

TWO LIGHTS

Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth
January 31, 2018

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

February 7 – AJ Frustaci – Travels with AJ
February 14 – Laurenz Schmidt – Club Survey Results
February 21 – John Grew, Maine Audubon Society

ASSIGNMENTS

	<u>February 7</u>	<u>February 14</u>	<u>February 21</u>
Opening Words	Mutty	McGovern	O'Shea
Raffle Gift	Britt	Butler	Butterworth
Conductor	Daniels	Danielson	Danois

Congratulations to Bob Knupp who won a Home Depot gift certificate, AND to Dick Yerxa who won a handmade bird feeder, both donated by Fran Bagdasarian (who felt she owed a double prize since she wins so often!).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

February 3 – AliciaBars tasting at Williams Sonoma, Maine Mall

February 7 – Meeting of Fundraising Committee after our regular meeting to finalize the fundraising policy.

February 13 (Mardi Gras!) – Soup Kitchen – please sign up online.

February 23, 5:30 – 7:30 – Frugal Feast Dinner, Woodfords Church, Portland

May 4-6 - District Conference, Mount Washington Hotel

June 23-27 – Rotary International Convention, Toronto

What's New With Our Members

Happy Birthday to Nancy Irving (Feb. 13)

Happy 25th Anniversary to Chuck & Melissa Redman (Feb. 12)

Congratulations to Ellie Speh on receiving her PHF+3 pin - thanks Ellie for your continuing generosity to The Rotary Foundation! And bon voyage as you and Chris head south for the winter - see you in May!

Thank you to Scott Irving for the spiffy re-design of the bookplates that our speakers sign to insert in books donated to the libraries.

Thank you to all those who participated in the Membership Committee meeting at Laurenz's house to brainstorm about ways to attract younger members into the club.

WinterFest a Big Success – I'm pretty sure it was a success financially, but it was also a huge success from the FUN standpoint, and also from the yardstick of club involvement. The snow piled into a sliding hill by the City was a tremendous hit with non-stop activity all day. The ice left something to be desired but that didn't stop the kids from participating in all our games on or near the ice. Wings were reported to be VERY hot, but Rich Daniels was able to eat enough to come in third! Co-chair Doug reported that we club members came through (as always!) to fill all the necessary slots, and attendance by the public was up 20% over the prior year. The fireworks were reported by one attendee to be "better than DisneyWorld" – not sure I'd go that far but they were pretty awesome! Thanks to co-chairs Doug, Tony and Bev, as well as their behind-the-scenes gal Friday Kathy Cotter – and also to the numerous club members who put in lots of hours getting/collecting pledges and participating onsite. What a great, fun way for us to give back to our community!

A Friend of Casco Bay – Our guest speaker this week, Ivy Frignoca, works for the Friends of Casco Bay as the Casco Baykeeper. As such, she is the chief advocate for Casco Bay. Prior to coming to Casco Bay, she was an environmental educator, an advocate for Vermont's public lands and Lake Champlain, and a Senior Attorney with Conservation Law Foundation. Ivy stressed that the work of Friends of Casco Bay is all science-based (and she threw a lot of science at us!). Stormwater is the largest source of pollution in Casco Bay, and is a major source of nitrogen, which promotes algal blooms. Ivy reviewed the activity they had been monitoring in the Bay in 2017, including an increase in phytoplankton & algae, higher water temperatures continuing longer into the fall, drought-like conditions for the 2nd summer in a row, and new and more harmful algal blooms. She also talked about ocean acidification, the result of an increase in carbon dioxide – it results in shellfish having difficulty forming shells. This was a very educational program, and if it left you with more questions or concerns, you can contact Ivy at ifrignoca@cascobay.org.

A Soup Kitchen Story – *(This essay was in the January 28 issue of the Maine Sunday Telegram – it was written by Marlee Hill of Cape Elizabeth – thank you to her for giving a human face to the people on both sides of the serving line at Preble Street, where many from our own club also serve faithfully each month.)*

The third Sunday of every month, a St. Luke's Cathedral team prepares lunch at the Preble Street soup kitchen, where the doors are open, welcoming any and all who are in need. Over the years there have been thousands.

Volunteers start arriving at 9:30 and each of them dons a different hat, becoming cooks, biscuit bakers, salad makers, dish and pot and pan washers and cleaner uppers.

Our friendly group created a well-received meal from scratch that day: shepherd's pie with real mashed potatoes, tossed salad, biscuits right out of the oven and, donated by local businesses, fresh pastries and fruit.

There is always a vegetarian dish available and always plenty of hot coffee, hot or iced tea and milk. Doors open and lunch starts exactly at 11:30. Everything must be ready.

This particular December Sunday was frigid, with spitting wet snow. The aroma of hot food cooking drifted from the ovens through the kitchen windows and out to the sidewalks, where a line of hungry people hugged the side of the building to try to shelter themselves.

The appointed hour arrived. The doors opened. Soup's on. Eager but controlled, the people in line, as varied as flakes of snow, moved into the warmth of the dining hall, where the tables sported holiday decorations.

Four of us ladies, wearing Santa hats, waited behind the stainless-steel counter, ready to serve lunch, cafeteria-style. There was a dessert lady, a salad lady and a shepherd's pie lady; I was the biscuit lady.

As the line progressed and trays filled with hot food, our shivering clients began to relax a little and smiles began to appear. They became more chatty and generous with "thank you's" and "Ho ho ho's."

A tall and thin young man, wearing a soaked jacket over a Patriots sweatshirt, his dark hair plastered to his forehead under a soaked Red Sox cap, stood in front of me. "How about a biscuit?" I asked, adding "or two, they're right out of the oven and still warm."

He stood looking at them like it was a difficult decision.

There were no children there that Sunday, but as the young man took the biscuits I handed to him, I saw a boy now grown into manhood, an adult boy struggling. A "thank you," spoken softly.

Then he reached across the counter with something in his hand, and a shy smile flickered.

"This is for you."

So surprised I could only croak "Thank you," and held my hand out. He

dropped a small object into it. When I looked back, he had become lost in the crowd. In the quiet after lunch, I stepped aside, reached into my pocket and found the young man's gift: a tiny lapel pin, a tiny russet potato with MAINE stamped down its length.

It was all he had. It was all he had to give.

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

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