

# INTERACT DISTRICT 7980



## OCTOBER UPDATE

10/15/2014

To the Interact and Rotary clubs of District 7980:

It has been less than two months since school started, and already our clubs are off to a fantastic start! On September 20, 2014, Interactors and Rotaractors from across D7980 convened in Meriden for their fall assembly. Club representatives brainstormed ideas for a district project with the Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust and discussed how to overcome recurring challenges. Leaving the event with a supportive network of friends, there is no doubt that a foundation is in place to do great things this year. The district team has been working to improve communication with clubs and present them with the resources they need to succeed. The progress so far is amazing, and we are excited to see what the future holds!

Sincerely,

Ron, Anthony, Danny, and Cayman

**CONTACT US:** [InteractClubsD7980@gmail.com](mailto:InteractClubsD7980@gmail.com)

### IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

1. RYLA Leadership Conference Information

### MEET THE TEAM:



**Ron Webb, PAG**

Interact District Chairperson  
Tribury Rotary Club



**Anthony Masi**

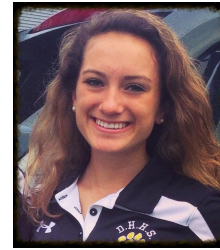
Interact District Representative  
Trumbull HS Interact Club



**Danny Lee**

New Clubs Chairperson  
East Hampton HS Interact Club

2. Summary of Interact-Rotaract Assembly
3. Online Resources for Clubs
4. Featured Clubs: Naugatuck, Guilford, East Lyme
5. Club Birthdays & Anniversaries



**Cayman Brown**

Social Media Chairperson

Daniel Hand HS Interact Club



*Peace Wall at the Interact-Rotaract Joint Assembly in recognition of International Day of Peace.*

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## ***is FAST APPROACHING!***

RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) is a semi-annual gathering of students from all over District 7980. This three-day conference features non-conventional leadership training, collaborative projects and challenges, presentations about community service and opportunities with Rotary, as well as an agenda designed to promote diversity and global citizenship.

- **WHEN:** 9:00 A.M. Friday, October 31st – 4:30 P.M. Sunday, November 2nd
- **WHERE:** Camp Hazen YMCA, Chester, CT
- **COST:** \$250 per student, typically paid by a sponsoring Rotary club or other community service organization.
- **REGISTRATION:** Applications must be submitted via the [Youth Service website](#) by **Saturday, October 25, 2014.**

Interact clubs wishing to send members are advised to speak with their sponsoring Rotary clubs. Both clubs should discuss the number of participants they are willing to sponsor and any other specifications (e.g., interviews). RYLA participants should be in grades 10 or 11; Interact club membership **is not** a requirement. Participants will be at Camp Hazen for the three day conference.

This year, two Interactors are serving as Student Directors for the RYLA conference. They are Anthony Coss, IPP of the Notre Dame High School Interact club, and Meghan Wood, President of the Daniel Hand High School Interact club. They will be joined by conference directors Shpresa Bungu, Justin Phillips and Kasia Galezowski, as well as 13 facilitators from across District 7980.

For more information, [click here](#), or contact RYLA Director Shpresa Bungu, [shpresa03@gmail.com](mailto:shpresa03@gmail.com).



## What RYLA Means to Me by Hailey Cruz

Hailey is an experienced RYLarian in District 7980 and will be attending her 5th RYLA this fall. She created this video as a way to express her gratitude. First as a participant, and now as a veteran facilitator, Hailey has watched the program impact so many lives, including her own. Hailey is not currently an Interactor but hopes to start a club at Hamden High School this year. Thank you Hailey, we love you too.



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## IN REVIEW: Interact-Rotaract Joint Assembly

Thank you for an amazing day of collaboration and service at the Interact-Rotaract Joint Assembly this past September. A detailed conference summary is can be accessed below, however here are the four most important takeaways:

1. In April 2015, the Interact and Rotaract clubs of District 7980 will partake in a joint service project with the [Bridgeport Neighborhood Trust](#). The planning of this project is currently underway. Stay tuned for more information.
2. Rotary District 7980 requests that all Interact clubs identify their club officers for the 2015-2016 year by **February 1, 2015**. Please report this information by completing the [online form](#).
3. All Rotary clubs that have not reported the names/emails of their Interact club advisers for this year (this includes faculty and Rotarian liaisons) should do so as soon as possible! To

submit this information, please contact Interact District Chairperson Ron Webb at [ronwebb@snet.net](mailto:ronwebb@snet.net).

