

Script for awarding Paul Harris Fellow to Nancy Miles

The Rotary Foundation is a registered charity that supports the efforts of Rotary International to achieve world understanding and peace through international humanitarian, educational, and cultural exchange programs. It is supported solely by voluntary contributions from Rotarians and friends of the Foundation who share its vision of a better world.

The Paul Harris Fellowship is named for Paul Harris, who founded Rotary over 100 years ago. The Fellowship was established in his honor in 1957 to express appreciation and recognition for a contribution of \$1000 to the Rotary Foundation.

Our club receives recognition points for its donations to the Foundation which it can “cash in” to honor someone as a Paul Harris Fellow. Our Rotary Club has a tradition of awarding the Paul Harris Fellow designation to a person who has demonstrated exemplary service to the community through involvement and good citizenship. Tonight we have the honor and pleasure of recognizing Nancy Miles as she becomes a Paul Harris Fellow. Nancy has set an example of the Rotary motto of Service Above Self by her contributions to our community.

Nancy Miles continuously exemplifies “Service Above Self” to the town of Cape Elizabeth and its residents. In 2006 she received the town’s Ralph T. Gould Award for Citizenship recognizing her service and volunteerism to the community. At the time, Nancy was cited for her work in Cape Elizabeth’s Middle and Pond Cove School, organizing and chairing the town’s recycling committee, serving on the Cape Elizabeth Land Trust, and creating the Community Garden at Gull Crest Fields. In each of those volunteer endeavors she was not an idle member, but rather an inspirational, active, hands-on leader who was directly responsible for making a ton of things happen. She humbly passed on the credit for the award to other volunteers who worked with her, and stated she “hoped to keep on doing the same thing.”¹ And she did!

Nancy continued with many of these activities and expanded the Cape Elizabeth Community Gardens. She was the driving force and first Chair of the Garden Committee who orchestrated the Cape Community Garden at Maxwell’s Farm, an organic garden located on land owned by the Maxwell family on Spurwink Avenue. It is located behind the former farm stand which is now the Ocean House Child Development Center. Nancy not only concerned herself with every organizational detail of the new garden, she was also the person behind the wheelbarrow, shovel, or rototiller.

In 2010, Nancy started Judy’s Pantry at the United Methodist Church in memory of Judy Simonds who was one of the founders of the Cape Elizabeth Community Gardens. With the help of Judy’s daughters and other volunteers, Judy’s Pantry provides any Cape resident on limited resources with fresh garden produce, and a limited amount of non-perishables, at no cost to the recipients. Nancy coordinates donations of healthy seasonable fresh vegetables and fruits from almost every local farm, the two Community Gardens, other food pantries, and anyone she finds out about. There is no paperwork or income criteria to use the pantry and Nancy insists on complete confidentiality. She works hard at making the pantry experience a welcoming, pleasant experience for clients, adding bouquets of flowers as one of the things for people to take home to their families. The pantry is open Tuesday afternoons in the spring and summer growing seasons when fresh

produce is readily available, and every other Tuesday afternoon in the winter for non-perishable items.

She and her husband Frank are also board members of the Cape Farm Alliance. The Cape Farm Alliance is a group of fishermen, farmers, gardeners, horse lovers, and business owners who support sustainable local food in our town. They work cooperatively throughout the year to “ensure Cape Elizabeth’s farming future,” to increase access to local food, to help maintain the rural character of our town, to enhance the economic viability of local farms and food-related businesses, and to raise awareness about local farming, fishing and food.

Most noteworthy, is Nancy’s unselfish commitment of her time, talent, and treasures to clients of Judy’s Pantry and other residents she learns about. Many families or individuals have benefited directly – above and beyond – from Nancy’s generous, gracious, and tenacious efforts on their behalf. It would be inappropriate to breach confidentiality, but suffice it to say that Nancy has personally provided immeasurable, around-the-clock, “Service Above Self” to these families, and others we will never know about.

Your personal involvement makes your community a better place in which to live. The Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth recognizes these efforts and has made a contribution to the Rotary Foundation in your name. This is a recognition made on behalf of all members of the Club, and is not made lightly. While it is an honor to receive a Paul Harris Fellow, it’s not about the recognition; it’s about what has been accomplished for our community and the world.

We are honored to present you with this Paul Harris pin, certificate and medal. The symbolism in this recognition is to say Thank you for making a difference in your community and in the lives of less fortunate people in the world. By accepting this pin you will join a family of well over 950,000 Paul Harris Fellows worldwide. Besides members of our Rotary Club, you stand with notables such as Mother Theresa, Nelson Mandela, Kofi Anann, Prince Charles, Indira Gandhi, Luciano Pavarotti, King Hussein of Jordan and Pope John Paul II.