playground



Under the leadership of Past Presidents Tracee Reiser and Rick Gipstein, the New London Rotary raised over \$300,000 to purchase, erect and dedicate the New London Rotary Centennial "Boundless" Playground in June 2005. To determine what the Centennial Project should be, committee members met with City Councilors and city employees to learn what they felt New London needed. Past President Henry Savin suggested a playground as a place where all members of the New London community could gather. The committee considered several sites and settled on Toby May Field because it had the existing infrastructure including parking, tennis courts, and bus line access; it also had an outdated, dangerous playground. The committee decided that the playground should be accessible to all, so they researched and contracted with a company that made handicap-accessible playground equipment.

Through a major fundraising campaign, the committee raised the funding to cover the \$300,000 cost of the playground plus some leftover funding for maintenance in the future. Eight foundations, companies and even the State of Connecticut stepped up as major contributors, each giving \$15,000 or more to the project: the Frank Loomis Palmer Fund, State of Connecticut DEP, New London Rotary Foundation, Bodenwein Benevolent Foundation, Lawrence & Memorial Hospital Corp., Kitchings Family Foundation, People's Bank and Dominion Energy. Over 25 corporations, foundations and individuals donated \$1,000 or more, and countless others gave donations in smaller amounts. In addition to cash donations, many local vendors provided in-kind gifts.

The project also included a pavilion for shade and picnicking with the cost covered primarily by Dominion Energy Inc. The many volunteer builders included not only New London Rotarians, but also Beth-El Synagogue Mitzvah Day volunteers, Connecticut College students, staff and faculty, Dominion Energy employees, Larry Fritch and Grasso Tech students, Mohegan Sun Outreach Committee members, and US Coast Guard enlisted personnel.

The dedication of the new playground was done during the final month of the 2004-05 Centennial Year of Rotary International. District Governor Pam Akins was on hand along with city officials and New London President Andy Russell for the ribbon cutting. The playground still serves local children of all social, ethnic, and economic backgrounds and capabilities, entertaining children from New London and surrounding towns daily.

Rick Gipstein and Tracee Reiser received Paul Harris Fellowships for their leadership in making the Centennial Playground project happen.



State Championship Rings



Spring of 2005, the NLHS basketball team won the state championship. Learning there was no money in the school budget for state championship rings, Reid Burdick announced at a weekly meeting that he was accepting donations to purchase rings for the student athletes. By the end of the meeting, Reid had collected \$2,000, enough for rings for every player in addition to funds to pay for them and their coaches to attend a meeting on June 16th for the official presentation of the rings.

In April, several New London Rotarians participated in the District Assembly in Cromwell, Connecticut, including Joyce Schmidt who ran a workshop on literacy.



Mid-June, DG Pam Akins and Barry Levinson attended the Centennial International Convention in Chicago and visited RI headquarters.



Above left: Joyce Schmidt explains Dictionary Project



Above right: Holly Jermar, Joyce & her mother & President Elect Jerry Fischer

Ed Perl, Anne Stewart & Dan Gaynor

The Rotary Ranger Round-Up

New London was the host club, June 2-5, for Governor Pam's District Conference in Long Branch, New Jersey. The conference, titled the "Rotary Ranger Round-Up," because of Governor Pam's Texas background, featured a Thursday Island Night clambake and "island" music, a Western swing band with barbeque and cowboy hats on Friday night, and a black-tie gala Saturday with club president recognitions and district awards. The presidents surprised Governor Pam with long-stem yellow roses as they marched in to receive Presidential and Governor Citations. The conference also featured a panel discussion with AmeriCares, Save the Children and United Nations representatives on partnering opportunities. Barry Levinson collected nonperishable food for a local Ronald McDonald House, and Catherine Foley served as Conference Coordinator. New London was well represented all weekend long.



The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

On the very last day of Rotary's Centennial Year, June 30, 2005, District Governor Pam Akins installed Jerome "Jerry" Fischer as President for 2005-06, the first year of Rotary's 2nd Century of Service. Catherine Foley was named President Elect with William Edwards as Vice President. Myron Hendel and Reid Burdick were given Club Honored Paul Harris Fellow Awards. Myron was recognized as a 38-year member of the club for service in the community and Reid for promoting club fellowship and fundraising for the NLHS championship rings. Outgoing District Governor Pam Akins was also given a Paul Harris Fellowship for representing the club as governor for the 2nd time in 88 years. Retired USCG Rear Admiral Thomas Wetmore III was recognized for his Matching Grant work with the Carl Wies Award.

July 2, 2005, at the district installation banquet, President Andy passed the District Governor's Home Club Banner to Josh Piteo, President of Governor Alan Hurst's East Hampton Club, and the Rotary Centennial Year was done.



2005-06, President Jerome "Jerry" Fischer

The 11th Camp Rotary was held at Shiloh Family Life Center under the direction of Feona Dyess-Dunham of the Drop In Learning Center, with support from Connecticut College student volunteers. Campers took a bus trip to Washington, DC, to visit several units of the Smithsonian Museum.



July 26th, Reid Burdick launched the first of seven Rotary After



Hours (RAHs) in 2005-06. Every other month, the club enjoyed a RAH gathering at one of the following eateries: Bank Street Café, Stash's Café, Hanafin's Irish Pub, Louie's Bar & Grille, Hot Rod's Café, and the Bulkeley House. In March, the club returned to Hanafin's Irish Pub for an "Erin Go RAH" that raised \$139 for the Do Good Fund.



The annual family picnic was held at Ocean Beach Park on September 8th with a mini-golf competition.



The following week, Tom Wetmore announced that he would celebrate his 80th birthday by bicycling 80 miles. And upon



Tom Wetmore
in gear

completion of the ride in October, Tom presented a check for \$81 for the 81 miles that he rode—one dollar and mile more than necessary. He then put the check in his bike helmet and raised over \$200 for the Do Good Fund, passing the "hat," so to speak.



Joyce Schmidt chaired the Dictionary Project, with the help of several Rotarians providing dictionaries to all New London third graders.



Above: NL 3rd graders with
dictionaries
Left: Joyce Schmidt
with students



Ann & Bob Scott with
Pam Akins & Barry
Levinson at Boston Zone

In September, Past Governor Pam Akins and Barry Levinson attended the Zone Institute in Boston where they served as aides to Rotary Foundation Vice Chair and Trustee Robert Scott and his wife Ann, and spent an afternoon on a Boston Duck Boat together.



Duck Boat

Senior Citizen Dinners

In the fall of 2005, the club reinstituted Senior Citizen Dinners, first done in 1998 and again in 2002, at the New London Senior Center and senior resident facilities. The event was organized by MaryLou Underwood of Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Inc. (TVCCA), which manages the Meals on Wheels program. Club members donated door prizes, such as gift cards from Shop-Rite and Dunkin' Donuts, gift baskets and plants, served the meal, and cleaned up afterwards.



Foundation Dinner Attendees: John
& Jane Bysko, Geraldine Tom, Pete
Connair & Carmelina Kanzler

In November 2005, the club hosted its Serviceperson of the Month luncheon with the Lions and Kiwanis, recognizing Petty Officer Sandra Awis of the Submarine Base. At the District Foundation Dinner, New London claimed First Place in giving to The Rotary Foundation's Annual Fund during Rotary year 2004-05.

The club also enjoyed Reid and Ann Burdick's hospitality for a Rotary After Thanksgiving social.

Liberty Bank Thanksgiving Turkey Dinner Drive



In partnership with Liberty Bank and Hall Communications, the club promoted a drive to provide Thanksgiving turkeys to local families in need. For each dollar deposited into the New London Rotary Club's Thanksgiving Turkey Drive account, Liberty Bank contributed a 50-cent match. Andy Russell arranged for radio PSAs to promote the donations. Approximately \$3,000 was presented to the Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) of New London for Thanksgiving dinner to those in need. This fundraiser continued for over 10 years.



In December, Lorraine Allen chaired the Holiday Book Drive program, and professionals from the Connecticut Storytelling Center entertained the children who were our guests at the luncheon.

The New Year opened with a January 3rd New London High School basketball game where club members were guests of the team. Organizer Reid Burdick and John Bysko squared off in a foul shooting contest.



The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017



Catherine Foley,
ready to shovel

Later in January, on another cold Saturday morning, club members filled buckets with salt and sand for elderly and disabled homes and facilities identified by the VNA of SECT.



Above: George Fisher
& Reid Burdick

Left: Robin Aitcheson



Punxsutawney Dave
Goebel

February 2nd, Dave Goebel, in official Groundhog Day top hat and shirt, read the official proclamation declaring six more weeks of winter after Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow—or didn't see his shadow—it's hard to tell.



Leprechauns Chris
Neilan & Jerry Fischer

For our St. Patrick's luncheon on March 16th, Chris Neilan on banjo and President Jerry Fischer on pipe gave us Irish music to jig to.

Welcome Home for Iraq War Veterans



In March 2006, members of the New London Rotary including former Marine Corps-Ret. Lt. Col. Stephen Percy, USN-Ret. Rear Admiral David Goebel, USCG-Ret. Rear Admiral Thomas Wetmore, USCG-Ret. Captain Lewis Buckley, and others raised \$10,000 through sponsorships for a Welcome Home gathering with gifts and entertainment for the 208th Personnel Service Detachment of the Connecticut National Guard and their families. Held a month after their return from Iraq, the event recognized their service to the country and provided a safe, friendly environment for all to reconnect after the transition from war zone to home. President Jerry Fischer addressed the event, saying that the motto of Rotary is "Service Above Self," and that the men and women of the National Guard personified the motto. The event netted \$2,000, which was used to establish a scholarship in memory of a local marine killed in Iraq.

All information contained in this issue is for the enjoyment and fun of club members and is in no way reflects anything true.

ROTARY SINKER

New London Rotary Club
District 1 Club 1
P.O. Box 000 New London, CT 06320
www.newlondonrotary.com

SERVICE After Self
2005-2006 Rotary Theme
Meeting of APRIL 1, 2006 Food Issue

Club Nonsense

April 1 How to make spending amounts of Rotarians. Bill Edwards
Reports: Name needed as no one reads the articles
Directors: April 1 Rotarians Hotel Staff
Invocation: April 1 No prayers will help us now
We don't care! We are tired of singing the same song
Birthdays: April 1 Mary & John Warmabie-Happy
Anniversaries: April 1 We like this song
Song Leader: April 1 Johnny One Note

April 1st: ROTARY SINKER
Anybody wanting to submit a poem for the position should contact President Jerry Fischer at the end of the year.

RAH RAH RAH Every Rotarian
Happy on lucky Benedict Road announced that
there is no one but me at the last table (that
discovered as Nathan Hales) he has decided to
move the meeting location to his former home.
Reservations will be served by Paltrowitz.
There will be no eating and all talking must be
kept in a whisper. Please plan to come early
and stay late.

Credits **CLUB MAKE-UPS DISCUSS** **Credits**
All members of the club now have 100% Attendance
In an effort to build our Rotary membership and get us 100% 100% 100%
President New International Standard 100% 100% 100% 100% 100%

Attempted Corruption of Rotary Hat contest

Paul Harris used an email to Rotary Anchor publisher Crazy Barry to
give them their name. Although they learned that some New London
Rotarians had access to his computer and that they may have sent the
message using his name. The Jury has determined to go out
he receives his Paul Harris Fellowship. Expect a long second
attendance status.

Official used an email to Rotary Anchor publisher Crazy Barry to
give them their name. Although they learned that some New London
Rotarians had access to his computer and that they may have sent the
message using his name. The Jury has determined to go out
he receives his Paul Harris Fellowship. Expect a long second
attendance status.

The public should now feel safe for many years to come. For fun-
dation information please contact: Rotary Representative of Rotarians
Chris Housley. The "rotary" are good to see.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER
Paul Burdick, formerly of the Lions &
Tigers Club, has joined Rotary. Paul is
very happy to be among his colleagues
and has been right at home in the club.

On April 1st, *Anchor* editor Barry Levinson published an April Fools' version of our newsletter, The Rotary Stinker, with a listing of Club Nonsense Programs, Lorraine Partygirl collecting two books for the Holiday Book Drive, and Ivan Sadler convicted of trying to corrupt the weekly "guess this" Rotary Hat contest.

April Fool's Day Newsletter:
The Rotary Stinker

Brewfest at the Beach, October 2005



Brewfest at the Beach, May 2006



The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

The October 7, 2005 and May 19, 2006 Brewfests at the Beach, with chowder and chili cook-offs respectively, raised over \$30,000 for the New London Rotary Foundation in 2005-06. The club weekly auction and wishing well at the mall raised another \$1,000. These funds were used to fund the following year's Camp Rotary and Charles Lee Scholarship (without the match from Pfizer).

The Do Good Fund continued to support individuals with emergency funding needs, while New London Rotary Foundation funded the Haitian Health Foundation's Save a Family Program and the Second Life Program, a nonprofit charity that harvests pacemakers in the U.S. and donates fully tested and useable units to those needing pacemakers in developing countries. (Additionally, New London Rotarians who owned or managed funeral homes participated in the Second Life program.) For the first time, the club foundation provided funding to the Southeast Asia Bio-Sand Water Filter Initiative for water filters in India.



Cathy Forsberg of Southeast Asia
Water Filter Initiative

Matching Grant in Punta Arenas, Chile



Tracee Reiser came back from her trip to Chile as Team Leader for a Group Study Exchange in 2005 with a Rotary Foundation Matching Grant proposal. For the \$12,000 grant, the New London Club partnered with the Rotary Club of Punta Arenas, Chile. The grant funded technical training for an aquaculture project that focused on growing salmon for domestic and export use. New London's share was \$2,500, and the grant was approved and completed in 2006.

As in years past, club volunteers staffed the annual Hospice of Southeastern Connecticut Tree of Life fundraiser and monthly prepared and served meals at the Community Soup Kitchen. In the spring, club volunteers put down new wood chips, pulled weeds, and painted the plantings framing at the Centennial Playground.

Throughout the year, the club recognized New London students with the Student of the Year Program, hosting them at luncheon meetings, adding their names to a plaque on display



Soup Kitchen Volunteers



RYLA & New Generations Students

in each school, and providing various donated gifts from area business and club members. The club also recruited and funded two New London High School students for the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards program and seven students for the New Generations Conference. And at the end of the school year, the club recognized New London High School students through the 40-year-old Rotary Scholars Program, Robert Groebel Award, Benjamin

Levinson Community Service Award, and Harry Birenbaum Music Scholarship Award. The club also awarded the seventh Charles Lee Scholarship to Clifford Aguele.



Yale Coach John Pescatore & Harvard Coach Harry Parker

June 8th, the New London Club held its traditional Yale-Harvard Regatta meeting with the team coaches and captains and Lions and Kiwanis Clubs. Yale Athletic Archivist Geoff Zonder talked about the history of the race, including the origins of sayings such as “losing your shirt,” “painting the town red,” and “crew cut.” Henry Savin recalled the huge float he built for the club for New London’s 1965 celebration of the 100th anniversary of the regatta.



Yale Athletic Archivist Geoff Zonder

Valerie Tamano, Administrative Aide to the Superintendent of Schools, was named the 2006 Unsung Hero.

Unsung Hero,
Valerie Tamano



Citation for Meritorious Service Award



Past District Governor Pamela Akins was presented with the Rotary Foundation’s Citation for Meritorious Service Award at the District Conference in Hyannis, Massachusetts. The Citation for Meritorious Service recognizes individual Rotarians who have demonstrated outstanding active service to The Rotary Foundation.

At the installation dinner June 29, 2006, Catherine Foley was inducted as the President for Rotary year 2006-07, with William Edwards, Sr. as President Elect and Rev. Michel Belt as Vice President. The club recognized Christopher Neilan and Joan Evans Hunter with Club Honored Paul Harris Fellowships. Brian Cole was given the Carl Wies Award for his many years of service.

2006-07, President Catherine Foley



Camp Rotary Counselors

July 10th–August 4th, 57 New London middle school students participated in Camp Rotary. Academic classes were held in the morning at the



Campers sing the
National Anthem

Shiloh Family Life Center with swimming lessons and physical fitness activities in the afternoon at Connecticut College. The students learned about the Rotary Four-Way Test, volunteered at the Community Garden, published a weekly newsletter, and went on educational field trips. The club joined the campers for lunch July 27th at Shiloh and learned that they were working at the 11th and 12th grade level in the sciences.



Buffet Lunch with Rotarians

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017



The annual family picnic on August 24th at Ocean Beach included a scavenger hunt designed to encourage club members to get to know each other. Reid Burdick also continued to arrange Rotary After Hours socials during the year; for the first RAH of the Rotary year at the Bulkeley House, members of the Mystic, Niantic, and Montville Rotary Clubs joined in.

At a special meeting, Lee Cole-Chu was recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow for his contributions to The Rotary Foundation and his father, Honorary Member Charles Chu, was given a Distinguished Service Paul Harris Fellowship for generously donating his paintings to club auctions.

Father & Son PHFs: Lee Cole-Chu & Charles Chu



Above: MaryLou Underwood with TVCCA staff & truck

Below: Reid Burdick with gift basket

Below center: Nurse Mary Lenzini



More Senior Dinners

Under the chairmanship of MaryLou Underwood of TVCCA, New London Rotarians served dinners to seniors at several residences, including Huntington Towers, Mohican Hotel, and Gordon Court Housing. Monthly, club volunteers also worked at the Community Soup Kitchen under the direction of Rev. Michel Belt. Rotarians provided gift baskets for raffles while Mary Lenzini of the VNA of SECT offered free blood pressure screening.



Above: Huntington Towers Crew

Below: Mohican Hotel Dinner



On October 12th, the club hosted a New Member Orientation at Lyman Allyn Museum.

With Joyce Schmidt as chair, the club did the Dictionary Project once again, purchasing and giving out approximately 500 student dictionaries to third graders in all New London public, private and parochial schools. Each book had a Rotary bookplate and a place for students to print their name.

Club members also spent at least an hour a week mentoring Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School students; approximately one third of the mentors in the program were New London Rotarians.

Fourth Matching Grant with Bogotá, Colombia



In 2006, Tom Wetmore again proposed a fourth Matching Grant with the Rotary Club in Bogotá-Usaquen, Columbia. Approved in November 2006, the grant covered the cost of tools and equipment to offer carpentry classes to young indigent laborers from Ciudad Bolivar, a deprived area in southeast Bogotá. The students were from families displaced by the country's internal conflict. Helping them acquire carpentry skills was seen as a way to keep them from joining street gangs or insurgency groups, dealing drugs, or turning to prostitution or criminal activity. The program trained 90 students in the first half of 2007 and was expected to train another 180 each year thereafter. After 300 hours of instruction, the students were able to work as technical carpenters and do cabinetmaking. The carpentry workshop was part of the San Juan Boaco Obrero Center overseen by the Salesian Brothers Community, which offers vocational training in various trades. The grant totaled \$19,000 with a \$4,000 contribution from the New London Club.



During November 2006, the club responded to a call for help from the United Way Gemma Moran Food Center whose pantries were low. The club organized a drive for staple goods, with emphasis on proteins such as peanut butter and tuna. Fifty boxes bearing the Rotary logo were distributed to Rotarians for collection of donated goods. Many pounds of food were collected and dropped off at the

Center. The Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School staff collected about 100 pounds, and the local hospital unions contributed as well.

Flu Shots at the Polls

On Election Day, November 7, 2006, Rotary volunteers worked at New London polling centers with the Visiting Nurse Association of Southeastern Connecticut to sign up voters for flu shots on the spot. Volunteers staffed five different polling locations throughout the city.

November 4th, 23 Rotarians, family members and friends attended Rotary Day at the United Nations in New York City, where they heard RI President Bill Boyd speak. The Serviceperson of the Month, Machinist Mate 2nd Class Lloyd Strough of the Submarine Base, was honored at the annual Veterans Day observance.



Rotary UN Day attendees

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017



OIC Director Milton Cook, Asst. Manager NL Liberty Bank Lynn Youmeil, & Past President Jerry Fischer

On December 9, 2006, approximately 20 Rotarians and friends gathered on a chilly Saturday morning for a pre-winter cleanup at the Centennial Playground, and another crew of 30 delivered sand to the doorsteps of the disabled and elderly that same day. Later that Rotary year, the club paid for repairs to Centennial Playground equipment and erected a playground storage and tool shed.

The club again participated in the Liberty Bank/Hall Communications Thanksgiving Turkey Drive. Through donations from Rotarians, community members, and Liberty Bank, approximately \$3,000 was presented to OIC of New London for Thanksgiving dinners for families in need.



Centennial Playground Cleanup Crew



Holiday Literacy Program
Smith-Bent Children

The club repeated its Holiday Literacy Program, donating and distributing over 1,000 books to children through four local nonprofit agencies: Centro de la Comunidad, Child and Family Agency of SECT, Drop-In Learning Center and B. P. Learned Mission. Additionally, children and teachers from the Child & Family's Smith-Bent Children's Center and club members' children were invited to a special luncheon of hot dogs and fries with animated storytelling by the Connecticut Storytelling Center members.

Reid Burdick again hosted a RAT (Rotary After Thanksgiving) party on December 21st.



