

TWO LIGHTS

Rotary Club of South Portland – Cape Elizabeth
October 14, 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:

October 17 (Saturday), 2 p.m. – “Our Polio Story – Rotary’s Gift to the World” featuring Michel Zaffran of WHO, Dr. Tunji Funsho of Nigeria (one of Time Magazine’s 100 most influential people of 2020) and our own Michael McGovern. See AnnLee Hussey’s email for Zoom link.

October 21 – Club Assembly, followed by Board Meeting – all are welcome.

October 24 – World Polio Day – and also United Nations Day

October 24 – South Portland Drug Take-back Day

October 28 – Jen Packard, Plans for SP Waterfront near Bug Light Park

Each Friday – work detail at South Portland Food Cupboard, 8-11 (or any part thereof)

OPENING WORDS

This Week: Our Christmas Tree chair Dave Bagdasarian (Sr.) offered several quotes that are relevant for coping with Month 8 of a pandemic:

From Marie Curie – “Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less.”

From Fred Rogers – “Often when you think you’re at the end of something, you’re at the beginning of something else.”

From Bob Marley (the one from Jamaica, not Maine) – “Don’t worry about a thing cause every little thing is gonna be alright.” (note to Bill York – remember, this is Shane Victorino’s walk-up song – I’m sure you remember him because his grand slam homer was instrumental in the Red Sox winning the 2013 World Series.)
Old Persian Saying – “This too shall pass.”

Upcoming:

October 21 – Nicole

What’s New With Our Members

Happy Birthday to

 *Bob Danielson - October 15*

 *Edie Davidson - October 15 (it’s a big one!)*

 *Dave McKenna - October 19*

Congratulations to Kathy Cotter - and to her realtor Doug Schauf - her house is under contract!

Out of sight but not out of mind - greetings to Bob Carson who is not able to meet with us these days - we miss you, Bob!

World Polio Day Fundraiser (Wish we had a catchy name for it!) - Thank you to everyone who has already participated in our fundraiser to raise money for polio eradication. To refresh your memory, we’re donating what we’re saving by not eating dinner at Purpoodock – i.e. \$18 or whatever you want to round it up to. All participants will be entered into a drawing for Paul Harris Fellow recognition – winner to be drawn at the club meeting on October 28.

Betty has pointed out the advantages of this non-Zoom non-dinner fundraiser:

1. The meal is non-caloric so there will be no weight gain.
2. Everybody is extremely busy and this will take less than 3 minutes of your time.
3. For those concerned about zoom, this requires no technology. No zoom.
4. For those concerned about catching the virus, this is about as safe as you can get! No people.
5. The feeling of doing a good deed will bring warmth to your heart.

To refresh you on how to donate:

1. Donate online and tell Anne or me that you have donated, OR
2. If you want us to send in a check for you, mail your check made out to The Rotary Foundation to Anne and she’ll send it in for you, OR
3. If you want to mail a check (or credit card payment) to RI yourself, let me know and I’ll send you a form already filled out for you to send in with your check.

Remembering Loretta – Please indulge me as I use the bulletin to pay tribute to a member of the Portland Club whom many of us more tenured members knew and loved – specifically Past President Loretta Rowe, who passed away recently. I first got to know Loretta in March, 1998 when she drove us to PETS (President Elect Training Seminar) where we roomed together. We were both the president of our club in 1998-1999 and we were both the first female president of our club. Reinforcing this special bond of ours was the fact that our clubs engaged in a joint event that year – the Waterfront/Bridge 4-Miler. Many members of our club at the time got to know her through working on this event. Here are Loretta and I holding the banner at the start of the race.



The following year Mike McGovern was the District Governor and I was the District Newsletter editor. Back then we had to lay out the newsletter, print it and take it to the printer. I barely knew what a pdf was back then, let alone how to make it look good. But Loretta did that for a living and she helped me with the layout for every single issue – she was a godsend! She was SO much fun to work with and always so upbeat and full of life. She also bailed out many District Governors by producing their district directories. Her family wrote of her that “she was an exemplary Rotarian who lived the Rotary motto of “Service Above Self” – so true! Our condolences to the Portland Club on this huge loss.

International Project in our own Backyard – Every year our Rotary district has an international cultural exchange – for instance Catherine Callahan and former member Anamaria Gonzalez went on a trip to Bulgaria. This year the cultural exchange trip will be in North America (northern Maine/Canada – possibly Montreal) and will focus on indigenous peoples. The trip (or possible two trips) will take place in the spring (exact timing to be determined by COVID-19 restrictions at the time). If you have any interest in participating, please contact our International Chair Peter Bennett, or District 7780 International Service Committee Chair Emma Bodwell at ebodwell@icloud.com.



TREES! – Dave Bagdasarian presented our program this week, which was a very informative description of how this year’s tree sale will differ from past years. He covered a LOT of information so this is not a comprehensive summary but here are some of the highlights – we will hear more in the upcoming 6 weeks (yikes, that’s all!).

- 🌲 We have ordered 1950 trees and unlike prior years, we have not ordered any “utility” trees – if customers order sight unseen, we want to make sure they receive a quality tree.
- 🌲 Since the trailer will not be available for the entire shift to hang out, the shifts will be shorter – two hours each, and therefore those working on the lot will be asked to sign up for 6 shifts.
- 🌲 Hours that the lot is open will be curtailed – from 2-8 or 4-8 on weekdays (whether we open at 2 or 4 will depend on where we are in the sale – early, middle or late).
- 🌲 We will be needing online workers as well – to provide customer support to people using the online website.
- 🌲 The lot will be expanded and re-designed to allow for greater spacing between racks. There will be an entrance and a separate exit, as well as an additional opening for curbside pickup for online customers.
- 🌲 We will be selling some of the trees to residents of Long Island and potentially other islands as well.
- 🌲 We will be encouraging credit card sales only. If customers need to pay with cash, we will not make change. We have a new ipad for processing credit card sales which has several advantages over the Square on the phone that we were using in prior years.
- 🌲 We have a publicity campaign ready to launch which includes interviews and targeted FaceBook ads.
- 🌲 Editor’s note - There will be cookies for workers, packaged individually.
- 🌲 The website is RotaryChristmasTrees.org – the site is expected to go live by next week.

Dave and his team have done a TREMENDOUS amount of work on this – thank you to Dave and his committee (I hope I didn’t miss anybody!!!):

- 🌲 Tom Meyers
- 🌲 Tony Wagner
- 🌲 Phil Dube
- 🌲 Sari Greene
- 🌲 Anne Swift-Kayatta
- 🌲 Adrienne Murphy
- 🌲 Fran Bagdasarian
- 🌲 John LoBosco
- 🌲 David Lourie
- 🌲 Matt McAleney
- 🌲 Jim Britt
- 🌲 Matt Leasure
- 🌲 Brian Bagdasarian – a special thank you to Brian for saving the club \$15-20,000 on the cost of setting up an e-commerce site.

**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