

TWO LIGHTS

Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth
July 29 & August 5, 2020



Rotary Opens Opportunities

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:

August 12 – I think we have a speaker but I don't know who

September 23-25 – Rotary Zone Institute – speakers will include Mike McGovern & Brenda Cressey

September 25 – Bath Rotary Club golf event

OPENING WORDS

This Week – Sari Greene provided some timely opening words:

Quoting from Dr. Cornel West, Professor of Philosophy at Union Theological Seminary and Professor Emeritus at Princeton University: “Justice is what love looks like in public, just like tenderness is what love feels like in private.

“Unarmed truth and unapologetic love, if not synonymous, go hand in hand. Together, they are the antidote to a damaging self-centeredness. Whoever you are, it's not about you. Once truth and love are the primary values on a large scale, justice will finally follow, precisely because justice is what love looks like in public.”

Upcoming:

August 12 – John LoBosco

What's New With Our Members

Thank you to Tom Meyers who took notes at the July 29 meeting while I was away! Tom does such a great job - in reading his notes I felt like I was actually at the meeting.

Happy Birthday to

🍰 Tural Nadirli (Aug 12)

🍰 Joe Conroy (Aug 16)

Happy Anniversary to

🎊 Brenda & Dick Cressey (Aug 10)

🎊 Paul & Jan Butler (Aug 11)

🎊 Dick & Priscilla Yerxa (Aug 11)

🎊 Frank & Debbie Butterworth (Aug 12)

August Rotary Anniversaries:

Sari Greene - 1 year

Katelyn Estes - I'm not sure - the Clubrunner date is wrong

Patrick Veroneau - 3 years

Michele Danois - 8 years

Chuck Redman - 11 years

John LoBosco - 15 years

Bob Knupp - 26 years (including former club)

Thank you to Peter Bennett who has joined the Board as International Service Director (replacing Chuck Redman, who has resigned from the Board but not the club)!

Warren Simpson Memorial Quiz – Charter Member Warren Simpson always had a quiz on the first day of the new Rotary Year with a question taken from *The Rotarian*: Who is the new International President and where is he from? Bob Knupp is now carrying the standard, but made it even more challenging:

1. Who is the new president of Rotary International?
2. What country is he from?
3. Who is the new District Governor?
4. What club is she from?

Tie breaker: How do you pronounce the name of the club of the new RI President?

Mike McGovern was disqualified by Bob in advance “for knowing too much Rotary stuff,” and new member Brenda Cressey was the clear winner. (Answers are at the bottom of the newsletter every week – except for how to pronounce Holger Knaack's home club!)

Finally Breaking the Glass Ceiling (after only 117 years!) – Several years ago while visiting my sister who lives north of Chicago, we took the tour of Rotary headquarters in Evanston. At the time I had been a Rotarian for at least 20 years so we thought she knew something about Rotary. However after seeing the pictures on the walls of hundreds of past directors and trustees, the first words out of her mouth as we were leaving the building were: “So it’s a men’s club?” **NOT ANY MORE!!!** The RI Nominating Committee has just chosen Jennifer Jones of the Rotary Club of Windsor-Roseland, Ontario, Canada (remember that for the quiz in 2 years) to be the President of Rotary International in 2022-23. Congratulations to Jennifer!!!!

Happy Hour at the Fort – About 15 people met at the Fort Williams picnic shelter on August 5 on an absolutely BEAUTIFUL summer evening to see each other in person. We were all masked and behaved responsibly, but it was so great to see everyone who was there. We miss everyone who was not able to make it! Thank you to Bev for arranging it for us!



Bob Knupp took this picture of the Irving shelties socializing with Rotarians.

Meet the New (sort of) Town Manager – The speaker last week (7/29) was Matthew Sturgis, Town Manager for the Town of Cape Elizabeth. The beginning of Matt's career in municipal government was in 1995 as an appraiser with the City of Auburn Assessing Department. He then joined the Town of Cape Elizabeth as its Tax Assessor in February 2000. Matt had the pleasure of working for Town Manager and Rotarian Michael McGovern until his retirement, becoming Cape Elizabeth Town Manager in 2017. Complementing a career in public service, Matt held the elected positions of Selectman and Council member in New Gloucester and Gray respectively, serving as chairman of both bodies. Matt is an active volunteer with the American Lung Association, serving on the Maine Leadership Board, Northeast Leadership Board, and the National Regional Relations Committee. Matt resides on Forest Lake in Gray with his wife Amy, daughter Liza, and dog Pepper.