Sigmund
Strochlitz

In October 2006, the club mourned the loss of Sigmund Strochlitz, owner of Whaling City Ford and a Holocaust survivor. In January 2007, the club also lost long-term member Walter Clearwater, who had retired from the Naval Underwater Systems Center. Walt had been a member since 1978.

February 15th, the club recognized non-Rotarian Harold Arkava with a Paul Harris Fellow for his efforts to fund scholarships for the descendants of the Bulkeley High School for Boys. The club also honored Carmelina Kanzler for her many years of service to Rotary and the city as part of the Women's Center of Southeastern Connecticut's "Celebrating Women" March 29th gala.



Carmelina
Kanzler



Harold Arkava

Two students from New London High School attended the RYLA conference while five students attended the New Generations conference. Throughout the

PDG Pam Akins Serves as Training Leader at International Assembly



In late January 2007, Past District Governor Pam Akins was one of 40 Training Leaders at the Rotary International Assembly in San Diego, providing weeklong instruction to District Governors Elect from around the world who would serve under President Wilf Wilkinson for 2007-08. Pam's husband, Barry



Levinson, was a trainer for Governor Elect Partners. Barry and Pam spent a week in San Diego being trained, including in the use of electronic translation devices, before they served as trainers.



year, the club recognized each New London school's Student of the Year at luncheon meetings with their parents, teachers and school principals. At the end of the school year in 2007, the club awarded the 8th Dr. Charles Lee Scholarship to Jennifer Blanco. Also recognized at the end of the school year were the club's Rotary Scholars, Robert Groebel Award, Benjamin Levinson Community Service Award, and Harry Birenbaum Music Scholarship Award winners.



In March, Chris Neilan and his banjo led the club in a round of Irish tunes. In April, Senior Rotarians Frank Laycock and Don Mitchell cut the cake for the club's 90th Birthday.

St. Paddy's Day music by Chris Neilan



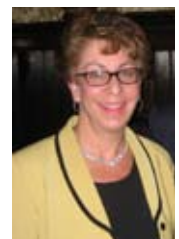
Don Mitchell & Frank Laycock cut Anniversary Cake.



Barry Levinson receives Foundation crystal from Past RIVP Abe Gordon

Also in April, Barry Levinson was presented with The Rotary Foundation's Bequest Society crystal for designating the nonprofit as a beneficiary in his will. May 10th, Cheryl Potter was recognized as the 2007 Outstanding Teacher of the Year.

Programs during 2006-07 included the Southeastern Connecticut 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness, changes occurring at *The Day* and newspaper publishing in general, J-ROTC, the New London Film Commission, terrorism preparedness, and club bios by Carmelina Kanzler, Millie Devine, Lorraine Allen, and Ed Cramer.



Teacher of the Year Cheryl Potter

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017



One particular program touched our hearts: Haitian Health Foundation's Marilyn Lowney explained the charity's Akamil nutrition program. Akamil is a high-protein flour made of ground corn, rice, and beans cooked into a porridge with added vitamins, iron, and cooking oil (all missing from the typical Haitian diet). Following the program, club members personally made donations to the Akamil project.

Dr. Jerry Lowney & Marilyn Lowney
at HHF clinic in Jeremie, Haiti

Water Filters for Tippenahalli, India



Hamden Rotarian Cathy Forsberg and her husband Mike Lipman presented a program about the bio-sand filters they produce in India, which provide clean water in schools and homes. After the presentation, the club responded with a donation to produce filters for the entire Indian village of Thippenahalli of 265 homes. On their next trip to India, Cathy and Mike sent back pictures of the dedication ceremony for the filters donated by the New London Club.



OKTOBERFEST AT THE BEACH

BEER
CHOWDER
LIVE MUSIC

Ocean Beach Park
October 6
6-9 pm

Brewfests at the Beach

The fall and spring Brewfests at the Beach included chowder and chili cook-offs with 16 res-



taurants and other organizations participating. District Governor Chip Lewis and *The Day's* Rick Koster served as chowder judges, with the top choices going to Voodoo Grill and S-Car-Go. In the spring, District Governor Elect Rick Benson and *The Day* Sports-writer Mike DiMauro served as chili judges, with the top choice going to L&M Hospital. The combined net for both fests was over \$30,000. Ed Cramer gave out numerous "Good 'N Plenty" awards for both fundraisers.



With the proceeds of the weekly auctions, Brewfest funds were allocated to the following year's Camp Rotary. In March 2007, the club foundation board voted to increase the Camp Rotary budget to \$19,600 to accommodate increased insurance, transportation, and meal costs and to add a fifth week to the coming summer camp. The club foundation also allocated funds for Centennial Playground repairs and landscaping and a fourth Matching Grant with the Bogotá-Usaquen Rotary Club in Colombia. During the year, club foundation funds also went to the Southeast Asia Bio-Sand Water Filter Initiative, Second Life Program, Ocean Beach Park planks replacement, New London Education Foundation Fund, and the Gift of Life Program. Smaller donations were made to the Tyler Dyer Fund, US Sub Vets, SCADD, Haitian Health Foundation, NLHS Girls' Basketball, NL Babe Ruth League, and the Neighborhood Alliance Fishing Derby. The Do Good Fund gave over \$1,300 to meet the emergency needs of individuals recommended by local charities.



Alan Mayer hosts Sri Lankan GSE team & homestay hosts

President Elect Bill Edwards arranged for New London Rotarians to host and provide vocational days for the incoming Group Study Exchange team from Sri Lanka. The June 7th meeting featured the Sri Lankan delegation, and Alan and Gail Mayer hosted an evening at their home with the team.

At the District Conference May 31-June 3 in Saratoga Springs, New York, the club received the Significant Achievement Award for Club Service and the District International Project Award for the Bogotá Matching Grants.



President Catherine presents International Project Award to Tom Wetmore



President Catherine Foley & Barry Levinson display Significant Achievement Award for Club Service

PDG Pam Akins and Past President Barry Levinson attended the Rotary International Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, June 17-20th.

The annual June Harvard-Yale Regatta luncheon for the team coaches and captains also included the Lions, Kiwanis and City Mayor on hand for the lane drawing ceremony. On Saturday, the Yale varsity crew bested the usually dominant Harvard crimson by half a second.

Corinne Wargo, President Catherine Foley's daughter, was selected as a Youth Exchange student for Turkey and was presented with her YE jacket at a District Youth Exchange banquet.

The June installation dinner was held at the Crocker House, where William Edwards was installed as President, with Rev. Michel Belt as President Elect and Anna Lathrop as Vice President. Club Honored Paul Harris Fellowships were bestowed on Andrew Russell, Lewis Buckley, Mary Lenzini, Geraldine Tom, MaryLou Underwood and Robert Bartlett. The Carl Wies Award was given to Philip Turner for his many years chairing the Brewfest fundraiser. The silent auction, chaired by Geraldine Tom, raised \$3,400 to support Corinne Wargo during her Youth Exchange year in Turkey.



Catherine Foley presents her daughter, Corinne, with her Youth Exchange jacket

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

2007-08, President William "Bill" Edwards



Camp Rotary
Boating Instruction

The annual July Camp Rotary continued at the Shiloh Family Life Center and Connecticut College with an additional week for more vocational education opportunities such as a visit to Sonalysts Studios. New London Community Boating also offered sailing instruction at Green Harbor Beach and a new Community Service Group was initiated to allow campers to volunteer at a Groton preschool.

The campers also did a field trip to Mystic Aquarium. On July 26th, the campers sang and danced for the club members at a luncheon held at the Shiloh Family Life Center.



Camp Rotary
Luncheon Entertainment

Colombia Matching Grant Partner Hosted



The Rotary year 2007-08 opened with a surprise visit from the Past President of the Rotary Club of Bogotá-Usaquen, Colombia—the club that had partnered with New London on four Rotary Foundation Matching Grants over the previous six years. In the first week of July 2007, New London Rotary hosted Consuelo Martinez, Immediate Past President of the Bogotá-Usaquen Club, and the weekly meeting program celebrated the completion of the most recent \$19,000 Matching Grant the two clubs did together.

The grant, for a carpentry training project, was the fourth with the Rotary Club of Bogotá-Usaquen.

The other Colombian grants funded a science lab for an inner-city school, a sewer treatment plant for a vocational farm for abuse victims, and FISULAB medical equipment for a facility that treats children with cleft lip and palate. The total dollar value of these projects was over \$60,000.

The projects have been initiated and nurtured by long-time New London Rotarian and Retired Coast Guard Rear Admiral Thomas Wetmore, whose grandson, Thomas, through the Rotary Youth Exchange Program became friends with Juanita Vesquez, the granddaughter of Raimundo Escallon, a Rotary District Governor and member of the Bogotá-Usaquen Club. Juani visited the Wetmore family, Thomas visited the Escallon family in Colombia, and the grandchildren began to promote a Rotary friendship between the two Rotarian grandfathers. With an exchange of email addresses, the first grant project came to be.

As the Rotary projects grew, so did the friendship between these two Rotarians as well as the good that the New London Club was able to do through The Rotary Foundation. PDG Escallon reported, "The labs have benefited over 2,600 students, the farm is home to 70 girls between three and 14 years old, and the FISULAB attends to over 100 patients a year."

At the club's regular Thursday meeting, Tom Wetmore, with Miriam Torres-Thorburn translating, presented Martinez with the award given to the New London Club for the Most Outstanding International Service Project in District 7980.

Annual Picnic Moves to Captain Scott's Lobster Dock



Late August, the club moved its annual picnic to Captain Scott's where over 80 Rotarians, family members and friends enjoyed clam chowder, mussels, clam fritters, and lobster rolls, or hamburgers or hot dogs for the non-lobster eaters. Fellowship Chair and Do Good Fund Chair Reid Burdick combined both into the "Rotary Mobile Hydration Laboratory," offering beer, wine and water supplied by Ed Cramer for donations to the Do Good Fund.



The picnic was held at Captain Scott's for the next 10 years. The cost was an assessed \$25 for the full lobster dinner, so almost everyone came.



Club volunteers cleaned up the Centennial Playground on August 7th. While Youth Exchange Student Corinne Wargo was in Turkey, her mother Catherine Foley stayed busy with students at home—on September 29th, she and a group of St. Bernard High School students worked at a Big E Amber Alert, registering and providing IDs for children.

Catherine Foley with
St. Bernard students at Big E

Youth Exchange Student Corinne Wargo in Turkey



The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

Rotary Zones 31-32 Institute at Mystic Marriott



The first week of October, area clubs hosted the Zone 31-32 Institute at the Mystic Marriott. The Institute was a gathering of Rotary leadership from throughout northeastern United States and Canada. Not only did New London Rotarians assist in the planning and execution of the Institute, they also helped raise over 2,300 pounds of food for the Gemma Moran United Way Food Center that served over 80 soup kitchens, homeless shelters, food pantries and other nonprofits throughout eastern Connecticut.

Past District Governor Pam Akins handled the marketing of the event a year in advance, designing the event logo and marketing materials and developing a short video showing the attractions of the area. She also arranged for Connecticut media coverage of RI President Wilf Wilkinson's visit to the area. The Institute and President Wilkinson's visit received coverage in the *Hartford Courant*, *The Day*, *Westerly Sun*, *New London Times* and *Mystic Times* newspapers. PDG Pam also served as a Governor Elect Training Leader, training the two Zones' Governors for Rotary year 2008-09.

Barry Levinson was in charge of the opening ceremony that included the New London Fire Department Bagpipe and Drum Corps and the ISAAC middle school chorus who led the singing of three national anthems. Barry also set up a private dinner for the RI Board of Directors at Enders Island and arranged, with the assistance of Retired USCG Captain Lew Buckley, for the Coast Guard Band to play at the Saturday evening banquet. New London Rotarian Retired USCG Rear Admiral Doug Teeson, then CEO of Mystic Seaport, gave RI President Wilf Wilkinson a private tour of the maritime museum.

Andy Russell recruited Hall Communications radio stations to promote awareness of the Rotary gathering's food drive and Mystic Marriott drop-off location with PSAs and a live remote at the Marriott; Hall Communications also did an on-air interview with RI President Wilf Wilkinson.

New London Rotarians John Bysko, Ann Connolly, Janet Pearce, Robin Aitcheson, and others were on hand to receive and deliver the collected foodstuffs to the Food Center. An additional \$1,000 was collected from the Institute attendees and even from radio listeners to purchase more canned goods for the regional food bank. The food drive resulted in over a ton of food being delivered to the Gemma Moran Food Center.





At the Rotary Zone Institute in Mystic, a number of club Rotarians attended the Saturday Foundation luncheon and met Rotary International President Wilf Wilkinson. PDG Pam Akins and Barry Levinson attended the black-tie dinner later that evening.



During Rotary year 2007-08, in addition to being a Governor Elect Training Seminar (GETS) trainer and Zone Institute planner, Past Governor Pam Akins also served as the Zone 31 Literacy Coordinator, working with 21 District Literacy Chairs and Governors to promote literacy projects and funnel project information to the North American Literacy Coordinator for publication in Rotary's Worldwide Literacy Newsletter.



Bob Weller

In late September, the club lost a 55-year member of the club, Robert "Bob" Weller. Bob often regaled the club with World War II stories, having been a part of the invasion of Italy and also served in the Pacific theater. Bob also loved to talk about his Welsh heritage. He became President of Mitchell College in 1951 and filled that position for 36 years. He joined the New London Rotary Club in 1952 and became its President for 1958-59. In October, the club mourned the loss of Bessie Dallas, a tireless volunteer, who joined Rotary in 1993. In addition to planning events for the



Bessie Dallas

Eastern Connecticut Symphony and St. Sophia Church, she coordinated Group Study Exchange visits to southeastern Connecticut for many years.



The club again participated in the Dictionary Project, providing student dictionaries to third graders in all New London public, private and parochial schools. Each book contained a Rotary bookplate with the name of the club and



a place for the student to print their name. Throughout the year, New London Rotarians again mentored Bennie Dover Jackson students.

On November 3, 2007, New London Rotarians joined other Rotarians from across the Northeast in New York for United Nations Day. Speakers at the sold-out event included Rotary International President Wilfred Wilkinson, RI President Elect Dong-Kurn Lee, Rotary Foundation

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

Chairman Robert Scott, UN directors, and Rotarians who outlined successful global poverty reduction projects.

The following week, the Serviceperson of the Month, Petty Officer Rusk, was also honored at the annual Veterans Day luncheon, not only for being good at his job, but also for volunteering at the Mystic Aquarium and Mystic Seaport and as a theater youth group leader. The club also raised funds for the Liberty Bank Thanksgiving Turkey Drive to provide turkey dinners to New London families.



Hempstead Senior Dinner attendees

Hempstead Senior
Dinner volunteers

In December, the club hosted a senior dinner at the Hempstead Housing facility. A second senior dinner was held at the Coleman Housing Center in April 2008 under the leadership of Mary-Lou Underwood and help from the TVCCA Meals on Wheels. Throughout the year, club members staffed the New London Soup Kitchen monthly.



The Holiday Party was held at Ocean Beach in the Pilot House on December 10th.

Holiday Party attendees



Shiloh Childworks
preschoolers enjoy lunch and
storytelling at Lighthouse Inn



The club's Holiday Literacy Program donated over 1,000 books to children in preschool or after-school care at Centro de la Comunidad, Child and Family Agency of SECT, Drop In Learning Center and B.P. Learned Mission. Children and teachers from the Childworks Preschool Center of Shiloh Baptist Church enjoyed a special luncheon at the Lighthouse Inn with members of the Connecticut Storytelling Center reading animated stories to the children.

New London High School Interact Club

The New London Rotary Interact Club attended their first meeting with the New London Rotary on December 27th at the Lighthouse Inn. The Interact Club was formed at the New London High School through the efforts of President Bill Edwards, Reid Burdick and Past District Governor Dick Benson, the District Interact Chair. Catherine Foley served as the coordinator between the New London Rotary and the Interact Club.



Interact Club visits New London Rotary

Although it was the same weekend as the Zone Institute in Mystic, the fall Brewfest at the Beach had plenty New London Rotarians work the event and raised over \$30,000. The October event alone entertained

over 1,000 people and netted almost \$25,000. Rick Koster of *The Day* and Ed Chupaska of the *New London Times* served as chowder judges. The May event, with a slightly smaller turnout because of cold wet weather, netted over \$15,000. Restaurant critic Lee White served as the chili judge.

Along with the proceeds of the installation banquet's silent auction, wishing well and weekly auction, Brewfest funds were allocated to the following year's Camp Rotary,

Charles Lee Scholarship and several other charitable projects such as the Southeast Asia Bio-Sand Water Filter Initiative, Second Life Program, Habitat for Humanity, the VNA of Southeastern Connecticut, and New London Education Foundation Fund. The New London Rotary Foundation also contributed to a multi-club District Grant in Haiti and a fifth Matching Grant put together by Tom Wetmore for water filtration in Nicaragua. The club board also made donations to the SCADD, Haitian Health Foundation, Covenant Shelter, Kente Cultural Center, New London High School Football and Girls' Cheerleading, and New London Babe Ruth and Little Leagues.



Above: Fall chowder judges Rick Koster & Ed Chupaska

Right: Spring chili judge Lee White



The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

In early 2008, the club awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship to Hall Communications announcer, Jim Reed, for the radio telethon he did at the Mystic Marriott during the Zone Institute to raise foodstuffs for the Gemma Moran Food Center.



In a ceremony at a luncheon meeting with New London Rotary Foundation Chair Phil Turner, District Governor Nominee Colin Gershon, and District Permanent Fund Chair Barry Levinson, Geraldine Tom announced that the estate of Past President Harold Weiner had given the New London Rotary Foundation \$5,000 and \$25,000 to The Rotary Foundation's Permanent Fund, saying, "Harold wanted to do good in the world and help change and save lives."



With the help of the VNA and the Public Housing Authority, over 30 New London Rotarians, family members and Interactors delivered sand buckets to be used during winter ice storms to homes and facilities for disabled elderly during the winter of 2007-08.

In April, Officer Carl Brisson-Lopez, a seven-year veteran of the New London Police Force and founder of the New London Public School Mar-



Unsung Hero
Officer Carl
Brisson-Lopez



Teacher of the Year
Carol Gerofsky

tial Arts, was surprised at a luncheon meeting with the club's Unsung Hero Award. The Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award went to Carolyn B. Gerofsky, a special education teacher at Harbor School for 30 years. Eleven students from New London public, private and parochial schools were recognized as Student of the Year at weekly luncheons. The club also awarded the 9th Dr. Charles Lee Scholarship to graduating senior Jamie Guzman and recognized New London High School students with the Rotary Scholars Program, Robert Groebel Award, Benjamin Levinson Community Service Award, and Harry Birenbaum Music Scholarship Award.



Marcus Hummon

Some interesting programs for the year were: a performance by Grammy Award Winner Marcus Hummon by way of the Eugene O'Neill Center's Cabaret Workshop, Mystic Seaport's Geoff Kaufman performing sea shanties (and accompanied on banjo by our own Chris Neilan), FRESH New London on community gardens and organic food, "Shoo



Geoff Kaufman



1954-55 Club
President
Frank Laycock

the Flu” by VNA Director Mary Lenzini, Rotary Youth Exchange Student from Germany Ina Dembrowski, USCG and NASA Astronaut Daniel Burbank, Frank Laycock’s club bio about his 54 years in Rotary, “Mad Scientist of Southeastern Connecticut” Chris Cotter, and the Goodspeed Theater.

Several New London Rotary members attended the District Conference at West Point, New York, on May 16-18, 2008.

Past District Governor Pamela Akins served as Rotary International President Wilf Wilkinson’s Representative to District 7720’s Conference in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. While there, she recognized Joe Perry, an 85-year-old Rotarian who had given \$1,000 anonymously to The Rotary Foundation for 25 years.

Then in June, PDG Pam, Past President Barry Levinson and President Elect Michel Belt attended the Rotary International Convention in Los Angeles, where Pam worked at the Literacy Booth and Barry worked at the Con-

vention Goers Booth in the House of Friendship.

In June at the Ocean Beach Pilot House, Michel Belt was inducted as President for Rotary year 2008-09 with Anna Lathrop as President Elect and Geraldine Tom as Vice President. Holly Jermar, Anna Lathrop, David Goebel, Lee Cole-Chu and Jerry Fischer (who could not be at the banquet because of his son’s wedding) were given Club Honored Paul Harris Fellowships. The



Pettengill Award
Presentation

club also recognized Joann Wetmore, the wife of beloved Tom Wetmore, with a Distinguished Service Paul Harris Fellow, for her role in helping Tom arrange for five Rotary Foundation Matching Grants. The Carl Wies Award was given to Pete Connair for his enthusiastic commitment to raise funds for The Rotary Foundation and his long years of service to the club.

Also at the installation banquet, Governor Ernie Luise presented the District’s Charles W. Pettengill Award to the club for its outstanding record of service for the previous three years of 2004-05, 2005-06, and 2006-07.

2008-09, President Michel Belt

In July 2008, when our regular meeting place, The Lighthouse Inn, closed unexpectedly, the club scrambled to find a new home, eventually returning to the Radisson Hotel.

