

ROTARY ANCHOR



2009/2010 Rotary Theme

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

Meeting Thursday December 31, 2009

New London AM Club at City News



Dec 31 - Henry Savin - Storyteller

Jan 7 Courageous Dissent- by Robert Kim Bingham, Sr

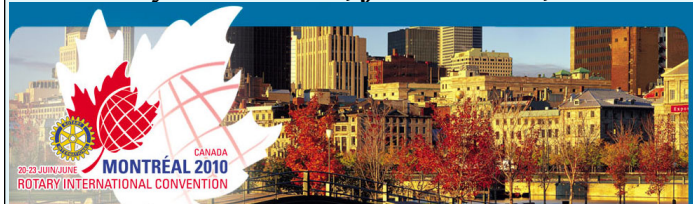
Reporters:	Dec 31	Alan Mayer
	Jan 7	Mark Patnode
Greeter:	Dec 31	Michel Belt
	Jan 7	Pam McNulty-Hennessey
Song Leader:	Dec 31	Peg Curtin
	Jan 7	TBD
Birthdays	Jan 5	Mark Spinnato
Anniversaries	Jan 1	Mark Spinnato & Nancy

Welcome to Rotary Nicholas Fischer

Dr. Fischer joins the club in the classification: **Superintendent of Schools**. He earned his degrees at University of Wisconsin and Harvard Graduate School of Education. Nick is also active with the Boys & Girls Clubs and SMILES Mentoring Program. He has been in Rotary in other clubs during his years in education. Welcome Nick!



Rotary in Montreal, June 20 – 23, 2010



We will be celebrating 100 years of Rotary being an international organization as a result of the first Rotary club meeting outside the USA in November, 1910, in Winnipeg, Canada. You will live 'An International Experience' everywhere you go within the city.

This is your celebration of 100 years of diverse cultures, multiple languages, and numerous races and religions all working together in harmony to make a better world in Rotary. You will also experience this diversity in the city of Montreal. Montreal is officially a bilingual city where French and English is spoken.

Go to Montreal to celebrate, to learn, to make new friends, rekindle old friendships and celebrate 100 years of the internationality of Rotary in 'An International Experience'.

There are several members of the New London Rotary Club that will be attending the Montreal Convention. Join President-Elect Gerry Tom for this convention. This is the closest convention we will have for many years to come.

Program December 3, 2009

By: Barry Runyan

Sandra Couillard, Executive Director of Connecticut Adoption & Family Services, gave a presentation on Project Connecticut's Child. This program is the signature program for finding permanent loving homes for children in Connecticut foster care.

Initially, Sandra talked about the history of Connecticut Adoption & Family Services. The agency was started in the mid-1980's as the Child Adoption Resource Association by a group of individuals concerned with the increasing number of foster children waiting for parents to adopt them and provide them with a happy and stable home environment. It was incorporated in



1989 as a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) agency. The agency was fully licensed as an adoption agency in 1994 with a mission to create, strengthen and support families through the placement of children in safe and loving homes. It is dedicated to this mission and to the enrichment of the quality of life for those children waiting for adoption. While the name later changed, it continues to be the only agency in Eastern Connecticut dealing with minority and special needs adoptions. However, the agency has expanded its services to provide assistance with all types of adoptions.

Connecticut Adoption & Family Services works through Project Connecticut's Child cooperatively with the Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF) to recruit and license pre-adoptive families who are considering adopting a child who is considered hard to place.

Each year over 700 children become available for adoption in this state through DCF. Usually these children have lived for several months or years with foster care families; having been removed from their biological homes after abuse or neglect is confirmed. Ninety-five percent of these children are classified as having "legal risk" status. This means that the rights of their parents have not been terminated by the Court. Once reunification with their parents is determined to be no longer possible or not in the best interests of the child, termination of the parental rights of all parents is sought through the Superior Court. Families wishing to adopt are asked to act as foster parents during the legal process of termination of parental rights. This process can take about one year.

Children of all ages are available for adoption, although most are age two or older. Many have emotional, physical, or intellectual disabilities. Some are members of a sibling group and need to be placed with their siblings. A significant number of the children are African-American, Latino/Latina, or multi-racial.

With the help of grants, Connecticut Adoption & Family Services, through Project Connecticut's Child, is able to offer services at no cost to families in some parts of Connecticut wishing to adopt a Connecticut foster child.