

TWO LIGHTS

Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth

March 1, 2017

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

March 8 – Mike Tarpinian, Opportunity Alliance

March 15 – Club Foundation Anniversary Party!

March 22 – Steve Levesque, Brunswick Landing

ASSIGNMENTS

| | <u>March 8</u> | <u>March 15</u> | <u>March 22</u> |
|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Opening Words | Ursula | Barker | Virginia |
| Raffle Gift | Dube | Farrell | Frustaci |
| Conductor | Healey | Daviero | Scott Irving |

Bob Danielson was the lucky winner of a gift certificate to Verbena's donated by Bill Daviero

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

March 14 – Soup Kitchen

March 15 – Foundation Anniversary Party! Same time, same place but come a little early if you can (5:30) to socialize and share appetizers. Please sign up online so we can have a head count.

March 18 – District Leadership Institute

May 19-21 – District Conference, Samoset, Rockport – register on District 7780 website.

What's New With Our Members

Happy Birthday to

Dan Mooers (March 11)

Kathy Ray (March 12)

Happy Anniversary to

Tom & Marti Meyers (March 9)

Bev & Sherm Altenburg (March 12)

Welcome Madolyn Connolly, CEHS graduate now attending McGill, who attended our meeting this week to thank us for the scholarship she received from us.

Thank you to Laurenz for reminding us of the relevance of the 4-Way Test:

*Is it the truth?
Is it fair to all concerned?
Will it build goodwill and better understanding?
Is it beneficial to all concerned?*

Welcome to Rotary!!!! - Last week we welcomed Isabell Kubeck and this week we welcomed her colleague at Cape Memory Care, Albert L'Etoile. By profession Albert is an interim health care administrator and by definition he moves around a lot. But fortunately for us, he likes to join the Rotary club in each place where he lands. He has been a member of the Rotary clubs of Belfast, Nantucket and Jenkintown, PA. Albert has an MFA degree and attended RIT and Syracuse. He lives in Bath with his husband Philip Hickey where he has a pottery studio in his home. We are pleased to be your next Rotary club, Albert!

Top Ten Reasons to Attend the Foundation Anniversary Party – in case you missed it or couldn't see/hear, here was the Top 10 list presented this week:

- #10. It counts as a regular meeting so you won't have to do a make-up.
- #9. We will be awarding Paul Harris Fellow pins to some of our own members – come to support them!
- #8. We will have appetizers and a more-special-than-usual meal,
- #7. There will be a festive atmosphere.
- #6. It will be a “Spouses” Night (or friend or whatever) – these are always fun!
- #5. There will be surprises that you won't want to miss!
- #4. We will be honoring 4 special members of the community, so it will be a very special night.
- #3. It will be a good way to get in the partying mode for St. Patrick's Day!
- #2. BIRTHDAY CAKE!! (you'll have your choice of chocolate, or lemon with strawberry filling)
- #1. It won't be fun without you there!!

Pine Tree Legal – Our speaker this week was scheduled to speak 2 weeks ago when our meeting was cancelled due to a snowstorm, and she very graciously agreed to speak to us last night instead. Nan Heald, the executive director of Pine Tree Legal Assistance is well known to several members of the club, and especially to Bob Knupp and Dan McDonald who both volunteer their services and had high praise for the organization. PTLA was created 50 years ago and was the first non-profit in Maine to offer free legal services to low income individuals. They focus on representing one person at a time, and many of their clients come from the working poor, the disabled, veterans, single parents and migrant workers. They have 37 attorneys on staff at 6 locations in Maine. Despite the attorneys in their employ and even more volunteer attorneys, they are only able to help about 1 in 5 people who come to them. However their website has a wealth of information that allows a lot of people to know their rights and help themselves.

Great News for a Former PHF Honoree – At our 50th anniversary celebration 5 years ago, we honored 5 community members as Paul Harris Fellows, just as we will be doing on March 15. One of those 5 that we honored was Ruth Libby of Ruth's Reusable Resources (3R's). Ruth has just won a national "Rare Life" award (from a bourbon distiller in Kentucky). Unlike the award from us, this award carries with it a prize of \$50,000! For those unfamiliar with the 3R's, here is a write-up from the press release (it's long but interesting).

Over two decades ago, Ruth received a note from her son's kindergarten teacher requesting household items such as egg cartons, meat trays and juice can lids for use in craft projects. A light bulb went off for Ruth and her non-profit was born initially in her basement. Its mission is to ensure that students and classrooms in Maine have the basic tools for learning, by transferring surplus business supplies and merchandise into the hands of school children through teachers.

Twenty three years later, the 3R's has blossomed into a regional powerhouse that takes surplus supplies from businesses across the nation and supplements schoolchildren's supplies in basic learning materials. The numbers today are staggering. From a 21,000 square foot warehouse and a 7,000 square foot "store," Libby's organization has to date recycled over \$60 million of office surplus into the hands of teachers across Maine and in Massachusetts and Connecticut. Every year Ruth's Reusable Resources manages an operation that:

- Solicits tons of surplus office supplies from across the country
- Serves over 14,000 eligible teachers at over 250 individual schools
- Donates 5,000 backpacks with school supplies to children in need
- Reaches over 70,000 regional students with needed supplies, or nearly one third of all elementary students in Maine
- Hundreds of tons of office surplus is reused and saved from landfills

More astonishing, Libby's organization provides this service entirely on school "memberships," an annual fee paid by schools that amounts to only \$3 per student. All deliveries and shipment of material is paid for by the 3R's. The warehouse and store are staffed with 85 special needs high school students and adults each week, supplied by 10 different special needs organizations. Staffing is supplemented by volunteer teams organized by local businesses. To say that theirs is

a shoestring budget doesn't meet the mark. "Shipping, deliveries and heat are our biggest costs. We usually turn the heat off in February," noted Libby.

Libby said of her award, "This award is potentially a game changer for us. Our growth over the years is really just a response to an enormous need. This award will enable us to reduce our annual costs and possibly for the first time establish an endowment that can keep us helping kids to learn and help reduce waste."

**ROTARY CLUB OF SOUTH
PORTLAND/CAPE ELIZABETH, MAINE**

www.sp-ce-rotary.org

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Marge Barker
Rotary Club of South Portland-Cape Elizabeth