The five-week Camp Rotary again focused on math, science, and English with guidance from the Drop In Learning Center and Connecticut College student counselors. Campers also took cooking classes and enjoyed the Olympic-size pool at Connecticut College. The club hosted the campers for a luncheon on August 7th at the Shiloh Family Life Center.



USCG/NASA
Astronaut Daniel
Burbank



Camp Rotary students

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017



August 14th, Linda Wilkinson talked about founding Chikumbuso, an organization that has helped widows, whose husbands died from AIDS, start a micro-business to support themselves. The women now manufacture pocketbooks, wallets, and jewelry for purchase. She also talked about the importance of donations to provide blankets, mosquito nets, electricity and bicycles.



Linda Wilkinson
& Chikumbuso bags

August 21st,
Corinne Wargo,
daughter of Past



YE Student
Corinne Wargo

President Catherine Foley, gave a presentation on her time in Turkey as a Rotary Youth Exchange student. In addition to experiencing another culture and seeing amazing historical sights, she also enjoyed connecting with the other Youth Exchange students from around the world who also were in Turkey.



The club picnic was held for the second year in mid-September at Captain Scott's with greater participation in Reid Burdick's Do Good Hydration Cooler.

In September, Past District Governor Pam

Akins was a Governor Elect Trainer at the Zone 31-32 Institute in Philadelphia. Her husband Barry Levinson was recruited to train Governor Elect Spouses.



Above: DG Rick Benson (right), his wife Totney (left) & Frank McLaughlin

Right: Gourmet Galley's Anna Lathrop takes People's & Judges' Prizes



The fall Brewfest was held at Ocean Beach on October 3rd with District Governor Rick Benson and *The Day's* Rick Koster as the cook-off judges for the chowder cook-off. Chair Phil Turner reported that this "fest" was the second most successful Brewfest, with anticipated net of around \$25,000. Fourteen area restaurants and organizations participated in the chowder cook-off, with Gourmet

Galley taking both the People's and the Judges' First Place Choice. Forty-four Rotarians and 12 family members plus 14 Pfizer employees and five Smith Insurance employees worked the event.

Throughout this Rotary year, club volunteers worked at the New London Soup Kitchen every second Thursday and mentored middle school students. October 4th, club members also did a cleanup of Ocean Beach working with the Waterford Rotary as part of the District Make-a-Difference Day; all were invited to a picnic at Waterford Beach afterwards.



The Serviceperson of the Month was honored in November during a Veterans Day luncheon that included Lew Buckley playing “Taps” on the trumpet and a selection of patriotic songs sung by a Coast Guard Academy choral group.



Lorraine Allen read Thank You letters for Dictionaries

Also in November, with Lorraine Allen as chair, the club again gave out dictionaries to third graders in all New London public, private and parochial schools as part of the Dictionary Project. The club also participated again in the Liberty Bank Thanksgiving Turkey Drive with additional donations from the New London Elks. On November 17th, the club installed a bench at the Cedar Grove Cemetery next to the pond on the south end of the cemetery.



Doug Allen presents check from NL Elks for Liberty Bank Food Drive



To top the month off, the Saturday after Thanksgiving, club volunteers and family members again provided sand buckets to the homes and facilities of the disabled and elderly.

November 6th, Bill and Ann Schmidt were recognized at the Foundation Dinner for joining The Rotary Foundation's Bequest Society by naming the Foundation in their wills. Mil-



Bill & Ann Schmidt with RI President Elect Ray Klinginsmith

lie Devine and Ann Connolly visited Paul Harris' Schoolhouse and brought back a memento for the club.

Throughout the year, Reid Burdick organized RAHs (Rotary After Hours) on a bimonthly basis and also hosted the holiday party at his home in December.



Rick & Todd Gipstein with “Big” check for their father's 105th birthday

Rick and Todd Gipstein celebrated the 105th birthday of their father, past Rotarian Dr. Edward Gipstein, with a check to the club for \$105.

For the Holiday Literacy Program, Frank and Lynda McLaughlin, dressed as Santa's elves, read Dr. Seuss books to preschool children. Afterward, books were delivered to area daycare locations.



Frank & Lynda MacLaughlin read to daycare children

Trolley Station Info Booth



Saved from demolition by Dick Humphreville and Rick Gipstein, the last remaining trolley station from the old regional system was used for years as a storage shed by Cedar Grove Cemetery. Relocated with a new foundation to an open space in front of Union Station, it was then moved to the corner of the municipal parking lot off Eugene O'Neill Drive, to serve as a tourist information building staffed by New London volunteers.

Unfortunately, the building was put in the middle of paving with inappropriate wood stairs and two ugly concrete planters meant to serve as traffic barriers. Rick Gipstein thought the city deserved a more welcoming and finished-looking site, so he asked landscape architect Brian Kent of Kent+Frost in Mystic for a pro bono plan to improve the trolley station's setting. New London Rotary gave \$14,000 toward the total cost of \$44,000 for improvements, consisting of a series of solid concrete blocks, whose different shapes served as stairs, benches and a traffic barrier. Additionally, the surface was better defined with brick and concrete pavers; landscaping and a bike rack were also included. The trolley booth now has a better home and offers a more attractive image for New London tourism.



Joel Silberman

Some interesting club programs for 2008-09 were: Old Saybrook Rotarian John Donnelly on his One World Literacy Project in Ghana, our GSE team member to Mexico Anne Stockton, Associate Artistic Director of the O'Neill Cabaret Program Joel Silberman who entertained us with Broadway tunes, Wounds of War portraits, NLPD police dog "Kilo," Todd Gipstein's magic show, the Connecticut Jammers Wheelchair Rugby Team, Iraq-deployed medic



Wheelchair Rugby

Captain James Moran, Jr., Jerry Fischer's presentation on the Israeli-Palestinian situation in Gaza, Heavy Hitters, Inc.'s at-risk youth program, and Antarctic historian and resident for 3 ½ years Richard Wolak.

Morning Group Begins

On January 22, 2009, the club started an experimental morning meeting as an alternative to the noon meeting. The small group met at 7 a.m. at the Radisson Hotel for breakfast and conversation. Organizer Ivan Sadler ran the first meeting with District Governor Rick Benson and President Michel Belt in attendance. The group agreed to maintain as many New London Rotary traditions as possible, including attendance taking, pledge, glad and sorry, announcements and a program.



During one special program in February, Janet Pearce, Vivian Stanley and Lorraine Allen's husband Doug talked about how polio had affected their families with siblings or parents who were polio victims. President Elect Anna Lathrop and Vice



President Kathleen Neal announced a "Gas Raffle" to raise funds for the Polio Plus End Polio Now Campaign, and Doug Allen, a New London Elk, presented a check to the New London Rotary Club from the Elks Club for Polio Plus.



Elk Doug Allen presents check for End Polio Now campaign

In March, the club held an "Erin Go RAH" social at Hanafin's Irish Pub.



April 11th, New London Rotary joined with four other Rotary clubs for the Rotary Chikumbuso Pancake Breakfast at Connecticut College. The project was chaired by Julia Kushigian Secor to raise funds for the Zambian



nonprofit. The following week, the nonprofit gave a presentation on the group's achievements and offered handbags, totes and other items produced by the Chikumbuso women.

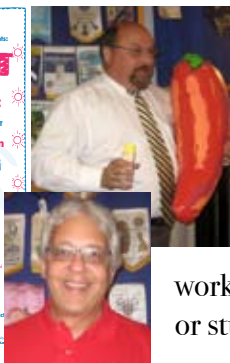


A large group of New London Rotarians attended the District Assembly in Cromwell where PDG Pam Akins, Barry Levinson and Reid



District Assembly attendees

Burdick moderated breakout sessions. Reid Burdick's session was on "Putting Fun into Rotary."



The spring Brewfest at the Beach was held on May 22, 2009, and featured a chili cook-off, with judges Reid Burdick and Rick Koster selecting New London's Bean & Leaf as first place winner. The following week, Chair Phil Turner and Brewfest founder Ed Cramer announced that the fundraiser had netted over \$19,000. Volunteers Chair Geraldine Tom thanked the 42 Rotarians and 10 spouses who worked the event, as well as 15 other volunteers, including friends or students from Connecticut College.

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

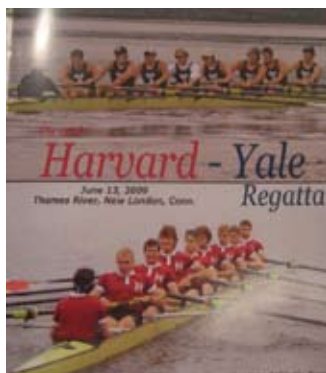


In addition to the two Brewfests and the wishing well at Barry's Cleaners, the club also raised another \$2,200-plus from its silent auction at the installation banquet and weekly auction. Not only did the New London Rotary Foundation fund Camp Rotary, it also gave \$14,000 for the refurbishment of the Trolley Station, covered the cost of major repairs at the Centennial Playground, funded another Charles Lee Scholarship, and contributed to a Madison Rotary project.

Additional smaller donations were made to the New London Homeless Benefit, US Submarine Vets, Women's Center of Southeastern Connecticut, New London Main Street, Haitian Health Foundation, and New London Babe Ruth League.

The New London High School Interact Club donated \$150 to the Haitian Health Foundation for the purchase of a goat for a Haitian family and \$50 to the New London Community Meals Center.

Pete Connair, Pam Akins, Catherine Foley, Barry Levinson, Geraldine Tom, Mary Lenzini, and Josephine Beebe were recognized with Paul Harris sapphire pins for their multiple \$1,000 donations to The Rotary Foundation.



Craig Lambert & Mayor Wade Hyslop draw lanes

June 11th, the club hosted the Yale-Harvard Regatta teams and New London Mayor Wade Hyslop. The Saturday event was the 144th time the two teams rowed against each other and the 131st time on the Thames River. The keynote speaker was Craig Lambert, editor of *Harvard Magazine* and freelance writer for *Sports Illustrated*. He spoke about rowing for Harvard in the late '60s and recently wrote *Mind Over Water: Lessons on Life from the Art of Rowing*.

Throughout the year, 15 students from New London public, private and parochial schools, including New London Adult Education and magnet schools, were recognized as their respective school's Student of the Year at weekly luncheons. The club also awarded the 10th Dr. Charles Lee Scholarship to Simone Barner, as well as Rotary Scholars, Robert Groebel, Benjamin Levinson Community Service, and Harry Birenbaum Music Scholarship Awards.



Barry Levinson, Gerry Tom and Lisa Kasprzak arranged for accommodations for a four-person bicycle relay team from the Houston Police Department riding from Houston to Providence to raise funds for the Leukemia Society.

President Elect Anna Lathrop and Holly Jermar—there on behalf of the RI Worldwide Youth Exchange Conference—attended the Rotary Convention in Birmingham, England.

2009-10, President Anna Lathrop

The installation banquet for Rotary year 2009-10 was held July 2, 2009, at the Radisson Hotel. Past District Governor Alan Hurst installed Anna Lathrop as President with Geraldine Tom as President Elect and Vivian Stanley as Vice President. Isabelle Singer and Leon Lehrer were recognized as Club Honored Paul Harris Fellows. Ulysses Hammond and Ann Connolly were also recognized with Paul Harris Fellowships at club meetings a few weeks later. The Carl Wies Award for 2009 was given to Ann Connolly at the same club meeting.



On July 30th, Camp Rotary celebrated its 15th year at a luncheon at the Shiloh Family Life Center with a birthday cake and a student demonstration of their morning warm-up drill. Several students talked about how the camp taught responsibility and leadership.



Chikumbuso Live
Auction Fundraiser

The following day, the New London club participated with other area clubs in a joint wine tasting and auction at Stonington Vineyards for Chikumbuso. Anne Schmidt also held a "Girls Night Out" that raised \$1,000 for the African nonprofit.

August 20th, the annual picnic was held at Captain Scott's with Reid Burdick again providing his Do Good Fund Hydration Cooler. President Anna reported that the Gas Raffle raised



Polio Plus
Gas Raffle

\$3,000 for Polio Plus after a special push by Reid Burdick at Ocean Beach's antique car rally.

In September, Past Presidents Chris Neilan and Phil Turner received their second Distinguished Service Paul Harris Fellowships.



Octoberfest with an expanded venue onto the end of the boardwalk was attended by a record number of patrons. A few weeks later Brewfest



Phil Turner reports
on Brewfest success

Chair Past President Phil Turner reported that it was the most successful Brewfest ever, grossing over \$35,000 with an anticipated net of \$28,000. Geraldine Tom coordinated 84 volunteers: 55 Rotarians and 29 family and friends, and Millicent Gershon, wife of District Governor Colin Gershon, and *The Day's* Rick Koster were the chowder cook-off judges. Gourmet Galley earned People's Choice for best chowder, while Lawrence & Memorial Hospital received a special thanks for providing 40 gallons of chowder.

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017



Ed Cramer thanks Eric Filardi of F&F Distributors for their participation

At the following club meeting, Ed Cramer presented “Best Supplier of the Year” and “Good & Plenty” awards to Eric Filardi of F&F Distributors, who supplied 300-400 cases of beer to each Brewfest.

October 13-14, Tom Wetmore bicycled 84 miles to commemorate his 84th birthday. The following Thursday, his actual birthday, he brought his bike cyclometer and helmet to the meeting and put a check for \$84 in the helmet for the miles he cycled, and then he passed the “hat,” raising \$243 for the Do Good Fund.



Tom Wetmore with his bicycle helmet challenge

Good Genes, Old Jeans



In 2009, club members were reminded of the secrets of longevity. Rick and Todd Gipstein auctioned off their father's (105-year-old Edward Gipstein) secret to longevity. Barry Levinson purchased the “Top Secret” black box for \$105 and opened it to find the secret to longevity was “good genes”—and held



up the pair of old blue jeans inside the box. A few weeks later, Tom Wetmore bicycled 84 miles over October 13 and 14 to celebrate his 84th birthday. Tom then attended the Rotary meeting the next day with his bike cyclometer and helmet in hand and passed his helmet with a check in it for \$84 for the Do Good Fund. He raised \$243 for Do Good and said, “Twas a good week, life goes on.”

PDG Pam Akins Serves as GETS Chair at Zone Institute

In October, Past District Governor Pam Akins served as the Rotary Zone 31 Governor Elect Training Seminar Chair in Niagara Falls, Canada, and produced all GETS training materials. Past President Barry Levinson was GETS Partner Training Chair.



Employee Recognition Day



October 29th was Employee Recognition Day, organized by Denny Hicks. Those recognized were Satomi Raeska of the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut, Christine Page Doembkowski of Connecticut College, Christine Robertson of Olde Mystick Village, Marcia Gipstein of Gipstein Multi-Media, Debbie Harris of Lindsay, Liebig, Roche Architects, Mimi Perl of the United Jewish Federation, Denise Churchill of Rogovin Moving and Storage Co., Milton Cook of OIC, and Pat Santora of the New London Salvation Army.



In November, the New London Elks joined the New London Rotary in the Liberty Bank Holiday Food Drive. President Anna Lathrop was also presented with a thank you plaque from the Elks for the club's donation to the Elks Fund Drive for Veteran Day Festivities. Rotary's donation provided transportation for veterans from the Rocky Hill VA Hospital to the New London Elks Lodge so they could be honored for their service.



November also saw the annual recognition of the Serviceperson of the Month. For the New London Rotary's Veterans Day Celebration, Coast Guard trumpeter Joel Flunker played "Taps," the New London High School JN-



ROTC presented colors, and the USCG Choir sang the national anthem and a mix of sea chanteys and patriotic music.



Children from the Childworks Preschool were guests at the club's Holiday Literacy Program in December. Henry Savin, our resident storyteller, had the children gather around while he told a story that required sound effects. He then read the book "I'm Not Santa," about a baby owl, baby hare and a case of mistaken identity.



The club held its Holiday Party at Ocean Beach, and at a December meeting, Jerry Fischer told the story of Hanukkah and lit menorah candles with Rabbi Carl Astor.



The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017



On Christmas Eve, the club enjoyed a program by Ian Frenkel, our club pianist who was also a member of the Coast Guard Band; Ian played a wonderful 30 minutes of holiday jazz tunes.

Ian Frenkel Jazz Holiday Program

Matching Grant for Chikumbuso

During the 2009-10 year, the club put together a \$22,823 Matching Grant for the Chikumbuso Project, a nonprofit in Lusaka, Zambia, that provides a host of services to aid young widows age 15-25, their children, and orphans who have lost both parents because of the AIDS epidemic in that country.

The Women and Orphans grant provided HIV/AIDS counseling and vocational skills training for 60-plus women with no other means of support for their families. It also nurtured the development of micro-businesses by the women; they were taught tailoring, menses packet and diaper manufacturing, and were engaged in creating a variety of products such as wallets, handbags, totes and bracelets for export. The grant put together by Anne Schmidt also included health cards and lunch for the training participants, as well as education of the project's 300 orphans.



Anne Schmidt was recognized in the spring of 2010 by the New London Rotary and District Governor Colin Gershon with a Distinguished Service Award Paul Harris Fellowship for her work to support the program and secure the grant that included the Rotary Clubs of Stoningtons, Mystic and Groton-Ledyard.



NLHS Interactors with Advisor Barry Runyan (left)

On January 21, members of the club's New London High School Interact with their Rotary advisors Barry Runyan and Jill Mauritz visited the club luncheon.

A RAH (Rotary After Hours) was held on January 28, 2010, at City News, the home of the morning group,

with wine, cheese, Beatles music and a karaoke performance.



Karaoke RAH at City News



February 4th—although late by a few days—Retired USN Rear Admiral Dave Goebel pulled out the stops to give the club a full-fledged Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, Groundhog Day experience with not only his Punxsutawney Phil sweatshirt and hat, but a full family of plush groundhogs.

Throughout the year, the club maintained its monthly meal preparation and cleanup at the New London Soup Kitchen. The club also invited a team of USCGA first class cadets to do an analysis of the club's community

outreach. The cadets met with a panel of Rotarians to discuss matching grant guidelines and previous community projects. They then joined the entire club at a luncheon on February 4th. The cadets returned with a presentation on their research and analysis at the April 22nd meeting. Also in April, President Anna, President Elect Gerry Tom and Meredith Diette reported on the Rotary Visioning Exercise they participated in.

When District Governor Colin Gershon came to the club to honor Anne Schmidt for her work for Chikumbuso, he also recognized, with the help of Ed Cramer and Reid Burdick, Dave Sugrue, a non-Rotarian and manager of Ocean Beach Park, as a Distinguished Service Paul Harris Fellow for his continued help over the 14 years of Brewfest at the Beach.



First Global Grant in the World



During the 2009-10 year, Past District Governor Pam Akins, serving as the District Foundation Chair, signed off on the first Global Grant in the world under the new Future Vision model of

The Rotary Foundation. That grant, that involved several District 7980 Rotary Clubs including New London, provided funding for the tiling of in-home standing-water basins with white tiles in Jakarta, Indonesia, as a means of eliminating mosquito larvae that carry dengue fever (this grant and two follow-on grants were featured seven years later in a video at the Rotary International Convention in Atlanta in 2017).



Victoria Mueller
pitches new
Rotaract Club

In April 2010, the club re-initiated a community-based Rotaract with Victoria Mueller as its President. The first meeting was at Hanafin's Irish Pub and 15 prospective members attended. The new Rotaract soon joined the New London Rotary in our Brewfest at the Beach.

The club recognized its Unsung Hero, Carl Lee, at the luncheon meeting on April 15th. Mr. Lee was head of the West Street Neighborhood Alliance, a member of Save Our Beach boardwalk rehabilitation project, an active member of the St. James Episcopal Church, and a graduate of the "Police Academy" which teaches citizens about how to interact with city police.

Tributes to Rotarians Don Mitchell and Frank Laycock



On May 20, 2010, the club recognized Don Mitchell for his 50 years in Rotary and Frank Laycock for his 60 years in Rotary. Don started the Rotary Scholars academic recognition program in 1966. Frank served as President during Rotary's 50th Anniversary in 1954-55, when at age 30 he was the youngest president the club had had. Both received plaques from District Governor Colin Gershon for their long years of service.

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

At the District Conference in Burlington, Vermont, attended by Anna Lathrop, Geraldine Tom, Vivian Stanley, Catherine Foley, Jerry Olson, Pam Akins, and Barry Levinson, the New London Rotary received the District Club Service Award.

Late May, the club again hosted the Yale-Harvard coaches and team members, with an address from Steve Brooks, who rowed for three years at Harvard and also on the U.S. Olympic team; he also presented a video that had footage from a 1937 home movie of the race made by J. P. Morgan, Jr.



Pam Akins & Gerry Tom
accept District Club
Service Award for club

Some outstanding programs for 2009-10 were: 100 Years of Ledge Light by Todd Gipstein, VNA Director Mary Lenzini on H1N1 Swine Flu, Past President Rick Gipstein's club bio, Tom Kasprzak's presentation on organ donation, Shoreline East train service from Old Saybrook, Four Generations of the Bingham Family including missionaries in Hawaii, the discovery of Machu Picchu, and a Righteous Diplomat who helped thousands of Jews escape Europe in 1940-41, young Israelis Shoshan Zahar and Hadar Elya, the Pfizer Global Health Fellowship in Kenya, the Armenian Holocaust, GSE teams from South Africa and Australia, and Dr. Bill Schmidt on Winston Churchill.



