

TWO LIGHTS

Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth

March 17, 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 24 – Rupal Shah, Konbit Snate

March 31 – Brian King, RI Director of Membership Development

April 7 – Club Assembly

April 14 – Catherine McGuckin, Woodfords Family Services

April 21 – Joseph Cassidy, President of SMCC

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

July 21 – Lobsterbake!

OPENING WORDS

March 17: We observed St. Patrick's Day with our own leprechaun Matt McAleney offering an Irish toast:

There are good ships and there are wood ships, and ships that sail the sea.
But the best ships are friendships.



What's New With Our Members

Happy Birthday to

 *Peter Bennett - March 23*

 *Marc Mutty - March 23*

Tony reports that Bob Carson is doing well and has moved into his permanent home at the Cedars. He passed on his thanks for all the cards and good wishes.

Visitors this Week: Bill York, Marc Mutty and Ray H-E-A-L-E-Y was finally able to join us! (And we also got a glimpse of Joe Frustaci!)

Programs! – Note that the whole first page of this bulletin is taken up with programs for the next several weeks. Our program chair Mike McGovern has been doing a great job lining up varied and interesting programs for everyone. There's something for everyone, so you no doubt have a friend who might be interested in hearing one of these speakers. The commitment is negligible – no cost, no need to get dressed up or even leave your house. Please consider inviting someone to join us in our virtual meetings – the more, the merrier!

Get Vaxed and Give Back! – Many of our club members have been vaccinated and all at no cost to us individually. In gratitude for the privilege of being vaccinated, many have accepted the challenge to express that gratitude with a donation to PolioPlus. We're keeping a tally so if you'd like to be counted, *solely for the purpose of a count of how many have donated*, please let me know.

Money, Money, Money! - Our Board has been very busy lately making sure that we use our profits from tree sales and WinterFest to give back to the community. Here are some recent expenditures that the club will be making/has made:

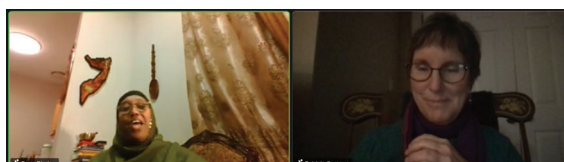
- \$ Help for Houseless Students – in addition to the \$3,500 that was highlighted in the bulletin two weeks ago, the board determined that there is more need (both in SP and CE) and authorized an additional \$1,000 in Target gift cards, \$1,000 in Hannaford gift cards and up to \$2,500 for more backpacks.
- \$ Veterans – the board authorized donating a total of \$8,416 to the organizations recommended by the Veterans Committee: Arthur B. Huot House, K-9s on the Front Line, Durham Warriors and Vet2Vet.
- \$ Sounds by the Sea – the club is donating \$1,000 to be a sponsor of 6 outdoor concerts to take place this summer at Fort Williams.
- \$ South Portland Skate Park – the club is donating \$1,000 towards the construction of the skate park.
- \$ Locker Project – the club is donating \$500 to this project which will assist with students with food insufficiency in three South Portland Schools.
- \$ Cape Elizabeth Little League – donation of \$500.
- \$ South Portland Football team – in appreciation of their invaluable assistance with the tree sale, the club will donate the cost of a pizza party for those students who helped out.
- \$ South Portland Food Cupboard – the club will be donating the remaining \$3,500 budgeted for the SP Food Cupboard – it will be used for repairs, shelving and a new stove.

Councilor Deqa Dhalac – Patty Sprague introduced our speaker SP City Councilor Deqa Dhalac, who has an impressive resume. Originally from Somalia, she came to the US in 1992 and has lived in South Portland for over ten years. Among other volunteer responsibilities, she has been board president of the Maine Immigrant Rights Coalition and the Maine Womens Fund.

As a new Mainer in Lewiston, she became involved with Emerge Maine, through which she got the idea to run for office. Her oldest son pointed out all the reasons that people might not be open to listening to her (being a black Muslim immigrant woman), but her other children pointed out that these were all the more reasons that she should run and represent those communities. Fortunately for the citizens of South Portland she decided to run and was elected to City Council. Her major accomplishment has been her role in forming the city’s Human Rights Commission. Note that the name does not address any particular segment of the city, but was intentionally formed to cover any groups that may feel like they are outsiders.

Deqa listed some of the other topics that the City Council is currently working on:

- Climate crisis
- Improving diversity
- Affordable housing
- Supporting public health and human services, especially for houseless students.



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

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