

ROTARY ANCHOR



New London Rotary Club
District 7980 Club 6741
 P.O. Box 654 New London, CT 06320
 www.newlondonrotary.org

Meeting Thursday November 12, 2009

Soup Kitchen this Thursday 4:00-6pm

2009/2010 Rotary Theme



	Nov 12 - Special Veterans Day Program	
	Nov 19 Foundation Assembly - Mike Stryker	
Reporters:	Nov 12 Alan Messier	
	Nov 19 Lorraine Allen	
Greeter:	Nov 12 Pam McNulty-Hennessey	
	Nov 19 Sarah Rogovin	
Song Leader:	Nov 12 Special Program	
	Nov 19 Catherine Foley	
Birthdays	None	
Anniversaries	Nov 17 Todd Gipstein & Marcia	

Program Continued

distortion. Rick mentioned his technique is to also take pictures on cloudy days as opposed to a bright sunlit day, as a cloudy day reduces shadows and details become more evident.

Rick's talk was a stunning reminder that we need to look closely at the world around us. The details Rick showed us are "hidden in plain sight." We need only look closely to see them. No doubt those who heard Rick's talk will never again walk down Main or State Streets without taking a moment to look up and see the unique artistry of our local buildings. New London's architectural beauty surrounds us; it's up to us to treasure and preserve

Secret of Longevity Sold to the Club

Rick and Todd Gipstein noted the recent birthday celebration for their father, it was his 105th. Since that generated a lot of interest Rick thought that he would share the secret with the club, but not without a price. Barry Levinson bought the secret for \$105 to honor the 105th birthday. Of course he had to share the results with the club (for free). The secret was good "genes"! Barry checked the size on the pants and decided that if he could fit into this pair of pants he might be around longer himself.



Program October 15, 2009

By: Mark Patnode

Rick Gipstein, of Lindsay Liebig Roche Architects, LLC., began his October 15, 2009 presentation with a 'You Are Here' focus - featuring Radisson Hotel, our Rotary meeting hosts, and a superimposed radius of the downtown New London area he chose as focus.



Rick shared a fascinating look at the artistry of the architecture of downtown New London, something he has been photographing awhile. Rick pointed out that the genesis of his project was two years ago when Marj Dedrick was head of a Boy Scouts merit badge committee. Rick agreed to spend a day introducing about 15 scouts to architecture. Though few were from the city, Rick decided to look at buildings in New London as his focus.

Thereafter, looking at downtown New London has become something of an obsession for Rick, combining his myriad interests in architecture, history, and photography. For the downtown project, he partnered with Sandra Kirsten Chalk, New London Landmarks. Together, they have created a poster, refrigerator magnets and are considering greeting cards for their next efforts to promote the downtown region.

Rick proceeded with a fascinating and enlightening tour of the City that most take for granted. He first showed a far shot of each building then zoomed in on highlighted details.

The Dewart building, where his business is located, features Ionic columns and terra-cotta embellishments. From there his tour continued, drawing gasps from the audience as he revealed fascinating details of our local buildings: the First Baptist Church brickwork featuring basket weave on the Washington side of the street; St. James Church being made of brownstone; the Mohegan Hotel, which Rick considers the most beautiful building in the city, has wonderful details in its arches. It also has colored bricks of purples, tans, and browns as well as unique details in its brickwork.

The Crocker House is adorned with copper-work leaf motif scrolls. A carved medallion of Medusa (which literally means, 'guardian of thresholds') greets those entering the hotel's front door.

The New London Library is a story in itself. There were discussions in the 1960's about tearing it down, but fortunately those plans never came to fruition. Rick mentioned that the figurines ornamenting the building are not in fact gargoyles but chimeras. As Rick explained, "In architectural terms, a gargoyle usually acts as a rainwater spout, while a chimera is a figure without the water function." Hand-carved, the chisel marks in the scales of the little monsters are still visible.

The eyebrow dormer, named for its shape, is located on a slate shingle roof. Each transom window has a different printer or logo and the printer's mark - used as a decoration in the stained glass.

His talk included other fascinating details of other familiar downtown buildings, including the sea captains' homes, Thames Club, Cronin Building, City Hall and the Capitol Theater.

In wrapping up his well-paced yet thorough presentation, Rick reflected on The Soldiers and Sailors Monument donated by the Lawrence family. The figure at the top is a symbol of peace - with facial features similar to those found on the Statue of Liberty.

In terms of his photographic process, Rick explained how each picture is keystoned due to the low angle from which he photographed. Using Photoshop, he was able correct the images to reduce perspective