Hiram Bingham IV
Righteous Diplomat Stamp

Throughout the year, 15 students from New London public, private and parochial schools, including New London Adult Education and magnet schools, were recognized as their respective school's Student of the Year at weekly luncheons. The club also awarded the 11th Dr. Charles Lee Scholarship to Camille Williams, as well as New London High School Rotary Scholars, Robert Groebel Award, Benjamin Levinson Community Service Award, and Harry Birenbaum Music Scholarship Award.



Julia Kushigian & Penny Parsekian
talk about Armenian Holocaust



NLRF Chair Andy Russell presents
\$5,000 check to Save Ocean Beach

During the 2009-10 year, in addition to Camp Rotary, Centennial Playground maintenance, the final work on the Trolley Booth, and a Charles Lee Scholarship, the New London Rotary Foundation contributed \$2,000 to the District Foundation for Haitian Earthquake Relief, \$3,000 for Polio Plus, \$5,000 to Save Ocean Beach for boardwalk repair and facilities refurbishment, \$8,452 toward the Matching Grant for Chikumbuso, \$3,000 toward another Matching Grant in Indonesia to eliminate dengue fever in the slums of Jakarta, and \$857 to TVCCA for its New London Health Clinic. Smaller donations were made to the District Governor Colin's Hole in the Wall Campers, a Benefit for the Homeless, US Sub Vets, the New London Elks, Haitian Health Foundation, New London Babe Ruth League, Camp Harkness, International Fellowship of Scouting in honor of

George Fisher and Marjorie Dedrick, and the Neighborhood Alliance Fishing at the Pier Program. The Do Good Fund also made small donations to address emergency needs of individuals.



Phil Turner
Brewfest Chair

June 3rd, Phil Turner, who had been battling cancer, returned with a standing ovation from the club to report on the May 21st Brewfest at the Beach. The fundraiser grossed \$28,000, with an expected net of \$20,000, and involved 94 volunteers, of which 47 were Rotarians with 33 family members and 14 Rotaractors. The chili cook-off, co-chaired by MaryLou Underwood and Anna Lathrop, involved 21 vendors, with Chester's Barbeque taking first prize in both the Judges' and People's Choice categories.

Late June, club members conducted a Saturday morning Centennial Playground cleanup, and the morning group held an ice cream party at Thames River Greenery with a \$1 donation per cone going to Camp Rotary. The fundraiser resulted in \$800 for Camp Rotary.

Lorraine Allen, Geraldine Tom, John Bysko, Pam Akins, Barry Levinson, Pete Connair and Rick Gipstein received Paul Harris pins with sapphires and rubies for their continued donations to The Rotary Foundation. Jerry Fischer started a group of five giving \$200 each annually to The Rotary Foundation, with one receiving a Paul Harris Fellowship each year.

June 20-23, 2010, Pam Akins, Barry Levinson and Geraldine Tom attended the Rotary International Convention in Montreal, Canada. Holly Jermar was also there in her capacity of providing travel assistance and instructions to Rotary Youth Exchange students.



Morning Group
Ice Cream Social

Approaching the Club Centennial, 2010-2017: Third Governor from the Club, Global Grants & Centennial Pavilion

The new Rotary decade began with the Rotaract Club underway and a major change in the location and scope of Camp Rotary. The next seven years also proceeded toward a new Centennial Pavilion for Ocean Beach Park.

2010-11, President Geraldine “Gerry” Tom

At the installation dinner on July 8, 2010, Past District Governor Pam Akins inducted Geraldine Tom as President, Vivian Stanley as President Elect and Kathleen Neal as Vice President, Marj Taggart-Dedrick as Secretary, Walt Makepeace as Treasurer and Lorraine Allen as Sergeant-at-Arms. Margaret “Peg” Curtin and Mary Ellen Jukoski were given Distinguished Service Award Paul Harris Fellowships, and Catherine Foley received the Carl Wies Award. PDG Colin also recognized Marjorie Dedrick and George Fisher with Cliff Dochterman Awards as exemplary Rotary Scouts.



Cliff Dochterman Scouts Awardees Marj Dedrick & George Fisher with PDGs Colin Gershon & Rick Benson



The annual club picnic returned to Captain Scott's on August 19th and over 96 Rotarians and family and friends attended; Reid Burdick again



raised donations for the Do Good Fund with his “hydration” cooler.

The following week, New London Elk Doug Allen presented another check to New London Rotary for Polio Plus. Also for Polio Plus, the club held a fundraiser, “Rotary Night at Mohegan Sun,” to create awareness of Rotary’s End Polio Now campaign.



NL Elk Doug Allen presents Polio Plus check

MaryLou Underwood, Pam Akins, Dave Goebel & Gerry Tom for End Polio Now



Camp Rotary Goes AVID at Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School



Camp Rotary moved from Shiloh Family Life Center to Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School under the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Program, which put middle school students on track for college.

Alison Burdick Ryan, the new interim principal at Bennie Dover, a Rotary Scholar and the daughter of Rotarian Reid Burdick, explained at a luncheon meeting with the campers at Port 'N Starboard on August 3rd that the program's approach of academic rigor helps students become better problem solvers. At the end of the program, she presented President Gerry Tom with a "Students Today, Leaders Tomorrow" t-shirt.



Connecticut College continued to provide camp counselors and offer facilities for afternoon athletics and swimming while the New London Community Boating provided sailing instruction at Green Harbor Beach. The camp also included day trips to Mystic Seaport, Mystic Aquarium, Ocean Beach and Six Flags of New England.



ing provided sailing instruction at Green Harbor Beach. The camp also included day trips to Mystic Seaport, Mystic Aquarium, Ocean Beach and Six Flags of New England.



New London Rotaract Club

In September meeting, Rotaract Advisor Mel Foti reported that the young adult club was up to 20 members.

The last day of September, Naoko Takada, guest soloist for an upcoming Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra concert, gave the club a



ECSCO Music Director Toshi Shimada & Naoko Takada

demonstration of what it is like to play the marimba and how it differs from a xylophone and vibraphone.



October 1st was Brewfest at the Beach with 50 Rotarians and family members and 10 Ro-



Phil Turner (left) gives Dave Scott of Neon Chicken 1st Prize

taractors working the event. Phil Turner reported that the fest had grossed over \$24,000 with an expected net of \$18,000. Neon Chicken took the Judges' Choice First Prize for its chicken chowder, The People's Choice went to Mimi's Shaw's Cove Deli. Ed Cramer presented the Good 'N Plenty Award to Bob Ames who seemed to be everywhere helping out.



Bob Ames gets Good 'N Plenty Award

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

Anne Schmidt's Rotary Foundation Major Donor Reception

*You are cordially invited to a Reception to Honor
the Good Works of The Rotary Foundation.*



Date: September 23, 2010

Time: 4:30 to 6:30 pm

*Place: The Waterfront Home of Atty. Linda Mariani
756 Pequot Avenue • New London, CT 06320*

*Elegant Hors D'oeuvres & Drinks
Available for Your Enjoyment*

*Please RSVP by September 19th
to New London Rotarian
Anne Schmidt at 860-443-7559
or kschmidt01@er.net*



Through Anne Schmidt's initiative, the club hosted a Rotary Foundation reception on September 23, 2010, at Attorney Linda Mariani's waterfront home to recognize and encourage Major Donors, Bequest Society and Paul Harris Society Members. District Governor Julie Reppenhagen and Past Governors John Leask, Colin Gershon and Pamela Akins attended, as well as Jenna Steiner, Major Gifts Officer of Rotary International. Anne spent months planning the event with committee meetings in her home even while she was battling pancreatic cancer. She summoned all her energy to attend the reception. The following spring, after Anne's passing, Jenna Steiner returned to the club to give a moving tribute to Anne and to recognize her husband, Bill Schmidt, for his loving support of her.



Rotaract Club Charter Night



In October 2010, the New London County Community Rotaract held its Charter Celebration at the Thames Club in New London. Guests included Past District Governor Colin Gershon, District Governor Elect Rupi Rupwani and Assistant Governor Chip Marsh.

Rotaract club members presented their projects. They had already planted bulbs in a New London park, helped with Covenant Shelter car washes and Homeless to Hopeful event, participated in the Tommy Toy Fund, and raised money to adopt a village in Kolar, India, through the South Asia Pure Water Initiative. The Rotaract members were also mentoring the New London Rotary Interact Club.

Club members weeded, painted, and repaired equipment at the Centennial Playground October 9th and served dinner at the New London Senior Center on the 20th.

November 4th, 85-year-old Tom Wetmore talked about the four matching grants he did in Bogotá, Colombia, the grant in Chile brought to the club by Tracee Reiser, and the recent grants in Zambia and Nicaragua. He finished by telling the club about his annual goal of bicycling the number of miles of his age, but he said it was getting harder to do, so he took a friend's advice and bicycled 85 kilometers instead of miles. As he had since he turned 80, he put a check for his age, \$85, in his bicycle helmet and passed it for donation to the Do Good Fund, raising \$300.

New London Elk Doug Allen also returned to the club in November with a check from the Elks Club for the Rotary/Liberty Bank Food Drive.



Geraldine Tom, Pam Akins, Pete Connair, Barry Levinson and Bill Schmidt attended the District Foundation Dinner in Orange on November 3rd. New London was recognized as the No. 1 Club in the district for total giving to The Rotary Foundation. Earning Paul Harris sapphires and rubies throughout the year were



Mike Stryker, Steve Percy, Lorraine Allen, Reid Burdick, Gerry Tom, Pam Akins, Barry Levinson, Tom Wetmore, Walt Makepeace, Denny Hicks, Ann Connolly, Mary Ellen Jukoski, Pete Connair, Jim McGuire, Myron Hendel, and Andy Russell. Millie Devine received a Rotary Foundation crystal for joining the Bequest Society.



The club purchased and presented approximately 500 dictionaries to New London third graders in all public, private and parochial schools during the first two weeks in November 2010. In the spring, Jerry Fischer brought 56 leftover dictionaries on his "Rotary Trip to Israel" to present to the Rotary Club of Haifa, Israel. Eight New London Rotarians joined him on the trip and took part in the presentation.



On Veterans Day, the club again honored our men and women in uniform with a special program. Retired USCG Rear Admiral Tom Wetmore offered the invocation, Retired USCG Captain Lewis Buckley played "Taps," and colors were presented by the NLHS JNROTC. Following the singing of the national anthem, the USCGA

Fairwinds, an all-female *a cappella* group, presented a program of musical theater tunes and sea shanties. The club, as its tradition,



The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

also sang the anthems of each branch of service and recognized the Serviceperson of the Month.

We were saddened by the passing of Anne Schmidt, beloved wife of Dr. Bill Schmidt, who had shown such a commitment to do good in the world through The Rotary Foundation, including securing a \$22,000 Matching Grant for Chikumbuso. Anne had been the Director of Major Gifts in Connecticut for the American Cancer Society and later the Executive Director of the nonprofit's New London chapter.



Anne Schmidt



Polio Plus Holiday Fundraiser



Rotaractors read to preschoolers

In December, Ken Jarka hosted a holiday fundraiser at his home, raising over \$1,000 for Polio Plus. The

Holiday Literacy Program hosted preschool children from Shiloh Baptist Church Childworks and the TVCCA, with readings from children's books by Rotaractors Dena Poblete, Victoria Mueller and Caitlin Murphy.



Children from Childworks & TVCCA

In addition, the club purchased and distributed approximately 500 age-appropriate books to various community children's learning centers. All the children were able to take home two books each. The project was funded through member contributions.



Our favorite Russian jazz pianist Ian Frenkel doing holiday tunes

December 23, Ian Frenkel again entertained us with a piano concert of jazz and American Song Book favorites. The club finished off the holiday season with an "After-Holiday Holiday RAH" at the Thames Club.



Thames Club
After-Holiday Holiday RAH



Approaching the Club Centennial, 2010-2017

In January 2011, Interact Liaison Jill Anderson reported that the NLHS Interact Club was up to 25 members. The morning group celebrated a “January Thaw” RAH at On the Waterfront restaurant.



On the Waterfront RAH

New London Rotarians Participate in Polio Eradication Effort in India



times a year, immunizing all children under the age of five to wipe out the polio virus. After a week of touring major sites in northern India, Pam and Barry took part in the NID in



the virus had his or her little finger marked with a purple marker. The second day, they went to one of the poorest slums of the city to find those children who



had not received the vaccine the day before. After the NID, Pam and Barry traveled back to New Delhi where they met with the head of the polio eradication effort of the World Health Organization, Dr. Hamid Jafari, who gave a presentation on the strides made in polio eradication over the past 25 years.

Upon their return, PDG Pam gave presentations about the NID at area Rotary clubs and created a narrated slide show for the District Conference.

In February 2011, Past District Governor Pam Akins and Past President Barry Levinson went to India to participate in a National Immunization Day (NID) for polio eradication. The NID was a nationwide campaign that the Indians did eight



times a year, immunizing all children under the age of five to wipe out the polio virus. After a week of touring major sites in northern India, Pam and Barry took part in the NID in Moradabad, a city of 4 million people in the state of Uttar Pradesh where wild polio virus was still present. The first day of the NID, they gave polio drops in the train station, bus station, at roadside booths, a daycare center and even at a “tent” city near the train tracks. Every child that received



the vaccine the day before. After the NID, Pam and Barry traveled back to New Delhi where they met with the head of the polio eradication effort of the World Health Organization, Dr. Hamid Jafari, who gave a presentation on the strides made in polio eradication over the past 25 years.



The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017



February 3rd, Dave Goebel again brought us his version of Groundhog Day and Punxsutawney Phil, and the club recognized employees for their contributions to their places of work. Those recognized were: Meg Akeman of the Chamber of Commerce, Diane O'Brien of Pequot Realty, Nancy Lewandosky of Connecticut College, Emily Lavoie of Barry's Cleaners, Clare Noel of Olde Mystick Village, and even Rotarian Ed Perl for his advice to President Gerry Tom.



On St. Patrick's Day, club volunteers served corned beef and cabbage at the New London Senior Center. The meal was prepared by Anna Lathrop's Gourmet Galley, and Chris Neilan entertained the seniors on the banjo. This event was the last of three Senior Dinners that the club sponsored at the Senior Center that year. The two earlier meals were prepared by TVCCA and also served by Rotarians. Many members contributed gift cards to be given as prizes to the seniors.



The club's Unsung Hero Award was presented April 14th to Jean-

nette Cavanaugh and Judy Cammerata, volunteers at the Garde Arts Center. Throughout the year, the club also recognized Student of the Year honorees from all public, private, magnet and parochial schools in New London, including New London Adult Education. The 12th Charles Lee Scholarship went to Yosha Dhungana. Recognition was also provided to New London High School students through the Robert Groebel Award, Benjamin Levinson Community Service Award and Harry Birenbaum Music Scholarship.



The Garde's Steve Sigel between Unsung Heroes Jeannette Cavanaugh & Judy Cammerata



Reid Burdick's excitement over check for NLHS Champs

The club also continued to provide volunteers monthly for meal preparation and cleanup at the New London Community Meals Center and mentored students at Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School. On April 17, club volunteers staffed a table at the Crystal Mall for the Hospice of Southeastern Connecticut Tree of Life. Also Reid Burdick again came to the club for donations to purchase state championship rings for the New London High Basketball Team. The club responded with a check for \$3,000.

The club foundation continued to cover project, scholarship and charitable commitments. On the income side, in addition to the Brewfests, the silent auction at the installation banquet, wishing well, and ice cream social brought in over \$7,500. On the expense side, in addition to \$26,000 for Camp Rotary and \$1,000 to complete the final Charles Lee Scholarship, the New London Rotary Foundation gave \$2,100 to TVCCA's Meals on Wheels. Smaller amounts went to the District Foundation for SEEDS and Japanese tsunami relief, the Homeless to Hopeful Benefit, US Sub

Vets, New London Main Street, Neighborhood Alliance, Haitian Health Foundation, New London Babe Ruth League, and Chikumbuso. The Do Good Fund made donations to the New London public and magnet schools as well as to families with emergency needs.

During 2010-11, the club sought a better understanding of members' interests through a survey. A committee chaired by Liz Binger put together and distributed the written survey and then collated and presented the answers. We also held a new member orientation with a presentation by Meredith Diette at OIC. New and prospective members were invited to attend. One prospective member joined the club and is still a member in good standing.



May 4th, Chaplin's Restaurant hosted a wine tasting dinner as a spring RAH. At the luncheon meeting on May 12th, the club recognized two individuals with Distinguished Service Awards with Paul Harris Fellowships. The first went posthumously to Eleanor Hage for her 20



Above and Left:
Chaplin's RAH



Joseph & Elias Hage
receiving Eleanor Hage's
posthumous Unsung
Hero Award

years as coordinator of the New London Area Food Pantry and volunteer coordinator for the New London Soup Kitchen. This award was accepted by her husband Elias and son Joseph. The second honoree was Charlotte Hennegan of Thames River Greenery for her commitment to the City of New London.

President Geraldine Tom attended the Rotary International Convention in New Orleans, Louisiana.



New London's
Unsung Hero
Charlotte
Hennegan

Barry Levinson Receives District's Donald Adams Award



At the May 12-15, 2011, District Conference in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, Past President Barry Levinson was awarded the District's prestigious Donald Adams Award for his exceptional service to the New London Club and to the District. Because Barry was unable to be at the District Conference because of his daughter's wedding, District Governor Julie Reppenhagen presented the award to him at a luncheon meeting in June.



May 26th, the club hosted the annual Yale-Harvard luncheon with the Lions and Kiwanis Clubs. Yale Varsity Coach Steve Gladstone and



Harvard Head Coach Harry Parker—approaching 50 years at Harvard—spoke briefly. Then Thomas Weil talked about the oldest intercollegiate rivalry.

The spring Brewfest at the Beach yielded approximately \$20,000 with an expected net revenue of \$11,000. Jim Reed of Hall Radio served as the chili cook-off judge. First place People's and Judge's Choices went to the New London Fire Department.



Springfest Judge
Jim Reed

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

June 11th, club volunteers brought their own gloves, rakes, and brooms for a Saturday morning cleanup at the Centennial Playground. Club members also did an Amber Alert, providing IDs for children, at the City of New London



Undefeated NLHS Basketball Team

Community Festival. June 16, the club hosted the New London High School Basketball Team in recognition of their undefeated state championship season and presented 10 players with championship rings.



Amber Alert

Some interesting programs were: Connecticut Business & Industry Association, Mitchell College Career Center, Lorraine Allen's in-costume portrayal



Dorothy Parker/
Lorraine Allen



of Dorothy Parker, Desiree Subotica of the Mystic Ballet, Pillows for Soldiers, Brett Bernardini and the Spirit of Broadway Theater, New London Police Dog "Scout" and Officer Hayes, Rick Gipstein's talk on Parkinson's Disease, Connecticut College President Dr. Lee Higdon, Connecticut Sun Women's Basketball, and FBI Agent Mark LaFance.



NLPD
Officer Hayes &
Scout

On June 30, 2011, the club held its installation banquet at the Garde Arts Center and inducted Vivian Stanley as President for 2011-12, Kathleen Neal as President Elect and Meredith Diette as Vice President. Ivan Sadler, Michel Belt and William Schmidt were recognized with Distinguished Service Paul Harris Fellowships. The Carl Wies Award went to Michel Belt. The highlight of the evening was a program of Steve Sigel on the violin and Pat Mitchell on piano.

2011-12, *President Vivian Stanley*

New London Rotary lost Past President Phil Turner in late June and in early July Ed Cramer led the club in a tribute to Phil who had served as Brewfest Chair for the past seven years. A celebration of his life was held at Latitude 41 Restaurant in Mystic later that summer.

Camp Rotary celebrated its 17th year the summer of 2011 and its second



year as part of the New London Public Schools AVID Program at Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School. In addition to the rigorous academic curriculum, the students, age 11-15, enjoyed outings to the



Phil Turner

Mystic Aquarium, Bryant University, Bluff Point and swimming and bowling at Connecticut College. The campers and their Connecticut College and AmeriCorps counselors were hosted by the

club at a luncheon at Ocean Beach with Mayor Martin Olson and U.S. Representative Joe Courtney.



We partied again at the annual picnic at Captain Scott's on August 25th.

Blue Jean's Pub at the O'Neill Theatre Center was the site of a club RAH early Au-



Blue Jeans Pub RAH



Rotaract donation to Gemma Moran Food Bank

The New London Rotaract raised over \$300 for the Gemma Moran Food Bank with a social at Tio Rodrigo's Mexican Grill.

The club was selected to participate in the Satellite Club Pilot program because of its having established an early morning group, which had moved to Muddy Waters.

In September, Doug Allen of the New London Elks Club again gave the club a check for Rotary's worldwide polio eradication effort. PDG Pam Akins gave a presentation of the National Immunization Day in Moradabad, India, that she and Barry Levinson participated in on February 27, 2011.



