

TWO LIGHTS

Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth
January 13, 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:

January 25, 6:30 p.m. – Leadership Opens Opportunities Forum (in place of district presidents' midyear dinner)

January 27 – Joyce Kennedy, The University of Maine

January 29-30 – **NO WinterFest** – see story below

February 10 – Hank Berg, Casco Bay Lines GM, Off to the Islands!

OPENING WORDS

January 13: Kathy Cotter shared these words by Lori Deschene:

“Maybe when social distancing is a thing of the past, we’ll hug a little harder, hold a little longer and remember that nothing matters more than the time we spend with the persons we love.”

What's New With Our Members

Happy Birthday to Jack Roberts - January 16

Happy Anniversary to Doug & Dana Schauf - January 21

Our sincere condolences to the employees of our banker and major sponsor Bath Savings Institution on the tragic death on the turnpike of their colleague Geoff Gattis and his wife Betsy.

January Rotary Anniversaries:

Anne Marie McCoubrey - 2 years

Nicole Albert - 4 years, and her Rotary twin:

Michael Geneseo - 4 years

Fran Bagdasarian - 6 years

Doug Schauf - 8 years

Peter Bennett - 9 years (including prior club in NH)

Matt McAleney - 21 years (however there was a hiatus)

Dan Davidson - 35 years (this may include his Wellesley(?) Mass. club)

Joe Conroy - 36 years

Peter DeGennaro - 41 years (includes prior club in Wilmington, MA)

Dick Yerxa - 59 years!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

We're Doing Great – Foundation-giving-wise that is. At halfway through the Rotary year, our club has donated **\$12,108** to the Annual Fund and **\$10,970** to PolioPlus. The club has also contributed toward some global grants from other clubs, putting our total giving so far at **\$25,778!!!** This consists of individual contributions as well as club contributions – so basically we all had a hand in achieving these numbers – thank you, EVERYONE!

“Bill” Dube is Famous – And he looks an awful lot like “Phil” Dube! And he’s working next to Shari Greene –oops I mean Sari Greene – who was also in this week’s Maine Sunday Telegram (well most of her, anyway).



Bill Dube, center, works to organize the food before the recipients arrive and place their orders at the South Portland Food Cupboard on Thursday. Dube has been volunteering at the food pantry for several years. Brianna Soukup/Staff Photographer

Look Who Else is Famous – As we learned in his recent classification talk, Jim Britt is the Communications Director for the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. So Channel 6 turned to him in that role to comment on the record-setting number of admissions to state parks in 2020.



SpringFest? – Due to the high number of COVID-19 cases and the SP city offices being closed recently, it just didn't make sense to hold a "live" WinterFest at the end of January. However as Tony reported in his recent email:

- ❖ There WILL be fireworks but they will be held later on (date tbd)
- ❖ There will still be online contests: cardboard sleds, snowman and family winter action photos.
- ❖ We raised approximately \$35,500 from sponsors who were aware up front that the event might be cancelled.
- ❖ We distributed a flyer at the tree sale and will look for other ways during the year to acknowledge the generosity of these sponsors.

Your Devious Club Leadership – It was noted up above that Kathy Cotter had the opening words duty. That was a ploy to make sure she was at the meeting so that Rotary Foundation Trustee Brenda Cressey could announce that she had achieved the level of Paul Harris Fellow + 1 as a result of her TRF donations. She was then congratulated and thanked for her generosity by Past RI President Mark Maloney. Congratulations, Kathy!!!

More Generosity – Tony Wagner and his late wife Sally Campbell felt very strongly in the value of The Rotary Foundation and made the decision many years ago to make it a beneficiary of their charitable giving (and that decision was wholeheartedly supported by their family). As a result of that long history of donations, they recently achieved what the Foundation calls Level 2 Major Donor (for inquiring minds, that represents cumulative giving of \$25,000). Mike McGovern announced that they had achieved this milestone and on behalf of the Foundation President Mark congratulated and thanked Tony and his family. Since this was a recognition of the family's generosity, we were joined in the meeting by daughters Stephanie Bernard and Amy Carroll, sons Matt and Andrew Wagner, Tony's sister Carol and a few grandchildren. In an email after the meeting, Tony also thanked Bill York for introducing him to Rotary 39 years ago.



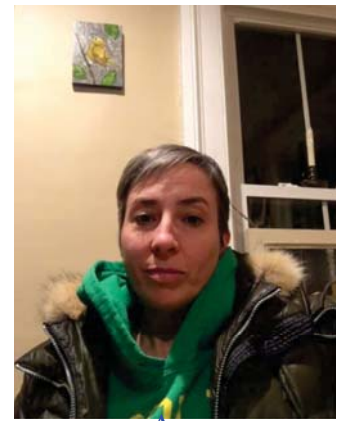
Stephanie



Matt



Andrew

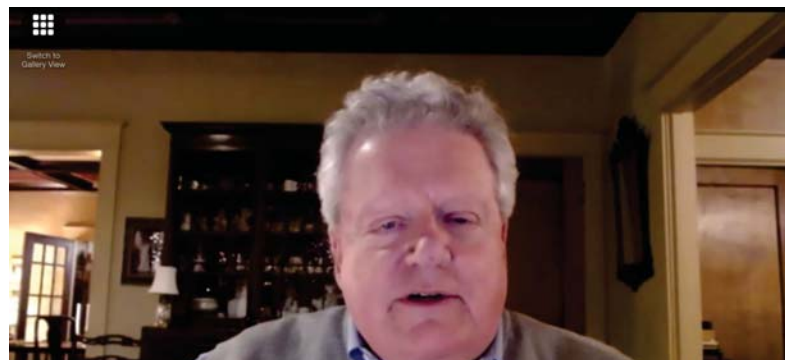


Amy

A Packed House! – Or a packed computer screen anyway! We had many visitors at our meeting this week, who were joining to see what ~~John LoBoseo~~ looked like to listen to our speaker RI Past President Mark Maloney. Among the visitors were:

- Our friends Ellie & Chris Speh and Bill York
- Fellow club member Frank Butterworth (we think of Tim and your family often, Frank)
- Our current District Governor Peggy Belanger
- Our Assistant Governor Laura Young
- Past and Future District Governors Claudia Frost, Marie Williams, Marge Barker, Ann Lee Hussey, Andy Glazier & Pam Gray, George Rice (plus of course Brenda, Dan, Mike & John from SP-CE)

A Presidential Year Unlike Any Other – Thanks to our current remote environment, our little club in the upper right corner of the country can have the privilege of having a Past President of RI as the speaker at our weekly meeting, even though it's the dead of winter and no one would use lobster in Maine as an excuse to visit Maine in January. But thanks to Zoom meetings we had exactly that privilege this week. President Mark spoke to us about what it was like to be the president of RI – to go from his “day job” of a lawyer in a small town in Alabama, to representing Rotary at the top levels. In that position he had the honor of meeting with presidents of several countries and was even scheduled to meet with the Pope (although it was supposed to happen in May so obviously it didn't happen). He told a very moving story of his experience volunteering with Operation Smile (similar to Rotaplast, which our district has participated in) and observing the surgery of a baby with a cleft palate and then handing the baby to her father. This experience encapsulated what he thinks Rotary is all about – “making lives better for those less fortunate than ourselves.” In appreciation for speaking to our club, the club made a donation of \$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation (not counted in the numbers above) in his honor, to be earmarked for Environmental causes.



**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