

# TWO LIGHTS

Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth  
February 19, 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 PROGRAMS:

February 26 – Katie Spotz, USCG, American Adventurer **AND** Board/Officers Election  
March 4 – Barbara Solloway, Avesta Housing  
March 11 – Beth Owens, Judy’s Pantry

## ASSIGNMENTS

	<u>February 26</u>	<u>March 4</u>	<u>March 11</u>
Opening Words	Daviero	DeGennaro	Desmond
Raffle Gift	Veroneau	Wagner	Yerxa
Conductor	Vachon	Yerxa	Wagner
Set Up & Breakdown #1	Hawes	Hobbs	Knupp
Set Up & Breakdown #2	Healey	Irving	LoBosco

*Karen Vachon brought a batch of chocolate chip cookies as the raffle gift, which she won! Tom Meyers was the secondary winner, who decided to share them all with the club.*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

**February 22 (Saturday), 7-9** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Wine Tasting to benefit South Portland Food Cupboard at St. Maximilian Kolbe Hall, 150 Black Point Road, Scarborough, Tickets \$20

**February 29, 10-11** – District Growth Workshop, online conference call (changed from in-person meeting) 646-558-8656; meeting ID = 820 925 2012 (or join online at <https://zoom.us/j/8209252012>)

**March 8** – Lions Club Pancake Breakfast (7:30 – 11)

**March 10 (Tuesday – game time 7 p.m.)** – SP-CE at the Mariners! Dave Bagdasarian will send details – cost is \$15 for ticket without food, or \$25 for ticket + \$10 food voucher. RSVP by March 4.

## What's New With Our Members

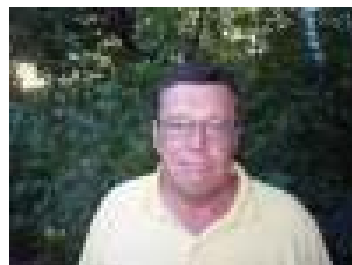
*Happy Birthday to President David (2/21)!*

*Congratulations (and thank you for your generosity) to Peter Bennett, on the receipt of his "PHF+2" pin for his donations to The Rotary Foundation.*



*A sad week! Our sincere condolences to:*

- \* Kathy Cotter - see below;*
- \* Matt McAleney on the death of his father Peter;*
- \* Doug Schauf on the death of his stepfather;*
- \* The family & friends of former member Alan Hawkins.*



**Service Above Self Personified** – Our club was saddened this week to learn of the death of Past President Peter Cotter following a long illness. Many of us knew him when he was president in 2005-06. Peter unfortunately had a stroke in the year before his presidency and many assumed that he would not be able to be president. He certainly would have had an excuse not to step into the role of president, but Peter felt that it was his responsibility and he was determined not to let any obstacles stand in his way.

During Peter's year, he instituted what he called "See a Need, Fill a Need." This tradition continues to this day, and it is the line item in our club budget which allows every member of the club to spend \$50 for a charitable purpose without needing to get authorization from the board. So if you come across someone whose medical expenses or other bad luck event has caused them to be in need, you can help them out with your \$50 "voucher." This program is such a good example of Peter's compassionate nature – he was a real champion of the underdog.

Somewhat newer members of the club may not have known him when he was a member of the club, but may have known him as the guy who stood in the cold all day long at the tree lot whenever the County Jail residents were onsite, because the jail personnel trusted Peter and it was a condition of us having them that Peter be present to supervise. (This is actually my own best memory of Peter.) Although our volunteer workers had made mistakes, Peter never judged them and they all felt like they had a friend in Peter.

More recently, illness has kept Peter away from club functions, but everyone in the club knows his wife Kathy, who is also a Past President of the club (as well as being our current secretary). When Peter talked about Kathy, you got the impression that he thought he was the luckiest man in the world to be married to her. Together they made it part of their being to continually give back to the community.



**“Respect the Food; Respect the Recipients; Respect Each Other”** – Our speaker this week was Dwayne Hopkins, Director of the South Portland Food Cupboard, but we really can’t talk about the Food Cupboard without mentioning Food Cupboard founder Sybil Riemensnider, who was the author of these guiding principles about respect. Before her non-profit life, Sybil was a scientist and she brought her exacting standards to the Food Cupboard in her quest to feed people with healthy, nutritious food. Her successor Dwayne is from Atlantic Canada and moved to Scarborough with his family in 1999, and became a US citizen in 2015. He has served in many roles including as a pastor, police officer and sports coach. He has a passion for helping the needy.

The Food Cupboard’s major activity is food distribution on Thursday mornings, but Dwayne told us about all the other activities that go on all week long:

- Picking up from grocery stores, Starbuck’s, Jordan’s Farm and others (many of our club members are involved in these pick-ups);
- Distributing food on Wednesday evenings (during our meetings) for the working poor who can’t make it on Thursday mornings;
- Donating food to the Boys & Girls club and the Hub at Redbank, as well as SP schools, the Locker Project and a local Sober House.
- Delivering food to elderly or disabled who can’t make it to the Food Cupboard.

Dwayne shared with us the sobering statistic that 1 in 5 children go to bed hungry, and that statistic is just as accurate in South Portland as it is for the state of Maine and the country as a whole. The Food Cupboard is combatting that statistic by serving 300 families per month at the Food Cupboard, in addition to its other food distribution activities.



**Our Foundation Dollars at Work** – Our District Foundation Chair Lawrence Furbish shared with us a report on a recently completed global grant project which our club participated in. Here is his report:

“In 2015 we sent a team of 6 Rotarians led by David Kitchen of the Yarmouth Rotary Club to Bulgaria on an International Outreach visit. We then hosted a team of 5 Bulgarian Rotarians here. As a result of the close relationships formed, our District and Bulgaria collaborated on a Global grant entitled “Life is Born in Petrich.” It involved updating neonatal care for preterm newborns and providing equipment for prenatal treatment and monitoring for early diagnosis prevention. The project is completed and the new wing opened. David Kitchen was invited to Bulgaria to share in the celebration. The night before the opening a baby was saved because of the new equipment and a set of twins was born. Thank every member of your club who donates to the Foundation.”

It should be noted that our club participated in 3 ways:

1. Catherine Callahan and former member AnaMaria Gonzalez were part of the district team that went to Bulgaria in 2015.
2. Our club donated money directly to the project (along with Yarmouth, South Berwick-Eliot, Sanford-Springvale, Saco Bay Sunset and Portsmouth).
3. Our Foundation donations by the club and individual members went into the Foundation’s Annual Fund which provided matching funds at the district level as well as the “global” level.

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

Officers

President – David Lourie  
President-Elect – Michael Geneseo  
Secretary – Kathy Cotter  
Treasurer – Nicole Albert

Directors

Club Administration – Bev Altenburg  
Youth Services – Matt McAleney  
Community Services – David McKenna  
International Services/Foundation – Chuck Redman  
Membership – Laurenz Schmidt  
Director-At-Large – Fran Bagdasarian

Committee Chairs

Visibility Co-Chairs – Marc Mutty & Matt McAleney  
Webmaster – Jim Britt  
Bulletin Editor – Nancy Hawes  
Program Chair – David Bagdasarian

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT**

Mark Maloney  
Rotary Club of Decatur, Alabama

**DISTRICT 7780 GOVERNOR**

Andy Glazier  
Rotary Club of Kittery