

ROTARY ANCHOR



2010/2011 Rotary Theme

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

Meeting Thursday February 3, 2011

New London AM Group 7am Thursdays!



Feb 3 Employee of the Year - Denny Hicks

Feb 10 Brett Barnardini - The Spirit of Broadway

Reporters:	Feb 3	Lorraine Allen
	Feb 10	Alan Lyon
Greeter:	Feb 3	Dave Goebel
	Feb 10	Ed Cramer
Invocation:	Feb 3	Leon Lehrer
	Feb 10	Lorraine Allen
Song Leader	Feb 3	Millie Devine
	Feb 10	Meredith Diette
Birthdays	Feb 6	Marj Taggart Dedrick Jerry Olson
Anniversaries	None	

Scenes from the After Holiday Holiday RAH at the Thames Club in New London



OPEN CLASSIFICATION

A new classification has been approved: **Retail-Pet Supplies** Anyone wanting to propose someone for membership in this classification should contact President Gerry within the next week.

Tom Wetmore gets Paul Harris Sapphire

Tom decided to look up his account on the Rotary contribution website. He realized that he was only a few hundred dollars away from a Paul Harris Sapphire so he used his credit card and put in the balance. To his surprise he found it was easy to do. Why don't you go on line and check your account?



Rotary Program from January 6, 2010

By: Alan R. Messier

The January 6th program featured a presentation by Desiree Subotic, co-founder of the School of Mystic Ballet, a non-profit educational institution that develops and presents world class classical and contemporary ballet performances virtually in our own back yard.

The school was originally established in 1991 and in 1997 Desiree and her husband, Goran re-organized the school as a non-profit organization. In its early years, the company performed at the Garde Theater presenting shortened ballets that children and families could understand with a goal toward piquing local interest in ballet.

Today, the school has expanded into a company featuring professional dancers and choreographers hailing from countries all around the world, including Japan, Brazil, Australia, Germany, Spain and Italy to name a few. Performances are now held in the smaller and more intimate setting of the Mashantucket Pequot Auditorium.

During the course of the year patrons of the Mystic Ballet will experience contemporary modern pieces, story ballets such as Snow White and the Nutcracker Suite as well as samplings of works by various world- renowned choreographers. Performances are offered at all age and skill levels.

The Mystic Ballet, proclaimed Ms. Subotic, has become a magnet, artistically drawing international attention and recognition for its work. In one recent search for performers the school received 1500 applications for 12 positions. Locally, the company has struggled to find an audience as receptive as the dancers are to the quality work that is created by the school. One reason, she suggests, is that while ballet is still a significant part of the European culture, here in America we are, in large part, culturally depressed. She stated, "Young people are just not interested." To counter these issues, choreographers have endeavored to make the performances more "edgy, fast and contemporary."

Ms. Subotic described ballet dancers as typically very passionate. She explained that this passion however can be very difficult for the dancers because so few truly understand what the ballet art form represents. Professional ballet dancers experience relatively short careers, peaking between the ages of 18 and 23 or 24 with retirement usually around age 30.

Desiree introduced us to CoCo, a fine example of such a passionate dancer. CoCo, a Japanese born, Australian schooled dancer was selected from a New York audition of 250 dancers and given one week to prepare for a Mystic Ballet performance and reportedly performed splendidly. Ms. Subotic implored those in attendance to get out and enjoy the ballet. Bring the children and grandchildren and expose them to the cultural aspects of ballet through a live performance unsurpassed maybe anywhere in the world.

