

# TWO LIGHTS

**Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth**  
**February 24, 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:

**March 3** – Club “Assembly” (internal club business)  
Tree Committee meeting after regular club meeting

**March 10** – Retired US Army Sgt Major Gretchen Evans, Inspiration from a Vet of the War in Afghanistan

**July 21** – Lobsterbake!

## OPENING WORDS

February 24: In recognition of our speaker from the symphony and Handel’s recent birthday, Mike McGovern asked Alexa to play Handel’s Messiah. (Most of us couldn’t hear it but Nicole could because her Alexa played it for her!)

## What’s New With Our Members

*Happy Birthday to Dick Yerxa (3/5)*

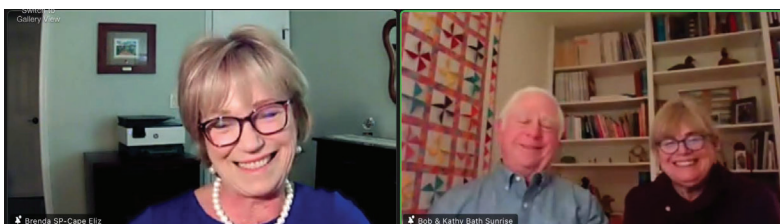
*Happy Anniversary to Tom & Marti Meyers (3/9)*

*Congratulations to Anne Swift-Kayatta and Bill on the birth of their granddaughter Ellie!*

*We welcomed these visitors: Aaron Filieo, Ellie & Chris Speh, Bill York, Peter DeGennaro (not a visitor but we don't get to see him very often) and Baby Dave.*

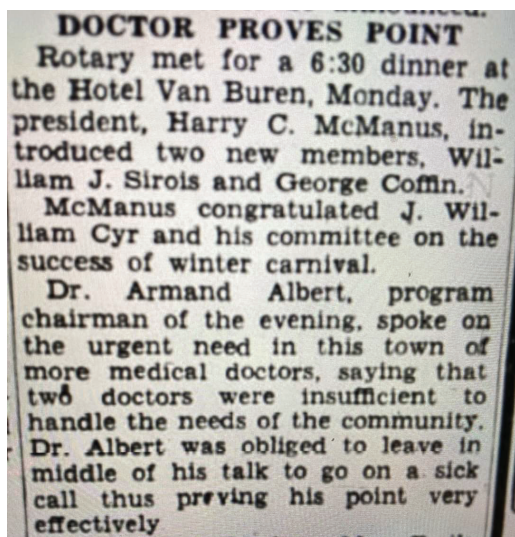
**Blood Needed** – We are reminded that blood supply is dangerously low so if you are eligible to donate blood, please consider doing so at your earliest opportunity.

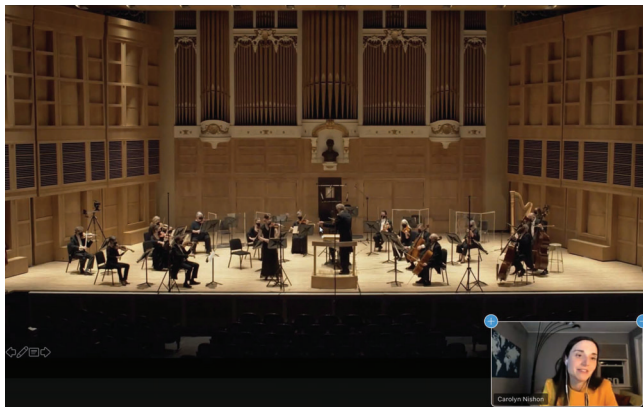
**World Peace and Understanding** – Rotary celebrates the goal of World Peace and Understanding every year on February 23, Paul Harris' birthday. Usually we gather for dinner in a hotel, but of course this year we gathered on Zoom from our own living rooms. The event started off with a feel-good moment when our Brenda Cressey recognized a couple from the Bath Sunrise Club (Bob & Kathy – I didn't catch their last name) as members of the Arch Klumph Society. (This means their generosity to The Rotary Foundation has exceeded \$250,000)



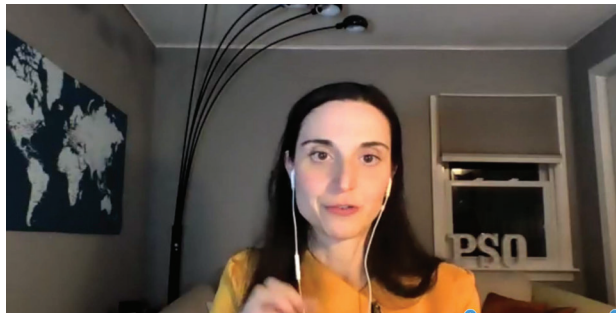
**Discretionary Vouchers** – President Mike recounted how he and Becca had used his \$50 discretionary voucher to help someone who had lost some work time due to illness and the \$50 made a real difference in helping to fill the gap. Remember that every club member has the ability to use their voucher in a similar manner (which was the original intention) or by making a donation to a charitable organization. If you're at a loss as to how to use it, let Tony know and he will forward it to the SP schools to help homeless students.

**Check Out this Article about Nicole's Grandfather!**

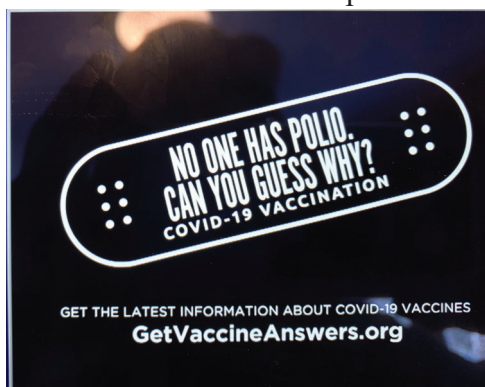




**Don't Stop the Music** – Our guest speaker this week was Carolyn Nishon, Executive Director of the Portland Symphony Orchestra. Carolyn started with the symphony in August, 2008, just before the economy tanked. At that time the PSO was in debt and its endowment was underwater. The PSO took corrective measures and has been in the black for ten years, and has an endowment of over \$11 million. Had they not done that, they never would have been able to weather the current pandemic. Last spring they worked with a change management specialist who advised them to prepare for worst case scenario – all digital concerts. And fortunately that's what they did because that's how things turned out. Now they are hopeful that next season will feature some in-person concerts but they are again preparing for the worst case.



**Get a Vax, Give a Vax** –One of the consequences of the current pandemic is that people are a lot more aware of polio. Fundraising for polio eradication in the US is challenging when so many people don't remember it or even know what it was. But "thanks" to the COVID-19 epidemic, polio gets mentioned a lot more often these days – case in point is this spoof of a COVID-19 public awareness ad that was on The Late Show with Stephen Colbert last night (the original said "It's Up to You"):



And remember when you've received the COVID-19 vaccination, consider "Get a Vax, Give a Vax" and make a donation to PolioPlus to show your appreciation.

**Time for Bob's Quiz!** – Have you read the March issue? Grade yourself (answers next week).

1. The Council on Legislation took action last year regarding Rotaract – what was it?
2. 66% of districts with at least one Rotaract club are members of an MDIO. What does MDIO stand for?
3. Dick Weissleder in Germany is the chairman of Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft Genealogischer Verbände (DAGV). What is it?
4. Shekhar Mehta of the Calcutta Rotary Club is RI's President Elect. What is his theme for next year?

And speaking of next year's president Shekhar Mehta, I hope you noticed his response to this question:

“Is the Rotary presidency the best job in Rotary?”

**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