

TWO LIGHTS

Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth
January 27, 2016

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

February 3 – No meeting – Attend MCCP fundraiser at DiMillo's
February 10 – Tree Sale/Winterfest Celebration at home of Tony Wagner & Sally Campbell
February 17 – Officer John Dill (Scarborough) – The Heroin Problem in Maine
February 24 – Matt Goldfarb, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI)

ASSIGNMENTS

	<u>February 17</u>	<u>February 24</u>	<u>March 2</u>
Invocation	Speh	Hawes	Tipton
Raffle Gift	Flynn	Frustaci	Gonzalez
Conductor	Hawes	Healey	N. Irving

I am pleased to report that someone other than Fran won the raffle – a gift certificate to Jiffy Car Wash donated by Phil Dube was won by John LoBosco.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

January 28 (Thursday), 5:30 – 7:30 – Networking Event to thank our WinterFest sponsors at Verbena's. Verbena's is donating the space and food; Fore River Brewing is donating beer; Buy Local members are donating the wine. This promises to be a fun party!!

January 29 & 30 – WINTERFEST!!

February 3 – “Party with a Purpose” – Portland Sunrise Rotary & MCCP Wine & Beer Social, Charitable Auction & Spectacular Buffet. 5:30 – 8:30 at DiMillo's. Tickets \$30 in advance or \$35 at the door. All proceeds benefit Maine Children's Cancer Program – come have fun supporting this meaningful cause.

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.

What's New With Our Members

Happy Birthday to Nancy Irving (Feb. 13)

Happy Anniversary to Chuck & Melissa Redman (Feb 12)

(Next week is the MCCP event at DiMillo's so I am giving myself a week off as bulletin editor = that's why the birthdays/anniversaries go so far out.)

Congratulations to Rick & Diane Dobson, who learned that they are expecting their 11th grandchild!

Get well wishes to Mark Leasure as his broken leg heals - also congratulations on the new job which starts Monday!

Congratulations to Paul Butler, who received his Paul Harris Fellow +2 pin at this week's meeting, presented by District Governor Sheila Rollins. This pin recognizes Paul's continuing generosity to The Rotary Foundation.

Congratulations to Us! Last year's District Governor Lawrence Furbish came to our meeting this week to present Past President Kathy Cotter with a certificate honoring our club's giving to polio last year. We donated \$7,152 to PolioPlus last year, well in excess of our goal of \$4,000.

Asylum Seeking Students in Greater Portland and their Road to SMCC –

Belyse is an asylum seeking student at SMCC, originally from Burundi. She came to the USA in December 2012. She was separated from her family for safety issues. She attended and graduated from Deering High School, where she learned English (her 4th language). She is currently in her second year at SMCC in Liberal Studies Math Department.

Hugues is also an asylum seeker at SMCC, enrolled in the Business Administration Major. He moved to the USA on his own from Burundi in 2013. He attended and got his GED from Portland Adult Education.

Who are Asylum Seekers?

- People living in the United States who “cannot return to their home countries because they either have been or fear they will be harmed because of their (1) race, (2) religious beliefs, (3) national origin, (4) political opinions, or (5) membership in a particular social group.
- Many asylum seekers living in Portland come from countries such as Burundi, Rwanda, Djibouti, Angola and the DRC.
- Many asylum seekers are youth who have fled their countries alone and are living in the greater Portland area without any family.

Typical Process:

- Arrive in US using a visa, then submit asylum application.
- Apply for work permit at least 150 days after submitting asylum application, then wait for work permit.
- Wait for notice about an asylum interview, then wait for a decision. This can take many years due to a backlog of cases.

What are their Barriers to College?

- Asylum seekers are not eligible for any federal financial aid.
- They are also not eligible for most private scholarships because of their citizenship status.
- Once they have work permits, most asylum seekers need to work full-time in order to support themselves – and send money back home.

Our speakers were accompanied tonight by Ron Cantor, President of SMCC, and Maggie Loeffelholz, adviser for the MySuccess and Path to Graduation programs which Belyse and Hugues participate in. SMCC is one of the few options that asylum seekers have to get a college education. Since they cannot receive federal financial aid, the funding for this has to come from private donations to the President’s Fund at SMCC.

Discretionary Vouchers - Two people mentioned last night they wanted to use their discretionary vouchers for helping asylum seekers at SMCC. So far this year only 4 people have used their vouchers – if you would like yours to be added for this purpose, let me know.

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

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