



THE ROTARY

ANCHOR



The Weekly Newsletter of
THE ROTARY CLUB OF NEW LONDON

District 7980 Club 6741

Chartered April 11, 1917

PO Box 654, New London, CT 06320

CLUB NEWS MAY 14, 2026

Upcoming Events for Rotary Club of New London

5/28 Student of the Year Luncheon
Lighthouse Inn
Noon

Guess the Rotary Club of New London's Installation Location

Victoria Mueller is planning another great installation event. The event is scheduled for **6 p.m., Wednesday, June 24.**

Where? Well, that's what you get to guess!

We'll give you clues each week in The Anchor and if you think you can guess the location, email President-Elect Gail MacDonald (gbraccimac@gmail.com). The first person to guess correctly BEFORE the location is revealed on June 11 will get to choose a charity to which MacDonald will make a \$100 donation.

This week's clue is - **The building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.**

The May 7 was - The building was constructed five years after the conclusion of the American Civil War.

The April 30 clue was - A very visible Rotary-sponsored project is close by the location.

The April 23 clue was - It's a unique spot in downtown New London.

Proposed Member

Mary Lenzini and Joe Buths are sponsoring Jacquelyn Conn for membership. Jackie moved to Waterford from Maine, where she co-owned a leather and jewelry business where she designed silver jewelry. She also was a manager of a Weight Watcher's franchise. Jackie started the 100 Women Who Care- Southeastern Connecticut who have donated over \$10,250 to non-profit organizations.

Please contact Mary Lenzini by 5/21 if you do not approve this application.

Community Meal Center

Our club volunteers on the **2nd Thursday of each month** to serve at CMC. Please let Anna Lathrop know if you can help, anna@gourmet-galley.com. We begin at 4pm and are done by 6:15pm. Your help is always appreciated.

NEW LONDON ROTARY GOLF TOURNAMENT

MONDAY, JUNE 1
GREAT NECK COUNTRY CLUB



REGISTRATION FORM & INFO

TODAY'S PROGRAM

Todd Gipstein

Weekly Meeting
12:00 Noon

at THE LIGHTHOUSE INN
6 West Guthrie Place, New London

May 21 **Evening Meeting**
No Noon Meeting

May 28 **Student of the Year**

GREETER / SONG LEADER

May 14 Valerie West
May 21 Alan Lyon
May 28 Andy Russell

BIRTHDAYS

May 12 Joshua Gray
May 12 Linda Mariani
May 14 Rick Gipstein

ANNIVERSARIES

May 15 Tracee Reiser &
Robert Hayford
May 16 Victoria & Tim Mueller

*"Volunteers do
not necessarily
have the time;
they just have
the heart."*

- Elizabeth Andrew

MEETING REPORT MAY 7, 2026

The Last Assignment

Todd Gipstein ends his career on a high note.

I gave the first of 2 presentations about my around-the-world by private jet expedition for National Geographic in January. My talk was titled “*My Last Assignment.*” After a media career spanning more than 55 years, 40 of them with National Geographic, I decided before I left that this would be my last professional assignment – for the Geographic or for anyone. My work has taken me around the world, from Antarctica to the arctic, Galapagos, Europe, North and South America, Africa and Asia. I have worked on 24 expeditions for National Geographic.

The trip included 3 experts and 65 guests. I worked as the photo expert, giving lectures about photography and media on the plane, helping guests with their picture taking, shooting and producing a 27 minute film to be shown in Marrakech the last night of the trip, and also photographing for a coffee table book the Geographic would send all guests after the trip.

I showed our club the film I made that chronicled the expedition, which lasted 3 1/2 weeks and included stops in Peru, Easter Island, Fiji, Australia, Cambodia, Nepal, Bhutan, India, Africa, Jordan and Morocco. It was an amazing and insane assignment. Very grueling for me, with no down time. I spent my time on every flight (38 in all and 90 hours in the air) editing my photos and working on the film. Meals and sleep were often elusive.

I arrived back in D.C. just as the winter blizzards hit, delaying my final leg home. Indeed, after flying about 30,000 miles, the last 300 or so from D.C. to New London proved the most challenging. But I did make it home and spent several more weeks polishing the film and working on the book.

I was very glad to have done the trip but don't want to do another. I never want to work that hard again. I have the film and book to share, and memories of a most extraordinary assignment photographing around the world – a wonderful way to cap off a very long and storied career.

The film can be viewed by following the link on the National Geographic page on my website: www.Gipstein.com and on my YouTube channel (Todd Gipstein). You can see some of what we saw – without the jet-lag.

My second presentation will share some of the behind-the-scenes craziness of the trip and the challenges I had to meet as a photographer.



Dancer - Cambodia



Mosaics - Morocco



Sunrise - Easter Island

MEETING REPORT MAY 7, 2026



Todd starts his journey around the world on Nat Geo's jet



Todd with the National Geographic flag on Easter Island



Temple - Nepal



Vendor - Nepal



Bedouin - Jordan



Flying by Easter Island



Taj Mahal from the Jet