

TWO LIGHTS

Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth

April 14, 2021



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:

April 21 – Joseph Cassidy, President of SMCC

April 21 – Board meeting following club meeting

April 28 – Eric Girard, The Family Restored

May 5 – Club Assembly

May 12 – Janice Gardner, Executive Director, Mad Horse Theater

May 19 – Marty Helman, speaking about a project in Uganda our club supported

June 12 – Winterfest 2021 **FIREWORKS** Celebration at Wainwright Fields

June 12-16 – RI Virtual Convention

July 21 – Lobsterbake!

OPENING WORDS

April 14: Betty Egner perked us up with opening words about spring and hope:

- Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness. ***Desmond Tutu***
- Where flowers bloom so does hope. ***Lady Bird Johnson***
- Once you choose hope, anything's possible. ***Christopher Reeve***
- Spring is nature's way of saying, "Let's Party!" ***Robin Williams***

April 21 – Nancy Irving

April 28 – Anne Swift-Kayatta

Upcoming Weeks – **Thank you** to everyone who has volunteered for opening words in the upcoming weeks. Please save the email that Scott sent with the link to sign up to volunteer – unfortunately this is the only way to get to the sign-up sheet.

What's New With Our Members

Happy Birthday to:

🍰 John LoBosco - April 21

🍰 Bill Daviero - April 25

🍰 Joan Frustaci - April 27

Do you recognize this fellow, who is now fully vaccinated so he got his first haircut since December, 2019?



Guests this week: Dan Davidson, Chris & Ellie Speh, Kevin Kirby, Brent Wilson (no longer a guest – see below), Aaron Mathews, Tiffany Bentley.

Water, Water! – South Portland High School is very appreciative of the water bottles that we have donated so far but they could still use a couple more cases of reusable water bottles. If you have any contacts with companies that might have some they could donate, please let Tony know.

Welcome, Brent! – Laurenz introduced our newest member this week, Brent Wilson. Brent (not to be confused with Jim Britt) is a senior property manager at Westbrook Housing. He grew up in North Carolina where he attended the University of North Carolina. After that he worked in Ireland, Scotland, Montana and North Carolina, much of that work being for homeless shelters. Brent and his wife are South Portland residents and he is very interested in improving the lives of our community members. He reported that at his first meeting Tony and Sari spoke about what they've been doing with the SP schools and that motivated him to continue coming to meetings and find out more about us. We're so glad to have Brent with us and look forward to being able to participate with him on service projects in the not too distant future (some members are already wanting him to sign up for tree shifts!).



Literary Degrees of Kevin Bacon – There are only a couple degrees of separation by way of books between our new member Brent and our speaker this week! Not sure exactly how you count it when there are books involved but here's the chain:

- Brent has walked the Camino de Santiago, which ends at Santiago de Compostela in northwest Spain.
- Australian author Graeme Simsion wrote a book recently about walking the Camino de Santiago entitled Two Steps Forward.
- The same author's first novel The Rosie Project features a hero who is on the autism spectrum, which was our speaker's topic this week.

(Granted there's a shorter connection if you just say that they both know President Mike!)

Autism Superheroes – Our speaker this week was Catherine McGuckin from Woodfords Family Services, which provides support to people with special needs. While based in Westbrook, it actually serves 13 of Maine's counties. Woodfords is currently serving 103 individuals in South Portland and Cape Elizabeth, about 2/3 of whom are children.

Cathy's topic was "Autism Awareness, Acceptance and Advocacy." She personalized her talk by telling about her nephew who was diagnosed with autism at a young age. He is currently pursuing a master's degree, but were it not for the type of services provided by Woodfords, he would not be thriving today. As Rotarians we were relieved to hear her comment that vaccines have been studied extensively as a potential cause of autism but there is no evidence that they play any role in causing autism.

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PORTLAND/CAPE ELIZABETH, MAINE**

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