

# TWO LIGHTS

Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth

April 22, 2020



*Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.*

## Upcoming Dates:

**May 2 (Saturday), 11 a.m.** – Rotary COVID-19 Livestream Telethon on Facebook.

**May 13 (Wednesday) 5:30 p.m.** – Portland Sunrise Club has invited us to attend (presumably via Zoom) their special meeting at which their speaker will be ***RI President Mark Maloney!*** Stay tuned for details.

## Meeting Notes:

- We will be using the same zoom link each week – so either save the email with the link that Mike G sent this week, OR he will continue to send it out on Wednesday before the meeting.
- Our club has its own Zoom account now so if you want to use it for other Rotary-related activities (committee meetings, scholarship interviews, etc.) just ask Mike G for the info.
- Mike will be starting the meeting each week at 6:15 for people to join but we won't actually be starting the meeting officially until 6:30.
- I am not assigning duties since I don't know who will be participating in our Zoom meetings, but it would be nice to have opening words, so **PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU ARE WILLING TO READ OPENING WORDS DURING THE NEXT MONTH AND I WILL PUT TOGETHER A SCHEDULE.**

## *What's New With Our Members*

*Happy Birthday to*

🍰 *Bill Daviero - April 25*

🍰 *Joan Frustaci - April 27'*

🍰 *Hugh O'Shea - May 1 (May Day!)*

*Congratulations(?) to the McAleney Family on their new dog!*

*Thank you to our Scholarship Committee - Kathy Cotter, Katelyn Estes and Nicole Albert - who will be interviewing 14 scholarship candidates via Zoom over the next couple weeks.*

*Thank you to all the dedicated State of Maine personnel who are working extra hard during this crisis. Jim Britt has been impressed with the individuals he has been working with at the Forest Service (who have been delivering food), the Parks Department (which is figuring out how to re-open parks safely) and the Agriculture Department (which has been connecting farmers with new ways to sell their produce).*

*Thank you to the volunteers who delivered groceries for the second week in a row from the SP Food Cupboard to elderly residents at South Portland Housing Authority (and thank you Sari Greene for organizing this)!*

**South Portland Food Cupboard** – As you can imagine the Food Cupboard is busier than it has ever been. Tony suggests that even if you don't sign up online to volunteer, consider coming down anyway to help out if you are comfortable doing so – they can use extra hands!!

**“Peter Cotter” Discretionary Vouchers** – I mentioned this program a couple weeks ago and we need to take advantage of it now more than ever. The program started with the idea of helping individuals who for whatever reason had a financial need (often medical-related) that wasn't being filled in some other way. The program evolved such that most of the vouchers have been used to donate to a variety of worthwhile organizations. Well now we're back to the situation where there are people all around us who have lost their income and could really use our help. Four people in the club put their vouchers together to give \$200 to a woman that the director of the Food Cupboard brought to our attention. Unlike most of us, he is in a good position to know who is truly in need of help, as are our school systems. If you would like to help out with contacting officials in CE and SP about our ability to help out, please let Tony know.

Another good use of the vouchers has been the purchase of 75 masks at a heavily discounted rate made by a woman who has lost her job. Thanks to Bill Daviero for coordinating this (and the 2 other people who chipped in with their vouchers)!

(To “use” your voucher, write your own check and ask Nicole to reimburse you, OR send her an email indicating to her how you want it to be used. Let's all put our vouchers to good use for our community!)

**The Way Trash Should Be** – This is our speaker Vanessa Berry’s catch phrase, not mine – don’t you love it! Vanessa, a graduate of UMaine Farmington, has been an Environmental Educator for EcoMaine since 2018. EcoMaine was founded in 1976 by the communities of Portland, South Portland, Cape Elizabeth and Scarborough. It has expanded over the years to 73 communities currently and it handles the waste for over a third of Maine residents. EcoMaine has 3 facilities located on outer Congress Street in Portland – a waste-to-energy plant, a recycling facility and a landfill. They are able to lessen the amount of waste that goes into the landfill by 90%, while at the same time generating enough electricity going back into the grid to power 15,000 homes. The most fascinating part of her presentation was the “demonstration” of how the recycling sorting technology works. But even though the equipment does most of the sorting, actual humans are still needed to pick out the trash first – plastic bags, food waste, batteries, etc. EcoMaine offers tours and John LoBosco said the tour is “really cool.” So when we get back to “normal” times, consider taking a tour sometime. For anyone with questions about EcoMaine or to book a tour later, here is Vanessa’s email address: [berry@ecomaine.org](mailto:berry@ecomaine.org)

**More Paul Harris Filler** – Most of My Road to Rotary consists of Paul Harris reminiscing about life in small town Vermont in the late 19th century. Before I move on to the part that has to do with Rotary, here is a sample about maple syrup.

In compensation for stolen sweets, and other things to follow, we helped the farmer to gather the sap, lifting the buckets from their spouts and pouring the contents into capacious hogsheads on the low ox-drawn sleds for transportation to the sugar house, either to be boiled down in huge iron kettles, according to the old process, or separated in gigantic rectangular pans, according to the then new way of making sugar. Sugar making was a night and day occupation for the energetic farmer; sap had to be gathered in the day time but the boiling down process or the evaporating process could be done as well at night. The period during which sap flows is not a long one and ambitious farmers owning and operating sugar bushes have to make the most of it.

The sleds were built low to keep the center of gravity down and thus avoid upsets when they were drawn over huge rocks and down precipitous declivities in roadless forests. How to get between, under, or over trees and rocks, involved the solution of geometrical problems possible only to the minds and practiced eyes of New England sugar bush farmers.

I have seen sleds with hogsheads full of the sweetish liquid, after herculean tugs by whiplashed but patient oxen, come hurtling down a rocky declivity in a manner which threatened to break the necks of the oxen in their wooden yokes and yet I have never seen one of the hogsheads upset or one of the oxen injured.

Graining syrup and waxing it were processes dear to the hearts of the boys and girls of my day. To grain it, one heats the syrup and then whips it in a saucer with a fork until it becomes hard and white. To wax it, one pours the hot syrup on hard-packed snow where it stiffens into a delicious stickiness and can be picked up with a fork. Butternut maple candy was another product of the sugar-making period in the good old days. Oh, me, oh my!

**From the Archives-** Since I don't have photos from our meetings to include in the bulletin, I'm going to start pulling out old pictures to take you down Memory Lane.



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

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