

ROTARY ANCHOR



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

Meeting Thursday February 11, 2010
New London AM Group at City News

2009/2010 Rotary Theme



"America's Tall Ship" USCG Barque *Eagle*

Program January 21, 2010

By Mark Patnode

Martha Hoffman is President of *Call To Care Uganda*, a humanitarian non-profit organization founded in 2007 and based in Madison, CT. Martha was born in New London and her Dad served on The Coast Guard Barque Eagle. Martha lived in Texas and one day had a dream about a woman helping children. The dream kept repeating and then she recalled that her Grandmother had given her a small purse made in Uganda. She knew that helping children in Uganda was her "dream".



Martha gave a brief historical overview beginning with Uganda's land-locked geographical location. The equator goes right through it which gives Uganda a constant growing season. With a population of 31 million, 1.2 million are orphans, largely due to the AIDS epidemic. Life expectancy is 52 years. The national language is English, although Martha took a word from their lexicon 'mzungus,' meaning 'white people' to label her entourage as "The Traveling Mzungus".



In detailing her experiences, Martha expressed that being a professional photographer aids her efforts. She offered a pictorial overview of the great poverty in Uganda and unsanitary living conditions. Despite the lush country, and that Winston Churchill coined the phrase "Uganda, the Pearl of Africa's Crown," there is a lack of available and clean water. Since her maiden name is Wells, Martha's sensitivity again led her ambitions.



With a pledge of "We Will Be Your Voice" Martha set about forming human bridges across the ocean. With a theme of easing pain of suffering cross-continently, Martha and her team met with Rotarians in Uganda.

A Rotary-funded well project in cooperation with the Madison Rotary Club was established with a village. By having a well in their village, people did not have to make repeated daily roundtrips of miles to get water. It gave them back time to do other things. In their continuing efforts, *Call To Care Uganda* is sponsoring sustaining projects such as nets to combat malaria and working with KACCO Kaberamaido Children's Community Center Project. It only costs \$10 a square foot to build in Uganda, so Stateside donations go a long way.

Martha closed her New London Rotary presentation with a reference to "planting a seed with ya'll" as her Grandmother did with her. She also had some necklaces from Uganda for sale to help fund efforts. For further information:

www.calltocareuganda.org / marthahoffman@comcast.net

Feb 11 Troops Program - Gerry Tom and Dave Goebel Feb 18 Taiwan - by Leanne Kao, Diplomat

Reporters:	Feb 11	Lorraine Allen
	Feb 18	Barry Runyan
Greeter:	Feb 11	Holly Jermar
	Feb 18	Pete Connair
Song Leader:	Feb 11	Millie Devine
	Feb 18	Peg Curtin
Birthdays	Feb 12	Ann Stewart
	Feb 16	Frank Laycock
Anniversaries	Feb 14	Carl Stoner & Sylvia Petrit Marku & Mirela

Welcome to Rotary Suzanne Maryeski

Suzanne is the head Librarian at the New London Public Library. She has a BA in English from Simmons College and a MLS from Univ. of Rhode Island. Suzanne also went to Laval Univ. for Studies in Public Policy. She lives with her four children in Waterford. She will be a great addition to the club.



N.L. Rotary "Good and Plenty" Award

Charlie Buffum, founder, owner and Brewmaster of Cottrell Brewing Co in Pawcatuck was honored and thanked for his con-



tinuous involvement and support of our fests since 1997 when he first began brewing his Old Yankee Ale (an amber ale.). Ed Cramer presented the supplier award on behalf of the Club. Charlie in turn thanked the club members for our support of his locally produced products and pledged his continued support to our future fests.