Looking for more information about this event? [Click here](#) to read more...

Access a PDF of assembly handouts by [clicking here](#)!

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## Online Resources for Your Interact Club

The District Interact Team publishes announcements, event information, and district news online at <http://www.rotaryyouthservices7980.com>.

On the website mentioned above, there are resources for club officers & advisers, guidebooks explaining how to start an Interact club in our district, and an updated club directory.

Engage with Interact District 7980 on social media! Use the facebook group to post updates about your own club and request support from your neighbors! Interact District 7980 also maintains a Twitter, Tumblr, and YouTube channel. All are linked below:



Facebook



YouTube



Twitter



Tumblr



Website



Email

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## FEATURED CLUB: NAUGATUCK HIGH SCHOOL

The Naugatuck High School Interact club kicked their year off with their first meeting! Club President Cassandra Fruin says "We have a ton of new members, and have gotten compliments about the positive vibe we've been sending throughout the school. I feel like everyone this year is really dedicated, and has the drive to put effort in everything we do. It's going to be a great year for our group, I'm sure if it!" Their club is preparing to hold fundraisers for Nina Poeta, a Seymour cheerleader who was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor last year. They plan to sell goodie bags and raise awareness in school and at football games. All funds received will be donated to Nina's [gofundmepage](#), which has already raised over \$88,000 for Nina and the Poeta family.



## FEATURED CLUB: GUILFORD HIGH SCHOOL

In an effort led by VP Kate Vitagliano, Guilford Interactors raised over \$700 at their car wash. Their club plans to purchase over 20 bio-sand filters to provide clean drinking water for Indian villages. The filters last approximately 20 years, and their club has already sent enough to support two entire villages in the past year! Guilford Interactors recently volunteered at a women's self defense workshop and are coordinating the donation of old computers from a local bank to the women's shelter. On Tuesday, November 4th, Guilford Interact will host its all-you-can-eat Pasta Night, which benefits the Guilford Food Bank. This event will take place at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Guilford. Tickets are available for pre-sale, or can be bought at the door for \$10.



## FEATURED CLUB: EAST LYME HIGH SCHOOL

While some Interact clubs take a break during the summer months, the East Lyme High School Interact club kept busy and made a powerful impact on their community. Interactors Matthew Sprang (L), Lauren Abbey (R), and Club President Kristen Foster (C) are out on a rainy day conducting a food drive to benefit Care & Share, a local food bank. The beach themed donation buckets and the hard work of these Interactors paid off, as they *raised over \$1100 and more than two trucks of food!* For every dollar collected, Care & Share can provide six meals to local families in need. ELHS Interactors also volunteered at Niantic Rotary's East Lyme Day. Alongside Rotarians, they worked the food tent and collected donations for Rotary's End Polio Now campaign and other charities. October 24th is World Polio Day and Rotary will be hosting a live-stream event online. Rotary will give a progress report on the fight to end polio worldwide. For more information, visit <http://www.endpolio.org/>.

*Does your Interact club want to be featured in our November newsletter? Please email [InteractClubsD7980@gmail.com](mailto:InteractClubsD7980@gmail.com) for details.*

# D7980 INTERACT CLUB BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



## **Birthdays (Organized Officially by RI)**

- **OCTOBER 6, 1997:** Ridgefield High School, RIDGEFIELD
- **OCTOBER 8, 2010:** Saint Martin de Porres Academy, NEW HAVEN
- **OCTOBER 14, 2009:** 5 YEARS! Academy of Our Lady of Mercy (Lauralton Hall), MILFORD
- **OCTOBER 15, 2010:** Ella T. Grasso Southeastern Technical High School, GROTON
- **OCTOBER 19, 1994:** 20 YEARS! Choate Rosemary Hall, WALLINGFORD
- **OCTOBER 22, 2004:** 10 YEARS! Wilton High School, WILTON

## **Anniversaries (of Club Charters)**

- **OCTOBER 1, 2007:** Fairfield Ludlowe High School, FAIRFIELD
- **OCTOBER 1, 2010:** Ella T. Grasso Southeastern Technical High School, GROTON
- **OCTOBER 11, 2010:** Woodland Regional High School, BEACON FALLS
- **OCTOBER 12, 2005:** Robert E. Fitch High School, GROTON

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You are receiving this message because you are associated with an Interact Club in Rotary District 7980.

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