First, Matt was effusive in his praise of retiring CE Public Works Director Bob Malley whose 41 years of service to our community was recognized at a luncheon event the day before. This was echoed by Mike McGovern who was one of a very small group (due to COVID constraints) who could attend. Bob's dedication to community and region – and his support of our Club's initiatives - were acknowledged by all. He will continue to reside in Cape Elizabeth and only a phone call away.

Matt's remarks were an update on what's happening in the Town of Cape Elizabeth and predictably, described the challenges posed in response to COVID-19. Quoting Town Councilor Jamie Garvin's reminder "Never let a crisis go to waste," Matt described a number of issues and opportunities. In discussing them he continuously and frequently observed the hard work, flexibility, and dedication of his staff and attributed the good things that happened to them. For example, the three staff responsible for processing tax payments did three months of work in one: June.

The COVID-19 situation happened right in the middle of the Town's budget season; effectively he had to prepare a totally new budget, reducing both revenue projections and expenditures. Noting that the budget from the "town" side resulted in a lower tax rate, uncertainty on the "school" side presents bigger challenges. Highlights from the "town" side of budget and looking at opportunities on getting work done:

- Infrastructure and capital expenditures will be "pushed out" based on reduced revenue estimates, but some work was "moved up" and vendors appreciated the work.
- The pool and fitness center usually closes in August for maintenance but moved the work up with mandated COVID closures.
- Hardscaping around Portland Head Lighthouse by Nick Tammaro's firm was exceptional, not what happens sometimes with low-bid projects. Other safety improvements were also done at Fort Williams.
- The Town Council approved energy committee's recommendations (after 3 years) and subsequent RFP for a solar array at the recycling center. The power purchase agreement will cover 80 to 85 percent of the Town's power needs.
- While many capital projects fell by the wayside, the Town has several "shovel ready" projects if Federal funds become available to municipalities.

In other "big news," the Town has prevailed in the paper streets case. And this upcoming weekend would have been "Beach to Beacon" weekend and with the race cancelled, a group of rogue runners intended to run it. The Town strongly discouraged that and proposed a virtual race with participants making their own start line.

It was noted that *Town Clerk Debra Lane did a fantastic job with the primary election*, processing over 3000 absentee ballots, the primary way voters participated. There were a number of lessons learned that they hope can be addressed by November. They are anticipating enormous voter participation and a huge amount done absentee. They are hopeful the "drop box" absentee ballot option will be available to help with the process.

On the personnel front, Matt observed that he had to furlough 14 people in the Spring, but all are back. Rachel Davis was recently named the "new" Library Director after 20+ years on staff and serving as interim director for several months. She has initiated live programming and starting up curbside pick-up and drop-off at the library. Jay Reynolds has been selected as the new Public Works Director, a move Matt laughingly referred to as his "best steal" from the Town of Falmouth.

Matt interspersed his remarks with acknowledgements about what we have done in the community and mentioned several of our members who the Town still leans on for advice and recommendations: John Lobosco, Anne Swift-Kayatta, Scott Irving, and Mike McGovern.

ROTARIAN HANDIWORK



Marc Mutty was busy this summer building these steps.



Bill York spent 2 month transforming his back yard on the Isle of Wight.



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

Officers

President – Michael Geneseo
President-Elect – Dave Bagdasarian
Vice-President – Jim Britt
Secretary – Kathy Cotter
Treasurer – Nicole Albert

Directors

Club Administration – Bev Altenburg
Youth Services – Katelyn Estes
Community Services – Tony Wagner
International Services/Foundation – Chuck Redman
Membership – Laurenz Schmidt
Director-At-Large – David Lourie

Committee Chairs

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

DISTRICT 7780 GOVERNOR

Peggy Belanger, Rotary Club of Kennebunk Portside

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

Holger Knaack, Rotary Club of Herzogtum Lauenburg-Molln, Germany