

TWO LIGHTS

Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth
May 27, 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:

June 3 – Club “Assembly” (internal club business)

June 3 – at 4:30 – Portland Sunrise guest speaker, RI Vice-President Yinka Babalola

June 20-26 – Rotary Connects the World – RI Virtual Convention

OPENING WORDS

This Week – Marc reflected on how the pandemic has affected his outlook on life, including learning to live each day to the fullest, an appreciation of flowers and birds (like the rose-breasted grosbeak that Mikey G saw in his yard!) and how much we all miss hugs!!

Upcoming:

June 3 – Dan Mooers

June 10 – Sue Sturtevant

What's New With Our Members

Happy Birthday to Rich Daniels (June 4)

Happy Anniversary to President David & Joyce (June 3)

Congratulations to Hadley Britt (Jim & Gillian's daughter) on her graduation from college (in a virtual ceremony)

Welcome to Dan McDonald who attended our Zoom meetings for the first time.

And welcome from across the pond to Bill York who attended for the 2nd time (this time his internet seemed to be working better) - many happy dollars were given to celebrate Bill joining us.

Thank you to Sue Sturtevant, Karen Vachon and Anne Marie McCoubrey for their recent gardening session at Bug Light - it looks great!

Ideas for Speakers – The sky's the limit (nearly) on who we can invite to speak at our club since geography is no barrier. If you have some ideas for who you'd like to hear as a speaker at one of our Zoom meetings, please pass them on to Dave Bagdasarian.

Board Business – Our club has received two separate windfall checks from our District. The first was actually Rotary Foundation money that our district applied for and distributed to clubs. This money (\$610) has to be used to combat food insecurity – the board voted last night to donate this money to The Locker Project. This was a suggestion from Jane Eberle (whom President David forced to pin down to one organization!). The Locker Project provides food to school children in Portland, South Portland and Westbrook, beyond what is provided through the school lunch program.

The second check is a release of district reserve moneys and represents money that the district received at some point as district dues from the clubs. So the district refunded \$25,000 to the clubs based on the number of members in the club. Our club received \$962 and it will be used to shore up our internal budget.

Unemployment Fraud – It's in the news that thousands of fraudulent unemployment claims have been filed in Maine – Sari Greene informed us that this is the result of a criminal ring in Nigeria filing claims using stolen personal information. If you or anyone you know receives notification about unemployment funds that you have not applied for, Sari would be happy to help you figure out what steps you need to take to protect your identity.

Thanks from Mercy! – Bill Daviero reported that 70 handmade cloth masks were delivered to Mercy Hospital, courtesy of our club’s \$50 Discretionary Voucher program (Bill, Denis Landry & Matt McAleney vouchers). Mindy Charles, Mercy Supervisor was genuinely excited about the donation and said they were very much needed. Thanks, Bill for coordinating this effort!!!



Rotary Connects the World! – We keep running into examples of how the current year’s Rotary theme is so true. Our speaker this week was Dave Norman, an author who lives in Cape Elizabeth with his wife and 3 young sons. His most recent book is Following Josh: China to Poland by Rail. In his pre-parenting life he travelled around the world covering the sport of paintball. (Ok, I admit that I didn’t write this down at first because I thought it was a joke but apparently it’s a real thing; according to Wikipedia there are professional paintball leagues around the world.)

Dave’s first connection with Rotary was that his grandfather in Illinois was a Rotarian. But that’s not the story he spoke to us about. He was hiking in the Himalayas in Nepal with his wife in March, 2010 and developed pulmonary edema. He was treated in a health clinic in a remote village where the doctor performed an X-ray. Imagine his surprise at seeing that the X-ray machine was a gift of the Rotary Club of Steamboat Springs, Colorado. The story has a happy ending – he survived and sent a letter of thanks to the Rotary club when he got home. He also mentioned that he saw lots of solar stoves and that many of them were gifts of various Rotary clubs.

Next connection – our club received a global grant (or whatever they were called then) back in the mid-90s to purchase equipment (I think) for a women’s hospital in Katmandu. (The amount of \$10,000 sticks in my head but I may have just made that up – I looked back through the club’s 990s and there isn’t enough detail to know when this grant occurred and how much it was for.)

Another connection – Bill Anderson’s son has performed ear surgeries in Nepal on a trip supported by Rotary funds. (Can’t go this year for obvious reasons but plans to next year.)

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

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