NL Elk Doug Allen presents check to President Vivian & PDG Pam Akins for Polio Plus

The October 14 Brewfest at the Beach raised almost \$25,000 including sponsorships with



Mark Spinnato, Gerry Tom & Ed Cramer: Before & After Brewfest

an anticipated net of \$18,000, all through the efforts of a lot of club volunteers, Rotaractors and Mike Stryker's band.

Over 800 attended the event that featured brew-friendly food. Ed Cramer presented his "Good & Plenty" Award to co-chairs Gerry Tom and Mark Spinnato.



A District Membership Development and Retention workshop was held October 26th at St. James Episcopal Church.

Throughout the year, under the guidance of Rev. Michel Belt, the club continued to provide volunteers for meal preparation and cleanup at the New London Soup Kitchen.

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

Grant for Clean Water in Nicaragua



With the contacts made through the Group Study Exchange team a few years earlier to Central America and the grant-writing efforts of Tom Wetmore, the New London Rotary procured a Rotary Foundation grant to fund a water filtration system for clean water in Candelaria, Nicaragua.

For the program October 27th, Tom Wetmore introduced his daughter and son-in-law who updated the club on the

Nicaraguan grant.

Tom, age 86, announced that he had continued his traditional bike ride to match his age, but because of a rare blood disorder, he rode 86 kilometers instead of miles. As in years past, he put a check in his bike helmet for the amount of his age and passed the helmet, raising over \$300 for the Nicaragua Matching Grant.



In November, the club continued its support for the Liberty Bank Thanksgiving Turkey Drive.

At the District Foundation Dinner, November 9th, New London Rotary was recognized as the No. 1 club in the district for Rotary Foundation giving. Pete Connair was recognized as a level one Major Donor and Past President Geraldine Tom was presented with

a level four (\$100,000) crystal for her Bequest Society commitment to a Women and Girls designated fund. New London Rotarians continued to support The Rotary Foundation with personal donations; those earning multiple Paul Harris Fellows were Bettye Fletcher, Vivian Stanley, Mary Lenzini, Rick Gipstein, John Bysko, Michel Belt, Catherine Foley and Jerry Fischer.

New London's traditional Veterans Day observance included "Taps" by Sr. Chief USCG (Ret.) Gregory Martin, presentation of colors by the New London High School JNROTC, the singing of the



five military branch anthems, and the national anthem and a program of patriotic tunes sung by the USCGA "Idlers." The club also recognized the Serviceperson of the Month, Petty Officer Brian Babb.



Above: Pete Connair, TRF Major Donor



Left: Geraldine Tom, Level 4 TRF Bequest Society

Approaching the Club Centennial, 2010-2017



Rotary introduced a 5th Area of Service: New Generations, and New London was already there with its many youth recognitions and services. Ed Perl chaired the Dictionary Project that gave dictionaries to hundreds of New London third-graders. Tom Hogsten and Jill Anderson presented a new Interact Club banner to the 25-plus-member New London High School Interact; 10



Interactors attended Rotary Youth Leadership Awards conferences.



Luncheon at new STEM Magnet High School

December 8th, the club visited the new Science & Technology Magnet High School of Southeastern Connecticut, where they were welcomed with colors by the NLHS ROTC and served a delicious luncheon by the school's culinary

students. The traditional Holiday Literacy Program on December 15th featured children from the TVCCA pre-school program and Henry Savin's storytelling. The club purchased 525 children's books and distributed them to the Child and Family Smith-Bent Children's Center, B.P. Learned Mission, Drop In Learning Center, Cen-



tro de la Comunidad, Connecticut College Children's Program, TVCCA, and Shiloh Childworks Preschool. Ian Frenkel again presented a holiday program on December 22nd that included a sing-a-long to "Let It Snow," "Winter Wonderland," and "Jingle Bells." The club enjoyed an After-Holiday Holiday Party at the home of Reid and Ann Burdick.



Top: TVCCA preschoolers

Below: Story-teller Henry Savin



The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017



Thomas
Wetmore III

The New London Club mourned the passing of Tom Wetmore at a memorial service January 5, 2012. In addition to being a Retired Coast Guard Rear Admiral who served in the Coast Guard for 33 years, Tom was a 30-year member of the New London Rotary Club and created five Matching Grants—four in Colombia and a fifth in Nicaragua. He also served as the Executive Director of the Pequot Community Foundation for eight years before it became the Community Foundation of Southeastern Connecticut. As a lifelong cyclist, he marked his birthdays with rides of the same length, only switching from miles to kilometers in the last few years of his life.

New London Gateway Signal Flag Display

Past President Rick Gipstein engaged the New London Rotary in a project to beautify the red brick New London Police Station with a “Welcome” befitting the city’s nautical past. Since its construction in the 1980s, the police station is the first large building seen by visitors entering the city from the highway, and its design presented a blank brick wall at the city’s entryway. After passing this wall for several years traveling to his downtown architect office, Rick came up with the idea that the wall could become a kind of billboard for some welcoming graphics. His idea used the system of International Signal Flags, developed by the sailing world as ways to communicate between ships, especially before the advent of radio.



Rick developed the entryway graphics, using the signal flags representing each letter in the word “Welcome to New London,” creating a design that is geometric, colorful and befitting the city’s maritime heritage. A series of individual panels was created, with its corresponding letter mounted above—since

most of the public is probably not familiar with the signal flags themselves. The final panel sports the New London Rotary attribution, the Rotary wheel, and a special dedication to the late Phil Turner, a great advocate for the development of downtown New London. The club received the New London Beautification Committee’s Award at a City Council meeting, and Rick gave a program on the meaning and history of the signal flags at the luncheon meeting on February 23rd. The dedication of the Welcome Signal Flag display was held on May 31, 2012, with Mayor Daryl Finizio, Police Chief Ackley, and Phil Turner’s family, wife Sherry and sons Keith and Mark, attending.



Rotaract President Victoria Mueller reported on the Rotaract Club's activities at the meeting on March 15th. Chartered in 2010, they had since raised, through the sale of their popular "Whale Tail" New London t-shirts and other fundraisers, \$1,000 for the Gemma Moran Food Pantry, \$1,000 for Japanese tsunami relief, and \$1,000 for the South Asia Water Initiative. Meetings moved from Hannifin's Irish Pub to the Thames Club with program speakers, happy/sad dollars, tournament brackets, and "Night Out NL" socials at local restaurants. They also participated in the Brewfests and Amber Alerts, spoke at area Rotary Clubs and hosted the District Rotaract Conference at the Thames Club in April.

New London Hosts Rotary Foundation Peace Scholar



May 2012, the club hosted Ellis Luciano, a Catholic priest from the Philippines and one of the organizers of GenPeace—a network of young peace advocates in the Philippines. As a Rotary Peace Scholar, Ellis studied peace and conflict resolution approaches at the Rotary Peace Center in Thailand. While in New London, Ellis gave a presentation at the New London Rotaract Club.



Camp Rotary Leadership (left to right): Ed Sweeney, Alison Ryan & Geraldine Tom

In late April, Alison Ryan, principal of Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School, and Ed Sweeney, Program Director for Camp Rotary, spoke to the club about expanding Camp Rotary to accommodate 120 students, up from the 66 in 2011. This expansion was planned with the assistance of the Coast Guard Academy's Leadership Development Team and Connecticut College. Camp Rotary Chair Geraldine Tom explained that, basically, they didn't want to turn any child away, and they thought the increase in students would not require any increase in cost

to the club because of available grant funding. The new plan for Camp Rotary was well received and plans proceeded for an expanded camp program for the summer of 2012.



At the District Conference in Providence, District Governor Rupi Rupwani presented President Vivian Stanley with a number of awards for the club: the District Fellowship Award, citing the good work of Rotarian Reid Burdick, District Community Service Award, RI Zone Health & Hunger Award, RI Zone Leadership Award, RI Zone New Generations Award, and the Significant Achievement Award.

May 24th, Judge Leeland Cole-Chu again hosted the traditional Yale-Harvard Regatta program with the Lions and Kiwanis Clubs. The keynote speaker was Dave Vogel of the National Rowing Foundation; he talked about the push to have Harvard and Yale team

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

members on the Olympic team and about the Rowing Hall of Fame and Museum of Rowing History's search for a new home.

Other interesting programs in 2011-12 were: Editors Elissa Bass and Dirk Langeveld of Patch.com, the Field of Greens Farmers Market, Operation Military Kids, Project Homeless Connect, "Life as a Lighthouse Keeper" by Doug Allen, National Theater Institute, Todd Gipstein's trip to Antarctica, Judge Leeland Cole-Chu's club bio, George White's history of the Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center, Mitchell College's 75th Anniversary, and Hall Communications' Andy Russell on radio today.

Throughout the year, the club hosted the Student of the Year from each of New London's schools and recognized students at New London High School with Robert Groebel, Benjamin Levinson Community Service and Harry Birenbaum Music Scholarship Awards. John Secor, son of Julia Kushigian Secor, was selected to be a Youth Exchange student to Chile for 2012-13.



Ocean Beach Picnic Table Dedication to Phil Turner

provide hotdogs free of charge to the crowd.

The primary fundraisers of the year were the auction at the installation dinner netting just shy of \$2,300 and the two Brewfests netting almost \$41,000. In addition to Camp Rotary and the New London Entryway Signal Flag Signage, the New London Rotary Foundation contributed to Chikumbuso, the Nicaragua Matching Grant, New London Youth Football and Babe Ruth Leagues, Vermont Hurricane Relief, Haitian Health Foundation, New London Maritime Society, Grasso Tech, and New London High School.

Late June, New London Elk Doug Allen again presented the New London Rotary Club with a check for \$3,000 for Polio Plus. Michael Buscetto was named the club's Unsung Hero for his behind-the-scenes work to benefit the children of New London.



Frank Laycock

We also lost beloved Frank Laycock at age 93. Frank was a 62-year member of the New London Rotary Club, having joined the club in 1950, served as club president during Rotary International's Golden Anniversary in 1954-55, and presided over the chartering of the Groton Rotary Club. Frank was involved in club activities to the end, attending meetings and working well into his late 80s at Brewfests. In his later years, he summered in Maine and attended Rotary meetings there.

At the June 26th installation banquet at the Port 'N Starboard at Ocean



Judge Leeland Cole-Chu

The club funded rebuilt picnic tables dedicated to Past President Phil Turner for Ocean Beach Park.

The May Brewfest netted over \$22,000 with gross gate receipts of \$24,000-plus and sponsorships of almost \$2,000. TVCCA's MaryLou

Underwood and Gourmet Galley's Anna Lathrop once again



Kathleen Neal accepts Polio Plus check from NL Elk Doug Allen

Beach, District Governor Rupi Rupwani installed Kathleen Neal as President, Meredith Diette as President Elect and Dr. William Schmidt as Vice President. Distinguished Service Award Paul Harris Fellows were given to Mark Spinnato, Carmelo “Mel” Foti, Gerald “Denny” Hicks and Barry Levinson. Past Club Secretary Richard Lombardi was presented a Senior Distinguished Paul Harris Fellowship; Rick served as Club Secretary for 17 years. Barry Levinson was recognized for maintaining the club website and weekly *Anchor* for seven years. The Carl Wies Award was given to Dr. William Schmidt.



2012-13, President Kathleen Neal



The expanded Camp Rotary with 115 students was overseen by Ed Sweeney, Camp Director, and Alison Ryan, Principal of Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School with support from Connecticut College, AmeriCorps/VISTA volunteers, and the Coast Guard Academy. The curriculum focused on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), leadership skills, and literacy. Physical activities included swimming and bowling at Connecticut College, sailing instruction by New London Community Boating, and USCGA FITT obstacle course training. Students also enjoyed outings to Ocean Beach Park, Sonalysts, Mystic Aquarium, Southern Connecticut State University, and Block Island. Later in the year, the New London Board of Education recognized the New London Club for its long-standing commitment to Camp Rotary and Assistant District Governor Geraldine Tom for her personal contributions to the summer camp and New London students.



Board of Ed Citation



Jerry Fischer presented a banner from Rotary International President Sakuji Tanaka whom he met while doing a make-up at the Brunswick, Maine, Rotary Club.

August 23rd, the annual club picnic was again held at Captain Scott's Lobster Dock with Reid Burdick's Do Good Hydration Cooler taking donations in exchange for liquid refreshments. The following week, Past President Retired USCG Captain Rod White's club bio program revealed to many new Rotarians that he was the designer of the “White Hull” on U.S. icebreakers, an accomplishment that won him a medal from the American Society of Naval Engineers; Rod also served as Dean of the USCG Academy from 1974 to 1983, and after retirement became Executive Director of the USCG Academy Foundation.

In September, Julia Kushigian Secor reported on her son John Secor's activities as a Youth Exchange student in Chile.



John Secor,
YE Student



Retired USCG
Roderick White

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017



Inbound YE
Student Christian
Pedersen

The club also welcomed Youth Exchange Student Christian Pedersen, age 16, from Denmark. Hosted by the Secors, he joined other inbound students on a trip to Washington, D.C., in early October. He was enrolled at the NL Science and Technology Magnet School in his junior year. Four families were recruited to host him, including a non-Rotarian family. Dr. Bill Schmidt acted as the Youth Exchange Officer (YEO) for Christian and his host families, a job that became challenging after Christian broke his leg wrestling at New London High School.

The October 5, 2012, Brewfest at Ocean Beach Park netted almost \$14,000. Luckily, the event was held just shy of a month before Hurricane Sandy wiped out the beach pavilion where the club Brewfests had been held since 1999.



Connecticut Veterans Wartime Service Honorees



At a meeting in October, the club congratulated five of its own with the Connecticut Veterans Wartime Service Medal. Medals were presented to Retired US Marine Lt. Colonel Stephen Percy, Retired US Navy Rear Admiral David Goebel, Retired US Navy Captain Gerald "Denny" Hicks, Retired US Navy Captain Pierce Connair, and Retired US Air Force Major Robert Ames. Retired US Navy Nurse Corps Lieutenant (JG) Mary Lenzini was added to that list at the annual Veterans' Day luncheon.

Several club members attended the District Foundation Dinner in Orange, Connecticut, on November 1st. The New London Club had the 2nd highest total contributions to The Rotary Foundation's Annual Fund in Rotary year 2011-12. Barry Levinson was awarded the District Service Award for outstanding service in promoting The Rotary Foundation. Rotarians continued to donate to The Rotary Foundation, earning sapphires and rubies; in 2012-13, they were Jerry Fischer, Ed Cramer, Alan Lyon, Millie Devine, Mark Spinnato, and John Bysko.

The club again participated in the Liberty Bank Thanksgiving Dinner Drive, and club members monthly volunteered at the New London Soup Kitchen.

November 8, 2012, the club hosted the Serviceperson of the Month, Kerry Wertheim, as



part of its annual Veterans Day observance that included the JNROTC's presentation of colors and recognitions of five non-Rotarian veterans with Connecticut Wartime Service Medals.

In December, the 18-year-old Holiday Literacy Program was presented by Chair Anna Lathrop. The club hosted 24 five-year-olds from Shiloh Baptist's Childworks Preschool. After the program, the committee delivered 500 books to eight organizations. The December 27th meeting was given to club fellowship



with personal stories from Penny Parsekian, Rick Gipstein, Bill Schmidt and Chris Neilan, and a hilarious story about a new suit from Pete Connair that had everyone in stitches. January 24, 2013, the club enjoyed a RAH (Rotary After Hours) with the Rotaract Club at the Hot Rod Café. The New London Rotary Interact Club baked brownies for NLHS alumni deployed in the military.



Geraldine Tom,
District Governor
2015-16

Past President Geraldine Tom was selected to be District Governor for 2015-16 and the third governor from our club.

Past Governor Pam Akins and Past President Barry Levinson were featured in The Rotary Foundation's brochure on its Permanent Fund for putting the Foundation in their estate plans.



Interactors baking brownies



New London Teams with Yale Rotaract Club on Global Grant in India



In 2012, the Yale Rotaract Club approached New London Rotary about partnering on a Rotary Foundation Global Grant because the New Haven Club could not take on another grant at that time. The Global Grant was for a vocational training facility for tribal youth in the Thane District of India; New London's commitment was \$7,000. The Rotary Club of Bombay Midtown in Mumbai, India, was the project's host club with two additional partner clubs, one in Italy and one in Maryland.

Early January 2013, eight Yale Rotaractors and New London Rotarian Julia Kushigian Secor traveled separately to India to see the Global Grant project and meet the Bombay Midtown Club. At a Rotary meeting there, Julia presented Arrow Sinha Roy, director for the Global Grant's vocational project, with 20 Sawyer water filters the New London Club had purchased for the villages supported by the grant. After a flag exchange, Yale Rotaractors gave a presentation on their visit to the Global Grant-funded Sakwar village school. The next day Arrow, Julia and Indian



Rotarian Yogesh Pandya visited the Sakwar school project as well as several NGOs that address the needs of people in the slums of Mumbai and gave some of the water filters to those organizations as well. Julia was so inspired by her trip to India that, when she came home, she worked to generate more funding for District Managed Grants in 2014 and 2015. And the Yale Rotaract Club was awarded the best project by a Rotaract Club from the North America/Caribbean region at the 2014 Rotary International Convention in Lisbon, Portugal.



The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017



In March, the USCG all-female *a capella* ensemble “Fairwinds,” under the direction of Dr. Robert Newton, Director of Vocal Music at the Coast Guard Academy, presented a selection of show tunes, patriotic songs and sea shanties.

Also in March, Pam Akins and Barry Levinson traveled to Thailand and Cambodia, where they sponsored a well for a poor family in a village near Siem Reap in honor of the New London Rotary Club.

In April, after 18 years at Mitchell College, President Kathleen Neal moved to Hartford for a new position at the University of St. Joseph, and President Elect Meredith Diette stepped in to lead club board meetings and manage the business of the club, while Past Presidents led club meetings for the remainder of the Rotary year. April 14th, Rotarians MaryLou Underwood, Gerry Tom, Millie Devine, Kathleen Neal, and Emily Lavoie volunteered at the Hospice Tree of Life at Crystal Mall. April 26th, the Rotaract Club held a fundraiser at the New London Elks Lodge to build a library in Deschapelles, Haiti; the event raised over \$800 for the library.



Millie Devine at Hospice
Tree of Life booth

May 9th, the club participated in the Skip-a-Meal program for Rotary’s End Polio Now campaign and was entertained by the Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School Choir.



Bennie Dover
Jackson Middle
School Choir
at Rotary luncheon



Andrew Make-
peace, 2012
Peace Corps

Other notable club programs were: Andrew Makepeace, son of Club Treasurer Walt Makepeace, on his experiences in Indonesia with the Peace Corps; Pam Akins’ back-to-back programs on her trip to India; Lorraine Allen’s portrayal of Empress Frederick of Germany, the daughter of Queen Victoria and mother of Kaiser Wilhelm; L&M Hospital’s 100 Years; Project Amigo in Mexico; U.S. Representative Joe Courtney; “Transforming New London” by Tony Silvestri; City Mayor Justin Finizio; Youth Exchange student Christian Pedersen’s presentation on his home country, Denmark; Robert Steele on the pros and cons of the casino industry in southeastern Connecticut; former *The Day* Editorial Page Editor Morgan McGinley; and Rotarian Joanne Cain’s club bio on growing up in Taiwan.



Congressman Joe Courtney



Empress
Frederick/
Lorraine Allen



Dr. Carl Stoner

In May, the club lost two-term Mayor of New London Carl Stoner who came into Rotary in 1979. Carl taught periodontology at Tufts, and was a Fulbright Fellow at San Marcos University in Lima, Peru and a visiting lecturer to the National Dental College in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He was also a founding member of New London Landmarks and led the effort to save the historic H.H. Richardson train station.

For the May 10th Brewfest at the Beach, the event was moved to the center of the Ocean Beach Boardwalk because of Hurricane Sandy's destruction of the pavilion, the Brewfest home for 14 years. Despite the change in location, over 550 people attended, and the spring Brewfest netted over \$20,000.

In addition to Camp Rotary, the New London Rotary Foundation funded \$8,400 in repairs to the Centennial Playground, \$1,000 for L&M's Community Health Program, and \$7,000 for the Global Grant in India. Smaller donations were made to New London Youth Football, US Sub Vets, Haitian Health Foundation, Operation Warm Coats, Bethsaida Community's Katie Blair House for homeless women, and Newtown Rotary.

At the District Conference in Saratoga Springs, New York, May 16-19, 2013, the club received awards for Outstanding Service, Vocational Service Project and Literacy Citation. Geraldine Tom received the Assistant Governor of the Year Award.

Throughout the year, the club hosted Student of the Year honorees from all the schools in New London. NLHS students were also recognized through the Robert Groebel, Benjamin Levinson Community Service and Harry Birenbaum Scholarships.

A joint meeting with the Lions and Kiwanis, the Yale-Harvard Regatta luncheon featured Dr. Andrew Larkin, a Harvard grad who was part of the US 1968 men's Olympic crew. The program concluded with Mayor Finizio drawing the lane assignments for the Saturday race.

