



NEWS AND VIEWS
KIWANIS CLUB OF NEW LONDON, CT
 A KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION HONOR CLUB



SERVING GREATER NEW LONDON SINCE 1940

WE MEET EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 12:15 PM
THE LIGHTHOUSE INN
6 GUTHRIE PLACE, NEW LONDON, CT

CLUB OFFICERS 2007-2008

PRESIDENT: Thomas Moriarty **PRESIDENT-ELECT:** Cpn. Chris Sinnett
VICE-PRESIDENT: Chip Gorra **TREASURER:** Robert Jones
SECRETARY: Martin T. Olsen Jr. **IMM. PAST-PRESIDENT:** Robert Grills
DIRECTORS (1 YEAR): Valeda Grills, John Russell, Ted Nelson, Glenn Hamler
DIRECTORS (2 YEARS): Andrea Kaiser, David Stender, Mac Pope

LEGION OF HONOR: John Kashanski (54), Ed Rachleff (46), Frank Penny (38) and Gordon Jackson (36) **SENIOR MEMBER:** Ed Rachleff

PAST LT. GOVERNORS: John Kashanski (1971-72), Frank Penny (1980-81) Gordon Jackson (1982-83), Martin T. Olsen Jr. (1996-97), Valeda Grills (2004-06) and Michael Doyle (2005-07)

LIFE MEMBERS: Martin T. Olsen Jr., John Vincent and Frank Penny

HONORARY MEMBER: Helen McCartin

DIRECTOR KIWANIS FOUNDATION OF NE: Valeda Grills, Tom Moriarty

PAST DISTINGUISHED GOVERNOR & IPP KFNE: Martin T. Olsen Jr.

DISTRICT CHAIR- MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS: Martin T. Olsen Jr.

DISTRICT CHAIR- READ AROUND THE WORLD: Robert Grills

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SANTA BIG HIT AT CHRISTMAS PARTY

The club entertained fourteen young guests from the Salvation Army's After School Youth Program at the Annual Christmas Party on December 19th. The festive atmosphere was enhanced with a visit by **Santa Claus** and his wife, **Mrs. Claus**. Our younger guests were in awe! Club members adopting individual children and providing gifts for Santa to distribute were **Tom Moriarty, Mac Pope, Carol Ballestrini, David Stender, Valeda Grills, Glenn Hamler, Gordon Jackson, Robert Grills, Ted Nelson, Andrea Kaiser, Chip Gorra, Sherry Lombardi** and **Marty Olsen**. **John Kashanski** provided popcorn balls for all the kids and **Valeda Grills** gave each child a book. **Captain Annette Lock** escorted the children along with her able assistant, **Emanuel**. A big Kiwanis Thank You to former member **Frank Galley**.

KIWANIS AND KEY CLUB BELL RINGERS RAISE \$2000

Captain John Lock reported that our Kiwanis and Key Club Bell Ringers had a very successful day at the Crystal Mall on Saturday, December 22nd with the preliminary account indicating approximately \$2000 raised. Club members and Key Clubbers staffed the entrances to Charlie's Eating & Drinking Saloon, JC Penny and the Food Court from 9:00 AM through 7:00 PM. Key Clubbers represented Waterford, Fitch, East Lyme and Lyme-Old Lyme High Schools. Faculty Advisors from Waterford High School, **Amanda Marchese** and **Ian Cheney** shared the day with their members at the Food Court. Our Lt.

Governor, **Sue Reniewicz**, and **Gloria Olesen** both from the Newington club helped out as well. Club members volunteering were **Gordon Jackson, Bob Grills, Ted Nelson, Glenn Hamler** and his friend, **Dan Spring, Robert Jones, Marty Olsen, Chip Gorra, Valeda Grills** (two shifts), **Andrew Ely, Tom Moriarty, Mac Pope, Marla Champagne, Rich Cheatham** and **John Russell**.

READING IS FUNDAMENTAL

The club for the eighth consecutive year will be commencing its Reading is Fundamental (RIF) program at the Ballestrini Childcare Centers in Waterford and Salem. This program, which runs from the beginning of January through the end of May, qualifies as both a Kiwanis Young Children Priority project meeting the criteria of working with children prenatal thorough age five and Kiwanis International Read Around the World. Club members read to approximately thirty to forty preschoolers per week at each center. The children learn the value and joy of reading, literacy is enhanced and promoted and over the course of the program each child is given at least three books to bring home that have been donated by the club that promotes ownership. Volunteer readers are needed each week. **John Russell** will again coordinate this important club project!

