

TWO LIGHTS

Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth
December 9, 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:

December 16 – Club Assembly, including election of 2021-22 officers

December 26 (Saturday) and December 28 (Monday) – These are times when the South Portland Food Cupboard expects to be unusually shorthanded so if you can volunteer either of these mornings they would be very appreciative.

January 6 – Celebrate a successful tree sale!

January 13 – Past Rotary International President Mark Maloney

January 14, 6:30 p.m. – District Recovery Initiative Committee update for all interested Rotarians via zoom (link to be sent in January)

January 29-30 – WinterFest!

OPENING WORDS

This Week: As a freshman senator in 1950, Sen. Margaret Chase Smith gave the most important speech of her career, which has become known as the “Declaration of Conscience.” Bob Danielson read the “Basic Principles of Americanism” portion of that speech:

“Those of us who shout the loudest about Americanism in making character assassinations are all too frequently those who, by our own words and acts, ignore some of the basic principles of

Americanism:

- The right to criticize;
- The right to hold unpopular beliefs;
- The right to protest;
- The right of independent thought.

The exercise of these rights should not cost one single American citizen his reputation or his right to a livelihood nor should he be in danger of losing his reputation or livelihood because he happens to know someone who holds unpopular beliefs. Who of us does not? Otherwise none of us could call our souls our own.”

December 16: Bev Altenburg

What's New With Our Members

Happy Birthday to:

- 🍰 Tom Meyers - December 17
- 🍰 Dave Bagdasarian - December 19
- 🍰 Ray Healey - December 23
- 🍰 Jim Britt - December 28
- 🍰 Kathy Cotter - December 28
- 🍰 Anne Swift-Kayatta - December 31

Happy 50th Anniversary to Laurenz & Barbara Schmidt (Dec. 18)!!!!

Happy Anniversary- only(!) 35 years - to Dan & Shirley Mooers (Dec. 31)

Thank you to our regular visitor Kristina who helped fill racks on Sunday and then worked at the Food Cupboard on Monday!

Messages from:

SYBIL - “I am very impressed with how the Tree Sale is set up and progressing. What a wonderful group of talented men and women! I am so glad I know them!” (The feeling is mutual, Sybil!)

MIKE NEFF - “I had a blast at Saturday’s tree unloading. Nothing quite as rewarding as hard work in character building weather conditions. I climbed to the top of the trees with Mike Geneseo when I noticed the logistical weakness was not having enough people atop to supply the speedy high-school kids below. What a great full body workout!! This will likely go down as one of the best of 2020.”

BILL YORK - An addendum to his Rotary bio last week: "I had about 25 - 30 years of "perfect attendance" back in the 70s/80s/90s. Also my daughter went to Indonesia for her junior year at North Yarmouth Academy with the Rotary student exchange program. This was a huge factor in her getting accepted into McGill University. I owe a lot to Rotary."

And speaking of the Isle of Wight, what have you been up to, Bill - here is the latest monolith, appearing on a beach on Bill's home island:



TREES!! – In the very near future, Dave Bagdasarian, Sr. will be transferring his place of residence from Mill Creek Park to Cape Elizabeth – Domino’s Pizza even delivers directly to his truck at the park! Dave represented our club at the SPCE Chamber of Commerce virtual tree-lighting ceremony at Mill Creek Park and gave the tree sale some added publicity. We also got GREAT publicity on Channel 6- Shannon Moss even commented that she bought her first Christmas tree from us many years ago! (Thanks, Fran and whoever else is helping out with publicity!!)



Supporting The Rotary Foundation – If your year-end giving includes supporting The Rotary Foundation (thank you!), you can do it by donating online at www.rotary.org. Or if you prefer to send a check, you will need to include a donor form to make sure that it gets credited to your membership correctly. I can send you a form already filled out, or you can send me a check (made out to The Rotary Foundation) and I’ll send it in for you.

Getting to Know Jim Britt – Ever since we learned that Jim Britt had a new job as the Communications Director for the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, we wondered what that job was all about. So fortunately this week he presented a classification talk in which we learned a lot more about Jim as well as his career history and his present position. Here is a photo of Jim giving his presentation:



Oops, that's his evil twin – here's Jim from last night (Can you tell the difference?)



Here are some snippets from his talk:

- He is a native of Ohio - born in Warren and attended Youngstown State.
- Like Bill Anderson he is dumbfounded by the 2020 Cleveland Browns.
- His mother ran the March of Dimes in Indiana and Ohio, and he credits her with his ability to organize.
- He started out in sales and created a newsletter for his clients; that's when he realized he belonged in PR.
- He and his wife Gillian had a PR consulting firm for 18 years.
- (Side note – Gillian has started an Eat Drink Lucky direct mail business which is sending tasty Maine products all over the country.)
- He took the job with the state of Maine because he started to feel like he was doing the same thing over and over.
- He is the spokesperson for a department of about 600 people.
- PR is about making other people look good.

- Sometimes his job involves being a sounding board for people who have an axe to grind.
- HE IS A DEADHEAD!
- The Deadhead mindset of kindness and a love of life were what drew him to Rotary.

Miscellaneous –

If you have accumulated a bunch of happy dollars and want to send them in, Kathy Cotter's new address is 5 Thrasher Road, Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107

Thank you to Waterfront Graphics for printing the WinterFest booklets being distributed at the tree lot on short notice!

If you find a diamond earring on the tree lot, it belongs to Bev.

Thank you to Matt McAleney, Mark Leasure and Bill Daviero for propping up the Tree Cam at the lot last night so that we could see the beautiful snow falling on our trees:



**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 – Peter Bennett
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