Mid-May, PDG Pam Akins traveled to Kotka, Finland, to speak at the District Conference of a woman District Governor, Heli Karttunen, whom Pam had hosted in her Florida home as part of a DGE Homestay Program in 2012. A month later, Pam and Heli got together at the RI Convention in Lisbon, Portugal, and Heli did a little touring with Pam and



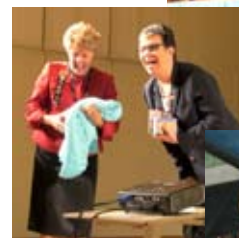
Pam & Heli
in Portugal

her husband Barry Levinson. Pam also connected with a PDG she hosted in 2011, Yinka Babalola of Nigeria. When Pam and Barry went to leave for a tour of Spain, they got stuck at the airport for 15 hours during a general strike and then drove with two other Rotarian couples 13 hours across the Iberian Peninsula to Barcelona. Barry's luggage was lost for a month!

BREWFEST
at the Beach



Gerry Tom's
Asst. Governor
of Year Award



Above: PDG
Pam speaks &
presents gifts to
Finnish DG Heli
Karttunen in
Kotka, Finland



Pam & Yinka
at Convention

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

2013-14, President Meredith Diette

The installation dinner for Rotary year 2013-14 was held July 11, 2013 at Port 'N Starboard at Ocean Beach. Past District Governor Julie Reppenhagen installed Meredith Diette as President with Dr. William Schmidt as President Elect and Julia Kushigian Secor as Vice President. Past District Governor Brian Amey presented Neil Feinberg, Frank McLaughlin, Julia Kushigian Secor and Emily Lavoie with Distinguished Service Paul Harris Fellowships. The Carl Wies Award was given to District Governor Nominee Geraldine Tom.

The expanded eight-week Camp Rotary had 120 middle school students, who in addition to a STEM curriculum, also enjoyed swimming at Connecticut College and boating instruction at Green Harbor Beach by the New London Community Boating. Ice cream socials were incorporated into the program to recognize student achievements and provide an opportunity for engagement of parents and the whole family. August 1st, the club, joined by District Governor Rick Bassett, hosted the students and their teachers and counselors at a luncheon at Port 'N Starboard.



Top: Camp Rotary campers

Bottom: Camp Rotary Luncheon

Right: DG Rick Bassett in Camp Rotary t-shirt

Youth Exchange Student John Secor in Chile



At the noon meeting on July 25th, Julia Kushigian Secor's son, John, talked about his year in Talca, Chile, as a Youth Exchange Student.

John was voted President of his class at school, won a dance competition and cooking contest, played tennis and soccer, and coached a youth soccer team.

He also traveled from the Atacama Desert in the north down to Torres del Paine National Park in Patagonia and even out to Easter Island 2,000 miles off the coast of Chile.



The annual picnic was held at Captain Scott's Lobster Dock on August 15th. The following evening the club had a Wine Tasting at Port 'N Starboard to benefit Camp Rotary; the wine tasting netted \$1,505.



Wine Tasting at Ocean Brach



The October 4th Brewfest at the Beach was on the boardwalk at Ocean Beach and

netted \$15,350, despite competition from Mohegan Sun Casino. Even the Rotaractors did well selling their "I 'Whale' NL" t-shirts.



Rotaract Club's I "Whale" NL T-shirts



Throughout the year under the leadership of Michel Belt, the club provided monthly volunteers to the New London Soup Kitchen. Club volunteers also cleaned and maintained the Centennial Playground.

In September, the club surveyed its members about programs, projects, fundraisers, and other aspects of club membership; Liz Binger presented the results to the board. Later in the Rotary year, the club adopted a revised Constitution to reflect Rotary International's addition of Youth Services as a fifth Area of Service.

Due to a change in management at the Radisson Hotel, the club moved its meeting place to Tony D's, starting October 10, 2013.

PDG Pam Akins and Barry Levinson received word that a well they had sponsored in honor of the New London Rotary while traveling in Cambodia had been put in place for a family in the Beng Village near Siem Reap, Cambodia.



Above: Sign for Cambodian well donated by Pam Akins & Barry Levinson

Left: Family receiving the well



President Meredith presents check to Liberty Bank for Gemma Moran Food Center

he volunteered more than 500 hours of his off-duty time to help local non-profits such as Toys for Tots, Habitat for Humanity and Special Olympics.

The club again participated in the Liberty Bank Thanksgiving Dinner Drive, which resulted in over \$1,100 going to the Gemma Moran Food Center; the total for all 29 Rotary Clubs that participated was over \$182,000.

November 7th, the club hosted the Serviceperson of the Month, USN Petty Officer Mario Silvestri, as part of the club's traditional celebration of Veterans Day. Petty Officer Silvestro was recognized because



Serviceperson of the Month Petty Officer Mario Silvestri

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017



In December, Brian Cole, Deb MacDonnell, Jerry Fischer, and President Meredith and her sons gathered at the home of Anna Lathrop to put nameplate stickers in children's books for the Holiday Literacy Program.



Rotarians & future Rotarians put nameplate stickers in books donated by Ann Connolly's sister, C.J. Connolly

The next day, at our luncheon meeting, children from the Childworks Preschool enjoyed a visit by Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus and a holiday book reading. Rotarian Ann Connolly's sister, C.J. Connolly, donated books for the New London elementary



Mr. & Mrs. Santa read to Childworks preschool children

schools, and President Meredith's law firm purchased \$200-worth of books for older students at the Drop In Learning Center. The club foundation also covered the cost of a large book cart for the Nathan Hale Arts Magnet School to create a 5th grade mobile lending library and backpacks for middle school students.



After-Holiday potluck at Dr. Bill's house

The After-Holiday Holiday Party was held at Dr. Bill Schmidt's house as a potluck affair.

In January, District Governor Rick Bassett joined New London club volunteers in serving dinner to seniors at the



Senior Dinner at Williams Park Apartments

Williams Park Apartments on a very cold night; the dinner was organized by MaryLou Underwood. January 13, 2014, was noted as the three-year anniversary of the last case of polio in India. A significant achievement since, in 2009,

India was the home of half the world's polio cases.



Neither rain, nor sleet, nor nor'easter kept these Rotarians from meeting

February 2014 was a particularly tough weather month, but eight hearty folks braved a major nor'easter for the February 13th meeting: Walter Makepeace, Michel Belt, Julia Kushigian Secor, Jim McGuire, Bill Schmidt, Gerry Tom, Alex Marku, and our club pianist Ian Frenkel.

Harlem Wizards Fundraiser



Because Julia Kushigian Secor was inspired by the Rotary work she saw in India in 2013, she decided to help the club identify another fundraiser that could fund more grant projects.

So on March 26th, the club sponsored a basketball match between the New London Magic (local basketball wannabies) and the Harlem Wizards, raising over \$4,300 through sponsorships and ticket sales. Sponsors were Barry's Cleaners, Chelsea-Groton Bank, L&M Hospital, Secor Mitsubishi, Capano Family/ShopRite, Caritas Capital Partners, Dominion Power, Field of Greens Farmers Market, Mitchell College, Harbour Towers and Next Step Living. The event involved a home team of local celebrities,

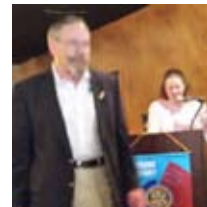


politicians, teachers, coaches, and school staff who were pitted against the Harlem Wizards. The club foundation received half the ticket sales and 20% on the sale of Wizard merchandise. In addition to recruiting the local celebrities, getting sponsors and selling tickets, club volunteers also provided crowd control and cleanup. But best of all, everybody had a lot of fun!



April 10th, the club honored Theodore "Ted" Olynciw as its Unsung Hero for involvement with the Homeless Hospitality Center and his handyman work at St. Mary's Star of the Sea.

New London Rotary was recognized at the District Conference May 2-4, 2014, for its many Club Service and Community Service Programs. New London Elk Doug Allen for the fifth year presented the New London Rotary with a check for Rotary's Polio Plus program.



NL Elk Doug Allen gives Elks check to Polio Plus—for the 5th time!



The May 9, 2014, Brewfest at the Beach netted over \$16,000.

The Yale-Harvard Regatta program was held at The Thames Club on June 5th with Seth Bauer, a former Yale coxswain who was on the national team that won the 1987 World Cham-



Seth Bauer, 1988 Olympic medalist

pionship and the 1988 US Olympic team that won a bronze medal.

Above: Yale blue
Below: Harvard crimson



The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

Other interesting programs were: “Memory Tune-Up” by



Doug Allen's
Japanese netsuke

Patti Said of the New England Cognitive Center, New London's Science & Technology Magnet High School Principal Lou Allen, Doug Allen on Japanese netsuke, the Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership program, Chikumbuso Grant beneficiary Maureen Tembo,

Gizmo the Wonderdoglet, Charles Coiro of the USCGA Leadership Development Center, Lorraine Allen on Richard the Third, Rev. Tom Hogsten on the merger of the First Baptist Church with the First Hispanic Baptist Church, Connecticut



Electric Boat Virginia class
submarine under construction

College President Katherine Bergeron, L&M Hospital CEO Bruce Cummings, and Electric Boat Director of Communications Robert Hamilton.

Club Rotarians continued to give to The Rotary Foundation; those noted in the newsletter earning sapphires and rubies were Leon Lehrer, Mark Spinnato, and Mary Lenzini. Major Donors Gerry Tom, Pete Connair, Pam Akins and Barry Levinson also continued to give annually.



Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership

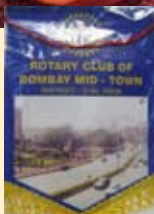


Gizmo, the
Wonderdoglet



Maureen Tembo
& Carly Buehler
of Chikumbuso

Grants in India



While in India in January 2013 to observe the club's vocational training Global Grant, Julia Kushigian Secor also met with other NGOs such as Shelter Associates, who work with families in the slums of Pune, and with PUKAR Barefoot Researchers, who work with children in Mumbai. She gave the Bombay Midtown Club and Shelter Associates some of the Sawyer water filters she had brought with her purchased with club donations. Impressed by the various

Indian NGOs' work, Julia decided to raise funds for more water filters and sanitation projects in India. In May 2013, she applied and got approval for a District Managed Grant totaling \$4,360 to fund six individual toilets and 20 water filters for Shelter Associates in Pune, India. The club foundation also gave funds to support the work of PUKAR Barefoot Researchers and, with the Rotary Club of Gandhi Bhaven, for a van for transporting mentally challenged adults.



The Community Foundation found they had funds left over in the Charles Lee Scholarship fund from a student who did not finish college and did not access the funds, so in 2014, they were

able to award the final Dr. Charles Lee Scholarship to Austin Royal. Additionally, throughout the year, the club recognized the Student of the Year honorees from every school in New London. And at the end of the school year, New London High School students were honored with the Robert Groebel Award, Benjamin Levinson Community Service Award, and Harry Birenbaum Music Scholarship.

In addition to Camp Rotary and a District Managed Grant in India, the New London Rotary Foundation provided funding to Polio Plus, Chikumbuso, PUKAR Barefoot Researchers in Mumbai, the New London Soccer Club and Babe Ruth League, TVCCA for children's winter boots and Meals on Wheels, New London High School for winter coats for students and an alcohol-free graduation party, Haitian Health Foundation, Give to the Troops for holi-



day care package postage, Nathan Hale Magnet School for a book cart, New London Landmarks' "Built on Blubber" event featuring The Charles Morgan's visit to New London, Jewish Federation for air conditioners for the elderly, and to send a NLHS sophomore to the Connecticut Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Program, seven Marine Science Magnet High School students to Mystic Aquarium for a marine research field trip, and two NLHS students to the DECA Program nationals in Atlanta.

On June 19, 2014, Dr. William Schmidt was inducted as President with Julia Kushigian Secor as President Elect and Nicholas Fischer as Vice President. Todd Gipstein was recognized with a Distinguished Service Paul Harris Fellowship and Past President Rick Gipstein was given a third Club Honored Paul Harris Fellowship for his continued service to the club. Past President Andrew Russell was given the Carl Wies Award.

2014-15, President William "Bill" Schmidt

July 2014 kicked off with the 19th year of Camp Rotary with 126 students. The camp continued to be overseen by Camp Director Ed Sweeney and as part of the Bennie Dover Jackson's AVID program. One of the objectives of the eight-week camp was to complete the school's summer reading program of one nonfiction book and one fiction book. The campers also enjoyed a field trip to Bluff Point and the NESS (New England Science and Sailing) program at Ocean Beach Park that included snorkeling, kayaking and classroom studies. The club hosted the campers at the luncheon meeting at Port 'N Starboard at Ocean Beach Park.



Camp Rotary Director Ed Sweeney addresses Rotarians & campers

The first club meeting on July 3rd was a Getting to Know Each Other program with club members sharing their recent experiences, interests or special stories. A second Getting to Know You program was held July 31st.

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017



Centennial Playground Cleanup

Club members turned out on a warm Saturday morning, July 26th, for cleanup and maintenance duty at the Centennial Playground with donuts and coffee provided by Cleanup Chair Alex Marku. District Governor Mukund Nori held a Meet & Greet with area Rotarians at the Mystic Marriott on July 29th.

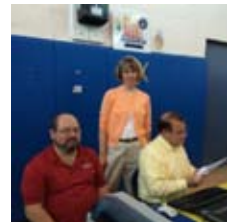


August 21st, the club picnic was again held at Captain Scott's Lobster Dock with a social hour at 5:30 p.m. with Reid Burdick's Do Good Hydration Cooler. The club even sang our own Happy Birthday song to Ed Cramer, whose birthday was the same day.



The following Saturday, Rotarians

MaryLou Underwood, Tom Hogsten and Gerry Tom conducted an Amber Alert program, registering



Amber Alert

School Community Block Party with the help of Niantic Rotary's equipment and Niantic Rotarian Neil Frisch.



Above: Millstone Nuclear Power Plant



Right: Thames Heritage Park

September 25th, with the Japanese tsunami in mind, Brian Haagensen talked about Millstone Nuclear Power Plant's readiness for a natural disaster. October 2nd, Rotarian Penny Parsekian introduced the club to the Thames River Heritage Park concept.

District Governor Elect Gerry Tom attended Governor Elect Training in Toronto in the fall of 2014 and the International Assembly in January 2015 for training with Governors Elect worldwide.



October 10th, Brewfest at the Beach engaged 31 New London Rotarians, 17 Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School staff members, 19 Dime Bank and four Chelsea Groton Bank employees. The event, which enjoyed great weather, attracted over 560 attendees and featured 150 micro-brews, chili, pizza, and Mike Stryker's "Rhythm Method" band. The pizza was provided free of charge by Rotarian Alex Marku through his Mobile Buon Appetito Ristorante & Pizzeria. The fundraiser netted over \$13,000.



Throughout the year, the club, with students from Connecticut College and Williams School, staffed the New London Soup Kitchen on a monthly basis. Club members also served dinner at the New London Senior Center.

Bylaws Revisions & Corporate Members

In October, the club undertook a bylaws revisions, with a consolidation of committees, through the work of Rotarian and Attorney Helen Sandells; the proposed revisions to the bylaws were unanimously approved by the club membership on October 30th. At a Club Assembly on November 6th, the club discussed how it could improve its image and operations. The club also established corporate memberships to accommodate more business-oriented involvement.

The club's annual Veterans Day observance featured Seth Van Essendelft, CFO at L&M Hospital and a Coast Guard Academy graduate, and recognized the Serviceperson of the Month. The club also participated again in the Thanksgiving Meal Drive with Liberty Bank.

December 6th, the club held its annual Holiday Literacy Program, founded by Tracee Reiser and Rick Gipstein, in its 23rd year with pizza at Tony D's for young guests from the Drop In Learning Center. For the second year, Ann Connolly's sister, a children's author, donated some of her books. The club also purchased books from The Scholastic Reading Group through funding that included donations from the morning club and Meredith Diette's law firm. The books were given to B.P. Learned Mission, New London Day Nursery, TVCCA Early Learners Education Program, Shiloh Family Life Center Children's Program, The Drop In Learning Center, Centro de la Comunidad and the L&M Hospital/VNA New Parents Program. Rick Gipstein printed Rotary stickers for the books.



Santa visits
Holiday
Literacy
Program at
Tony D's



The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

Ian Frenkel again entertained the New London Rotary Club on December 18th with singer Becky Chamberlain, doing historic holiday songs.

The club also conducted its annual Dictionary Project, providing dictionaries to all New London third graders. At the Regional Multicultural Magnet School (RMMS), Julia Kushigian Secor asked the students if they had partaken in a long list of Rotary programs and many, many hands went up. When Julia



Ian Frenkel & Becky Chamberlain

asked the students to write their names in the books, they said, “You mean, we get to keep them?” The students then were asked to find the longest word in the book—and it wasn’t “Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!”

With Tony D’s closed early January, the January 8th and 15th meetings were changed to the Thames Club, and the potluck After-Holiday Holiday Party was held at President Bill’s home.

The January 29th meeting found hearty Rotarians braving the cold and aftereffects of a recent blizzard. And when the speaker couldn’t make it, President Bill opened the floor to extended Happy and Sad Dollar stories, many of which were about dogs—dogs inside, dogs outside, dogs inside that went outside, lost and found dogs, etc. and the many lengths dogs will go to to avoid boredom—so said *Anchor* reporter Todd Gipstein.



Todd Gipstein’s dog stories

The February 19th and 26th luncheon meetings were held



at the new Holiday Inn as trials for a new location. On the first of those meetings, Rev. Michel Belt shared his experiences on his pilgrimage on the El Camino de Santiago (The Way of St. James), which meant walking the 500-mile route through the Pyrenees and Spain’s Basque country to Santiago de Compostela over 32 days. Despite huge meals every night, Michel said he lost 25 pounds on the trek!



Above: Wizards poster

Right: Rick

Gipstein & Julia Kushigian Secor



New London Rotary again sponsored a Harlem Wizards vs. New London Magic game at New London High School on March 25th. The New London Rotaract and NLHS Interact Clubs worked the event with New London

Rotarians, selling Wizards merchandise, taking tickets and assisting attendees. The event raised over \$9,000 for the club foundation.



Top: Wizard Interactors
Bottom: Wizard Rotaractors

Throughout the year, students from New London public, private, parochial, and magnet schools were recognized as their respective school's Student of the Year at weekly luncheons. The 14th and final Dr. Charles Lee Scholarship was given to Austin Royal with funds leftover from unused scholarship monies from previous years. The club also recognized New London High School students with the Robert Groebel Award, Benjamin Levinson Community Service Award, and Harry Birenbaum Music Scholarship Award.

Coogan Farm Fresh Food Initiative Grant



New London Rotary joined with the Rotary Club of Mystic to purchase a used tractor for Coogan Farm as part of a District Managed Grant. The project involved several area Rotary clubs in a community garden that provided fresh vegetables to the Gemma Moran Food Center.



In addition to Camp Rotary and the Coogan Farm District Managed Grant, the New London Rotary Foundation made donations to US Sub Vets, the VNA of SECT for an audiometer for Nathan Hale Arts Magnet School, the Salt Marsh Opera, Haitian Health Foundation, New London Babe Ruth League, and Waterford Country School. As always the Do Good Fund met emergency needs of individuals in the community.

On April 9th, District Governor Mukund Nori visited the club with Paul Harris Society Chair Jim Satterwhite and recognized 10 Paul Harris Society members, Rotarians who give \$1,000 a year to The Rotary Foundation. As District Governor Elect, Gerry Tom held her President Elect Training Seminar (PETS) for her club presidents for 2015-16 in March in Framingham, Massachusetts, and her District Assembly for districtwide training in Meriden on April 18th.



District Assembly Plenary

Also in April, Rotarians rose to the occasion when Deb MacDonnell had an operation that required six weeks of recuperation and club members provided meals for her family during that time.

At the noon meeting on May 14th at the Holiday Inn, the club presented a Paul Harris Distinguished Service Award to Rear Admiral Sandra Stosz, USCGA Superintendent. On May 30th, New London Rotarians, friends and family members cleaned and repaired the Centennial Playground. The spring Brewfest at the Beach on May 15th netted approximately \$14,000.



Centennial Playground Crew

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017



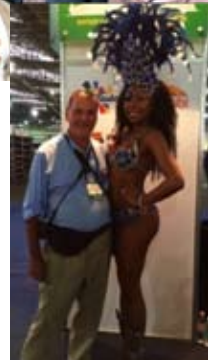
The New London Rotary again hosted the Lions and Kiwanis Clubs, Yale and Harvard coaches and team captains and the Mayor of New London, Daryl Justin Finizio, at the noon meeting at the New London Holiday Inn for the Harvard-Yale Regatta luncheon. As usual, the club sang two Harvard songs and two Yale songs with gusto. The keynote speaker was Tom Weil, a historian of rowing, who spoke about whether this really was the 150th edition of the

race. On the following Saturday, Yale bested Harvard in a record-setting upstream time of 18 minutes, 35.8 seconds.

Geraldine Tom, Alex Marku, Pam Akins and Barry Levinson attended the Rotary International Convention in Sao Paulo, Brazil, June 5-8, 2015. PDG Pam again connected with other PDGs (Ravi Vadlamani and Yinka Babalola) whom she had hosted as part of the DGE Homestay Program



in Florida while Barry got his photo-op with a Carnival dancer. Pam, Barry, Gerry and Alex attended the Major Donor Dinner.



