## **TWO LIGHTS**

# Rotary Club of South Portland - Cape Elizabeth February 21, 2018

### **UPCOMING PROGRAMS:**

February 28 – Jonathan Sahrbeck; Human Trafficking in Maine March 7 – Peace Jam Update

March 14 – AJ Frustaci, Traveling Through Southeast Asia

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

	February 28	March 7	March 14
Opening Words	Mutty	Piper	Ray
Raffle Gift	Britt	Callahan	Conroy
Conductor	Daniels	Davidson	Daviero

Our guest speaker, John Grew, drew the winning ticket – his own! He won a gift certificate to LL Bean donated by Frank Butterworth.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**

March 1-12 – Maine Restaurant Week.

March 24, 7:30 – 3:30 – Rotary Leadership Institute, York County Community College, Wells (a great opportunity to learn more about Rotary!)

**April 7** – District Training Assembly, York County Community College

**April 12, 6 – 8 p.m.** – "Vision to Plan" workshop at South Portland Housing Authority, 100 Waterman Drive

**April 25** – tree seedlings arrive – not sure if we're planting them on this day or a later day – or whether at Bug Light or Fort Williams – stay tuned for more information.

May 4-6 - District Conference, Mount Washington Hotel

June 23-27 – Rotary International Convention, Toronto

### What's New With Our Members

Happy Birthday to Dick Yerxa (March 6)

Enjoy the warm sunshine, President Sue as you travel around Florida!

Alec Livingston sends greetings through Sarah Higgins - we miss you, Alec!

<u>President's Discretionary Fund</u> – Perhaps a misnomer because it's not spent at the President's discretion but at YOUR discretion. Each of us in the club has a \$50 allotment to spend in a charitable way – no approval is needed from the Board or anyone else. It can go to a charity or to an individual – it's up to you. Some examples of how people have used their vouchers in the past include:

- Preble Street (soup kitchen)
- South Portland Food Cupboard
- Peace Jam
- Friends of Casco Bay
- SMCC students seeking asylum (and therefore ineligible for conventional financial aid) These are just examples people have used them for a wide variety of worthy causes. To use your "voucher" (actually a virtual voucher the voucher itself doesn't exist), spend the \$50 in the way that you want to and then ask Nancy Irving to reimburse you.

Whooo's Interested in Birds (if you attended this week's meeting, you know that I stole Maine Audubon's pun) – Our speaker this week was John Grew, who retired to Maine just a year ago from Indiana, and has become very active as a volunteer for Maine Audubon. It was refreshing to hear from someone from "away" who has such a passion for Maine and our beautiful natural environment. A healthy natural environment is key to our state's economic vitality and Maine Audubon (in collaboration with many other organizations) aims to promote that through Education, Conservation and Advocacy. Maine Audubon has 7 chapters with over 10,000 members; they depend heavily on volunteers for some of their projects, especially the Loon Count and the Brook Trout Survey. For instance the annual Loon Count involves over 900 volunteers (who counted up over 3200 adult loons).

"Frightened of Grass" – This month's End Polio Now newsletter has an article about the Belfast (Northern Ireland) Rotary Club's event to mark the anniversary of the 1957 polio epidemic in that city. To most people polio is a historical disease, but the article recounts the stories of 3 woman who contracted the disease as babies, and for whom the local Rotary club had helped with rehabilitation. Here's part of Heather Scott's story:

"The polio outbreak happened in 1957. Lots of children were affected by it in Belfast and I was 14 months old when I was diagnosed. I had only started walking but I was dragging my leg and I had a temperature, so my mammy took me to the doctor, who sent me over to the Belfast Children's Hospital because of the epidemic.

That was on July 11 and I was diagnosed on the Twelfth. I was then transferred to Purdsyburn and then to Greenisland Orthopaedic Hospital for 14 months. I don't have any memories of that time, thank God - it wasn't a nice experience for my parents - though there are photographs that exist of me in a cot.

When I eventually was released from hospital, my mammy said that I was frightened of grass and flowers because I didn't know what they were. I'd never been outside before, really. I'd only known the inside of a hospital.

I wore calipers until I was 11, when I underwent leg-lengthening surgery. My right leg was withered and short, which it still is and they attempted to lengthen it by splitting the bones and putting in screws. It was torture, physically very sore, and I spent five and a half months in Musgrave Hospital, Belfast, convalescing

It's fantastic that we're so close to eradicating polio. I wouldn't wish it on my worst enemy - the hospitals, the operations, the pain. If telling our story can help one more child be vaccinated and help end this cruel disease, then we must do it."

### Everything you (or even an engineer) need to know about a ShelterBox, and then some... -

I mentioned the Montreal Rotary Convention in last week's bulletin. What I didn't say was that I was not the only one who brought along a family member. Tony attended with his son Matt, who was and still is a Rotarian in New Jersey. At the conventions there is a big exhibit hall, which always has a ShelterBox exhibit with a tent all set up and a display of all the items included in the "box." I peek in the tent, look at the tools, bedding, cooking utensils, etc. and chat briefly with one of the exhibitors. It takes about 5 minutes or less. Tony (engineer) and Matt (architect) sat in the tent for TWO HOURS taking in every detail of the design and technology. Tony said it was a "wonderful opportunity to see it and talk to the folks who really knew a lot of details." (For the benefit of new Rotarians: donating to ShelterBox is how our club has chosen to respond to disasters around the world. Each year we support at least one box at \$1,000 each – sometimes two; our club's history of support makes us a Bronze Society member. There is a link to ShelterBox on our club's webpage for more information about them)





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

www.sp-ce-rotary.org

### **Officers**

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President-Elect – Fran Bagdasarian
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