Ballestrini Childcare Waterford

90 Rope Ferry Rd.

Wednesdays, 9:30-10:15 AM

Contact John Russell at 912-0417 to Volunteer

January 9	Andrea Bell Kaiser	Chip Gorra
January 16	Andrea Bell Kaiser	Chip Gorra
January 23	Mac Pope	_____
January 30	Rich Cheatham	_____

Ballestrini's Childcare Salem

Salem 4 Corners, CT

Thursdays, 9:30-10:15 AM

Contact John Russell at 912-0417 to Volunteer

January 10	_____	_____
January 17	Marla Champagne	Valeda Grills
January 24	_____	_____
January 31	_____	_____

JANUARY PROGRAMS

BOB GRILLS: CHAIR

January 2: **Lisa Sullivan**, Director, Front Porch Foundation, strengthening families in New London

January 9: **Bud Fay**, champion of saving the Sub Base from BRAC closure, will discuss the future of the Sub Base

PAST PROGRAMS

Our own **Bob Grills** addressed the club on December 26th on the status of his research on expanding our reading program and opportunities to meet the challenges of literacy in New London. Responding to an article in the local press that New London ranked near the bottom of the state in reading scores, Bob contemplated how our club might reach more kids than we currently are with our ongoing Reading is Fundamental program at Ballestrini's. Research shows that exposing children to reading almost from birth has an extraordinary positive impact for the future of a child's ability to read and their literacy skills. There are scattered programs, but nothing that is meeting the overwhelming need. Bob has talked with the director of TVCCA, which runs Head Start that has twenty-two programs in the region. An obvious starting point is to gather those agencies that provide similar services and collaborate efforts. Kiwanis could be the facilitator. Bob visualizes Kiwanis growth with new clubs being formed in communities with reading being the thread that ties everything together. At the suggestion of Past Governor Ron Forest, the efforts being incubated here should be brought to Rob Parker, CEO of Kiwanis International, and integrated into Read Around the World. A wonderful opportunity is right in front of us while meeting our mission of serving the children of the world.

GUESTS

Joe Apfel from the Santa Rosa, CA, Suburban Kiwanis Club joined us for lunch on December 26th. Joe is on the East Coast for the holidays visiting family in East Lyme. He also gave us a brief overview of his club and their activities, including a RIF program.

ODDS & ENDS

Board of Directors: Tuesday, January 8th, 4:30 PM, Waterford Public Library

Congratulations to **Veronica Ballestrini**, Carol and Rusty's daughter, who has recently received a recording contract and is now spending most of her time in Nashville, the country music capital of the world!

The club has received cards from **Frank Penny, Rusty and Carol Ballestrini and Bill and Joyce Everett**.

Need batteries, buy **Interstate Batteries** and support our club. The club receives 30% on all retail purchases through this program. Visit our club website in the Members area at <http://www.newlondonkiwanis.org> for more details!

New London Kiwanis Today with hosts **Ted Nelson** and **Glenn Hamler**. Special Guest this month: **President Tom**

- ◆ Every Wednesday on MetroCast Cable Access Television, Channel 24 from 5:30-6:00 PM.
- ◆ Every Thursday on Comcast Cable Access Television, Channel 12 in Groton from 9:30-10:00 PM
- ◆ First and Third Monday on Comcast Cable Access Television, Channel 14 in Lyme and Old Lyme from 5:30-6:00 PM

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

New England Circle K District Convention: Westboro, MA, February 15, 17, 2008

New England Kiwanis One Day for Growth: Wednesday, March 5, 2008

Mid-Winter Training Conference: Worcester, MA, March 7-8, 2008

New England Key Club District Convention: Springfield, MA, March 28-30, 2008

Kiwanis International "One Day for Service": Saturday, April 5, 2008

Key Leader: Camp Hayward, Sandwich, MA, May 16-18, 2008

Kiwanis Cruise to Bermuda with Governor John Maihos: June 1-8, 2008

Kiwanis International Convention: Orlando, FL, June 26-29, 2008

New England District Convention: August 14-17, 2008

DRAWINGS

December 19: **John Lock** donated \$4 to the *John Kashanski Community Service Fund*

December 26: **Andrew Ely**

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 24: **Ed Rachleff**

WHAT IS KIWANIS?

Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time.

THE KIWANIS CLUB OF NEW LONDON PROUDLY SPONSORS

New London High School Key Club

Waterford High School Key Club

East Lyme High School Key Club

Lyme-Old Lyme High School Key Club

Fitch High School Key Club