For the last program of the year, Past Presidents Rick Gipstein and Tracee Reiser gave a presentation on the 10th anniversary of the Centennial Playground. Other programs of note were: Kate Fiorvanti on the Nathan Hale Arts Magnet School, the Connecticut River



Above:
Lyman Allyn
Tiffany
window
Left: USCG
Birthday

Museum, the Monte Cristo Bookshop Co-op, Lyman Allyn's history and recent acquisitions including the "Come Unto Me" Tiffany window from the All Souls Universalist Church, President Janet Steinmayer of Mitchell College, the Submarine Museum, Barbara Neff on the Coast Guard's 225th



Nautilus in 1958 after traveling under the polar ice cap

Birthday Planning, the Honorable Leeland Cole-Chu on the Connecticut Judicial System, L&M Head of Emergency Department Dr. Oliver Mayorga, and Dr. Neil Vora of the Centers for Disease Control on Ebola.

June 11, 2015, at the Port 'N Starboard at Ocean Beach, Julia Kushigian Secor was installed as President with Nick Fischer as President Elect and Tom Hogsten as Vice President. Henry Savin was recognized with a Senior Distinguished Service Paul Harris Fellowship. The Carl Wies Award went to Mark Spinnato as co-chair of the Brewfests.

June 24th, Geraldine Tom was installed as the 2015-16 District Governor, the third District Governor from the New London Club.



DG Gerry
Tom

2015-16, President Julia Kushigian Secor

July 1, 2015, Past President Geraldine Tom became the third District Governor from the New London Rotary Club and the New London Rotary joined with the New Haven Rotary and Waterbury Rotary in planning a district-wide Centennial Gala in April 2017.

Club programs opened with a Getting to Know You featuring President Julia Kushigian Secor, President Elect Nick Fischer, Vice President Tom Hogsten and Past President Michel Belt. Throughout the year, the club had Getting to Know You programs on a monthly basis as a way to introduce new and old members to each other.

Camp Rotary celebrated its 20th year, and August 13th, the campers and their camp counselors were hosted by New London Rotary at the Port 'N Starboard. In addition to a rigorous academic curriculum, the middle schoolers enjoyed camping, sailing, swimming, kayaking, and several field trips, including an all-day trip to Block Island, courtesy of the Block Island Express.



At the Camp Rotary luncheon, the club also recognized Helen Sandalls with a Distinguished Service Paul Harris Fellowship, for her work on the revision to the club bylaws.



Inbound YE Student
Francisco Concha
Bobadilla

President Julia Kushigian Secor welcomed Youth Exchange student Francisco Concha Bobadilla from Santiago, Chile, into her home. Francisco attended the Science & Technology Magnet High School in New London. Unfortunately, because of a lack of other hosts from the New London Club, the New Haven Club picked up the hosting for the remainder of the year.

On August 15th, President Julia and Bill Schmidt joined 26 other area club Rotarians to work at the Coogan Farm Fresh Foods Farm.



Coogan Farm Sweat Equity Day
area Rotary participants

Also August 15th, Governor Gerry Tom and Vice President Tom Hogsten participated in an Amber Alert event with Niantic Rotarians at Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School.



DG Gerry & Vice President Tom
at BDJMS Amber Alert workshop

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017



The club's annual picnic was held at Captain Scott's Lobster Dock on August 20th with the contents of Reid Burdick's Do Good Hydration Cooler supplied by Ed Cramer. The following week, Isabelle Singer introduced the new Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra Executive Director, Caleb Bailey.

September 3rd, the club held a strategic planning session under the direction of Liz Binger. The conversation was continued on the 17th with the development of a vision statement, goals and strategic actions.



Mayor Carmelina Kanzler seen here in 1987 *The Day* photo with then Connecticut Attorney General Joe Lieberman



Liz Binger guides club through strategic planning

The club lost Carmelina Kanzler, one of the first women to join the New London Rotary Club, in September. A two-term Mayor of the City of New London, Carmelina had been an active member for almost 30 years, even working at Brewfests when she was in her 80s. She had been the first Assistant Governor in the District working for District Governor Fred Ahlberg, a Group Study Exchange Team Leader to England when women were still not allowed into Rotary in the UK, and even hosted a Youth Exchange student in her 70s.

At the fall Brewfest at the Beach on September 25th, Alex Marku again

brought his pizza truck. The fundraiser netted \$13,000 with around 600 attending and \$1,000 in sponsorships.



The club celebrated its Veterans Day on November 12th with the singing of the five military service anthems and recognition of the Serviceperson of the Month, Petty Officer John Scalise, an instructor at the Naval Sub-



Dr. Ray Johnson

marine School and Assistant Scout Master in Mystic. Ret. US Navy Captain Dr. Raymond Johnson was the keynote speaker who talked about his service as a military doctor at Bethesda Naval Hospital and later at the Naval Base in Newport.



Petty Officer Scalise

November 19th, the club inducted four members of Mitchell College as part of the club's corporate membership pilot program.

The club's annual Holiday Literacy Program was held on December 3rd with children from the Shiloh Baptist Church preschool and Drop In Learning Center as guests. Santa and Mrs. Claus



Past President Brian Cole inducts Mitchell College corporate members



arrived with a big sack of books for the children. The books were again donated by Ann Connolly's sister, C.J. Connolly. Afterwards, Tracee Reiser, Joann Collins and Jerry Fischer delivered books to nine organizations, including a Groton preschool program and the Boys & Girls Club of SECT.

In January, President Julia



Dictionaries for 3rd graders



Major Donor John Bysko

Party at his home.

During the year, John Bysko was recognized as a Major Donor to The Rotary Foundation, joining Pam Akins, Barry Levinson, Geraldine Tom and Pete Connair as those who had given \$10,000 or more to the Foundation. Pete was also recognized with a special Paul Harris Fellow for making a donation in the name of his daughter.



Past President Andy Russell presents Pete Connair PHF material for his daughter

District Managed Grants At Home & Abroad

The club participated in two District Managed Grants with other Rotary clubs. In the fall, we worked with the Niantic Club to provide refrigeration for the Gemma Moran Food Pantry. In the spring, we worked with the Rotary Clubs of Montville, Mystic, Niantic and the Stoningtons to fund toilets for 30 families for Baste Village in India. This was the second District Managed Grant that came from Julia Kushigian Secor's trip to India in January 2013.

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

Geraldine Tom's Year as Governor



By the time District Governor Geraldine Tom made her official visit to the New London Club on December 10th, her year as governor was well underway.

Her focus was on the district being a support to the clubs. Although she did not have a specific Governor's Project, she asked that each club have a project that supported military veterans, which many clubs did.

The most memorable moments were working with youth services and the Youth Exchange Program. Governor Gerry and Dave Wolfe, Youth Exchange Chair, brought the district's eight exchange students to Philadelphia for the weekend and had a fantastic time showing them all the sights.



They even met up with the exchange students from the Philadelphia district. Another Youth Exchange trip was to Boston; on the return home, they got a "behind the scenes" tour of the Mystic Aquarium.



For her Foundation Luncheon, she had David Howard, the author of *A Century of Service, The Story of Rotary International*, as the keynote speaker.

April 29-May 1, 2016, District Governor Geraldine Tom's District Conference was held at the Renaissance Hotel in Providence, Rhode Island, and included a Thursday night "Taste of Federal Hill" journey to some of New England's best Italian restaurants. The keynote speaker for Saturday evening was Craig Wilhelm of TAPS, Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, an organization that works with the families of military personnel who have lost their lives while serving their country.



In addition to funding the District Managed Grant projects and Camp Rotary, the New London Rotary Foundation supported the Homeless Hospitality Center's Walkathon, VNA of SECT for an audiometer for New London Schools, a Grasso Tech student's national technology competition, Haitian Health Foundation, Chikumbuso Student Exchange Program, Niantic Rotary's Amber Alert, Syrian family resettlement, New London Babe Ruth League, and Salt Marsh Opera.

In March, the club inducted four employees from the Secor Auto Group as corporate members. Penny Parsekian's husband, Geoff Kaufman, entertained the club with a rendition of Flanders and Swann's "The Hippopotamus"—mud, mud, glorious mud! March 17th, the club was honored to host Rotary International Director Julia Phelps who spoke about the changing demographics of Rotary



"Mud, Mud, Glorious Mud"



Secor Corporate Members with DG Gerry Tom

Syrian Refugee Resettlement

October 8th, Chris George of the Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS) spoke to the club about the Syrian refugee crisis. He explained that, although the U.S. normally brought 70,000 refugees to the U.S. each year as part of the largest refugee resettlement program in the world, the government had only welcomed 1,800 Syrian refugees for 2015. Following this presentation, the club committed to assist a local coalition of religious and civic groups called Start Fresh in the resettlement of two refugee families: one from Syria and one from Somalia. The Kabny family from Syria, which included five children, arrived in June 2016. Immediately the local support services, including Rotarians, helped them find housing in New London, registered the children for school, and began teaching them English. Through an interpreter they explained that their home had been partially destroyed by bombs. The father, Ahmad Kabny, said that when he arrived in the U.S., he felt “humanity and peace and safe.”



worldwide and issues in Russia with the Rotary clubs there having to register with the government because they receive funds from The Rotary Foundation for humanitarian projects. At the same meeting, the club recognized U.S. Congressman Joe Courtney who talked about legislative work in Washington, DC. The club also inducted its third corporate membership with four employees from Atlantic Broadband.



Atlantic Broadband corporate members

Choosing a Centennial Project

After many months of considering various proposals from the community under the chairmanship of Millie Devine, the choice for a Centennial Project came down to a rebuilding of the Pavilion at Ocean Beach Park and a Bookmobile for the New London Library.



At the February 4th meeting, Andy Russell presented the details, projected costs, and pros and cons of each project. The following week, club members discussed the two proposals and a straw vote was taken to get a sense of club members' preferences.



With the vote favoring the Ocean Beach Pavilion, the project was approved by the club board.

With the project selected, a committee was formed to develop the engineering plans and raise the funds for the \$350,000-\$450,000 Rotary Centennial Pavilion with Jerry Fischer as chair.



The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017



Community Meals Volunteers



at the New London High School Gymnasium, with local celebrities as the “Magic” team. Unfortunately, a major snowstorm—unusual for April—resulted in a low turnout—so the event wasn’t as successful a fundraiser as in years past. April 24th, Rotarians joined the Walk for the Homeless Hospital-ity Center.

Alex Marku chaired a spring cleanup at the Centennial Playground on May 14th. The following Friday, May 20, the club had its 40th Brewfest at the Beach. Alex again came through with his Buon



Appetito pizza truck and offered free pizza to the crowd while Mike Stryker’s band, The “Rhythm Method,” played into the night. With good weather, the event had a huge turnout and netted over \$32,000.

Other programs of note were: Pam Akins’ report on the Rotary International Convention in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Spike Lobdell and Cindy Nickerson of the New

Throughout the year, club volunteers staffed the New London Community Meals Center for one night each month. The club also hosted a Senior Lunch at the New London Senior Center with the meal provided by Anna Lathrop’s Gourmet Galley catering company.

Also throughout the year, the club recognized the Student of the Year from each public, private, parochial and magnet school in New London at our luncheon meeting. The club also gave out scholarships to New London High students for the Robert Groebel, Benjamin Levinson Community Service and Harry Birenbaum Music Scholarship Awards. The club also sent a student to the Rotary Youth Leadership Award conference.

The club sponsored another Harlem Wizards vs. New London Magic fundraiser on April 4th



History-Making Yale-Harvard Race



The Honorable Lee Cole-Chu emceed the traditional Harvard-Yale Regatta luncheon with the Lions and Kiwanis Clubs and the coaches and team captains of the two competitors on June 9th. The following Saturday, with rough waters and winds up to 20 miles per hour, both crews agreed to race, but the Harvard boat sunk while the Yale crew, with a two-length advantage, reached the finish line—only to be told that the race would be declared a no-contest. Needless to say, the controversial finish of the 151st race made national news—and history!

England Science & Sailing (NESS) Foundation, Todd Gipstein's "The Beach of History" images of quiet dramas, Chris Soto of the Higher Edge College Access Program, Karen Fischer's double programs on addiction and opiates, Vianna McGugan about her work in Uganda through Teammates for Life, Boys & Girls Club TRU Team Program, and Jerry Fischer's documentary "Harvesting Stones" about Jewish farmers.



Boys & Girls Club TRU Team

On June 16, 2016, Governor Gerry Tom installed Nicholas Fischer as the 2016-17 President with Thomas Hogsten as President Elect and Victoria Mueller as Vice President. The club honored



Jerry Fischer's Film
"Harvesting Stones"

Treasurer Alan Lyon, Victoria Mueller, John Estelle and Mildred Devine with Distinguished Service Paul Harris Fellowships. The Carl Wies Award was given to Anna Lathrop.

DG Geraldine Tom's District Conference in Providence

District Governor Gerry Tom celebrated the accomplishments of all the clubs in the district at her District Conference in Providence, Rhode Island, April 29th to May 1.



The conference hosted RI President's Rep Sean Hogan (left), opened with a "Taste of Federal Hill" at some of Providence's best restaurants, and finished off Saturday evening with Jim Spinato, comedian/hypnotist, and Craig Wilhelm (lower right) of the Windy25 Memorial Fund and Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS).



DG Gerry was pleased to report that the District 7980 had the largest per capita Rotary Foundation giving and largest total giving in the Zone.



The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

2016-17, President Nicholas “Nick” Fischer



Camp Rotary group participation (top) & computer work (bottom)

Camp Rotary, with 130 students attending, continued to be managed by New London Public Schools with Camp Director Ed Sweeney and camp counselors provided by Connecticut College Office of Volunteers and AmeriCorps/VISTA volunteers. The mornings were devoted to academics with an emphasis on STEM curriculum and afternoons to activities such as boating, swimming and kayaking, and field trips



Above: Water safety instruction



Left: Campers practice sailing techniques

to the Mystic Aquarium, Bluff Point and Ocean Beach Park.

For the campers, the highlight was a day trip to Block Island. The New London Club hosted the campers, camp teachers, staff and counselors for a noon luncheon of pasta and cookies at Port 'N Starboard on August 11th.

August 18th, the annual club picnic was again held at Captain Scott's Lobster Dock with desserts provided by the bakers (and bakery shop shoppers) of the club. Again, Reid Burdick plied the club with liquid refreshments from his Do Good Hydration Cooler, with supplies donated by Ed Cramer.

The following week, Past District Governor Colin Gershon visited New London Rotary to promote the districtwide Centennial Gala scheduled for April 26, 2017.

September 23, 2016, the New London Rotary celebrated 20 years of Brewfests at the Beach with another busy night serving over 150 microbrews, pizza donated by Alex Marku's Buon Appetito pizza truck, and great dance music provided by Mike Stryker's band. The fundraiser netted over \$11,000.



In the fall the club again participated in the Liberty Bank Thanksgiving Dinner Drive in which the bank matched each dollar raised by the club at a 25-cents match to each dollar raised. November 22nd, President Nick Fischer presented a check to the Salvation Army for over \$1,200 for Thanksgiving meal baskets for 200 of the neediest of New London's families.



The club's traditional Veterans Day meeting on November 10th opened with the "Star Spangled Banner" and a medley of the military service anthems sung by the Coast Guard Quartet. The Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee presented the Serviceperson of the Month, ETV2 Bradley Vigor of the Sub School. Jerry Fischer introduced Isadore Schwartz, a World War II veteran who fought in the Philippines and the Japanese islands. Jocelyn Monroe spoke about her father, Alexander Monroe, another WWII veteran who served in Burma, China and India. David Romei talked about joining the Army, despite being only 5'2" and weighing 120 pounds; with the Medical Corps, he went to France and marched to the Austrian border under General Patton. Mary Lenzini, a Navy Nurse during the Vietnam War, concluded with a story about someone she cared for at Bethesda Naval Hospital in the 70s. This veteran looked her up years later just to say thank you.

The club's 20-year-old Holiday Literacy Program was held December 1st with a visit from Santa to entertain our preschool guests. Also in December, 13 New London Rotarians distributed over 400 dictionaries to New London's third-graders.



Julia Kushigian Secor & Caleb Bailey (right) present dictionaries to RMMS students.



PDG Pam Akins as RI President's Rep to District in India



than 24-hrs. of travel, they arrived in Khajuraho, India, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for a complex of Hindu temples. In true Indian fashion they were greeted by a large delegation of local Rotarians with marigold garlands. At the conference, Pam was surprised by an 8-ft. poster of herself (yikes!), but warmed by the friendly Indian Rotarians.



PDG Pam Akins was asked by RI President John Germ to serve as his representative to District 3120 in India in early January. Pam was surprised to be asked, but pleased that Pramod Kumar, a DGE she and Barry had met the previous year in the DGE Homestay Program, had asked for Pam to be the rep at his District Conference. After more



After greeting the conference with the local "Namaskar," Pam spoke about her own experiences with Rotary in India, first as a governor who provided aid after the 2004 tsunami and then the NID in 2011. In Centennial Governor fashion, Pam closed by deputizing DG Pramod and his wife Prem as Rotary Rangers and with a "Yeehaw!" and "Ji Ha!" (sort of a double "Yes!" in Hindi). Barry also gave a speech on his own Rotary experiences. The conference featured much partying,

including a Bollywood night with dancing and awards. Following the conference, Pam and Barry visited a Rotary clinic where children and adults were assessed for corrective leg and foot deformity surgery.

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017



100 Years of Service

Waterbury • New London • New Haven

Districtwide Three-Club Centennial Gala

On April 26, 2017, District 7980 celebrated the 100th anniversary of the founding of the first three clubs in the district—Waterbury, New London and New Haven—at the Omni Hotel in New Haven, Connecticut, with a black-tie gala. Attended by over 325 people, the event was the culmination of two years of planning and work by a committee chaired by Past District Governor Colin Gershon of New Haven. Planning began in 2015, with then-Governor Geraldine Tom, PDG Colin, Ed Cramer, and the three Centennial Club Presidents. Eventually, the committee grew to include Rotarians handling event PR, decorations, ad sales, stage technology, and event management. PDG Pam Akins of New London designed the invitations, and Brian Cole printed and mailed over 300 invitations to the three celebrated clubs' members, Past District Governors, District 7980 2016-17 Club Presidents, and a host of Rotary dignitaries and guests. Rotary International President John Germ was the keynote speaker for the event with PDG Pamela Akins as his aide.

To cover the costs of the event, the committee solicited sponsors and sold advertising with materials designed by PDG Pam. Griswold Home Care, owned by New Haven's first woman Rotarian Lesley Mills, was the lead sponsor at \$3,000, and the New Haven and New London clubs provided sponsorships at \$2,000 each, with the Waterbury Club joining the District at \$1,000. Additionally, the 48-page program book, produced by Pam Akins and printed by Brian Cole, contained 30 ads featuring club, family and corporate tributes to the Centennial.

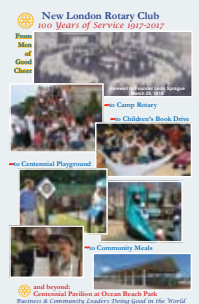


The Gala opened with a Presidential Reception featuring RI President John Germ and his wife Judy and a General Reception for all attendees. With Brian Cole as Master of Ceremonies, the dinner kicked off with a presentation of flags and procession of Rotary dignitaries. Then the members of the three Centennial Clubs marched into the banquet hall to the cheers of the room. Students from Audubon Voices of the Neighborhood Music School in New Haven led the room in the "Star Spangled Banner," and New London President Elect Thomas Hogsten gave the invocation. After District Governor Paul Mangels gave the opening remarks, the New London Rotary Club stood and sang its 50-year-old Welcome Song. Matthew Nemerison, New Haven's Economic Development Administrator, gave a welcome from the city. Following dinner, Gipstein Multi-Media opened the program with a video featuring the three Centennial Clubs' 100 years of service before RI President John spoke. Concluding the evening, Yale's Whiffenpoofs entertained with a musical review in formal tuxedos.



The event infused the three Centennial Clubs with renewed enthusiasm, especially the New London Club, in large part due to the dedicated efforts of Past President Ed Cramer to get club members to attend. The New London Club's turnout for the event filled six tables—more than any other club in the district and even Past President Barbara Gandy, who had moved to North Carolina, returned to celebrate with the club.

The event netted over \$5,000 and the proceeds were split between the three Centennial Clubs and The Rotary Foundation, with New London's share going toward its Centennial Pavilion Project. It was an event of a lifetime for New London Rotarians, kicking off a full year of Centennial celebrations.



A potluck After-Holiday Holiday Party was hosted by Bill Schmidt at his home on January 12th with beverages supplied by Ed Cramer.

For the 15th year, club volunteers staffed the New London Community Meals Center on a monthly basis. Club volunteers also served a luncheon at the New London Senior Center, with the meal provided by Anna Lathrop's Gourmet Galley.



William Miner

In the spring, the club saw the passing of William "Bill" Miner, a long-time member of the club and respected attorney, who served on many boards and committees in the region, including the Board of Managers of Lawrence & Memorial Hospital, Trustees of Connecticut College, and Trustees of Mystic Seaport Museum.



