

TWO LIGHTS

Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth
February 17, 2016

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

February 24 – Matt Goldfarb, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI)

March 2 – Club Assembly

March 9 – Tessie Seward, Maine Inside Out – Troubled Youth Solution

ASSIGNMENTS

	<u>February 24</u>	<u>March 2</u>	<u>March 9</u>
Invocation	Hawes	Tipton	Wagmer
Raffle Gift	Frustaci	Gonzalez	Hawes
Conductor	Healey	N. Irving	Leasure

Kathy Ray, who hasn't won in years, was tickled to win a gift certificate to Scratch Baking donated by Bob Flynn

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

February 20, 5:30 – World Peace & Understanding Dinner, Marriott Sable Oaks, featuring former Peace scholar Francesca Giovannini. The district will also be honoring Rotarians who have gone above and beyond. Register on the District 7780 website.

March 19 – Rotary Leadership Institute, York County Community College, Wells

What's New With Our Members

No birthdays or anniversaries for the week of February 24, so I'll just use this space to say that we were honored to have Cape Elizabeth Police Chief Neil Williams as our guest this week. Also visiting was Robert Knupp, a Rotarian from Harrisburg, PA.

Congratulations, Deb Walters – Back in February 2014, Deb Walters of the Unity Rotary Club and Past District Governor of District 7790 (our neighbors to the northeast) spoke to our club about a solo kayaking trip that she was going to undertake to raise money for Safe Passage, the program that helps kids in the Guatemala city dump. She set out in July, 2014 and paddled 5

months before she was sidelined with an injury that required surgery. She continued paddling in September, 2015 and finally completed her 2,500 mile trip on January 30. While making the trip, she also spoke at numerous Rotary clubs and other venues and in the process raised **\$425,000!** The money is being used to add 3rd and 4th grades to the school founded by the late Hanley Denning of Yarmouth. Congratulations, Deb, on your remarkable achievement!!!

Welcome Denis! – This week we welcomed Denis Landry as our club’s newest member. Denis is transferring to our club from the Auburn-Lewiston Breakfast club, where he was a past president and very valued member. He is president of Landry French Construction Company and his job has led him to move to Scarborough with his wife Cathy Beliveau. For the past three years, Denis has traveled through his Rotary club to Hope Village, an orphanage in Haiti, to help with constructions projects.

About Hope Village – For those unfamiliar with Hope Village, here’s a snapshot. The story of Father Marc Boisvert and Hope Village is very similar to that of Hanley Denning and Safe Passage – after traveling to Haiti in the late 90’s, Father Marc, a Lewiston native, was so struck by the poverty and the plight of the children there, that he sold everything he owned and moved to Haiti to start an orphanage. Over the years the orphanage has expanded and now provides a home for 450 children, a school for them and over a thousand children from surrounding villages, and a medical and dental clinic. Denis spent 2 weeks in January working on repairs to the girls’ dormitory – we look forward to getting to know him better and hearing about his experiences in Haiti.

And Speaking of Hope... – We were treated to a very informative presentation by Officer John Gill (a South Portland native) about the Scarborough Police Dept.’s brand new Operation Hope that we’ve heard about in the news. Discouraged that their substance abuse efforts focused on enforcement and education but not treatment, Officer Gill and his colleagues went about seeking a way to add this third prong. They were dismayed to find that there were no treatment options in Maine, but they found a program in Gloucester, Mass that they could piggy-back off of. When addicts come to the police station, they are screened by an officer. If they meet the low threshold of qualifying for the program, a volunteer is called in who calls drug clinics around the country to find a place that will take them. Most of the time the addict does not have health insurance that would cover treatment so the volunteer is asking for the clinic to take them for free. The volunteer then arranges for transportation to the out-of-state clinic, often paid for by donations to the program. Since the program started on October 1, they have placed 119 people in treatment programs, about 10% of them from Scarborough. Very little taxpayer money is spent on the program – it is almost all funded through donations and volunteer time.

**ROTARY CLUB OF SOUTH
PORTLAND/CAPE ELIZABETH, MAINE**
www.sp-ce-rotary.org

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