



**SEPTEMBER 23, 2021**

AM Meeting: Thursdays at 7 AM — Muddy Waters, New London  
 Lunch Meeting: Thursdays at 12:15 PM — La Luna/Holiday Inn, New London

**TODAY'S PROGRAM**

**Jennifer Muggeo**

*Deputy Director,  
 Ledge Light Health District*

**September 30 Atty. John Nazzaro**  
*Fighting Organized Crime in Connecticut*

**GREETER:**

- September 23 Tracee Reiser
- September 30 Linda Mariani
- October 7 Val West

**INVOCATION:**

- September 23 Tracee Reiser
- September 30 Catherine Foley
- October 7 Val West

**SONG LEADER:**

- September 23 Tracee Reiser
- September 30 Pete Connair
- October 7 Val West

**BIRTHDAYS:**

- September 24 Nicholas Fischer
- September 25 Eric Garofano
- September 28 Margaret Curtin
- September 30 Keith Turner

**ANNIVERSARIES:**

- September 29 Reid & Ann Burdick
- September 29 Brian & Ellen Cole
- September 30 George & Lynda Fisher



**Report for Club Meeting, September 16, 2021**

*by Bruce MacDonald*

**Todd Gipstein introduces the past to the future in Elephant Island**

Club member **Todd Gipstein** took us on an action-packed trip to Elephant Island last week, outlining the contents of his just-published book of the same name. His colorfully illustrated presentation also gave us a look at the real-life heroics of the famed Anglo-Irish explorer Ernest Shackleton. It was his exploits a century earlier on Elephant Island off Antarctica that formed the inspirational basis of Todd's most recent literary work.



**Trapped but not doomed**

Shackleton's ship, the *Endurance*, became trapped in the ice there during his ill-fated 1914-1916 trip that became the stuff of legend. Eventually, the wooden ship was crushed, and reduced to what would become a celebrated memory after it slipped beneath the icy waters in pieces.

It left the famed explorer and his crew to what looked like a cruel fate. However, after being marooned for an extended period, Shackleton and five crew members decided to challenge the outcome that awaited them. They set out for South Georgia Island 800 miles away in search of help.

**Rowing in anything but calm seas**

Leaving 22 shipmates behind, they rowed in their small open boat across the most inhospitable seas imaginable. Against all odds, they found help for his marooned crew and saved all 28 of them. If you believe in miracles this had to be one. The Shackleton-led rescue mission also fired Todd's imagination and led to his fourth novel. Todd wove the historical background with the elements today's reader expects in works of historical fiction.




**The past meets the future**

The action, and there is plenty of it, involves a modern expedition in the quest of a rare form of metal, thought by some to have landed on Elephant Island encased in a meteorite the size of a bus. There was even a historical footnote that gave rise to such a belief. This rare metal, Iridium, some believe, contains the potential for earth-shaking changes in how we live, and who controls the planet, and, thus our lives.

The Elephant Island of Todd's creation is more than a collection of action scenes. It is a thoughtful look at what a modern exploration of the mountainous, snow-covered mass of land nearly 200 miles north of the Antarctic peninsula could look like.

In his richly illustrated presentation to club members, he was careful not to give away too much of the story, a piece of historical fiction. He weaves the historical background with the contemporary elements today's reader expects of such stories. The action, and there is plenty of it, involves a modern expedition in the search of that rare form of metal, said to have landed on Elephant Island in an equally rare vehicle.

The Elephant Island of Todd's creation is far removed from that of Shackleton and his crew, but that earlier experience provided a historical backdrop that works well with the modern expedition of Todd's creation. It is a thriller as the book cover proclaims, and as to be expected of the best in that genre it keeps the reader eagerly looking forward to the next page right to the point where there are no more pages to turn.

The  
**ROTARY**  
  
  
**ANCHOR**  


A Bulletin of the Rotary Club of New London

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