Meal prep and cleanup at the Community Meals Center—any age can help

Late spring, Alex Marku led the effort to renovate the Centennial Playground landscaping through a club foundation grant.

In May, the club hosted the Student of the Year honorees from all of New London's schools at several luncheons in a row, celebrating the 25th anniversary of this program. The club sent two students to the Rotary Youth Leadership Award conference. And at the end of the year, the club recognized New London High School students with the Robert Groebel Award (Atiya Green), Benjamin Levinson Community Service Award (Chloe Murphy and Nathaniel Skrabacz) and Harry Birenbaum Music Scholarship (Brynn Doughty).



The May 19, 2017, Brewfest at the Beach involved not only New London Rotarians, but also Rotaractors and other community volunteers. The net for the fundraiser was over \$14,000.



In addition to funding Camp Rotary, the New London Rotary Foundation provided \$4,500 for new landscaping at the Centennial Playground, \$1,000 to Fresh

Start, and \$1,050 to Friends of Chikumbuso. Smaller amounts went to New London Youth

Football, Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra, TVCCA Nature Playground, Jewish Federation Operation Cool Down, Teammates for Life and the Boys & Girls Club of Southeastern Connecticut. The Do Good Fund also gave small amounts to individual with emergency needs.

Championship Rings for New London Girls' Basketball Team



Once again, the New London Rotary Club proposed purchasing championship rings for one of New London High School's athletic teams—this time for the Girls Basketball Team who won the state championship on Saturday March 18, beating #1-ranked Trumbull High School with a score of 42 to 36. The team members were presented with the rings at the club's June 15th luncheon.

On June 8th, the club in its 67-year tradition hosted the Harvard-Yale Regatta coaches, team captains, the Mayor of New London, and Lions and Kiwanis Clubs.

Other programs throughout the year included: the Bingham Camp Theater Retreat, Lyman Allyn's New London Project, Rotary Foundation Boots on the Ground, Rick Gipstein's Report on Parkinson's Disease Surgery, Musical Stylings by ECSO Violinist Joan Winters, State Comptroller Kevin Lembo, Fort Trumbull: 10 Years Later, New London Talent Show, and State Representative Chris Soto's legislative update.



Past District Governors Gerry Tom and Pam Akins, Past President Barry Levinson,



and Alex Marku attended the Rotary International Convention in Atlanta, June 10-14, 2017. Pam and Barry connected with several DGEs (from India, Sweden, Nigeria) they had hosted over the



years as part of the DGE Homestay Program, as well as the Governor who hosted them at his District Conference in India in January. PDG Gerry, her classmates and Alex mugged for the camera with the lifesize photo of Arch Klumpf, the RI President who created The Rotary Foundation 100 years ago.



On June 22, 2017, at the noon luncheon, Governor Trish Pearson installed Thomas Hogsten as President for 2017-18 with Victoria Mueller as President Elect and Deborah MacDonnell as Vice President. The traditional recognition of the 2017 Distinguished Service Award and Carl Wies Award were held until the New London Club's Centennial Gala in September at the New London Holiday Inn.

2017-18, President Thomas “Tom” Hogsten



In July 2017, Rick Gipstein presented the new Centennial Club Banner and Centennial Pin he had designed to start off the club's second century of service. Pam Akins wrote the 100-year history of the club, with input from lots of Rotarians. And plans were solidified for the New London Centennial Gala set for September 16, 2017.

Camp Rotary continued at Bennie Dover Jackson Middle School for eight weeks in July and August with STEM-focused curriculum and lots of enrichment activities for the 130 students in the program.

On August 10th, the club had its traditional luncheon with the campers at the Coast Guard Academy Officers' Club.

President Tom Hogsten committed the club to monthly Rotary After Hours (RAHs) every second Tuesday of the month, with the year's first RAH at the New London Holiday Inn. The music committee

mixed it up with Caleb Bailey bringing in his guitar to do Beatles songs.

For a different kind of meeting, July 27th, the club had a box-lunch picnic at the Connecticut



La Luna RAH



College Buck Lodge and enjoyed a walking tour of the Arboretum.



Above: Buck Lodge
Below: Arboretum Walk



The annual club picnic changed to a potluck get-together at Bill Schmidt's home on August 24.

Fundraising for the Centennial Pavilion at Ocean Beach gained momentum with commitments from Palmer Fund, Charter Oak Federal Credit Union and some major individual donors.

The committee also contracted for the groundbreaking in late 2017.

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

Centennial Pavilion at Ocean Beach

The development of New London Rotary's Centennial Pavilion at Ocean Beach Park was a joint effort involving much of the club leadership. Millie Devine began chairing the Centennial Committee in 2011, with a focus on how the club should celebrate its Centennial. As part of that process, it was decided that the Centennial Celebrations should include a special Centennial Project. So for a couple of years, Millie managed the process of selecting that project, which included several proposals by community organizations. Once Millie had completed shepherding the selection process for the project to the final choice of rebuilding the Pavilion at Ocean Beach, she retired as Centennial Committee Chair, and Anna Lathrop took up the chairmanship of the overall Centennial Planning Committee with Jerry Fischer as Chair of the Centennial Pavilion Project.

With the project identified, the Centennial Pavilion Project Committee focused on developing the design and engineering plans and raising the necessary funds for its completion. Rick Gipstein did the architectural design for the Pavilion, with the drafting work done by Eric Murray of REM Arch, LLC. Scott Erricson of E2 Engineers of New London provided the structural engineering pro bono. Rick also secured the estimates for the Pavilion's construction.

On the fundraising side, the committee developed a layered plan to raise the \$350,000-\$450,000 to complete the project, first asking for commitments from all club members and then securing \$80,000 from the New London Rotary Foundation before approaching the greater community. Pam Akins created solicitation materials, which were printed by Brian Cole's company, Quality Printers, and the committee moved forward with the fundraising campaign. On November 9, 2016, the club invited the New London community to the launch of the Campaign for the Centennial Pavilion at Ocean Beach Park.

By the end of 2016, the New London Club had secured donations and pledges from its club members totaling over \$55,000. With that in hand, the Centennial Pavilion Committee began approaching various community foundations and corporations. The Frank Loomis Palmer Fund committed to give \$200,000 over two years, with the Bodenwein Benevolent Foundation and Charter Oak Federal Credit Union each committing to \$10,000 each over two years. Centerplate, the management company for Ocean Beach Park, also committed to \$10,000, and it was expected that other corporate donors would follow. As

of the publication of this history, proposals were being considered by other community and private foundations, and various giving levels were established for In Memoriam and Rotarian donor recognitions. Even the New London Rotaract Club contributed over \$2,000 toward the project. By June 30, 2017, the club had raised approximately \$340,000 toward the project. A groundbreaking date was anticipated for late fall 2017 with completion of the New London Centennial Pavilion at Ocean Beach by the spring of 2018.



New London Rotary Centennial Campaign for the Pavilion at Ocean Beach Park

Please join us for the launch of the
New London Rotary Campaign
for the new Pavilion at Ocean Beach Park

Wednesday, November 9th, 3:00 pm

Pilot House, Ocean Beach Park
New London, CT 06320

Anna Lathrop, Centennial Committee Chair
Jerry Fischer, Centennial Pavilion Campaign Committee Chair



**New London Rotary Centennial
Campaign for the Pavilion at Ocean Beach Park**
P.O. Box 654 • New London, CT 06320

Yes, I want to contribute to the New London Rotary
Centennial Pavilion at Ocean Beach Park!
(Pledge can be paid over a three-year period of 2016-2017.
Checks should be made out to the New London Rotary Foundation and marked "Pavilion."
Payments by credit card: MC/VISA preferred.)

Amount Pledged	Name (as it will appear on Donor Board)
\$10,000	_____
\$5,000	_____
\$2,500	_____
\$1,000	_____
\$500	_____
\$250	_____

Donor Recognition for Gifts of \$250 and Up

Address _____	City _____	State _____	Zip _____
Preferred Phone _____		Preferred Email _____	
Signature of Club Requestor _____		General Community Pledge Card	



Approaching the Club Centennial, 2010-2017

The club board committed to a club constitution and bylaws revision in line with the 2016 Council on Legislation and adopted a five-tiered membership structure, with categories for Active 35 and older, Active Young Professional, Active Senior/Rule of 85, Corporate Member and Friend of Rotary. President Tom Hogsten pushed for more active committees and reorganized the budget to reflect the actual operating costs of its Avenues of Service projects.

The club had the below photo taken at the club meeting on August 31, 2017.



*Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut
Centennial Club Photo, Luncheon Meeting, August 31, 2017*

Seated, left to right: Florence Clarke, Kathryn Schargus, Julia Kushigian Secor+, Geraldine Tom+*, Pamela Akins+*, President Thomas Hogsten, Lorraine Allen, Mary Lenzini, Reid Burdick, Pierce Connair+, Christopher Neilan+.

Standing, left to right: David Goebel, Anna Lathrop+, Edward Cramer+, Andrew Russell+, Deborah MacDonnell, John Bysko, Brian Cole+, Leeland Cole-Chu, William Schmidt+, Alan Lyon, Jerome Fischer+, Todd Gipstein, Raymond Krisciunas, John Estelle, Richard Gipstein+, Isabelle Singer, Nicholas Fischer+, James Rendon, Leon Lehrer.

Not available for photo: Caleb Bailey, Bruce Baratz, Elizabeth Binger, Joanne Cain, Richard Calvert, Margaret Curtin, Mildred Devine+~, Meredith Diette+, William Ebersole, Gary Farrugia, Neil Feinberg, George Fisher, Bettye Fletcher, Catherine Foley+, Carmelo Foti, Jose Garaycochea, Eric Garofano, Charles Hanley, Myron Hendel, Paul Holden, Diane Levi, Linda Mariani, Alex Marku, Petrit Marku, James McGuire, Pamela McNulty-Hennessey, Victoria Mueller, Jennifer Mullen, Barry Neistat, Jerry Olson, Penny Parsekian, Mark Patnode, Stephen Percy~, Prince Polius, Charles Primus, Charles Ramsey, Tracee Reiser+, Sarah Rogovin, Ivan Sadler, Henry Savin+~, Jeanne Sigel, Anthony Silvestri, Mark Spinnato, Vivian Stanley+, Michael Stryker+, Joseph Thibeault, Roderick White+~.

* Past District Governor +Past President ~Honorary Member

September 15, 2017, the evening before the club's Centennial Gala on the 16th, club members worked the fall Brewfest at the Beach on the boardwalk and looked forward to moving back into a new Pavilion at Ocean Beach in the coming year. The following evening, September 16th, the club celebrated its 100th Anniversary at the New London Holiday Inn with many recognitions.

It was with this high level of energy and optimism that the club approached the culminating event of its Centennial Year: the completion of the Centennial Pavilion at Ocean Beach later that winter.

The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

Centennial Gala, September 16, 2017



Gala Chair Anna Lathrop & MC Brian Cole confer about the program



Centennial Gala Cake



Honorary Chairs Henry Savin & Myron Hendel receive 50-year membership pins



Left: Lorraine Allen & Pam Akins show off Centennial History
Above: Mel Foti & Catherine Foley peruse history book



Left: City Counselor Tracee Reiser presents City of New London and State of Connecticut proclamations to President Tom Hogsten



Coast Guard Chorus sings medley of patriotic songs



Right: PDG Geraldine Tom O'Shannon presents Paul Harris Fellows to Camp Rotary Directors Alison Burdick Ryan & Ed Sweeney

Left: PDG Pam Akins & Past RI VP Abe Gordon present Mary Lenzini with Major Donor pin & crystal



Below: Ed Cramer inducts new member, Keith Turner



Left: Past RI VP Abe Gordon with Major Donors: Mary Lenzini, PDG Pam Akins, John Bysko, PDG Gerry Tom O'Shannon & Pete Connair

Right: PDG Pam Akins receives Carl Wies Award for 2nd time



President-Elect Victoria Mueller & Jerry Fischer present Ed Cramer with Good 'N Plenty Award as part of Historical Review

Centennial Gala, September 16, 2017

Attendees by Table



The History of the Rotary Club of New London, Connecticut, 1917-2017

Club Honored Paul Harris Fellows, 1978-2017

Robert Groebel, 1978
Carl Wies, 1979
Ralph Wadleigh, 1981
Joseph Medeiros, 1982
Robert Weller, 1983
Frank Laycock, 1984
Benjamin Levinson, 1985
Philip Burns, 1986, 1990
Richard Creviston, 1987
H. Fremont Alderson, 1988
Edward Cramer, 1988, 2002
Stephen Percy, 1988, 1995, 2017
William Miner, 1989
Gary Root, 1989
Carl Stoner, 1989
^Itzhak Perlman, 1989
Mildred Devine, 1990, 1990#, 2016
^Abraham Gordon, 1990
Howard Kaplan, 1990
Norman MacLeod, Jr., 1990
Thorburn McGowan, 1990
Donald Mitchell, 1990
William Murray, 1990
David Quinn, 1990
Thomas Wetmore, III, 1990
Roger Gross, 1991
Carmelina Kanzler, 1992
Barry Levinson, 1992, 2012
Philip Maniscalco, 1993
Richard Lombardi, 1994, 2012
^Sigmund Strochlitz, 1994
Richard Gipstein, 1995, 2005, 2014
^Claire Gaudiani, 1996
Faye Vathauer, 1996
^Morris Wessell, 1996
Brian A. Cole, 1997
Pierce Connair, 1997
James C. McGuire, 1997
Harold Weiner, 1997
Roderick M. White, 1997
Pamela S. Akins, 1998, 2003#, 2005
John Bysko, 1998
Henry Savin, 1998, 2015
Benjamin K. Watts, 1998#
Bessie Dallas, 1999
^Charles Lee, 1999
Walter Makepeace, 1999
George Fisher, 2000
Tracee Reiser, 2000, 2005
Philip A. Turner, 2000, 2009
^George Milne, 2001
Frank Bartol, 2001
Diana Ketner, 2001
Walter Clearwater, 2001
Russell Lewis, 2001
^Chester Kitchings, 2002

Catherine Foley, 2002
Roger Hassard, 2002
Michael S. Stryker, 2002
William Edwards, 2003
^Laurence P. Smith, 2003
Lorraine E. Allen, 2003
Sarah Rogovin, 2004
Joseph Stellato, 2004
^Edith "Fuzzy" Gipstein, 2004
Myron Hendel, 2005
Reid Burdick, 2005
^Kathy Browne, 2005
Christopher Neilan, 2006, 2009
Joan Evans Hunter, 2006
^Charles Chu, 2006
Andrew Russell, 2007
^Harold Arkava, 2007
Lewis Buckley, 2007
Mary Lenzini, 2007
Geraldine Tom, 2007
MaryLou Underwood, 2007
Robert Bartlett, 2007
Holly Jermar, 2008
Anna Lathrop, 2008
David M. Goebel, 2008
^Joann Wetmore, 2008
Jerry Fischer, 2008
Lee Cole-Chu, 2008
Isabelle Singer, 2009
Leon Lehrer, 2009
Ulysses Hammond, 2009
Ann Connolly, 2009
^David Sugrue, 2009
Anne Schmidt, 2010
Margaret "Peg" Curtin, 2010
Mary Ellen Jukoski, 2010
^Charlotte Hennegan, 2011
^Eleanor Hage, 2011
Ivan Sadler, 2011
Michel Belt, 2011
William Schmidt, 2011
Mark Spinnato, 2012
Carmelo "Mel" Foti, 2012
Gerald "Denny" Hicks, 2012
Neil Feinberg, 2013
Frank McLaughlin, 2013
Julia Kushigian Secor, 2013
Emily Lavoie, 2013
Todd Gipstein, 2014
Sandra Stosz, 2015
Helen Sandalls, 2015
Alan Lyon, 2016
Victoria Mueller, 2016
John Estelle, 2016
Alison Burdick, 2017
Ed Sweeney, 2017

^ Non-Club Member # Honored by District

Carl Wies Award Winners, 1986-2017

1986	Stephen Percy	2002	Pamela S. Akins
1987	Robert C. Weller	2003	Richard Gipstein
1988	Barry A. Levinson	2004	Michael Stryker
1989	Mildred Devine	2005	Thomas Wetmore III
1990	David J. Quinn	2006	Brian Cole
1991	Richard Lombardi	2007	Philip A. Turner
1992	Diana Ketner	2008	Pierce Connair
1993	Philip Burns	2009	Ann Connolly
1994	Walter Makepeace	2010	Catherine Foley
1995	Henry Savin	2011	Michel Belt
1996	George Fisher	2012	William Schmidt
1997	Edward Cramer	2013	Geraldine Tom
1998	Tracee Reiser	2014	Andy Russell
1999	Donald B. Mitchell	2015	Mark Spinnato
2000	Frank J. Laycock	2016	Anna Lathrop
2001	Roger Hassard	2017	Pamela S. Akins

Dr. Carl Wies, New London Rotarian

Carl Wies was born in August 1906 in New Jersey. He graduated from MIT in 1927 with a major in electrical engineering after only three years of study. Having an abiding interest in public service and the clergy, he apparently was not fulfilled as an engineer and enrolled in Yale Medical School, graduating in 1934. In 1935 he moved to New London, commenced a 51-year practice as a family physician, and married Alma Clark. He and Alma purchased and renovated the old Pequot Colony Casino located on the river, off Pequot near Montauk Ave., and raised their five daughters there. He also joined the New London Rotary Club and was active from the very beginning. He served as Club President during 1940-41.

During WWII Carl served as a Lt. Colonel in the Army on the Intelligence Staff of General Omar Bradley. He was actively involved in the planning of the Normandy invasion on D-Day and the Army's subsequent advance through France and into Germany. After the war, he attended several Army staff reunions during the remainder of General Bradley's lifetime.

Dr. Wies was a particularly beloved family physician and was known to make house calls at all hours of the day and night, often checking out the kitchen cabinets for food, cooking and preparing meals for some of the elderly shut-ins, and even running dirty clothes through the washing machine.

For many years he was the volunteer surgeon for the New London Fire Department and was present at most fires and all major multi-alarm emergencies. His car was equipped with flashing lights and a two-way radio. He carried boots, a raincoat and emergency medical supplies in the trunk of his auto and was always ready. He was honored by the New London firefighters and was affectionately known as the "Night Angel."

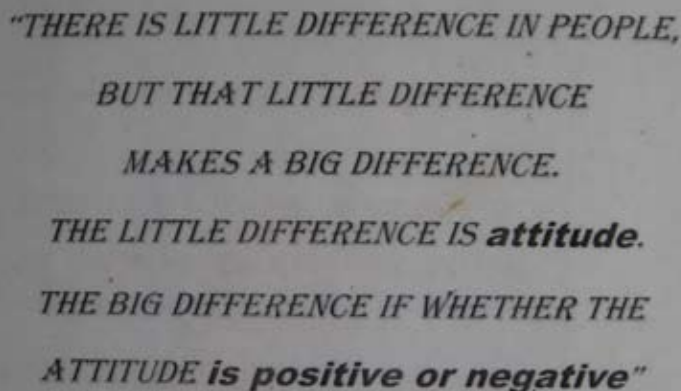
Dr. Wies had many interests. He was a lay leader in the St. James Episcopal Church. He organized a charitable enterprise called "Spare Parts" as a Rotary Club project in which shoes and gloves were donated for amputees. He founded the "Tale of the Whale" Museum on Whale Oil Row on the second floor of the building in which he maintained his medical office. He also was a founding member of the Mitchell College Board of Trustees.

In 1979, the Rotary Club of New London presented Carl Wies with a Paul Harris Fellowship and he was honored by the club for 44 years of perfect attendance. He continued to maintain a record of perfect attendance for a total of more than 50 years. In 1986, the club created an annual award, the Carl Wies Award, to recognize a club member who has contributed to the club through exceptional service.

Epilogue

What will the future bring for the Rotary Club of New London? It is hard to say. Although growing in Asia and Africa and maintaining membership in Europe and South America, Rotary in North America, like many civic and community organizations, is experiencing a continuing decline in membership. This is due to many factors such as slowed population growth, a shrinking middle class and number of small and local businesses, the more dispersed nature of the modern workplace, and changing attitudes about social relationships. Plus the changing nature of the business community in the City of New London also contributes specifically to pressure on the New London Club.

However, that “Spirit of Rotary” that James Hammond talked about still exists. Young business and professional people still want to be informed, engaged and inspired—and they still seek the broader circles of friendship and service that the New London Club has to offer. The future of the Rotary Club of New London is in their hands. May they carry it forward into another 100 years of fellowship and service.



*"THERE IS LITTLE DIFFERENCE IN PEOPLE,
BUT THAT LITTLE DIFFERENCE
MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE.
THE LITTLE DIFFERENCE IS **attitude**.
THE BIG DIFFERENCE IS WHETHER THE
ATTITUDE **is positive or negative**"*

Sign in a school supported by Rotary funds in Amritsar, India



New London Rotary Club

100 Years of Service 1917-2017

From
Men
of
Good
Cheer



Farewell to Founder Leon Sprague
March 28, 1918



~to Camp Rotary

~to Children's Book Drive



~to Centennial Playground



~to Community Meals



and beyond:
Centennial Pavilion at Ocean Beach Park

Business & Community Leaders Doing Good in the World