



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 21, 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's facade was updated with a new design in 1905 by noted local architect Dudley St. Clair Donnelly.**

The May 14 clue was - 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 New Members

The following 2 individuals are presented for membership. If you have any reason to believe they should not be installed as a member please contact President Mary.

Kimberly Hodges is sponsored by Ed Cramer and Mark Patnode. She is the Director of Advancement at Mitchell College. She resides with her husband Michael in Waterford.

Betsy VanderVelde is sponsored by Mary Lenzini. She is a retired CEO of Futures First Kansas. She splits her residency with her husband Joe between Waterford CT and Shawnee Mission, Kansas.

President Mary

### 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](mailto: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

Evening Meeting  
NO NOON MEETING

Weekly Meeting  
12:00 Noon

at THE LIGHTHOUSE INN  
6 West Guthrie Place, New London

May 28 Student of the Year

Jun 4 Yale-Harvard Regatta

Jun 11 **Nikki Wilkins**  
*Wealth Management*

### GREETER / SONG LEADER

May 21 Alan Lyon

May 28 Andy Russell

Jun 4 Victoria Mueller

### BIRTHDAYS

May 24 Murry Rubin

### ANNIVERSARIES

May 26 Christine & Ulysses  
Hammond

May 26 Kristin & Jan  
Magnussen

*"You have not  
lived until you have  
done something for  
someone who can  
never repay you."*

— John Bunya

# MEETING REPORT MAY 14, 2026

## Todd Gipstein Around-the-World for Nat Geo Part 2

I followed last week's screening of my film Voyage of Discovery, created on and about my Around the World trip for National Geographic. A trip that included Peru, Easter Island, Fiji, Australia, Cambodia, Nepal, Bhutan, India, Africa, Jordan and Morocco.

This presentation was a light-hearted look at the "Glamor" of being a Nat Geo photographer on a grueling 3 week assignment. It was a trip that was, in equal measures, amazing and insane.

I explained how photography is not what you want but what you get. And making the best of it. For example, the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, where I was scheduled to shoot underwater, was closed due to a cyclone. Instead, I ending up at a zoo photographing what wildlife I could, including a one-legged duck! Ah, the fearsome wildlife of down-under!

Or, at the Taj Mahal, I encountered a fog so thick the massive building was invisible. When the day finally cleared, I shot and then spent an hour trying to get out of the Taj as there were well over 100,00 visitors there that day. Then I took a death-defying tuk-tuk ride through Agra.

I spoke about the futility of ever having a full dinner. Usually, after a bite or two, the performances started and I'd have to run off to photograph them. By the time they were done and I returned to my table, dinner had been cleared. No wonder I lost 5 pounds!

I talked about a number of challenging situations and battles with software in the middle of nowhere, like the Serengeti in Africa, or at the 36,000 feet aboard the jet. I shared that I seldom got more than four or five hours sleep, and that I worked every minute of the 90 hours we spent flying.

While my talk was mostly about the unique challenges of this grueling assignment, I also touched on some of the amazing places I saw and experiences I had. Dawn on Easter Island was moving. The colorful hippie-like holy men in Nepal were charming. The intense decorative mosaics in Marrakech were stunning. My return to Machu Picchu after 30 years memorable. The grandeur of Petra unforgettable.

Partly I undertook the assignment to see if I could still endure the physical rigors of such an intense trip, meet the creative and technical challenges, and deliver the quality photographs and film I was expected to. Turns

out, on all fronts, I could. I concluded that it was a perfect caper to my 40-year career for National Geographic and 55 years as a photographer and media producer. Along the way, I've traveled the world, seen a lot, and shared many stories. I hope that now that I am retiring, through my work, I have opened a few eyes, and touched a few hearts.



*The Taj Mahal*



*Easter Island - Moai Statues*



*Easter Island - Moai Statues*

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*Mt. Everest and Jet Wing*



*Nepal - Kathmandu - Sadhu (Holy Man)*



*Nepal - Kathmandu - Sadhu (Holy Man)*



*Bhutan - Masked Dancers*



*Cambodia - Angkor Thom - Bayon Temple*



*Cambodia - Siem Riep - Dinner & Dancers*



*Cambodia - Tree Invades Ta Prohm Temple*



*Cambodia - Angkor Wat - Sunrise*



*Australia - Port Douglas Wildlife Habitat*

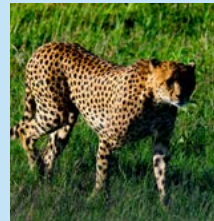
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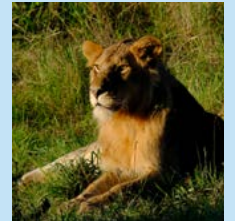
*Africa - Serengeti - Safari*



*Africa - Serengeti - Cheetah*



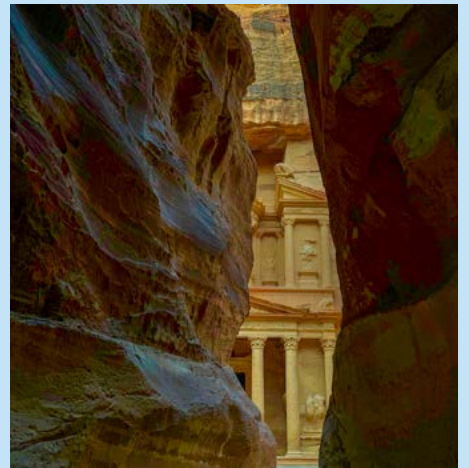
*Africa - Serengeti - Cheetah*



*Africa - Serengeti - Lion*



*Peru - Machu Picchu*



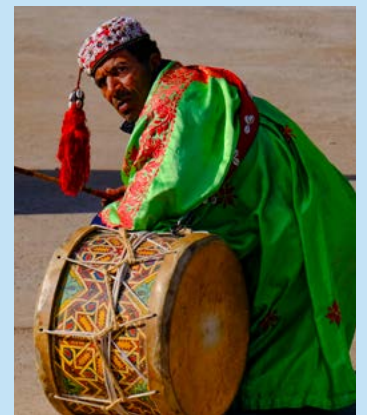
*Jordan - Al-Khazneh (The Treasury) - Petra*



*Peru - Center for Traditional Textiles - Cusco*



*Australia - Port Douglas Wildlife Habitat - Emu*



*Morocco - Marrakech Street Performer*